

Newsletter

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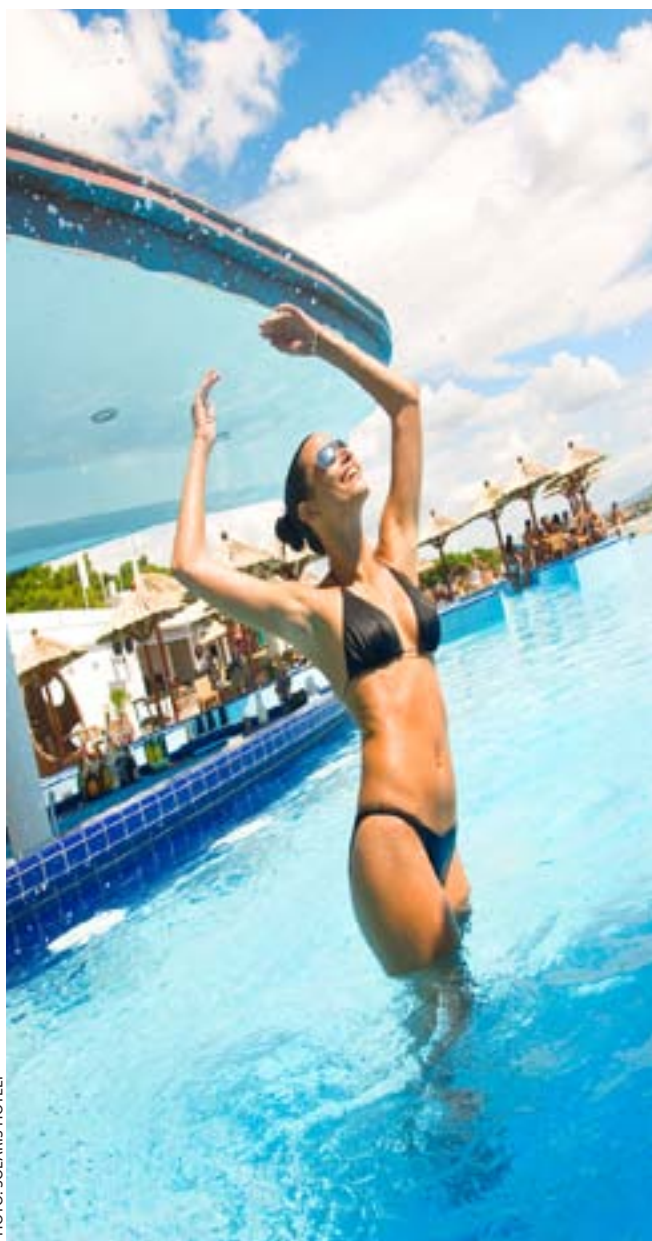


PHOTO: SOLARIS HOTELI

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■ News

New road extensions to Croatian motorways



Croatia is carrying on with the construction of modern roads. Recently, two new motorway sections were opened: a 9.8 km long section in Dalmatia (Račva-Vrgorac) on the motorway A1 Zagreb-Split-Dubrovnik and a 50 km long section of the Istrian Y in Istria, from Kanfanar to Umag. With the opening of the section Račva-Vrgorac, the A1 motorway is now 467 km long. The construction of the next section, to Ploče, is expected to be finished in the next year. Construction work will continue on to Dubrovnik, which is the final destination in the far south of Croatia. The toll on the Račva-Vrgorac section will be four kunas, while from Zagreb to Vrgorac it will be 191 kunas for personal vehicles. The section on the Istrian Y, from Kanfanar to Umag, was constructed eight months before the set deadline and should be fully completed by the end of 2014. It currently connects Pula and the Slovenian border with an 80km long section. The completion of an 18 km long section from Kanfanar to Rogvići is expected in October this year.

