



Newsletter

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PHOTO: DAMIR FABJANIĆ



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

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■ News

Croatian bartender Karlo Damijanić fourth in the world

Twenty three year old bartender Karlo Damijanić from Pula won a fourth place at the World Bartender Championship, held in Singapore. Karlo represented Croatia in the flair category or the freestyle preparation of cocktails and thanks to his excellent stage performance Croatia found itself in the bartender World Cup final for the first time.

Karlo has been a bartender for seven years and perfects his craft on a daily basis in his own caffe-bar in Pula. He had been preparing for his performance in Singapore for three months and his fourth place is a very big success because it was won among a strong competition of bartenders from as many as 53 countries around the world. The first place went to the excellent representative of Uruguay, Juan Pablo Santiago, who came second last year. Following were representatives of Venezuela and Taiwan and, behind the Croatian champion, representatives of Austria and England. Out of 49 countries the final was entered by only six of them. This is the first time that the Croatian bartender team entered the finals in a world competition.

Istrabarman

www.istrabarman.hr



PHOTO: JAN STOJKOVIĆ PLEXY

Mali Lošinj - Interactive digital panorama of Lošinj

PHOTO: SED PANORAMA D.O.O.



The Tourist Board of Mali Lošinj has recently implemented a project of interactive digital panorama of Lošinj presented on its website. With this pilot project, Lošinj has become the first place in Croatia which will offer its guests the most advanced research tool for a tourist destination.

The digital panoramas are interactive “canvases” created by the merging of a series of photographs on which there are designated “points of interest.” Combining these photographs enables an overview of a larger area from a distance and the very high resolution allows you to zoom in and view the selected objects in detail.

Posted so far are the panoramas of Mali Lošinj, Veli Lošinj, Nerezin, St. Jakov, Osor, Ilovik and Susak, while the panoramas of other smaller island locations are in preparation. Over 150 points of interest are marked and these are primarily cultural, sports and gastronomic facilities and local attractions. Therefore, everyone interested in taking a holiday on the island of Lošinj can look at the facility and the surroundings in which they wish to stay

in advance and get an idea of how far the accommodation facility is located from the beaches, shops, town center, cultural or any other facilities. The aim of this project is to bring guests closer to the destination and display a more accurate picture of its offer and facilities that could be of interest to them. Each “point of interest” is connected with basic information about certain facilities found on the website of the Tourist Board or the website of the facility, if it has one.

The Tourist Board of Primorsko-Goranska County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Mali Lošinj

www.tz-malilosinj.hr

International awards for Valamar hotels

The most prominent global travel agencies and travel industry promoters awarded the company Valamar Hotels and Resorts. Five hotels under the umbrella of the largest Croatian company for the management of tourist facilities have won prestigious awards of excellence of tour operators, such as Expedia, Rewa Touristik, TUI, and even two certificates of Tripadvisor, the world's largest online portal for tourists. After receiving the prestigious award TUI Holly, the hotel Valamar Club Tamaris from Poreč won the Red Star award from the German travel agency Rewe Touristik, which awards annual prizes to hotels worldwide. The award is based on recommendations of clients and satisfaction evaluations of guests as well as service quality assessments. The world's biggest tour operator TUI, more specifically its subsidiary Thomson, which is responsible for the British market, awarded another hotel in Poreč, Hotel Pical, with the Gold Award in the category 3T. The world's largest portal for information about destinations, hotels, flights and all details necessary for organizing trips - TripAdvisor.com, has awarded two Valamar hotels with the Certificate of Excellence for 2010: Hotel Valamar Bellevue from Rabac and the Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik from Dubrovnik, by which this largest convention and spa-hotel in Dubrovnik, opened in 2009, was included among the best hotels in the world. TripAdvisor.com also awards certificates based on guest ratings and its website includes over 40 million traveller reviews.

Another hotel within the Dubrovnik Valamar group has received valuable international recognition – the Valamar Dubrovnik President won the Best Rate Competitiveness award, which is awarded by one of the world's largest travel agencies - Expedia, for the best price-quality ratio.



PHOTO: VALAMAR HOTELS & RESORTS



PHOTO: VALAMAR HOTELS & RESORTS

Valamar hoteli

www.valamar.com.hr

The seasonal air route Zagreb-Rijeka-London available again in 2011



PHOTO: ŽELJKO KRČADINAC

Croatia is fourth in the world in tourism performance in 2010



PHOTO: ARHIVAHTZ

In the period from 27 April to 19 October, a seasonal connection Zagreb - Rijeka – London will be introduced once again this year, 18 months after the Croatian airline company Croatia Airlines canceled this route due to the rationalization of business. Croatia Airlines Airbus 320 with a passenger capacity of 162 seats will operate on Wednesdays during the pre-season, season and part of the post-season.

The Tourist Board of Primorsko-goranska county

www.kvarner.hr

Rijeka Airport

www.rijeka-airport.hr

Croatia Airlines

www.croatiaairlines.com

Croatia is the fourth best tourist destination in the world in 2010, as estimated by the most prominent tourist organizations and experts from the “ITB World Travel Trends Report 2010/2011”, made for the world’s largest upcoming travel stock exchange ITB in Berlin, in March this year. Only South Korea, China and Germany were more successful than Croatia in world tourism this year, which was ranked fourth thanks to a seven percent increase in the arrivals of foreign visitors. The first three countries were able to accommodate 28, 23 and 11 percent more foreign visitors than in 2009, respectively. Following Croatia is Mexico with an increase of five percent, which is the same percentage of growth recorded in tourism in the whole world this year. Given that Europe lags behind with such an increase, the success of Croatia is even greater.

