

# Newsletter

## 12|2011



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ



PHOTO: DAMIR FABJANIĆ

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## ■ News

# Silent Wheel Dance and 'Bećarac' on the World Heritage List

Silent wheel dance from Dalmatinska Zagora (Dalmatian hinterland) and Bećarac (a traditional folk song) from the Croatian region of Slavonia have recently been included on a “representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity” by UNESCO Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, at a meeting held on the Indonesian island of Bali.

Silent wheel dance is a traditional, Dalmatian folk dance performed without instrumental or vocal musical accompaniment although it can be preceded or followed by a vocal or instrumental performance. Today, it is most commonly performed at local events, before church festivities or festivals. The dance is carried over from generation to generation.

Bećarac is a traditional folk song popular throughout Eastern Croatia and deeply rooted in the culture of Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem.

Croatia already has ten cultural goods on UNESCO's list. These are the Kastav bell ringers, the Festivity of St Blaise the patron saint of Dubrovnik, 'Sinjska Alka' (knight tournament performed on horses), musical expression 'ojkanje', lacework in Croatia (Hvar, Lepoglava), a craft of producing gingerbread souvenirs from the area of north Croatia, two-part narrow intervals of Istria and the Croatian coast, the annual spring procession of the Queen or 'Ljelje' from Gorjani, procession "Za Križen" (following the cross) on the island of Hvar and the art of making wooden toys in the area of Hrvatsko Zagorje.

With silent wheel dance and Bećarac, Croatia is among the leaders in Europe and the world by number of phenomena of intangible cultural heritage on UNESCO's world list.

More than 80 nominations were considered at the meeting in Bali but only 19 intangible phenomena were recommended for inclusion on the Representative List.



UNESCO

[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

Ministry of Culture

[www.min-kulture.hr](http://www.min-kulture.hr)

# Croatian chef wins bronze medal in Moscow among a thousand chefs from all over the world



PHOTO: GORAN ŠEBELIĆ

Croatian chef Josip Carević has recently won two bronze medals at the largest international chef and pastry chef competition in Russia – the International Kremlin Culinary Cup, which was held as part of the XII International hospitality fair PIR Hospitality Industry in Moscow. 850 companies from 25 countries participated in the fair, while there were more than a thousand chefs from 40 countries at the culinary competition.

Carević, who is a member of the Mediterranean and European regions chefs association, was the only Croatian representative at the competition. The jury, made up of representatives from the World chefs association as well as Russian chefs and caterers, awarded his sea food and meat dishes made from domestic Croatian ingredients.

With these medals Carević has once more confirmed the quality of Croatian gastronomy on the world gastronomy scene. The Croatian gastronomy representation has won more than 70 medals at various international culinary competitions.

Croatian National Tourist Board

[www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr)

# Hotel from Opatija awarded in Serbia



PHOTO: PETAR KÜRSCHNER

Grand Hotel '4 Opatijska Cvijeta' (Four Flowers of Opatija) received an award for top quality of service at the 44th International tourism fair in Novi Sad, for the second year in a row. The director of the hotel, Vedran Gržetić was declared the best hotel manager in 2011. This award is handed out to the best hotels, restaurants, agricultural tourism and tourist events in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. This is the third consecutive award for quality for the Grand Hotel 4 Opatijaska Cvijeta. In 2009, it won the golden plaque in the four-star hotel category and last year it won a diploma and a golden cup, which made it the champion of summer tourism. The hotels Marina and Dražica and camp Bor from the island of Krk also won awards at the fair in Novi Sad.

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Opatija

[www.opatija-tourism.hr](http://www.opatija-tourism.hr)

# New air lines for Zadar, Dubrovnik and Split

Irish Ryanair has recently announced the implementation of another air line towards Croatia, between Zadar airport and Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden in the German federal state Baden-Württemberg. Flights are scheduled on this line from 28 March 2012, twice a week on Wednesdays and Sundays. This is the 8th Ryanair seasonal line from Zadar, the third from Germany and the 14th line in total with flights from Croatian airports.

During the summer season Ryanair also flies from Osijek, Rijeka and Pula.

According to announcements, the Scandinavian air carrier SAS aims to introduce 21 new lines in Europe in their 2012 summer schedule, of which five would be towards Croatia. These lines are Stockholm-Dubrovnik which would start on 25 March, Kopenhagen – Split (from 12 May), Bergen – Split (from 25 June), and Stavanger – Split (from 25 June) and Kopenhagen - Dubrovnik (from 4 July).

The Croatian national air carrier Croatia Airlines will connect Zadar and Paris once a week from 1 May until 23 October 2012 and Zadar and Zürich will be connected three times a week from 30 April.

Ryanair

[www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)

Scandinavians airlines

[www.flysas.com](http://www.flysas.com)



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

# Rab - Croatian tourism champion of 2011



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOŽIĆ

The town of Rab on the Kvarner Island of the same name is the winner of the Tourism flower – Croatian quality award, the most prestigious Croatian tourism award and was proclaimed tourism champion of 2011. Awards for the best presented coastal tourist towns, depending on the population number were won by Opatija, Krk, Nin and Mlini and the winners of continental Croatia were Velika Gorica, Đakovo, Našice and Grožnjan.

The graded and awarded hotels according to their star category were: Vestibul Palace from Split (the best small hotel on the coast), hotel Frankopan from Ogulin (the best small hotel inland), the Excelsior in Dubrovnik, the Regent Esplanade from Zagreb, Grand Hotel 4 Opatijska Cvijeta (Four Flowers of Opatija) and the Hotel Valamar Koralj Romantic on Krk, while the best marina this year again was Marina Frapa in Rogoznica.

The awarded camps were camp Palme in Kučište on Pelješac as the best small camp, camp Oaza Mira in Draga near Pakoštane in the middle-sized camp category, while the award for the best large camp went to camp Straško in Novalja on the island of Pag.

In the naturist camp category, the best camp award went to camp Valalta in Rovinj, and on the continent to camp Slapić in Duga Resa near Karlovac.

Special awards for continued quality went to camps Zaton near Zadar, Politin on the island of Krk and Jasenovo in Žabarić near Šibenik.

Croatian National Tourist Board

[www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr)

Croatian auto club

[www.hak.hr](http://www.hak.hr)

The Croatian camping association

[www.camping-croatia.com](http://www.camping-croatia.com)

The camping association of Croatia

[www.camping.hr](http://www.camping.hr)

## ■ Croatia in the world

### Hola Magazin praises Istrian truffles

The internet edition of the Spanish magazine Hola has recently introduced Istria as a mecca for gastro tourists by publishing an article about the exquisite white truffle. The popular Madrid magazine, which is published on four continents recommends Istria in its travel section, as a beautiful region and a great gastro destination with numerous local gastronomy fairs and events.

