

## THE FEATURES OF A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

" Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factor"

The definition of Landscape by the *European Landscape Convention* (article 1) identifies the landscape with its cultural characterization that is nothing more than social perception.

It does not represent only a static element, like a decoration or a simple background or image, but it is the result of a union between the human thought, the objective features of the environment and the sense of identity given to him by the society.

When we talk about landscape we immediately have a real vision but recognizing, perceiving and describing it becomes the language of the process of continuous evolution of the area.

The landscape is the SIGN of the territory's history.

Etna is one of the most representative area of the Mediterranean and Sicily, unique for its natural, architectural, historical and cultural features.

The tales around its landscape have led to different ways of feeling this place: as symbolic presence dictated by myths and legends, as evocative scenes that recall the idea of the sacredness, as a place of natural phenomena, as a site of scientific observation. And it is the richness of diversity of reading and approach to this area that makes Etna an outstanding symbol of the volcanic landscape mediterranean.

A landscape that fascinates not only by the magnificence of the eruptions and the lava flows (elements strictly volcanic) but also for the unique environment rich in aromas, flavors and colors in addition to the artifacts created by man.

The morphological and typological aspects are connected because the volcanic cones and natural emergencies generate human living spaces resulting in the construction of a landscape that man has the duty to respect and recognize in its deepest identity.

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