The Ministry of Tourism

www.mint.hr

Dubrovnik to host the International tourism fair in April

Dubrovnik will, from 13 to 15 April this year, host the International tourism fair New Europe Travel Mart which will be organized by the American company William H. Coleman Inc. This is a regional tourism stock exchange which brings together tourism professionals and enables meetings of tourist companies' representatives from Croatia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Montenegro, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo, with potential travel buyers from the markets of Europe, USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Asia. The company organizing this fair has been in the travel business for 40 years and has organized the biggest fair up to date in Lima, the capital city of Peru, in 2009.

PHOTO: THOMIR KOVAČEVIĆ TIHI



The Tourist Board of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

The Ministry of Tourism

www.mint.hr

Croatian chefs win six bronze medals at the World Culinary Cup

The Croatian culinary team was decorated with six bronze medals at the Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg, one of the most prestigious culinary competitions in the world, which was held as part of the International Fair of Gastronomy, Expogast. The event was attended by one thousand chefs from 53 countries.

The Croatian team was led by the renowned chef Branko Ognjenović, the head chef at Zagreb's Bon Appetit restaurant. The Croatian team consisted of two regional teams – the culinary team of Zagreb and Varaždin and Međimurje County and the culinary team of Dalmatia. Along with them, the individual part of the competition was attended by three other representatives from Croatia - Brajko Kaja from 'Franja' catering in Samobor, Alen Mančev from 'Bota Šare' restaurant in Split and Davor Marinović from 'Nostromo' restaurant, also from Split.

The team won the bronze for their preparation of a restaurant three course menu for a hundred persons, consisting of a fish hors d'oeuvre (sea bass roll, salmon, scallops), the main course (stuffed quail, chicken roll) and a chestnut and quince dessert. Together with their regional teams, the members of the national team achieved success in the preparation of cold dishes. Brajko Kaja and Davor Marinović were also decorated with bronze medals in the individual category.

On the cold dish table of the Croatian team the jury was presented with a number of chosen themed dishes: vegetarian, gourmet menu, cold finger food, a snack plate, creative desserts and more.

Cold dishes were judged by appearance, creativity, the quality of gelling and serving, and the restaurant menus, among other things by preparation, taste, appearance and serving of the dishes.



PHOTO: DRAŽEN BOTA

The Croatian Culinary Association

www.kuhar.hr

«In Your Pocket» publishes new tour guides for Dubrovnik and Zagreb



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

»Zagreb In Your Pocket” and “Dubrovnik In Your Pocket” are two new comprehensive tourist guides in English, which were recently published by one of the leading European publishers of tourist guides ‘In Your Pocket’. The guides offer answers to many questions, such as what to buy, which events to attend and where to enjoy delicious food in good company. In addition, “Zagreb In Your Pocket” provides particular information about health tourism, health services, wellness, beauty and shopping offer as well as many more interesting articles.

»Dubrovnik In Your Pocket” substantially covers the period up to May 2011, and the main topic of this issue is the Dubrovnik cable car, the first one on the Adriatic coast. Dubrovnik can be experienced from a somewhat different perspective after nineteen years, thanks to the renewed cable car. In less than four minutes, the cable car which can accept up to 30 people, reaches the height of 405 meters above sea level on Mount Srđ, from which stretches a beautiful, unforgettable view of Dubrovnik. The cable car has been a symbol of tourism in Dubrovnik since 1969, but has not been in operation since 1991.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb

www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

In your pocket

www.inyourpocket.com

■ Projects

Darda - The Esterhazy family castle becomes a hotel

The castle of the Hungarian family Esterhazy will become a five star hotel and will be designed for elite tourism. Local authorities are planning to offer investors a concession of 30 years with the possibility of extension.

The castle is in poor condition and requires a thorough and expensive reconstruction. It was in the ownership of the food company Belje, which donated it to the Borough of Darda last year. It is one of the most valuable and oldest, protected cultural monuments in this part of Croatia. It was built in 1749 in a harmonious combination of baroque and classicism, and additionally features the unique surrounding gardens and the immediate vicinity of three beautiful lakes. The central lake is called Đola and features a swimming and recreation center.

Along with the castle there is a baroque parish church of St. John the Baptist, which during the golden times served as the palace chapel.

The Borough of Darda is located in the southwestern part of Baranja, along with the Boroughs Bilje and Čeminac. It is located about ten kilometers from Osijek. Darda village was first mentioned at the time of the Roman Empire under the name of Tarda. Situated a few kilometers away from Mursa, today's Osijek, it was on the route of many merchants who came from the area of present-day Russia and Central and Northern Europe. The first written documents mentioning Darda date from 1410, while it was in the possession of Ladislav Sigetti.



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

The Touris Board of the Osijek-Baranja County

www.tzosbarzup.hr

The Tourist Board of Baranja

www.tzbaranje.hr

Samobor - Fantasyland nearby Zagreb



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

A complex with two hotels and a large entertainment, water and sports park as well as an array of other sporting and catering facilities should soon be built in the area of the former 'Smidhen' swimming pools a favourite for the locals, near Samobor. It is a tourist-recreation project named Fantasyland, worth almost 190 million euros and envisaged on about 200,000 square meters, the construction of which should last two and a half years, according to plans.