Even though white truffles are expensive, with price up to 3000 euros per kg, all across Istria there are restaurants which offer small amounts of this aromatic mushroom, served with pasta, meat or deserts and for this pleasure one does not need to spend a lot of money, writes Hola magazine. The article points out that one of the most expensive mushrooms in the world is hidden underground in the forests of Motovun and Buzet, and is found by experts with the help of dogs. But visitors do not have to go truffle hunting themselves, the magazine points out, as there is a rich offer in the numerous restaurants. The most famous restaurant that was mentioned is Zigante in Livade, which offers numerous courses, all with truffles.

The article mentions that the largest truffle found in Istria weighed 1,31 kg and this result was recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. The truffles, the Motovun forest, hunting for truffles with the help of dogs and various events have all found their place in the Hola magazine's article which also recommends a visit to the truffle festivals in Motovun and Buzet.

Hola recommends visitors to buy souvenirs, some of the numerous truffle based products, Istrian wines and olive oil, which are also the basic ingredients of Istrian cuisine. They also recommend a visit to Hum, the smallest town in the world and buying dry or jarred truffles there.

In their picturesque description of green Istria the authors point out its similarity to the Italian Tuscany, but also the other side of the region, the blue side, with more than 500km of sea coast.

The article was also published in English in its internet edition, while the magazine goes under the name Hello in Anglo-Saxon countries.



PHOTO: IGOR ZIROJEVIC

The Tourist Board of Istria County

[www.istra.hr](http://www.istra.hr)

Hola

[www.hola.com](http://www.hola.com)

Hello Magazine

[www.hellomagazin.com](http://www.hellomagazin.com)

# CNN - Istria is not the new, but the old Tuscany



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOŽIĆ

The author of CNN's tourist travel guide, Brendan Francis Newman has recently visited Istria and described his impressions in a long article under the title «Istria is not the new Tuscany?!». He states that the Istrian region is not very populated but that by the houses and walls from the Bronze Age it is very visible that there was civilization in this area from the time it was ruled by Ilirians, and then Romans, Venetians and Austrians.

He described Istria as a region made up from two parts – the coastal heaven and the rustic hilly hinterland. Taking into account that this area is not large, Newman points out that one can enjoy both parts in the same day. He describes the coast covered in small tourist towns and fishing villages. He mentions Pula, a harbour city with an As up its sleeve – an amazing Roman amphitheatre where gladiator fights used to take place, and which is today used for less threatening entertainment, such as music concerts by the worlds leading music stars.

The author of the article was especially impressed by Rovinj, which in his opinion is the most beautiful coastal town in Istria, and perhaps the whole of Croatia. It has a reputation for being the place with the best view of the sunset, and is a town of pastel houses and buildings, with excellent restaurants and bars from which one can witness the sun disappearing on the horizon. Rovinj is ideal for the Croatian triathlon – swimming, sailing and lounging in a café, says the author, who although mesmerized by this town, points out that his favourite part of Istria is the heart of the peninsula which some refer to as the «New Tuscany». He describes it as a green interior full of surprises such as domestic mistletoe schnapps, tiny villages and towns on hills and Hum, the smallest town in the world. Even though the air smells of the sea which is close by, the inland of Istria is a world apart from the busy beaches and ice cream sellers and whichever motorway exit you come from, you will find small, charming and unique villages.

During his visit to Istria the author did not miss tasting the local cuisine, truffles to be precise, a noble and expensive mushroom as well as the olive oil, which he describes as the second best in the world after Italian olive oil. A well prepared local lunch can measure up to any meal in Europe. «While I was finishing my tasty truffle meal, I started thinking how Tuscany used to be like this before the arrival of Hollywood, chefs and masses of tourists. This is Tuscany before it could be found on the radar and before it became expensive. No, Istria is not the new Tuscany, Istria is the old Tuscany» concludes the author.

The Tourist Board of Istria County

[www.istra.hr](http://www.istra.hr)

CNN

[edition.cnn.com](http://edition.cnn.com)

## Dubrovački Grebeni among the most beautiful lighthouses in the world

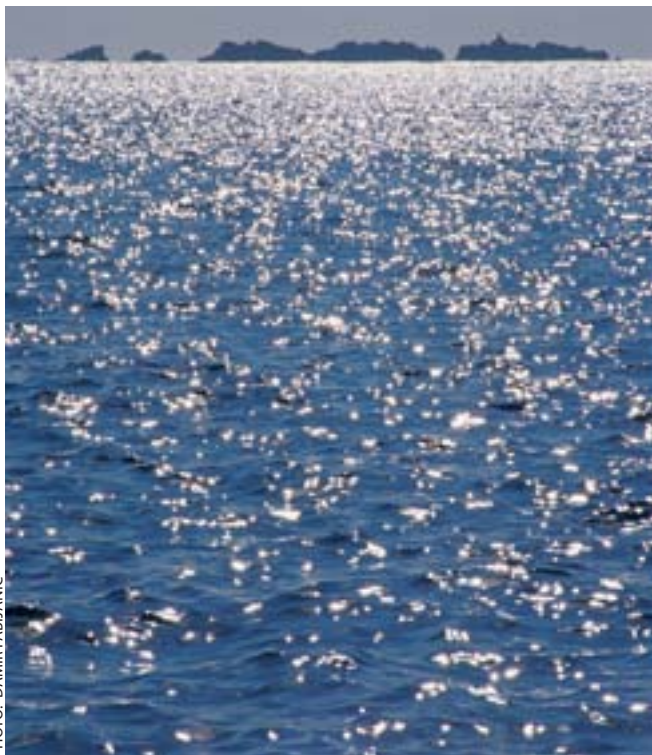


PHOTO: DAMIR FABIJANIĆ

The British Independent has recently included Grebeni from Dubrovnik among the world's most beautiful lighthouses, where tourists can also board.

Among the top six lighthouses of the world, in the company of Sugarloaf Point in the Australian New South Wales, across Corsewall in Scottish Stranraer, The Old Light in Bristol canal, the Norwegian lighthouse Molja and Capo Spartiventa on Sardinia, stands the Dubrovnik lighthouse on Grebeni in front of Lapad Bay. The lighthouse which was built in 1872, has for some time now been in the offer of Adriatic luxury hotels. Grebeni offers its guests the privacy and luxury of the nearby Dubrovnik Palace hotel. The lighthouse can accommodate seven people and it can be rented out from June until October.