Croatian Motorways

www.hac.hr

Bina Istra

www.bina-istra.hr

Atlas of river Sava for sailors



A sailing tourist guide named 'Atlas of River Sava for Nautical Tourism' has recently come out on the market and is aimed at sailing enthusiasts, amateur sailors and tourists. It is a unified project of 17 chamber of commerce associations of the Economic region in the tract of River Sava (ERUSRS) from Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is an area which covers around 940 km of the river and its coast, with about 6.8 million inhabitants, 140 thousand companies and a million vessels on River Sava each year, says the introduction of the issue. The atlas contains articles, around 7000 photos of all the cities and regions along Sava and more than 100 nautical maps covering the whole river. It is based on an exploring trip of experienced sailors, who sailed Sava in 2010 from its source to the mouth of the Danube. It contains plenty of information about the tourist offer, entrepreneurial potential, cultural and historical heritage, as well as all the destinations along the river. With four national issues of the atlas, there is also an issue in English.

Cruising along Sava through Croatia and the countries of the region enables one to see hundreds of villages and a few dozen towns. Their uniqueness and beauty is described in this sailing tourist guide with an aim of bringing back nautical tourism to life in the whole region.

Croatian Chamber of Commerce

ww.hgk.hr

Split - Sea safari



PHOTO: HTZ

A new adrenalin attraction was recently introduced within the Split aquatorium – the Sea safari, which will be available to tourists in Dalmatia this season. The presentation was held in Brač canal, and it began with a cruise on the ancient, traditional sailboat 'Jugo'.

Even though this adrenalin – adventure trip claims that it «takes to the limit», the safety of participants comes first. One of the best vessels on the market, Tornado speedboat, has been chosen precisely because of this. It is a safe and secure boat which was constructed for the purposes of rescue and other professional tasks in all weather conditions. The experience of riding in the Tornado boat is closest to a ride on a rollercoaster.

The company Adria Extreme, who are the organizers of this adrenalin challenge, also offer tourists transport services in Dalmatia 24 hours a day. Guests have trained skippers at their disposal, with whom they can cruise between the land and the islands. A visit to 15 locations in central Dalmatia is predicted, among which are Šolta, Hvar, Pakleni islands, Vis, Biševo, Korčula, Mljet and Lastovo. More precisely, this is a tour of picturesque, hidden bays, lighthouses and beaches. The agency also offers lunch in less known authentic restaurants on the islands.

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Split

www.visitsplit.com

Konavle - Reaching a fine drop of wine by train



PHOTO: MARIO ROMULIĆ & DRAŽEN STOJČIĆ

'Tourist train through the vineyards of Konavle', is the name of this tourist season's tour on offer, in the far south of Croatia. Along with the rich wine offer, tourists will be able to get acquainted with traditions and traditional crafts from the area of Konavle, every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. The tourists will be able to visit the village Ljuta, where they will see the traditional production of flour and processing of wool. The trip includes a visit to a mill, quality wine tasting of some of the best wines from this part of Croatia in three wine cellars and an especially interesting experience of the 'farmers' meal' - bacon and onions served in a traditional manner, as it used to be served by the old inhabitants of Konavle while working in the fields. The trip ends with a visit to a Franciscan monastery in the village Pridvorje, and Ethnographic Museum and the church of St. Nikola in Čilipi.

The trip under the name 'Up and Down', should also be mentioned. It is a trip to the cave Vjetrenica in the Dubrovnik area. There is also the 'Sunset Cruise', which includes dinner and a boat ride through Karak, then there is the 'Sea Kayaking: Dubrovnik', a ride on kayaks around the city walls, 'Konavle Biking', a bike ride through Konavle, and the trip 'Elafiti' to the Elafiti Islets, where tourists can enjoy a meal in an authentic 'konoba' (wine cellar) and have a swim in Vrbova bay.

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

Dubrovnik - Through ancient streets by Segway



Segway City Tour Dubrovnik is a new service offered by the luxury hotels on the Adriatic. It offers the possibility of touring Dubrovnik by Segway, the first self-balancing personal vehicle in the world. This amazing and fun means of transport which is easily operated, will entertain all its users and guests, while introducing the beauties of Dubrovnik in a completely new way. They will be able to freely enjoy all the beauty of Dubrovnik's nature, beautiful city views, views of the sea and historical sites and details. Users of the Segway City Tour will be accompanied by a guide-instructor, who will help them in mastering the techniques of driving and introduce them to many of Dubrovnik's sites. Zagreb and Split already have a Segway City Tour. The Croatian capital has recently received the 'TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2011' award for this service, from one of the most significant tourism websites, TripAdvisor (www.tripadvisor.com). The Segway City Tour has been entertaining visitors of Zagreb for the fifth year running. Users of the TripAdvisor website, one of the largest internet sites which offers travel advice, have praised the Segway City Tour as a special experience and a 'must do' in Zagreb. Split introduced the Segway City Tour two years after Zagreb.