Investors describe Fantasyland as a place where you will be able to escape from everyday life - a gathering place for anyone looking for fun, pleasure, sport, recreation and leisure. Also planned is the building of a state of the art clinic and a wellness center. At the complex itself, there is a geothermal source which will, with a temperature of 30 degrees and the capacity of its source, serve as renewable energy source.

Samobor is located about 20 kilometers from Zagreb. It is also known as the city of craftsmen in which 148 craftsmen from 28 different areas operated in 1754.

The Tourist Board of the Zagreb County

www.tzzz.hr

The Tourist Board of Samobor

www.tz-samobor.hr

Grižane - Hotel replaces factory



PHOTO: GORANTURINA

A four-star hotel should be built and opened this year at the site of the former textile factory in the center of Grižane. The investment is estimated at one million euros, excluding the hotel equipment. The facility will be built within the same dimensions as before, and will therefore stretch across 1900 square meters of gross or 1560 square meters of net area. The hotel will consist of 27 rooms, kitchen, restaurant, cafe and a swimming pool.

The area of Grižane has facilities that offer guests a rich active vacation, from hiking, hunting, fishing to walking and cycling. Grižane is located in the heart of the Vinodol valley, just a few kilometers away from the sea.

It is located under the ruins of the old Frankopan city and rugged cliffs, "grize", after which it was named. The old town was damaged in 1323 when a strong earthquake struck Vinodol. The round towers added in the 15th century are today the only visible remains of the once famous castle.

The Tourist Board of the Primorsko-goranska County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Vinodol

www.tz-vinodol.hr

■ Events

Dubrovnik - A thousand year old Feast of St. Vlaho

Dubrovnik, the most famous Croatian tourist destination, has been celebrating the feast of its patron saint, Saint Vlaho for more than a thousand years. This tradition is deeply rooted among the population of Dubrovnik and its value is increasingly recognized by tourists. The fact that this is indeed a real treasure beyond local boundaries was confirmed by UNESCO, which included it on the list of the world's protected intangible cultural heritage. This happened thirty years after the city of Dubrovnik was included on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage in 1979.

St. Vlaho has been celebrated by the people of Dubrovnik since 972. Rarely can one find a city whose identity is inextricably connected with its patron saint, as is Dubrovnik's. Numerous cultural, entertainment, music and sporting events are held in his honor during the Feast in early February. The city is then ceremoniously decorated and illuminated, and visited by residents of surrounding areas who attract attention with the richness of their original national ethnic costumes.

The celebration begins on the Feast of St Mary Candelora on the 2nd of February, with the releasing of white doves, symbols of freedom and peace in front of the saint's church and the rising of Vlaho's flags in a central location in the old town, onto the column of Orlando.

On the 3rd of February, the day of the Feast, a solemn Mass is held in the open, and from here starts a religious procession of church dignitaries and believers with banners and flags who flocked to the city from all over the Dubrovnik region. The relics of St. Vlaho are carried through Stradun (the main street) and other city streets and the grandest of all relics of the Dubrovnik cathedral - Jesus' swaddling clothes - is carried under a canopy. According to the legend, Saint Vlaho was chosen by Dubrovnik as its protector after the events that occurred in 971, when the Venetian fleet sailed into Dubrovnik's waters with 112 ships. They intended to fraudulently take over Dubrovnik by saying that they were heading towards Greece. The citizens of Dubrovnik were not suspicious and welcomed the Venetians warmly. In the Cathedral of St. Stjepan, which was later destroyed by an earthquake, the pious dum Stojko prayed long into the night. Suddenly he saw a church full of armed soldiers and among them stood a grey bearded old man with a cane in his hand who explained that he was a bishop, martyr St. Vlaho, sent from heaven to defend Dubrovnik. Heavenly soldiers with his help defended the city walls from the Venetians all night. Vlaho said to Stojko to tell the people of Dubrovnik that they now need to protect themselves alone. Stojko rushed to give this message to the Dubrovnik Council, and the Venetians sailed away the very the next day. The festivity of St. Vlaho, which each year gathers a large number of visitors, is surely the most important ecclesiastical and secular event of the local population, but also a unique tourist attraction.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

■ Investments

Brtonigla - Golfers in 'Friars' Forest' by 2012

The construction of the first phase of the golf resort Biska Golf Istria in Fratarska Suma (Friars Forest), opposite the auto-camp Park Umag in the Istrian Borough of Brtonigla, situated between Umag and Novigrad, will begin in the spring. Predicted in the first phase, worth 60 million euros, is the construction of golf courses with 18 holes on 59 acres, about 80 villas from 350-450 square meters and a golf club house as well as the accompanying buildings with related infrastructure.

Investors from the company Golf Istria Magica plan to start the construction in April 2011 and the first phase should be completed in October or November 2012. Planned for the final phase is the building of the hotel which will bring the total value of the project to around 100 million euros. In total, this resort on 76 acres of land will provide 540 beds. Six person villas will be located on eight and a half acres of land and will be built on the principle of "smart" low-energy houses which will use renewable energy sources. The entire resort will produce 85-90% of the energy needed for its operation.