«Four bedrooms, a kitchen and two sun terraces make the lighthouse a perfect holiday house, especially if you hire a personal chef and service staff, while the rest of the island is uninhabited», stated the Independent journalist Laura Holt, describing Grebeni as a secluded place located 900 m from the coast that can be reached only by boat.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

The Independent

[www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

## Wall Street Journal writes about the attractions of Zagreb



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Wall Street Journal has recently published an article about Zagreb and impressions of the Croatian capital in its travel section. Recommended is a visit to the Museum of Broken Relationships and the Gastronomad Club with its slow food and gastronomy school.

This unusual club offers membership to gastronomy lovers. By joining the Gastronomad Club you get to enjoy the company of fellow gastronomes, gourmets, sommeliers, chefs, wine producers, oil producers, writers and travel writers, as well as all the numerous food and drink lovers.

The Wall Street Journal

[www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)



## Dubrovnik - The Adriatic pearl is also interesting during the winter



PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC

The oldest and probably the most famous French daily paper L' Figaro has recently published an article about six attractive destinations on the Mediterranean worth visiting during the winter months but which have not yet been 'discovered'. Among them was Dubrovnik, whose photograph decorated the front page and the article.

As Croatian national air carrier Croatia Airlines has this year been connecting Dubrovnik and Paris with a direct line throughout the year, it would be a shame not to visit the town which was visited this year by more than a million tourists, writes Le Figaro. Considering the summer is over and autumn temperatures vary from 14 to 19 degrees Celsius, visitors can continue enjoying the museums, monuments, restaurants and bars which are still open.

Apart from Dubrovnik, the French paper recommends the Italian cities Trieste and Naples, the Spanish Valencia, Bonifacio on Corsica and the Maroccan Tangier.

Recognition for the 'winter' Dubrovnik was almost simultaneously given by the French specialised paper Le Quotidien du Tourism, which put the pearl of south Croatia in the 15th place on the list of attractive winter destinations, pointing out how this is surprising as this city was not even in the top one hundred last year.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.dubrovnik.hr](http://www.dubrovnik.hr)

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

[www.tzdubrovnik.hr](http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr)

## The beauty of Croatia discovered in far Indonesia



PHOTO: MILAN BABIC

In the special edition of the Indonesian magazine Tourism, an article was recently published about the five best world destinations among which Croatia stood neck to neck with Jordan's Petra, the Swiss Alps, Amsterdam and Paris. The article about Croatia was published across four pages in Indonesian and English with illustrations of Dubrovnik, Pula, Croatian beaches and islets on Kornati. Zagreb, the island of Mljet and Dubrovnik were also described along with basic information about Croatia. The Croatian ambassador gave an interview which was enriched with photographs of the walls of Dubrovnik.

Health n Tourism Magazine

[www.healthntourism.co.id](http://www.healthntourism.co.id)

# Top 10 destinations in Croatia according to lonelyplanet.com



PHOTO: MILAN BABIĆ

The website lonelyplanet.com has recently composed a list of the top ten destinations in Croatia, with the Baroque town of Varaždin in the first place. «Admire the impeccably preserved Baroque architecture in the former Croatian capital», says the article on the website, while describing tourist impressions of Croatia and its beauty.

Second place was taken by Zagreb, with recommendations for tourists to take a walk through the medieval streets of the Upper town, visit the galleries and enjoy the night life. Samobor came in third on the list. «Refresh yourself in this attractive small town with a river and covered bridges», says lonelyplanet.com.

Pula came in fourth with descriptions of its rich history from Roman times, and as a specialty the website mentions the concerts held in the Arena, the Roman amphitheatre. The National Park Plitvice is in the middle of the top ten list described as a wonderful water land represented with numerous lakes and waterfalls. The National park Krka is in 6<sup>th</sup> place with the monastery on Visovac and the canyon of the river Krka mentioned as special attractions. The town of Hvar came in 7<sup>th</sup> and the island of Korčula 8<sup>th</sup>. In 9<sup>th</sup> place is the island of Mljet and the pearl of the Adriatic, Dubrovnik, came in last.

Lonelyplanet

[www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

# Dubrovnik - The town and Excelsior Hotel neck to neck with the best



PHOTO: ZORAN MARINOVIC

The famous British magazine Marie Claire has recently recommended Dubrovnik and its hotel Excelsior for a weekend break.

‘Are you in need of a long weekend? Look no further... Dubrovnik came onto the scene two years ago when Beyonce and Jay-Z spent their summer holiday there and from that moment its popularity has been growing more and more. Located on the Adriatic, this is a lively, small Croatian town, full of restaurants, bars and shops. And this is not all; there is a string of luxury hotels in Dubrovnik, for example Excelsior Hotel which has beautiful rooms with unforgettable views, which make it a perfect place for a luxury weekend break.’, states the article in the British magazine.

Places like Paris, Rome, Prague, Stockholm, Venice and Dubai were mentioned along with Dubrovnik on the list of recommendations, which confirms even more that Dubrovnik deserves to be at the very top as far as world destinations are concerned.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

[www.tzdubrovnik.hr](http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr)

# CNN: „Try to remember - Croatia invented the neck tie“

„Try to remember – Croatia invented the neck tie“ is the message from the video that CNN iReport recently screened on their website. In the report Croatia was introduced as the homeland of the neck tie (cravat), with a short history and the brand Croata.

The video featuring the cravat as the Croatian contribution to world heritage was made by the non-profit organisation Academia Cravatica, for the occasion which has been marked as the International day of the cravat since 18 October 2008. The video tells a story about Croatian soldiers who wore red neck ties in France, tied «a la croat» (in a specific Croatian way). It also explains how it is the root for the word cravat in many languages.

‘With the cravat we send a message of sincere and everlasting values as a good foundation for the future’, says Academia Cravatica in the CNN iReport. Academia Cravatica was founded in 1997 as a non-profit organisation with the goal of preserving and promoting the story of the cravat. The cravat is considered an original Croatian product. It spread through Europe in the 17th century by Croatian soldiers, becoming a recognizable fashion accessory. The French were among the first to take to it and in their language it became known under the name cravate. Later, other European languages called it by similar names. Because Croatian soldiers were recognized by their red neckerchiefs, which were called cravats in the beginning, in 1667 a special regiment was formed and was called «Royal Cravates».



