

HOP GROWING AT STEKNÍK

The tradition of hop cultivation in Stekník has flourished uninterrupted, tracing its way through the Kulháneks of Klaudenstein, the Korbs of Weidenheim, the Hennets, and the lineage of the last owner of the castle, Gérold Déteindre. All these figures were successful hop growers and traders. Their hop gardens often produced the highest yields in the entire Žatec region, and the hops cultivated here garnered first prizes at various European exhibitions on multiple occasions. Notably, Gérold Déteindre, a Swiss consul, initiated large-scale hop trade in the 1930s, supplying not only France through a French brewing conglomerate, but also exporting to locations such as Alexandria in Egypt, Casablanca in Morocco, his native Switzerland, and elsewhere. He not only sold his own hops, but also bought up the crop from other growers, exporting around 20 tonnes valued at over 700,000 crowns in 1934 alone. He held an export business licence. Following the acquisition of the castle and its fields by the Czechoslovak government in 1949, the estate's land was partitioned, and the castle began to serve as the offices for the Žatec Hop Research Institute. In 1992, Chmelařský institut s.r.o. was established, continuing the scientific and research activities with a special-purpose farm at Stekník dedicated to breeding, maintaining, and propagating Czech hop varieties.



INSIDE UNESCO HOP COUNTRY

The influence of hop cultivation, harvesting, and processing is instantly recognisable and visible in the following attributes:



- Cultural landscape
- Settlement structure
- Architectural and technical features
- Visual attribute
- Specific attributes



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Žatec a krajina žateckého chmele
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