Investors took special care of rational usage of water, so the courses will be watered with recycled wastewater from the buildings and precipitation water from the roads, terraces, rooftops and grounds of the resort.

The golf-course, on which both professionals and amateurs will be able to play, was designed by a London company European Golf Design.

Brtonigla is a village built on a picturesque hill, on the site of a former 'gradine' or stone fortress. After the Roman conquest, the fortresses grew into towns and then feudal castles. Even today this entire area is rich in remains of prehistoric settlements from the Bronze Age, which have been declared cultural monuments.

Brtonigla was first mentioned in written documents in 1234, as Ortoneglo, Roman Hortus Niger (Black Garden), a name that was probably given to it after the type of soil found there.

Located in the area of Brtonigla is Mramornica, one of the largest caves in Istria.



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

The Tourist Board of the Istria County

www.istra.com

The Tourist Board of Brtonigla

www.istra-brtonigla.com

Veli Lošinj – The reconstruction of „Punta“ worth 12 million euros begins



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

The reconstruction of Hotel Punta in Veli Lošinj, worth 12 million euros, will begin in the autumn of this year. The new edition of this four-star hotel should receive its first guests in May 2012. This is the result of an agreement between Jadranka Hotel d.o.o. and strategic partners, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The reconstruction of Punta is part of the investment cycle started in late 2007, under which all the hotels under the umbrella of 'Jadranka' should be restored and converted into a category of four and five star hotels with a new center for thalassotherapy. The entire reconstruction is worth more than 80 million euros.

The investment cycle started with the renovation of the hotel Aurora, into which around 18.5 million euros was invested. The reconstruction of the hotel Vespera, worth 16.9 million euros followed. Vespera profiled itself on the market as a Family Hotel and it is a holder of the Kinderhotels license. Other facilities of Jadranka hotels which will be presented on the market as the brand Lošinj Hotels & Villas should also be restored and raised to a higher level by 2013. With the hotels already mentioned the group includes hotels which are also preparing for reconstruction, such as Bellevue, Helios and Alhambra as well as three villas and apartments. Lošinj Hotels & Villas have more than 3500 beds.

With the listed investments Jadranka hotels intends to become a hotel group that can offer holiday homes to guests of all profiles and ensure a year-round season on the island of Lošinj.

Veli Lošinj is a harbor town located on the southeast coast of the island of Lošinj, at the foot of the hill St.Ivan. The indented coastline with many islands and reefs, beautiful scenery covered with various types of aromatic and medicinal plants, 180 km of hiking trails which pass through pine forests and along hidden beaches and bays, rich tradition, picturesque architecture and numerous monuments, taverns and restaurants with local sea food do not leave any visitor indifferent.

Veli Lošinj, whose name was first mentioned in the 13th century, was historically larger than the nearby Mali Lošinj which due to its favourable position, however, developed faster and outgrew Veli Lošinj, becoming a well-known tourist destination.

The Tourist Board of the Primorsko-goranska County

www.kvarner.hr

The Tourist Board of Mali Lošinj

www.tz-malilosinj.hr

Poreč - The first five-star hotel in the area of Poreština



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The construction of an exclusive five-star hotel Zlatni Prsten with 84 beds should soon begin in the tourist village Zelena Laguna. It is a foreign investment stretching over about 10 000 square meters of land on the territory of Funtana, close to the border with Poreč. This will be the first five-star hotel in Poreč. The investors come from Estonia and Russia. The building outlines are limited to the basement, ground floor and a maximum of three storeys.

The Istrian town of Poreč is rich in historical heritage. The foundations of the valuable town centre, situated on a small peninsula, were laid during the Roman Empire, and from then up until now the proper geometric arrangement of streets has been preserved.

One of the greatest sights of the town is the invaluable Eufrazijeva Basilica built in the 6th century. Its value was recognized by UNESCO which took it under its wing in 1997. Carefully kept fragments of ancient temples can be found within the ancient walls of Poreč, near the oldest square Marafor.

The entire old town core is a living monument of culture. The inner sides of the city's numerous palaces reveal the history of their construction through various stylistic and historical periods.

Besides the rich historical heritage and cultural sites, Poreč offers visitors many opportunities for an active holiday, from scuba diving, jet skiing, fishing, sailing and water skiing to cycling, golf, hunting and go karts as well as an adrenaline park for lovers of extreme sports.

Located in the city center is the Poreč Aquarium with 24 aquariums, where visitors can get acquainted with the underwater world of the Adriatic Sea and see 70 different specimens of fish, crustaceans and other organisms that inhabit it.

The Tourist Board of the Istrian County

www.istra.com

The Tourist Board of Poreč

www.istria-porec.com

Tuheljske Toplice - Terme Tuhelj are building a new hotel

Terme Tuhelj – a company running the thermal spa in Tuhelj - is planning to start the building of a new four-star hotel in 2011, which will be an extension of the existing hotel. The additional hotel facility will have 130 double rooms, including 12 suites, a modern multi-purpose conference center with a capacity for 450 persons and a garage with 50 parking spaces. The project will expand the existing Wellness Center by building additional saunas. The plan encompasses building of the offices in the existing facility and bungalows in the area near the camp, as well as the renovation of the park and the promenade next to the Mihanović castle. Within the castle there is a wine shop with a wide range of wines from all over Croatia. The ending of the investment worth 12 million euros is planned for the beginning of 2012. Terme Tuhelj is situated in Tuheljske Toplice (Tuhelj Spa), a famous bathing ground dating back to the Roman times, found at the foot of Cesargradska mount, 46 kilometers northwest of Zagreb. Rich sources of mineral water with a temperature of 32.5 degrees centigrades allow swimming throughout the year in several outdoor and indoor pools. Tuhelj was named after an old Slavic word “tuhl” which means a recess, humid place. The first written document mentioning Tuhelj dates back to 1403.