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

CNN iReport

[www.ireport.cnn.com](http://www.ireport.cnn.com)

Academia Cravatica

[www.academia-cravatica.hr](http://www.academia-cravatica.hr)

# Rovinj - NYT praises Lone Hotel



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

An article was recently published in the printed edition of one of the most respected American papers, The New York Times, as part of the report «New Design on Croatia's Coast» in which the Maistra Hotel Lone in Rovinj is highly praised. «The coastal town of Rovinj, which is located on a hilly Croatian peninsula, is not foreign to tourists, mostly because of its lush surroundings. The forested camps are full of German and Austrian tourists. The rocky bays tower over the dark blue Adriatic Sea. But in July, a new reason for visiting the region occurred – the opening of Lone Hotel. The giant, white building is just one of the few significant facilities along the coast of Istria, which offers visitors a window into the next generation of Croatian architecture», points out Adam H. Graham, the author of the article who visited Lone Hotel in June of this year.

Readers are recommended visits to the Museum Lapidarium in Novgrad and Dušan Džamonja's Sculpture Park in Vrsar. Lone Hotel was opened at the end of June as the first designer five-star hotel in Croatia. 339 million kunas was invested in the construction of the hotel, which makes it one of the largest Greenfield investments in Croatian tourism in the past few years.

From the architecture, all the way to the design of the interior and the exterior, the hotel Lone carries a local designer signature. Working on this project were Croatia's leading creative experts: architectural faculty '3LHD', a group of product designers 'Numen/For Use', architectural studio '92', fashion designers from the studio 'I-gle', conceptual artists Ivana Franke and Silvio Vujičić, the agency 'Bruketa&Žinić' and others.

Lone Hotel is located in the vicinity of the sea, surrounded by a hundred year old Mediterranean park forest Zlatni Rt, just a few minutes walk to the centre of Rovinj. The hotel has 248 spacious and modern accommodation units with a view of the sea, with 236 rooms, 11 apartments and one 129 square meter presidential apartment. Guests have two fine dining restaurants at their disposal, the Sea Food bar, a children's club, themed bars, a night club, a wellness and spa centre across 1700 square meters and ten multifunctional halls of which the largest has the capacity of 650 seats.

The New York Times

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Hotel Lone

[www.lonehotel.com](http://www.lonehotel.com)

# The island of Hvar and Esplanade Hotel among the best in the world



PHOTO: MARIO BRZIC

The island of Hvar and Zagreb's hotel Esplanade fall into the category of what is best in world tourism coming from European soil. Conde Nast Traveler, one of the most influential travel magazines, has awarded them this recognition based on the grand annual survey Readers' Choice Awards. Eight million votes were counted in total. There were 1285 candidates competing for the awards in the categories of towns (55), islands (55), hotels (665), resorts (445), air carriers (30) and cruise companies (25). By the number of votes Hvar came in among the top ten islands in Europe and is in eight place with 74.8 points, while the Turkish island of Bozcaada came in first with 84.2 points. The tenth island is the Swedish Gotland, which got 74 points. Zagreb's hotel Regent Esplanade was in competition with around seventy top hotels and came in 47th.

Conde Nast Traveler  
[www.cntraveller.com](http://www.cntraveller.com)

# Ferry line Split - Vis among the most beautiful in the world



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Yahoo!Travel has recently enlisted the ferry ride from Split to Vis in second place among the most beautiful ferry cruises which pass by exceptional natural and man made beauty. The ferry ride is completely relaxing and one can enjoy the surroundings and get to know other passengers and the local population in peace. Among thousands of Adriatic islands and the long coast, this two and a half hour cruise towards Vis most certainly stands out. After the Riva (waterfront promenade) in Split, and the mountains of Kozjak and Mosor, you can direct your view towards the narrow passage between the islands of Brač and Šolta. At the end of the ride there is Vis, the farthest inhabited Croatian island, olives, vineyards and hills. Editors of this website found the ferry ride from Sydney to Manly the most beautiful.

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County  
[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Tourist Board of Split  
[www.visitsplit.com](http://www.visitsplit.com)

The Tourist Board of the Island of Vis  
[www.tz-vis.hr](http://www.tz-vis.hr)

Yahoo!Travel  
[www.travel.yahoo.com](http://www.travel.yahoo.com)

## ■ Investments

### An eco-park near Zagreb

«Kraš», the leading candy and sweet producing company in the region will soon open an eco-park in Bratina near Pitarovina, which will spread over four and a half million square meters and into which three and a half million euros was invested. The park features wooden houses with apartments and about a hundred beds. Each house is named after one of Kraš brands. Next to one of the two artificial lakes and just under the wooden church that was raised on an artificial hill, there is a restaurant which offers indigenous domestic cuisine.

All the facilities are built from wood and stone and the whole estate holds an ecological certificate. Sports contents will feature a bowling alley, a pool and two open-air sports grounds. A lot of the surfaces are planted with various agricultural cultures and the park will also feature a small zoo with goats, deer, leopards, ducks and other animals. The long term goal of the investor is for the park to become a large entertainment centre. In the second phase there are plans for the construction of a sports camp with an indoor Olympic pool and a few outdoor pools, a handball court, five football courts, a riding area, carting and a cycling paths. The second phase of the eco-park development should begin within a year and it should then become available to sports clubs, for training and preparation.

The park is located near Pitarovina, which is 25km from Zagreb. This is an area of wide river valleys and hilly parts full of forests and meadows. It is an ideal place for rest, sports activities or relaxing family time.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Tourist Board of Zagreb County

[www.tzzz.hr](http://www.tzzz.hr)

Kraš

[www.kras.hr](http://www.kras.hr)

# Dubrovnik - Soko Tower, a new tourist attraction



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The wider Dubrovnik area will welcome the next tourist season with an attractive feature: the renewed Soko (transl. hawk) Tower in Dunave in Konavle. The restoration has been led for years by the Friends Association of Dubrovnik antiquities and at the moment works are being carried out on the partial reconstruction of its walls.

The whole project should be completed in ten months. The Association became the owner of the Soko Tower after it bought it fifty years ago from the church. Its first written trace dates back to 1391 even though it existed before that time. Soko-town was raised at the location of the former Ilyrian castle ruin which later became Roman, Byzantine, Dukljian and Bosnian forts. The people of Dubrovnik rebuilt it again in the period from 1420 to 1482 and used it until 1672. Because of its strategic importance, Dubrovnik Republic constantly invested into Soko Tower and so the monumental fortification system had a cistern, an artillery building and a storage facility for wine and food. Furthermore, it housed the castellan's quarters, the guard-house, a building for soldiers and one for accommodating women and children from the surrounding villages in case of war or attacks of the gangs of robbers that would occasionally break into Konavle.