The Tourist Board of Split-Neretva County

www.visitdubrovnik.hr

The Tourist Board of Dubrovnik

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

Segway City Tour Dubrovnik

www.segwaycitytourdubrovnik.com

Zagreb - Hotel Stella in the Best Western chain



Hotel Stella in Zagreb has joined one of the largest hotel chains in the world, Best Western. This modern three star hotel has recently been known as Best Western Hotel. The hotel is located not far from the airport, on the main road that leads towards the city centre. Because of its excellent location, the hotel is ideal for business travellers, tourists and transit travellers. The hotel is four years old, has 44 modern rooms and a conference hall for 100 persons equipped with the latest audio-visual technology.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb

www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

Hotel Stella

www.hotel-stella.hr

Best Western

www.bestwestern.com

Tourists in Dalmatia have their own newspaper



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

The Dalmatia Times is the name of the informative weekly newspaper aimed at foreign tourists in Dalmatia. In this paper tourists can find lots of interesting information about places to visit and current information about all the more significant cultural, sports and entertainment events in Dalmatia.

All of the summer issues will be published in English and handed out for free in hotels, marinas, campsites and other tourist facilities and destinations from Pag, in the north of Dalmatia to Dubrovnik and Cavtat in the far south.

Dalmatia is famous for its amazing natural beauty, numerous national parks and historical monuments from the UNESCO world heritage list, which every tourist can get to know through The Dalmatia Times paper. The weekly paper uncovers destinations that promise adventure and fun, authentic gastro dishes and 'must see' sights during a visit to Dalmatia.

The Dalmatia Times is a project of the Split daily paper Slobodna Dalmacija, the largest regional paper in Croatia.

Slobodna Dalmacija

www.slobodnadalmacija.hr

■ Croatia in the world

CNN - Croatia, the homeland of the cravat

CNN iReport, a part of the CNN website, has recently presented an interesting video clip about Dubrovnik and Croatia. A report under the name 'Hey dad, here is a tie which comes from...' is based on a story about something that is usually given to fathers on Father's Day in America. Percy von Lipiski, one of the most awarded presenters on CNN and Jasna Đurković, the director of the cult Dubrovnik Hotel Excelsior, uncover the details from the glorious past of Dubrovnik, such as the story about Dubrovnik which in 1776, as an independent state, recognized the independence of USA.

The director of this famous hotel points out the Croatian origin of the tie, and presents the host with a cravat that has Dalmatians - dogs that originate from Dalmatia - drawn on it. It was this gift precisely that inspired the presenter to tell the story of the cravat and uncover the beauty of Dubrovnik and Croatia to viewers from around the world. The report was filmed on the terrace of Excelsior hotel, from which an unforgettable view stretches on to Dubrovnik and the old city core.

CNN has already reported on Dubrovnik's hotel Excelsior a few times. This year in February, it was included on the prestige CNN list of the 'top ten sweetest places in the world for Valentine's Day'.

CNN iReports are made by numerous reporters and are based on stories and news from all over the world. It is interesting that the ideas for the reports come from the viewers of CNN themselves, and are different, interesting and have a great following. The reports of Percy von Lipinski, a former diplomatic consul, are often shown on the front page of the CNN website and have had more than a million hits. Lipinski brings dynamic and unique reports about things which we know little of and impressions from famous destinations, as well as from hidden and less known countries of the world. His reports get more than 5000 hits an hour and 160000 individual hits a day.