PHOTO: MILAN BABIC

The Tourist Board of the Krapina-Zagorje County

www.tz-zagorje.hr

The Tourist Board of Tuhelj

www.tuhelj.hr

Thermal springs Tuhelj

www.terme-tuhelj.hr

Selce - new hotel is being built at the site of the dilapidated Hotel 'Jadranka'

The construction of a new hotel has begun on the site of the former old hotel Jadranka, situated next to the sea in Selce, opposite the former tourist resort Jadranka. The new hotel named Amabilis should be completed by mid-June and a grand opening is planned for July. The tourist village Selce, a winner of numerous tourism awards, will therefore enrich its offer with an exclusive high category hotel. Amabilis will hold five stars, the surface of the hotel will be four thousand square meters and it will contain 60 beds. Included in the offer there will be a wellness center, restaurant and cafe, and a clinic for aesthetic treatments. The waters in front of the hotel will have berths for around twenty larger boats and the hotel beach. The value of the investment is seven million euros. The company Primorski Hoteli has announced the plans to build another hotel within the location of this luxury apartment complex in the former tourist resort Jadranka, this year. This facility with 140 beds, worth around ten million euros, should be completed in 2012 in honor of the celebration of the 600th anniversary of the first mention of the name Crikvenica. Selce is a small coastal town with a rich 110 year old tourist tradition. Once a village of fishermen and stonemasons, Selce has in the last one hundred years turned into an attractive tourist destination. The village is located in a picturesque bay near Crikvenica, 35 km south of Rijeka on one of the most beautiful and varied parts of the Adriatic coast. The mild climate, with more than 2500 hours of sunshine annually, an average summer temperature of 25 degrees and the average annual temperature of 14 degrees, provides a pleasant stay during all seasons. The clean air and clear blue sea, the bathing season from May to October, modern beaches which have carried the blue flag for several years now (a valuable international award for the cleanliness of the sea and the environment), a diving center with a diving school and many opportunities for water sports, provide a relaxing and fun holiday. Thanks to the climate, Selce has become a known and recognized heart, rheumatic and respiratory illnesses treatment centre and a place of top quality physical medicine treatments and rehabilitation (Terme Selce Clinic). Accommodation is offered in five hotels, two campsites, family hotels and a large number of rooms and apartments in private villas.



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Tourist Board of the Primorsko-goranska County

www.kvarner.hr

The Selce Tourist Association

www.tzselce.hr

■ Croatia in the world

Introducing Wines of Croatia in London



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

More than two hundred distributors, wine buyers, sommeliers and media representatives have recently tasted Croatian wines at the first Wines of Croatia event held in London.

The initiators of the presentation of Croatian wines in the British capital were three recognized winemakers - Ivica Matošević, Ernest Tolj and Vlado Krauthaker - who, besides their own wines, selected and presented wines from other wine makers from Istria, Dalmatia and Slavonia. After a long day of wine tasting, the evening was reserved for some twenty influential London distributors, sommeliers and customers who were invited to a special dinner and presentation of three Croatian wine regions, where food was served with Matošević, Saints Hills and Krauthaker wines. The presentation of the Wines of Croatia is the first in a series of international wine events since the Coordination of Wine Associations and Family Wineries of Croatia was founded in September. The greatest emphasis in presenting Wines of Croatia was on Croatian indigenous sorts - Istrian Malvasia, Teran, Plavac Mali, Babić, Pošip and Graševina - wines that best reflect the locality and particularities of the regions.

The Ministry of Tourism
www.mint.hr

Zagreb – The main town square among the 20 most beautiful in Europe



PHOTO: JURAJ KOPAC

The main city square in Zagreb, Ban Jelačić Square, was listed among the 20 most beautiful squares in Europe, according to the research of one of the most popular Belgian blogs stedenripper.com. About a thousand blog visitors rated the European cities' squares, and the central square in Zagreb, according to their grades was listed in 20th place. First on the list was the Grand Place (Grote Markt) square in Brussels, followed by the Red Square in Moscow, and Stanislas Square in the French city of Nancy. Also listed among the 20 most beautiful squares are: Trafalgar Square in London, the Marienplatz in Munich, St Peter's Square in Rome and Piazza San Marco in Venice. The residents of Zagreb are proud of their main square, but it is always nice to hear that it has been appreciated by those who do not live in Zagreb.

Zagreb's central square is dominated by the statue of Ban Jelačić by Dominic Fernkorn, now facing south. When the statue was first set on the square in 1866, it was facing north, towards Hungary. The statue was removed after the Second World War in 1947 and after Croatian independence was declared in 1990, it was officially returned to the square. From 1947 to 1990 the square was called the Square of the Republic.