After the completion of works, Soko Tower will offer its visitors numerous interesting contents. For example, there will be exhibits of preserved remains of ceramics, metal, glass and iron which were found in its surroundings and valuable signs in ancient writing from the 11th century in the memorial room. Along with the memorial room, there will also be a gift shop and visitors will be able to enjoy the adapted walking paths and a location where they will be able to witness unique views of the Konavle landscapes. Visitors of Soko Tower will be able to get to know its rich history and its numerous stories.

The Tourist Board of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

## Opatija - New investments into the Liburnia Riviera Hotels



PHOTO: PETAR TRINAJSTIC

Following the end of the summer season, the largest hotel chain on Kvarner – ‘Liburnia Riviera Hotels’ (LRH) from Opatija, has begun investing on a larger scale. First to be restored is the façade of Opatija’s oldest hotel Kvarner from 1884, which will be followed by the reconstruction of its famous terrace. Works should be completed by the spring of next year. Following that will be the interior restoration of the Crystal Hall of Kvarner Hotel which will be equipped for holding top quality seminars, congresses and other events. These works should also be completed by the spring of next year.

The envisaged investments should this year include other hotels which are part of LRH as well: Ambassador Hotel, Ambassador Villa, Opatija’s Kristal Hotel, Bristol Hotel in Lovran and Marina Hotel in Mošćenička Draga. There is also the possibility of the first phase of investments into the camp Medveja, where 20 new mobile houses should be set up.

Next year LRH plans to invest around five million euros in the reconstruction of hotel facilities, additions to hotel contents, beach and façade restoration, additions to equipment and maintenance. The mentioned investments are part of total investments of more than 65 million euros which LRH plans to invest between 2011 and 2016.

The Tourist Board of Primorje –Gorje County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

Liburnia Riviera Hoteli

[www.liburnia.hr](http://www.liburnia.hr)

## Krapinske Toplice - A Russian investor restores Toplice Hotel



PHOTO: NINO MARCCUTI

The Croatian-Russian company Krass hotel is the new owner of the Toplice Hotel – the former hotel Aquae Vivae in Krapinske Toplice. The new management has announced investments into the hotel which currently holds three stars, 135 rooms with 245 beds in total, two apartments, an indoor pool, a sauna, a fitness centre and a facility for medical treatments. The plan is to refurbish the rooms and to redecorate the inside of the hotel and build a water centre. The new management plans to carry on its collaboration with the Special hospital for medical rehabilitation Krapinske Toplice and begin collaborating with Magdalena, a clinic for cardio-vascular diseases at the Medical Faculty of J.J. Strossmayer Univeristy in Osijek as well as the Special hospital for orthopedics and trauma Akromion. The Toplice Hotel which was built by the former state for miners from Zagorje, is located in Krapinske Toplice.

The spa was mentioned as a thermal source back in the Roman times, and today it is a famous thermal health resort with four thermal water sources with temperatures ranging between 39°C to 41°C, rich in calcium, magnesium and hydro-carbonate. The resort is located in a peaceful and beautiful valley surrounded with picturesque hills of Croatian Zagorje and just 46 km from Zagreb. In the mid 19th century, Jakob Badl, the owner at the time, built the first hospital building and so set the foundations of today’s modern health resort.

The Tourist Board of Krapina-Zagorje County

[www.tzkzz.hr](http://www.tzkzz.hr)

Hotel Toplice

[www.toplice-hotel.hr](http://www.toplice-hotel.hr)

[www.aquae-vivae.hr](http://www.aquae-vivae.hr)



## Dubrovnik - New accommodation capacities of a high category



PHOTO: ZORAN MARINOVIC

By the beginning of next year's summer season, Dubrovnik will get its 13th five-star hotel, which will confirm its status as the most prestige tourist destination in Croatia, with the largest number of quality hotels.

Preparations for the construction of another luxury hotel with 55 apartments have begun in the Importanne Resort. This should enrich the offer of Dubrovnik in less than nine months. The tourist resort will carry the name Royal Princess Hotel, and construction works are planned to be finalized in June of next year. Apart from the luxury apartments, which will descend towards the sea, the facility will have an indoor and outdoor pool, wellness and a congress hall for more than a hundred participants, which will be open throughout the year. Importanne Resort is a large facility located in the green belt close to the sea in the area of Lapad where accommodation can currently be found in the hotels Neptun, Ariston, Importanne Suits and Villa Elita.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

[www.visitdubrovnik.hr](http://www.visitdubrovnik.hr)

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

[www.tzdubrovnik.hr](http://www.tzdubrovnik.hr)

## Biograd na Moru - Adria Hotel is being refurbished



PHOTO: HOTEL ADRIA

Adria Hotel in Biogradu na Moru should shine with a new light by the end of the first quarter of next year. Plans were drawn for the investment of around 4 million euros in the reconstruction of existing capacities and the addition of 60 new comfortable rooms and apartments with 220 beds in total. Also envisaged is the construction of an outdoor water park with water enriched with salts and minerals, as well as an indoor pool, an indoor sports facility and a rehabilitation clinic with a modern regenerative medicine centre, in which there will be 12 surgeries with specialist healing and rehabilitation of sports injuries programs and other medical care.

Adria Hotel should not only get a new visual identity and a fourth star but also position itself as the first hotel with a special kind of health offer in the wider Adriatic area. Along with the existing sports and recreation, leisure and bathing contents, the hotel also offers bio-wellness with a salt room and ventilation system which constantly circulates 'salted air'.

The Tourist Board of Zadar County

[www.zadar.hr](http://www.zadar.hr)

The Tourist Board of Biograd na Moru

[www.tzg-biograd.hr](http://www.tzg-biograd.hr)

# Ilok - Charming sleeping accommodation in the former cinema

The newly opened hostel - located in the town at the far east of Croatia - can without a doubt be described as charming. The town of Ilok is little by little increasing its various tourist offer. Located in the building of the old cinema on the main road that runs through Ilok, thanks to its rustic elements and creative decoration, the hostel Cinema leaves an unusual domestic feel. 4.5 million kuna was invested into the hostel.

In the same building there is a café, a disco and a pizzeria. The rooms on the upper floor can be reached by an old wooden staircase across old fashioned mosaic floors and along walls covered in posters from long forgotten movies, yellow photographs from the past and old cinema projectors and vinyl records.

