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EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE / EUROPA NOSTRA AWARD 2025
THE MEDIEVAL TOWER ROOF OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MAURITIUS IN SPITZ AN DER DONAU.

Dear Ladies,
Dear Sirs!

In 2000, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe the Wachau cultural landscape on the UNESCO World Heritage List, citing as one of its reasons 'the essentially preserved medieval landscape, which has developed ecologically and harmoniously over the course of time'.

The parish church of St Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau is an important component of this medieval landscape. A storm in 2020 made it necessary to renovate and restore the tiled tower roof. Research into the history of the building led to the discovery that the polychrome glazed roof tiles date back to the late Middle Ages. This roof is therefore the only surviving polychrome church roof from around 1505 in Austria.

The extensive investigations were carried out by the Federal Monuments Office under the leadership of DI Dr Gerold Eßer, whereby every single one of the 8,000 roof tiles was mapped. This was followed by the repair, completion and restoration of the roof structure, the roof tiles and the tower decoration. The result of these great efforts is the restoration of this unique, late medieval 'colourful flower meadow' on the tower roof of the parish church of St. Mauritius.

I wish the project submitted here the appreciation it deserves from the jurors and remain

with kind regards

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