The square was not always located within the city, but was an empty field under the walls of the old town cores Gradec and Kaptol where foreigners that were denied entrance to the city moved about. With the expansion of the city on to Ilica and Stara Vlačka streets, Ban Jelačić Square became the central part of the city.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb
www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

Rogoznica - Marina Frapa - the best nautical base in the world

Master Yachting, part of TUI, one of Germany's leading agencies, has declared Marina Frapa in Rogoznica the best nautical base in the world. This flattering title was awarded to the Rogoznica Marina in the competition of 139 nautical ports around the world, as chosen by experts and marina users.

While choosing the best nautical base in the world, experts from the mentioned German agency evaluated the appearance of the marinas, the berths, the cleanliness of the marinas and the sea and the overall offer in the marinas. The best grades in these segments for 2010 were awarded to Marina Frapa. The methods of working on ships were also under the magnifying glass of Master Yachting.

The marina counts 460 ships moored on an annual berth and around ten thousand mooring nights of ships in transit. Marina Frapa is one of the most beautiful marinas on the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. It is situated in the central part of the Croatian coast between Split and Šibenik, in the heart of Dalmatia in Rogoznica, in the beautiful and sheltered bay Soline.

Taking great care of environment protection, Marina Frapa has for ten consecutive years been awarded the Blue Flag, which is today the most recognized model of ecological education and public informing when it comes to caring for the sea and coastline.

The center of the marina is made up of an artificial island where some of its facilities are located: the reception, the control tower, servicing, an almost 400 feet long transit pier suitable for accommodating the mega yachts, the Hotel Island with a parking lot, the majority of catering facilities and a supporting clerical and office building. On the land part of the marina complex, there are 10 piers with 450 fully equipped berths and 150 dry berths as well as Hotel Kopno, surrounded by the beautiful greenery of ancient pine trees, outdoor swimming pools with a night club, a well equipped sports center, main conference room and a parking lot.

From catering facilities the marina offers a restaurant, tavern, pizzeria, patisserie, wine bar, champagne bar, and the Captain's Club where you will find various types of sparkling wines and champagnes and a rich, carefully selected wine list as well as several kinds of unique cocktails.



PHOTO: ARHIVA MARINA FRAPA

The entire complex of Marina Frapa extends on more than 136 000 square meters.

Rogoznica, a Mediterranean village located in central Dalmatia, 30-kilometers south of Šibenik, is an ideal holiday destination. The center of Rogoznica is situated on a peninsula where there are mostly old stone houses, which give the Rogoznica waterfront an authentic Mediterranean atmosphere. Much of the peninsula is covered with pine trees and is ideal for walking and recreation.

The Tourist Board of the Šibenik-Knin County

www.sibenikregion.com

The Tourist Board of Rogoznica

www.tz-rogoznica.hr

Marina Frapa

www.marinafrapa.com

Bol - Zlatni Rat among the 40 most beautiful places in the world



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The American Los Angeles Times included the beach Zlatni Rat in Bol on the island of Brač on the list of 40 most beautiful and most unusual places in the world. According to their assessment, Zlatni Rat is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

“For those who think that all beaches are the same (water, sand, waves), think again. Welcome to Zlatni rat, a spectacular beach on the Croatian coast,” writes the LA Times whose list features some trully unusual places, such as the Great Blue Hole in the Bahamas, the Ice Hotel in Sweden, the underwater restaurant in the Maldives and Cappadocia in Turkey.

Zlatni rat is composed of white pebbles, and is known for its natural phenomenon; influenced by wind and waves the beach is constantly changing shape turning its peak from one side to the other. Tourists say that on Zlatni Rat they can get the fastest tan and on one of its sides the sea is always calm. A legend says that on it you can find the stone of happiness in the form of a snail shell.

Zlatni rat has become not only a trademark of Bol, but also a valuable symbol of Croatian tourism. This famous beach can be seen on the front pages of many travel brochures.

Many can not resist its charms. It stretches about half a kilometer into the sea like a sandy tongue covered with thick pine forests. Bol is the oldest coastal village and holiday resort on the southern coast of Brač, the largest Dalmatian island. Old Bol was the place of wine growers, fishermen and seafarers, and is now a tourist environment with hotel complexes, private homes and apartments. Restaurants with original dalmatian recipes, diving, sailing and tennis clubs, fitness centers and the local port, popular among boaters, make Bol a desirable tourist destination.

The Tourist Board of the Split-Dalmatia County

www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Bol

www.bol.hr

Los Angeles Times

www.latimes.com

A replica of Supetar being built in the middle of Texas

Supetar, a town on the central Dalmatian island of Brač, impressed the American builder Jeff Blackard so much that he decided to build a replica of Supetar in the middle of Texas. The idea, which was born seven years ago during which the U.S. businessman often visited Supetar to absorb every detail of this unique insular small town, has not only become reality, but is slowly coming to an end. He has already built about 70 percent of the “Texas Supetar” and Blackard and his business partners recently travelled to Zagreb to take over a replica of the church, in which they will incorporate bells identical to the ones in Supetar. The American businessman bought 18 acres of land in Stonebridge - a ranch near the town of McKinney in Collin County - located along a lake of about the same size, whose bank was adjusted so that it would match the size of the port in Supetar.

