

CRAFT & STRUCTURE UNIT

SEMINAR WEEK



THE ALPINE WINE ROUTE

26.09.–01.10.2026 / Costs: CHF 600.–
Tutors: Carmen Rist-Stadelmann, Ivo Barão

This architectural journey unfolds as a continuous sequence stretching from Liechtenstein through the Bündner Herrschaft and South Tyrol into Trentino, where the landscape gradually dissolves into matter. It is not a sequence of destinations, but a slow transition from the cultural landscape to the built environment and, ultimately, to the elemental substances of wine.

The journey begins along the Rhine Valley, where production, topography and climate exist in a delicate tectonic balance. Further south, Romanesque churches mark the landscape's first transition into architecture, transforming open terrain into density, enclosure, and ritual order. In South Tyrol, this logic expands into urban form: the fortified medieval town becomes an urban membrane, where enclosure functions not as an isolated architectural object but as a continuous spatial condition. These places are not representational; they are receptive, uniting landscape and building into a single, materially coherent mass.

Further south in South Tyrol, the focus shifts from spatial enclosure to material atmosphere. Architecture recedes into the background of the vineyard and becomes an extension of the landscape itself. Buildings emerge as layered ground, behaving more like geology than objects. Cooperative wineries function as infrastructural anchor points within this landscape, directly supporting collective production.

The journey continues into nearby Trentino, where wine is no longer simply produced within architecture but through architecture and material. Clay amphorae replace industrial vessels, restoring fermentation to the elemental forces of porosity, gravity and earth. The journey concludes with wine as a continuum of place, material and process.

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