PHOTO: HTZ

CNN iReport

<http://ireport.cnn.com>

New York Times praises Croatian coast and people

Croatian coast is very impressive to foreign tourists, and Croatian islands Mljet and Korčula have inspired a recent column of The New York Times reporter Seth Kugel. This American reporter was inspired by a holiday spent in Dubrovnik, Mljet and Korčula with his parents, who he calls travellers of the world. They were absolutely amazed by Croatia. He pointed out that Croats were lovely people, but that he can only vouch for the people from the south of Dalmatia, as this was the place where he spent his holiday. The NYT reporter was left speechless by the local cuisine and most of all by the freshest fish, calamari, octopus, domestic cheese and dried ham. He said that private accommodation on the Adriatic was excellent and that it offers much more than the hotels, most of all because of the possibility of getting to know the life of the locals, who can help their guests with valuable advice.

According to him, after the beautiful Dubrovnik, he arrived with his parents to Mljet, where he truly had a good rest. He was amazed by Korčula, especially with the old town, which he described as beautiful and more original than Dubrovnik itself. He was also impressed that he was in a place `presumed to be the birth place of Marco Polo`. He likes Račišće, a small fishing village, even more.

He and his parents found Korčula slightly more lively, but pleasant just the same. The reporter and his colleagues concluded that the Croatian coast is a real pearl, while the people are one of the most hospitable people in the world.



PHOTO: JURAJ KOPAC

The New York Times

www.nytimes.com

Hotel.info: Poreč, Opatija and Zagreb – the best tourist towns in Croatia



PHOTO: DAMIR FABJANIC

While comparing the quality of service that hotels offer with the price, the German website 'Hotel:info', rated Poreč as the best Croatian tourist town, followed by Opatija and Zagreb.

'Hotel info' is a free German internet service for booking hotels around the world, on which users can rate hotels and cities from 1 to 10.

Grades for cities of the world are published on a quarterly basis, and the ones after the second quarter are especially important as they are published just before the beginning of the tourist season.

According to the German website, Zagreb has surpassed Dubrovnik, which was four months ago graded higher than the capital of Croatia.

Poreč received 7.38, Opatija 7.01, and Zagreb 6.89 on average. Zagreb needs very little to get on to the 20 world metropolis list and surpass Helsinki in 20th place, with a 6.93 grade average.

With its grade, Poreč has accomplished an excellent result in world proportions, considering that the number one tourist destination in the world, the Estonian city Tallin, received a 7.86 grade average.

Hotel info

www.hotel.info

The sea at Croatian beaches among the cleanest in Europe

The annual report of the European agency for environmental protection and European commission has shown that Croatian beaches are among the cleanest in Europe, with 97.3 percent pureness, right after Cyprus, where 100 percent of the beaches are clean. Following Croatia are Malta (95.4), Greece (94.2) and Ireland (90.1 percent). The data for Croatia refers to 913 bathing grounds from which 88 are on the coast. The report states that not one of those places had over the limit amounts of E coli and none of them had to be closed down during the season.

Results have shown that the cleanliness of European beaches is still high, even though in 2010, in relation to the year before it was noted that the amount of water that relates to the compulsory criteria of cleanliness has gone down by 3.5 percent, while the number of those which comply with the recommended criteria has gone down by 9.5 percent. All together, in the whole of Europe, there were more than 21 thousand coastal and inner beaches and bathing locations tested on the territory of European Union, Croatia, Montenegro and Switzerland.

Data from the Croatian Ministry of Environmental Protection also shows that the sea at Croatian beaches is by its quality and cleanliness among the cleanest on the Mediterranean. For last year it shows that the sea was excellent at 94 percent of Croatian beaches.

During the last bathing season from 15 May – 30 September the quality of the sea was checked every two weeks, at 913 locations. As many as 9203 samples were taken from which 8866 samples of the sea (93.54 percent) were graded as excellent.



PHOTO: SVPETRUS HOTELI

The Ministry of Environmental Protection

www.mzopu.hr

Croatia in the Far East

Croatia is becoming a new European destination for Korean and other Asian visitors, offering what France and other strong tourism countries cannot offer, states The Korea Times, which published an interview with the President of the Tourist Board of Zagreb, Ms. Amelija Tomašević. She stated how a lot of Koreans are acquainted with many European destinations and how the time has come for them to turn to Croatia which is different from the rest by its rich culture, history and is above all, the home of well preserved and untouched nature.