In “Texas Supetar” called Adriatica everything will be the same as in the real Supetar, from the harbour, streets and square, for which the paving stones were purchased in the same quarry used by Michelangelo, to the church whose bells will ring the same way as the ones in Supetar. Along with a large housing complex Adriatica will have all the necessary additional cultural, sporting and educational facilities and should offer people the ability to escape from the usual stressful and hectic American way of life into an Adriatic oasis of peace that surrounds this town on Brač, which has captivated the American investor.

The American entrepreneur will succeed in bringing “a piece of Dalmatia” to the far-away America, where many inhabitants of Brač immigrated during the last century in search of a better and happier life. His 350 million U.S. dollar project sparked the interest of the Croatian and American public largely because of its originality and transmitting of the message of cultural and human values. Supetar is a town on the largest Dalmatian island of Brač, which is located opposite the biggest Dalmatian town of Split. Situated on a horse-shoe shaped bay of St Peter after which it was named, Supetar fascinates with gentle ease. This is an ideal destination for those who want to enjoy beautiful beaches, rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. The island of Brač also offers numerous opportunities and attractions like the desert Blaca, Vidova Gora, the world-famous beach Zlatni Rat, the Museum of Brač in Škrip, the stone carving school in Pučišći and many other attractions.



PHOTO: ROBERT BARILLA

The Tourist Board of the Split-Dalmatia County

www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Supetar

www.supetar.hr

40 Croatian restaurants included in the Austrian edition of the guide Gault Millau



PHOTO: RADIC

40 Croatian restaurants were included in the 32nd edition of the Austrian Gault Millau gastronomic guide, among the 572 pages which describe the “culinary delights” from Vorarlberg to Hungary, from Vienna to Dubrovnik and from Salzburg to Bolzano. Gault Millau is one of the most prestigious gastronomic guides, and the criteria for evaluating restaurants are freshness and quality of, particularly seasonal, products, creativity and the preservation of the natural properties of ingredients, while equipment, setting and design and restaurant service are not graded. Inspectors visit restaurants even up to several times, mostly in secret, before the final evaluation. The highest rating a restaurant can get is 20 points, which has not yet happened, and 19 is the rating given to the world’s best restaurants. Grades are accompanied by caps. This year, the guide included 808 restaurants, of which 656 are in Austria, while the others are from the neighboring countries. Recommendations without a cap were given to 181 restaurants, 543 hotels and 138 coffee bars. From Croatian restaurants most points and caps were won by Gil’s restaurant in Dubrovnik, Monte in Rovinj, followed by Milan and Valsabbion from Pula, Wine Vault from Rovinj and Takenoko from Zagreb.

Gault Millau

www.gaultmillau.at

Istria - The second most beautiful European tourist region



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOZIC

The editorial staff of the German edition of Diners Club Magazine awarded Istria a high second place in its traditional Diners Club Magazine Award competition, in the category of “the most beautiful tourist regions of Europe”. Istria competed with 16 other finalists, among which were well known destinations such as Cote d’Azur, Tuscany and Andalusia.

The editorial staff of the magazine nominates the candidates in each category while the final decision for the winner is left to the readers who may vote for their favorites in writing or on the website of the magazine. More than 70 000 readers responded to the last vote and chose South Tyrol as the most beautiful tourist region in Europe. Other finalists, with Istria among them, were awarded silver acknowledgements. This is yet another recognition for the largest Croatian peninsula, which has recently been placed in the high second place by The Lonely Planet, the world’s leading travel guide, in the selection of the world’s ten most desirable regions. Egyptian Sinai is the only one which came in front of Istria.

The Tourist Board of the Istrian County

www.istra.com

Pag - The cheese Gligora wins three gold medals at the World Championship

The Croatian island of Pag is a tourist destination widely known primarily for its famous beach Zrče near Novalja proclaimed by international media as the Croatian Ibiza. However, it is less known that this island produces excellent cheeses. Recognition has come from the World Championships held in Birmingham, where a panel of 200 experts from around the world, awarded gold medals in three categories to Pag's cheese making family Gligora: sheep milk cheeses, hard cheeses and new cheeses.

The cheese of the Gligora family from Kolan on the island of Pag, which has been described by Croatian cheese experts as an iconic product over a long period of time, won the gold medals competing among around 2600 cheeses from Europe, USA, Asia, Africa, Australia and other countries. Members of the jury described it as a home-made cheese with an excellent balance of flavors in which they could taste the aromatic herbs from the island of Pag. The Gligora family has been producing cheeses for 15 years, and apart from the Pag cheese they produce the cheeses Žigljen, Kolan, Kozlar, Figurica, young Trappist and others.

The particularity of Pag cheese is its hardness and salinity, and specific aroma and flavor given to it by essential oils of aromatic herbs. Although the secret of the flavor will never be completely revealed, according to many, it lies in the combination of the domestic breed of sheep, meadows which are rich with aromatic plants and winds which blow sea salt onto them. The sheep in Pag are bred on hilly areas that are exposed to salt due to frequent strong winds. It is this salt, sage and immortelle that give the cheese its recognizable flavor.

The island of Pag is one of the largest and most developed islands on the Adriatic, full of bays, coves, beaches and capes. The bay of Pag is encircled by 20 kilometers of pebble beaches.

PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ



The Tourist Board of the Zadar County

www.zadar.hr

The Tourist Board of Pag

www.pag-tourism.hr

■ Introducing

The Požega-Slavonija County

The Požega-Slavonija County is one of the smaller Croatian counties. It is located away from the main traffic routes and this is exactly what makes it special. This is a region that breaks the usual notion of a flat Slavonia because as well as boasting plains with fertile fields, this relatively small area also has mountains and hills which at their foot have famous vineyards, and at their tops dense forests.

The Požega-Slavonija County has a long history. In Roman times the Požega basin was called Valis Aurea - Golden Valley. From the Middle Ages we can reliably track the written history of our county, which was first mentioned in 1210.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Lipik is known for its thermal spas and the Lipizzaner stud farm. Pakrac has been known since the Middle Ages as an important fortress and also had a mint for the production of 'banovac' coin. Požega is a city with a long urban, administrative, cultural, educational, religious and economic tradition.

Pleternica is the famous shrine of Our Lady of Tears and an important traffic intersection.

Kutjevo is one of the best wine destinations in Croatia, where the tradition of viticulture and wine has been ongoing since 1232. Kaptol has one of the best preserved medieval fortresses in its centre.

Velika, apart from its thermal springs, is also known as a resort and a starting point of the Nature Park Papuk, which has recently gained the status of a European Geopark because of its geological diversity. The well known and recently more frequently visited Sovsko Lake, the only remnant of the former Paratethys (Pannonian) Sea in this area is situated in the Čaglin area in the heart of mount Dilj.

Požega

Požega is located in a fertile valley surrounded by the Slavonian mountain ring Psunja, Papuk, Dilja, Krndija and Požeška Gora. Although located southeast in the Golden Valley, which the Romans called Vallis Aurea, it has been the most important center of central Slavonia for centuries. Its topographic position at the foot of the Old city and the surrounding hills with their vineyards enabled Požega the creation of the medieval fortress that is mentioned in documents from 1227. In the middle of the 18th century Požega got the status of a free, Royal City and as an important cultural, educational, economic and religious center in the 19th century it got the flattering title of "Slavonian Athens".

From the sites in Požega, the ones that stand out are the monastery and church of St. Duh built around 1285, the Požega Cathedral, the Church of St. Tereza Avilska and the church of St. Lovro - the oldest church in Požega, built in the early 14th century.

Lipik

Lipik is a town known for its spas, mineral water and the stud farm of Lipizzaner horses. The resort and spa are some two hundred years old, but date back to Roman times and there is numerous archaeological evidence which proves it was inhabited even in those times. The health resort flourished in the first half of the 19th century. Then, Count Isidor Jankovic built a new building with three swimming baths. At the same time an inn was built near the thermal source, which became the core around which the village continued to develop. Meanwhile, 25 acres of land were fenced off to make a park, the first alley of trees was planted and the famous Lipizzaner horse-farm was established. The building of Kursalon is the largest and most representative building in Lipik by which this tourist town is recognized. It was built in 1893 on the south side of the park in High Renaissance style. It is interesting that Lipik got electricity in 1894, only six years after New York.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Pakrac

Pakrac was first mentioned in 1229 in within a nobleman's name Marcel Pakrački (Marcel of Pakrac), although some archeological finds indicate that it was inhabited even in ancient times. The Templars (Catholic order of knights) mentioned the Pakrac fortress from the 12th century. Also mentioned from this period is the first money mint which forged the so called 'monete banalis' or 'banovac' coin. In the 17th century, after 150 years of Turkish rule, Pakrac got its first owners, among which its development was mostly affected by the family Janković, who built their own manor in it. In the same century the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built, and the city became more and more the center of commerce and craftsmanship, where a hospital, a school, rail track, hotel, court and a private power plant were built. The landmarks that stand out in Pakrac are Spahijski cellar, Janković manor, the castle of Baron Trenk and the old town Čaklovac. In the vicinity of the town there are two resorts: Omanovac and Matkovac as well as the ethno-park Čantalo.



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Kutjevo

Kutjevo is located 20 kilometers east of the county center Požega at the foot of mount Krndija. It carries the flattering title of the Croatian wine capital. The Kutjevo Castle was built as a Jesuit residence from 1721 to 1735 and is considered



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ I DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

one of the most important Baroque buildings in the Požega-Slavonia County. It was built on the site of a medieval Cistercian abbey, which was described in records from 1700 as a ruin. An interesting fact is that important wine cellars remained preserved in the castle. From 1721 to 1735 a new baroque complex with a church and a large residence (castle) was constructed. It became the administrative headquarters and a summer mansion of the Jesuits from a monastery in the nearby Požega.

Pleternica

Pleternica is situated at the point where the river Orlava breaks through Požeška Gora and Dilj towards Sava, on the so-called gate of Požega's Golden Valley, surrounded by a wreath of mountains (Psunj, Papuk, Krndija, Dilj and Požeška Gora). The first mention of the settlement dates back to 1270, under the name of St. Nikola, although some sources say that it was first mentioned in 1335. The name Pleternica was first mentioned in 1427, when it became a trading center. According to the legend, it was a settlement fenced with wattle - a fence of interlaced twigs, after which it was named.



PHOTO: SAŠA PIANIĆ

The Tourist Board of Požega

www.pozega-tz.hr

The Town of Lipik

www.lipik.hr

The Tourist Board of Pakrac

www.tz-pakrac.hr

The Tourist Board of Kutjevo

www.tz-kutjevo.com

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