The hostel has 38 beds arranged into multiple bed sleeping rooms, with military bunk beds and colourful walls as well as totally modern shared bathrooms. On the top floor there are 12 beds for those guests who want that little bit extra – double-bed rooms, a refrigerator, a TV and private bathrooms.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The Tourist Board of Vukovar-Srijem County

[www.tzvsz.hr](http://www.tzvsz.hr)

The Tourist Board of Ilok

[www.turizamilok.hr](http://www.turizamilok.hr)

Hostel Cinema

[www.cinema.com.hr](http://www.cinema.com.hr)

# ■ Projects

## Istria - New tourism projects



PHOTO: DUŠKO MARUŠIĆ



PHOTO: DUŠKO MARUŠIĆ

The reconstruction of the famous hotel Histria in Pula has begun. Through the new ownership of the hotel company Arenaturist the hotel will get four stars and a new name – Park Plaza Histria, because it will become a part of the famous Park Plaza Hotels brand. According to announcements work should be completed by May of next year. This investment, together with the reconstruction of Punta Verudela apartments, is one of the most significant investments in the area of Istria until the beginning of the next summer season.

25 million euros will be invested in Histria and Punta Verudela, above all in horticulture. The hotel and the resort will not change their outer appearance as the main part of the reconstruction is focused on accommodation units. There will be 233 new rooms and nine suites as well as a congress centre where all the congress halls will be equipped with the latest technology. The lowest floor of the hotel will be completely changed. Along with an indoor pool, there will be a new wellness and spa centre with saunas, massage and beauty treatment facilities, relaxation rooms and a fitness studio, all on more than a thousand square meters. There will be no changes for now in the part of the hotel housing the night club and the casino. After the makeover of Punta Verudela the apartment part of the resort will have 18 villas, 436 new apartments and 123 studios. Apart from the accommodation units, the outer pool will also be renewed as well as the children's and shopping zones and new sports contents will be introduced.

On the other hand, another Istrian hotel company, Maistra from Rovinj, plans, to build a new pool between the high category hotels Eden and Lone, which should be used by these hotels as well as envisaging the refurbishment of the beach zone Monte Mulini. The value of the project is 35 million kuna.

The Tourist Board of Istria County

[www.istra.com](http://www.istra.com)

Arenaturist

[www.arenaturist.hr](http://www.arenaturist.hr)

# Omiš - A cable car and new hotels at the mouth of Cetina

Cable car ride to the medieval fort 'Fortica' situated on Mount Dinara near Omiš is the main attraction of the investment plan, constructed for the town at the mouth of Cetina, by a group of business people from the United States. With the realisation of this project the tourist offer of Omiš would change significantly. A restaurant, a small hotel, a café and a gift shop are also envisaged as part of the plan. The construction of the addition to Plaža Hotel in the town centre has recently started in Omiš. With the new wing, the accommodation capacity will be doubled, so instead of 41 rooms, there will be 89 rooms with 200 beds. As a four-star facility the hotel will get a wellness and congress centre, which will be the first in this area, with a large conference hall that will be able to accommodate 300 people and three smaller ones with a capacity to hold 80 people all together. The investment is worth about 5 million euros and works should be completed by the beginning of May next year, at the latest.

The construction of two more hotels should soon begin in Omiš: one with 170 and the other with more than 400 beds as well as an apartment village with 1100 beds. With this, the Dalmatian town of Omiš, which is located at the mouth of the river Cetina, around 20km from Split, would become an unmissable destination for foreign tourists.

The history of this small town is long and interesting. In a small area visitors can view many culturally-historical sites: from churches that date back to the 10th up to the 18th century, to numerous monuments, fort Fortica and museums.

Today, Omiš and its 30km long Riviera are turned to the development of tourism. Everyone who wishes to get away from the city bustle can find peace in the nature and small fishing villages on the riviera, while those in search of an active holiday can also enjoy rafting on River Cetina, free climbing, paragliding, diving, sailing, sand volley ball, tennis and other.



PHOTO: BORIS KRAGIĆ

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

[www.dalmatia.hr](http://www.dalmatia.hr)

The Tourist Board of Omiš

[www.tz-omis.hr](http://www.tz-omis.hr)

## ■ Introducing

# Smiljan - “Nikola Tesla” memorial centre

“Nikola Tesla” memorial centre was opened five years ago in Smiljan, as a special part of Lika Gospić museum, marking the 150th birthday of the world famous and acknowledged scientist, Nikola Tesla. At the centre, visitors can enter the world of a genius who began his research at this exact place thus changing the world.

The life path of Nikola Tesla began in Smiljan, the village which inspired his first ideas which later on developed into great inventions. The permanent exhibition in Tesla’s birth house is presented by document matter, mostly unused up until now. The life path and the genius of this great inventor are introduced here by picture, word and sound. With the help of modern technology visitors can travel through Tesla’s life and the time he lived in. Tesla’s turbine engine is exhibited in the stream that runs through the house and between the two platforms floats the miniature of the robotized boat as an example of remote controlling by radio waves. More than 900 of Tesla’s inventions are presented here in a very interesting way. As part of the exhibition space there is also a presentation hall, a gift shop and a children’s playroom where all the toys are made to resemble Tesla’s inventions. In the Centre, visitors can also watch a half an hour long documentary about Tesla’s life. Part of the theme park of the Memorial centre is made up from Tesla’s birth house, an outbuilding and the church of St. Peter and St. Paul. The Nikola Tesla Memorial centre has been proclaimed the best cultural facility in Croatia.

The Tourist Board of Lika-Senj County

[www.tlickosenjska.com](http://www.tlickosenjska.com)

The Tourist Board of Gospić

[www.tz-gospic.hr](http://www.tz-gospic.hr)



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

# Opatija - find out what the first hotels on the Adriatic looked like

The exhibition named «The first hotels on the Adriatic » was recently opened in the Croatian Museum of Tourism in Villa Angiolina in Opatija, featuring photographs of hotel buildings constructed on the Croatian side of the Adriatic at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century as well as other accompanying exhibits. It is precisely in the construction of the hotel buildings that the development of tourism economy can be most obviously seen in Croatia of that time. Health tourism started to develop at the end of the 19th century along the coastline and at the same time the popularity of beach tourism also rose. It is at this time that the grand hotels, surrounded by nurtured parks were built.

Many regions on the Adriatic have already marked 120 or more years of organized tourism and these coastal hotels, which were the pioneers of tourism in the old days, have also celebrated their anniversaries.