Along with this, Korean tourists do not require a visa for Croatia and the airport in Zagreb is an ideal European landing ground because of its location, offering many flights from the Capital of Croatia to other European destinations. Amelija Tomašević reported that the Tourist Board of Zagreb has recently published a brochure in Korean and that it is ready to meet all the required needs of Korean tourists. She announced that she will engage with the government on getting work permits for Koreans in Croatia, to enable them to work as tour guides for Korean tourists visiting Croatia because there are almost no Croats who speak Korean.

The author of the article, Lee Hyo-sik, introduced readers to basic information and stated that Zagreb is the Capital of Croatia, which became an independent state in 1991 after the fall of Yugoslavia. It says that Croatia is located in southeast Europe between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia and the Adriatic Sea, which it shares with Italy. He points out that Croatia is famous for numerous national parks, and that Croatian authorities give special protection to ten nature parks and two natural reserves, while around ten percent of the territory is under special protection by strict laws.

The author also states that Croatia has a diverse climate. In the north and east it is continental, along the coast it is Mediterranean and in the south and central area the climate is half-mountain and mountain.



PHOTO: NINO MARCUTI

The Korea Times

www.koreatimes.co.kr

Zagreb - A big step forward in congress tourism



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Zagreb's position on the world map of congress tourism is rising. This is best shown through data of the International Congress and Convention Association, by which the main Croatian city has gone from 171st to 79th place on the list of 309 cities as world congress destinations. According to this data, Zagreb holds an even better, 42nd position, on the European list, by the number of organized conventions last year among 159 European convention destinations. Overall, in the congress and convention sense, Croatia is in 40th place in the world, with 50 international meetings and Zagreb hold the first place in Croatia with 23. The Capital city of Croatia has recently been confirmed as the host city of the annual European Cities Marketing (ECM) 2012 convention. This is an organisation that brings together European tourist boards and congress offices. ICCA was founded in 1963 by a group of tourism agencies and is today one of the most important international organisations on the market of the congress industry. It represents an association of professionals who deal in organizing international conventions and events. It has around 900 members from 86 countries.

The Tourist Board of Zagreb

www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

ICCA

www.iccaworld.com

Merian once again features Croatia



PHOTO: BRASLAV KARLIĆ

The German magazine Merian has dedicated its July issue to Croatia and this is the seventh issue since 1960 that provides information and advice to tourists who visit the Adriatic. This time, the popular, luxury monthly magazine is reporting on cities and locations across about 150 pages, which will surely attract readers in Germany. It gives advice to sailing enthusiasts, features articles about Kornati and Istria, with special reports on Pula and Brijuni, Plitvice Lakes, Zagreb, Split, lighthouses on the Adriatic and, of course, Dubrovnik, including a report on its devastation during the homeland war. Eight years ago, in 2003, the Merian wrote a lot about the making of the movies about the Indian chief Winnetou on Velebit and Plitvice. This time, there is a detailed article about 'Mr. Tito's green salon' and his guests at Brijuni.

Merian

www.merian.de

Two Croatian hostels among the chosen ones

Split's designer hostel Goli&Bosi and the Dubrovnik Backpackers' Club have recently received important recognition. The hostel in Split was proclaimed second among the ten best hostels in the world, on the website 'virtualtourist.com', which has over a million users, while the most famous hostel website 'hostelworld.com' proclaimed Dubrovnik Backpackers Club the best in Croatia.

On the list of the world's top ten hostels, the hostel Goli&Bosi is described by the following words 'If you are searching for a praise worthy hostel, which will offer you a fashionable and modern experience, you simply must visit Goli&Bosi, a designer hostel in Split. This former shopping mall offers a unique and futuristic ambience because you open doors by a smartphone application, after which you can retreat into a private sleeping capsule. Lively colours, modern architecture and a restaurant in the hostel have carved Croatia deeply into the world hostel map.'

