

Sustainability in harmony with nature and humankind – that is what we at Schloss Seggau are committed to, for the benefit of our guests and our staff

The well-being of the people who cross our establishment's threshold every day is our priority. We therefore take it for granted that we have a social and an ecological responsibility towards our guests and staff. We are rooted in the region, and make every effort to use nature's resources in a sustainable and respectful way, and to also consider the needs of people.

Demonstrating these values includes a comprehensive concept that prioritises a responsible attitude towards the environment. We therefore willingly subject ourselves to strict controls, and are extremely delighted that our respective efforts have been rewarded, and that we have been awarded the **Austrian Ecolabel and the EU Ecolabel Tourist Accommodation**.

We also reward you for sharing our commitment to the environment. If you use public transport to get to us, we will give you a **voucher** for a free drink in our Castle Tavern.



What the Ecolabel stands for:

**Sustainability in harmony with nature
and humankind**

We procure renewable electricity

We source our electricity from the supplier W.E.B. One hundred percent of the electricity supplied by this Austrian company comes from renewable energy sources that are located exclusively in Austria. It is mainly generated by wind power, augmented by PV and small-scale hydropower plants.

We spoil our guests with regional products

We have cooperated with regional suppliers, often farms, for years to ensure the continuous high quality of our products. High animal welfare standards, organic quality and short transport routes are important to us in this respect. Our company is "**AMA-Gastrosiegel**", "**Kulinarium Steiermark**" and "**Südsteiermark Qualität**" certified. We ensure that our partners have also been awarded one or several of these certificates. These quality seals stand for strict controls, regional production and the highest animal welfare standards.

We support the region's tradespeople, manufacturers and businesses:

Sustainability not only applies to food. We also cooperate with local companies in many other areas in the interest of short transport distances and supporting the regional economy.

We avoid and separate waste

Thanks to our awareness of how to avoid unnecessary packaging (open butter and jams, honey and spreads etc., rather than packaged portions, for example), returnable packaging schemes and waste separation, we are able to considerably reduce the waste we produce. With the help of dedicated containers for glass, metal, paper, plastic and organic waste, we carefully separate valuable materials that can then be passed on for recycling. By providing various bins in the rooms, we also motivate our guests to actively contribute to this.

We use eco-friendly printed paper products

We also demonstrate our sustainability by using Ecolabel paper and – wherever this is possible – recycled paper. We make every effort to largely communicate internally by digital means, and to print as little as possible.

We promote e-mobility

We promote "green driving" with two electric vehicle charging stations that are located in the car park directly in front of the hotel. Our guests can borrow e-bikes from us. Guests who bring their own e-bikes can recharge them free of charge. We use our electric cargo tricycles to transport many things from A to B within the castle grounds.

We protect green spaces and woodland

Our castle features a beautiful rose garden and extensive green spaces. These not only serve recreation purposes but also provide habitats and food sources for numerous animals. We therefore do not use any herbicides, pesticides and chemical fertilisers. We also practice sustainable woodland management and ensure that it is not overused. By specifically choosing native plants and tree species, we ensure that the forest is developed further with a view to the future.

Sustainable wine production

High-quality wines are created in cooperation with the Weinbauschule Silberberg college of viticulture and oenology. Again, sustainable production and marketing are major aspects. The mindful use of the vineyards and a bottle return scheme set important environmental protection accents.

We are proud of the fact that our wine is stored in one of Europe's oldest and largest wine cellars and can be tasted. It was created in the Baroque period and carries a 13-arched loggia as a superstructure. Its maintenance and continued use are very important to us. The Episcopal Wine Cellar is also open to the public within the scope of guided tours and tastings.

We uphold and practice traditions and history

Our hotel is a place with a long history that can be felt and experienced. Witnesses in stone, such as the lapidarium with marble reliefs from Roman times, can be found throughout the grounds. Through the careful, gradual and sustainable design and extension of our establishment and the castle grounds, we have achieved a well-balanced relationship between tradition and modernity. The ancient vaults, walls and furnishings have been conserved and converted into new rooms and dining areas, into a unique hospitality establishment that offers the highest level of well-being. Our guests can feel its special atmosphere, which can be experienced even more intensively on interesting guided tours and explorations of the castle's grounds and surroundings.

We also uphold traditions. For example, the "Seggauer Liesl", Styria's largest historical bell, is rung by hand by four bell-ringers every Sunday and on religious holidays at noon. For over 130 years, the castle has also been a Franciscan convent. The nuns take care of the episcopal buildings and exemplify living faith.

During the day, the chapels and the castle grounds are freely accessible to the public, and guests may use them to restore their body, mind and soul.