Opatija was the centre of hotel construction at that time, with two large representative hotels built in 1884 and 1885 – the hotels Kvarner and Imperial. With this, a large hotel construction site was opened. Up until the beginning of the WWI around 100 hotels, bed and breakfasts and residential villas were built there. The hotel architecture, especially in Opatija, Dubrovnik, Mali Lošinj, Crikvenica and Brijuni with its quality and modern design, stood neck to neck with the tourism architecture on the French or Italian Riviera of that time.

The exhibition «The first hotels on the Adriatic » will be opened until the end of February 2012 in the Croatian Museum of Tourism. It is a specialist national museum which gathers preserves, explores and presents the material and non material tourism heritage which is a witness to the rich history of tourism in Croatia. The museum operates in Villa Angiolina and in the Art Pavilion 'Juraj Šporer' in Opatija.



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOŽIĆ

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

[www.kvarner.hr](http://www.kvarner.hr)

The Tourist Board of Opatija

[www.opatija-tourism.hr](http://www.opatija-tourism.hr)

The Croatian museum of tourism

[www.hrmt.hr](http://www.hrmt.hr)

# The Zagreb County

The Zagreb County is an attractive all year round tourism and leisure destination which surrounds Zagreb and is often referred to as the «Zagreb Ring». Geographically, it is a diverse area with Marijagorička and Žumberak mountainous areas in the west, Turopolje, Pokuplje and Vukomeričke Gorice lowlands in the south which furthermore stretch to the east.

Natural sites which stand out are the nature parks Medvednica and Žumberak – Samoborsko Gorje, special reserves Crna Mlaka and Japetić, the special botanical reserve Cret Dubravica and the ornithological reserve River Sava. The culturally-historical sites of the Zagreb County are: the town centre of Samobor, the remains of Zelingrad and Okićgrad as examples of ancient architecture from Turopolje, the castle and the Baroque church in Jastrebarsko, the so-called path of the six castles in the Zaprešić area, the new castles of Ban Josip Jelačić, the Baroque Gothic church of St. Martin in Dugo Selo from the 16th century, which dates back to 1209, the castle Drašković in Božjakovina, the mausoleum of the De Pinnes family in Vrbovec, the tower of Petar Zrinski in Vrbovec and the castle „Patačić“. The developed rural tourism offers various possibilities, from a tour in a hot air balloon, a carriage ride, horse and

pony riding, various sports and recreation contents, walking through forests, visits to wine cellars, wine tastings in family wineries, touring the native ethno collections, mill work demonstrations or weaver's looms and a pleasant stay in the greenery of nature.

The sites of the Zagreb County are very diverse. There, one can find lakes and fish ponds which can be enjoyed by fishing enthusiasts while others can enjoy walks in the nature. Certain holiday resorts, along with accommodation and domestic wine and gastro offers, also offer riding schools. At some resorts visitors can be introduced to the eco breeding of trout, the production and preparation of healthy food and medicinal herb products.

One of the specialities of the 'Zagreb Ring' are certainly the vineyards and wine cellars. The Zagreb County is among the most respected wine growing areas in Croatia. Moreover, by grape and wine production it is the first in Croatia. The natural conditions, the earth, sun and climate, but also the hard working hands of the viticulturists and wine makers nurture the noble liquid every year and then offer it to picky experts and 'ordinary' lovers of good wine. The recognized wine producers come from the areas of Samobor, Jastrebarsko, Sveti Ivan Zelina and Vrbovac.



PHOTO: ROMEO IBRIŠEVIĆ

## Towns and villages in the county

### **Brdovec, Dubravica and Marija Gorica**

This area is located in the west part of the Zagreb County and borders with Slovenia and the Krapina-Zagorje County. This is an area of rich cultural-historical heritage, covered with forests, tame wine - growing hills covered with lush vegetation, plains and well maintained terrains with a large number of holiday houses. Some of the most famous culturally-historical sites are: the Brdovec parish, the castles Januševac (Prigorje Brdovečko) and Vranyczany-Dobrinović (Laduč) as well as the Baroque church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Marija Gorica.

Sites of interest:

Cret Dubravica - Cret (peat moss) near Dubravica, located at the foot of Lugarski hill, which was proclaimed a special botanical reserve in 1966. This is one of the rare habitats of the bug eating plant, the round leafed 'rosika', the only kind of its species that grows in Croatia.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The elephant ancestor from Marija Gorica - the Dinotherium - first discovered in Marija Gorica, when the fossil remains of this giant animal were excavated. The coat of armour of Marija Gorica County is painted with the image of this amazing being – the Dinotherium giganteum.

### Dugo Selo

The history and culture of this area are marked with the name of St. Martin, but also by the Knight Templars. The wine growing and making tradition of this area resulted in many tourist events connected to wine, such as `Vincekovo` on Martin Breg – which marks the beginning of vineyard works and St. Martin`s Day, the Christening of young wine. Well known rural households of this area are those of Bunčić family, the Matezović family resort, the agricultural family resort Orlando Sesan and others.

### Ivanić Grad

This town is located along river Lonja in Moslavina, along the motorway Zagreb-Lipovac. It was first mentioned in documents in the 13th century (1206). Centuries gone by have left a rich historical and cultural heritage and monuments worth seeing. The town is also famous for the health resort Naftalan and the traditional gastro-event Bučijada. Unmissable places for lovers of good food and wine are definitely the agro tourism farm Kezele, the Malec winery and the wine tasting facility of the Brenta winemakers association.

### Jastrebarsko

Also better known as Jaska, this town lies along Zagreb-Karlovac motorway. Jastrebarsko and its surroundings, with a long tradition in tourism, are a favourite destination among the residents of Zagreb and attract with their beautiful landscapes, wine-growing hills, natural reserves and numerous culturally-historical monuments – churches, monasteries and castles. Situated close by are some attractive destinations such as the ornithological reserve Crna Mlaka, the Plešivica wine road and the highest peak of the Samobor mountain – Japetić (879m). The tourism country estate Šimanović, the Repro Eko family estate and the Stipković and Cibani country estates are just some of the places worth visiting.



PHOTO: MARKO VRODLJAK



PHOTO: ROMAN MARKUS



### **Krašić**

Krašić is a famous pilgrimage destination which apart from religious contents offers sports activities, from mountaineering to golf.