The hostel is located in the heart of the old town, inside the walls of a Roman palace, which was built in the 4th century by the Roman emperor Diokletian. Domestic and foreign tourists have 28 rooms at their disposal – from two bed apartments with a view of the sea to sleeping facilities with eight beds. The rooms are not numbered in the usual manner. Each room holds a number of a famous historical event in Split, for example the room 1221, represents the year when pirates attacked Split, while room 2010 represents the year the hostel was opened.

'Guest will get to know Split in this original way, whether they want to or not, upon their arrival. This way they will become real residents of Split for at least a day', explained the owner of the hostel, Mr Ante Kotarac, describing the hostel which a year ago had four and a half million kunas invested in it, in the height of the world tourism crisis.

This designer hostel, with a funny and ironic name (Naked and Barefoot) is located in the centre of the city in a neo-classicist building which used to be a shopping mall.

Dubrovnik Backpackers' Club on the other hand, got recognition by 'virtualtourist.com', which has in the past nine years handed out awards to the best hostels in the world, according to their users. The awards are given out to the world's best hostels, the best hostels on individual continents, the best hostels in individual countries and for large and small hostels.

This year's competitors were 20000 hostels from 6000 destinations from around the world and more than a million users voted by six types of criteria: character, safety, location, personnel, entertainment offer and cleanliness. The title of the best hostel in the world was given to the Traveller's house in Lisbon, while voted as the best hostel in Croatia was the Dubrovnik Backpackers' Club. It is located on the peninsula Lapad, offers an amazing view of the sea and is only a five minute walk from a beautiful pebble beach and walking path with recreation facilities, cafes, restaurants and shops.



PHOTO: ANDRIJA CARLI

Hostelworld
www.hostelworld.com

Goli&Bosi
gollybossy.com

Dubrovnik Backpackers Club
www.dubackpackers.com

Croatian wines receive 40 medals and 25 Decanter magazine recommendations

Croatian wines have once again confirmed their quality by receiving 40 medals and 25 recommendations by the world's most famous expert wine magazine Decanter, which is 11 awards more than last year. The best graded Croatian wines were Bodren Bodren ice vintage 2009, which received the most prestigious award – the regional trophy, and Krauthaker Graševina, the chosen harvest of dried grapes in 2009, which won the gold medal.

The British wine magazine Decanter brings the choice and recommendations of the best wines every year, and this year the award ceremony was held as part of the London Wine Fair, at which 1500 exhibitors from around 30 countries, introduced more than 20000 different types of wine.

At this year's fair and grading, there were 25 Croatian wine producers from Istria, Dalmatia and Slavonia.

The Bodren winery, from Hum na Sutli received two silver and one bronze medal along with the regional trophy.

Along with the gold medal for Graševina, Krauthaker wines received two more silver medals, two bronze medals and two Decanter recommendations. This winery from Kutjevo once again attracted the attention of sommeliers from one of the most prestigious restaurants in the world, The Fat Duck in London, which last year bought the whole Krauthaker desert Graševina vintage. The cult restaurant wants to have this particular wine in its offer once again.

The Decanter magazine is published and read in 98 countries from around the world and significantly influences opinions and trends in the wine world.



PHOTO: DRAZEN BOTA

Decanter

www.decanter.com

Winery Bodren

www.uhdmo.hr/bodren

Krauthaker

www.krauthaker.hr

■ Projects

Pula - Marina with a four star hotel

In the near future there should be a four star hotel constructed in Pula's marina Veruda, with accompanying facilities and additional berths.

The marina currently has 630 berths and its own charter fleet. In preparations for the new tourist season a lot has been invested in the modernisation of the existing facilities and piers. A new dry berth has been built on a surface of 3000 square metres at the entrance to the marina, which can accommodate between 250 and 300 boats.

A platform has been built on one of the piers for transit ships. There is also a new transporter for transport of vessels up to 30 tons as well as an existing 30 ton crane. Owners that have contract berths of their vessels are offered allocated, free, covered parking spaces for personal

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istra.hr

The Tourist Board of Pula

www.pulainfo.hr



PHOTO: RENCO KOSINOŽIĆ

Pula - Hotels Histria and tourist resorts Punta Verudela start refurbishments

PHOTO: DUŠKO MARUŠIĆ



PHOTO: DUŠKO MARUŠIĆ



After this year's tourist season, Pula's hotel company Arenaturist, plans to refurbish the famous hotel Histria in Pula from scratch. In the glorious 1980s this hotel was the pride of Pula, together with the apartments Punta Verudela. These tourist facilities should be able to receive guests next year with more comfort and more stars.