### **Križ**

Križ is a village located on a hill around the church of the Elevation of the Holy Cross in the valley of river Česma along Zagreb-Lipovac motorway. This area boasts a rich cultural heritage, authentic rural wooden architecture, while the archaeological site Sipćine near Okešinac is a witness to early inhabitancy. The south part of the borough encircles Žutica Forest - an oil field, while in the east side of the forest there is Veliki Jantak, which is significant as a hunting ground. Česma River is ideal for fishing.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

### **Pisarovina**

Located between Vukomeričke Gorice, river Kupa and Draganička Forest, Pisarovina is surrounded by picturesque landscape - plains and hills covered with old oak forests and winding streams and small rivers which descend towards the clear river Kupa. South of Pisarovina is Jamnička Kiselica, the source of the popular mineral water „Jamnica“ discovered in 1770. The first chemical analysis of the water was made in 1772, at the request of the Emperess Maria Theresa and in 1828, for the first time in this part of Europe, bottles, which were intended for the open market, were filled.

### **Samobor**

Located on the slopes of the Samobor Mountain, this Baroque town is the most popular excursion destination among the people of Zagreb, who come here to enjoy its charm, natural beauty, museums, restaurants, pubs and the unique gastronomy offer. From 1809 to 1813 it was the residence of the canton of Napoleon`s Irian province, and some recipes from that time are still used today to create famous specialities like `muštarda` (grape mustard) and `bermet` (aperitif). The most famous by far are Samobor `kremšnite` (cream cakes). The surrounding area of Samobor also has a lot to offer. There is the Slavagora rural estate, the Ethno house at the foot of Mount Okić, the Žumberak eco village, the Bio Park Divlje vode and the households Oslaković and Sirovica.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

### **Sveta Nedelja**

A small town located on a position which encircles the plains and hilly area between Sava, Okić and Samobor mountains. This parish was first mentioned in 1501. It is a favourite destination because of its various sports and recreation contents: walks, cycling, fishing on the lakes, tennis, paintball, adrenalin park and a great hospitality offer.

### **Sveti Ivan Zelina**

This picturesque town located along the valley of river Lonja is an old cultural and economical centre of the Croatian Prigorje. It is famous for its wine and the wine road which passes through the wine-growing areas from Donja Zelina towards Nespeš and Gornji Psarjev and Sv. Ivan Zelina. This area is rich in cultural heritage monuments among which there is one that stands out: the medieval



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN



town Zelingrad. There are various possibilities for sports and recreation (tennis courts, mountaineering, cycling, motorbike riding and others). Rural tourism is marked by wine and the wine business. Stjepan Jarec, Kristijan Kure, Zdravko Puhalek, Mirko and Željko Kos are just some of the top wine producers of this area. On the wine road there is the excursion resort Ljubekov Gaj and the Kušić family country estate.

### Velika Gorica

The largest town in the `Zagreb Ring` is located on a hilly part of Vukomeričke Gorice and the plain part of Turopolje and has a population of around 70000. Very near by is the village Pleso, the home of Zagreb`s main airport. This area is rich in culturally-historical sites from ancient history to today as well as sacral and ethnological monuments. Also here is the famous archaeological site Andautonia in the village of Ščitarjevo. This whole area has a rich gastronomy offer in the numerous restaurants and excursion destinations around the city.

### Vrbovec

The first written trace of this town dates back to 1244. In 1528, in the time of defence from the Turks, a castle was built, of which only a cylinder tower remains today. Vrbovec area is rich in valuable cultural heritage, numerous rural excursion destinations, places for relaxation, a fantastic gastronomic experience and sports facilities. On the ecological estate Zrno in Habijanovec one can have a tasty and healthy meal, buy domestic products and take part in various workshops as well as stay the night.

### Zaprešić

Zaprešić and its surroundings offer the most tourism contents, for example a tour of the castles (Lužnica, Gornja Bistra, Jakovlje), numerous churches, animal and plant life reserves, a good gastronomic offer and traditional events. Here we have the New Jelačić Castle, one of the best preserved feudal estates in Croatia. There is also the Horse riding club Trajbar Team and the restaurant Potkova, Dva Potoka excursion site, Kraljev Vrh tennis centre and Zeleni Gaj picnic zone.

The Tourist Board of the Zagreb County

[www.tzzz.hr](http://www.tzzz.hr)

# Crocktail - The First Croatian Cocktail

Marin Nekić, the founder of Nekić Barology Cocktail Studios and Schools for Bartenders, created the first cocktail composed exclusively of Croatian ingredients and named it Crocktail. The ingredients of this refreshing beverage are the Zadar Maraschino, sour cherry juice, fresh lemon juice, candied orange zest and lots of ice. These ingredients can usually be found on every corner and can be prepared at every opportunity.

Marin Nekić, the multi award-winning Croatian barmen and mixologist, came to this idea while traveling the world and studying the origins of Mojito, Cuba Libre, Caipirinha and other world-famous cocktails.

Realizing that each of them was created by combining the foods and beverages specific for that country, the idea was born to come up with a cocktail by which Croatia will be recognized. The idea as such had been developing for several years and its primary goal was the inclusion of Croatian autochthonous resources. Faced with high consumption and imports of various alcoholic beverages, he realized the possibilities of this particular cocktail and how much potential power was hidden in it. After years and years of work, some elements simply merged into a puzzle called CROCKTAIL.

As Marin Nekić grew up in Dalmatia (Seline, Mala Paklenica), the leading principle in the project were the habits of his grandparents who lived a typical Dalmatian life. He simply poured and blended the best Dalmatia can offer but had almost forgotten it existed.

Driven by memories of his grandmother's recipes, Marin Nekić set out in researching the history of drinks with the longest tradition in Croatia. He came to the conclusion that Maraschino had the longest tradition and decided to use it as the basis of the first Croatian cocktail. To it he added Zadar cherry juice and lemon juice and decorated it with arancini, a traditional Dalmatian sweet prepared from candied orange peel.

Crocktail forms the basis of the first Croatian cocktail which Marin will vary by adding to it other seasonal ingredients such as pomegranate juice, tangerines, figs and even Slavonian quince.

The exact recipe for the preparation of Crocktail can be found on [www.crocktail.hr](http://www.crocktail.hr)

## How it all begun

The interesting story of creating the first Croatian cocktail started in 2003. Its realization came to fruition by chance in 2008, in Split.

The drink mixture was created by the magical mind and hand of the best known Croatian barman, Marin Nekić.

The drink contains ingredients that can be readily found in Dalmatia and represent a Dalmatian way of living.

Try CroCktail in Hemingway Bar in Split and listen to the story of its creation – in every drop you will taste and experience Croatia.



PHOTO: NEKIĆ BAROLOGY COCKTAIL STUDIO



PHOTO: NEKIĆ BAROLOGY COCKTAIL STUDIO

Crocktail

[www.crocktail.hr](http://www.crocktail.hr)

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Editor: Croatian National Tourist Board  
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