25 million euros will be invested in the hotel and the resort, together with the surrounding infrastructure and above all horticulture. Construction works should be completed in 5 to 6 months. The hotel and resort will not change its outer appearance but its interior, modelled on the 16 rooms that were refurbished last year and turned out to be a good investment. The plan is to refurbish 233 rooms and nine suites.

Histria will also refurbish its convention centre which is open throughout the year and can accommodate around 700 participants in the main hall and 30 to 80 participants in three smaller halls. All the halls will be equipped with the latest technology. The lowest level of the hotel will be refurbished completely. On this level, stretching across more than a thousand square metres, there will be a closed swimming pool, along with a new wellness and spa centre with various saunas, beauty and massage facilities and a fitness studio.

After the refurbishment, the apartment part of Punta Verudela will count 18 villas, 436 newly refurbished apartments and 123 studios. Along with the accommodation part, the outer pool will also be made over, there will be a children's zone, a shopping zone and new sports facilities. Hotel Histria stands in a beautiful location, dominantly rising above the coast. It is located four kilometres from the historical town centre of Pula, inside the resort Punta Verudela.

It is located only about a hundred metres from a beautiful beach which was awarded a blue flag. Sports and recreation facilities include 18 tennis courts, two five-a-side football fields, handball, basketball and volleyball fields, a squash court, mini-golf, table tennis, rental of bicycles, a diving centre and a water sports centre.

The hotel's entertainment club for adults and children offers all day entertainment.

The tourist resort Punta Verudela is a real Mediterranean town, which offers everything that is needed for a perfect summer vacation with its characteristic coastal architecture and ambience. The apartments by the sea are a combination of top comfort with a domestic atmosphere. It is an ideal place for an active holiday for all those wanting to enjoy the daily rhythm of the sun and sea and nightlife, along with a wide choice of entertainment and sports activities.

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istra.hr

The Tourist Board of Pula

www.pulainfo.hr

Hotel firm Arenaturist

www.arenaturis.hr

A 100 million euro tourist project to rise next to Krka

The plans are being put together for the construction of a tourist resort in the vicinity of the National park Krka, in the area of Lozovac, on 150 thousand square metres. The project, named Ivanal Plaza, was drawn up by the company 'Gordan Resan Architects & Partners' and it includes the construction of a hotel, sports facilities, villas and apartments. From the 150 thousand square metres, 32 thousand will be used for the construction of hotel, tourist and sports facilities. Green areas would take up 75 thousand square metres and water areas more than 30 thousand square metres. The terrace shaped hotel would have at least 200 separate apartments with their own terraces and green areas. On the top floor of the hotel there would be clubs, restaurants and penthouse apartments. Also predicted is the construction of around 20 to 30 two hundred square metres luxury villas with their own terraces, gardens and pools. From each terrace a magnificent view would stretch onto the karst beauty –River Krka.

The project includes the construction of a convention centre, a casino and a spa and wellness centre. Along with open sports courts there will also be a multifunctional sports hall, a sports medicine centre, a sports education centre, a museum, Krka education centre, a multimedia centre and a shopping centre.

The whole area will be surrounded by a park forest with walking paths, fish ponds and lakes. The planned value of the project, which is to be constructed 15 km from Šibenik, is estimated at around a hundred million euros.

Krka national park should in due time be famous in the world not only for its amazing beauty of Skradin and Roški Waterfalls and Visovo Lake, but also as a national park which has an attractive hotel, tourist and sports facilities at its doorstep.



PHOTO: MILAN BABIC

The Tourist Board of Šibenik-Knin County

www.sibenikregion.com

The Tourist Board of Šibenik

www.sibenik-tourism.hr

Ivanal Plaza

www.ivanal-plaza.com

■ Investments

Gradac - Hotel named «Desire»

A new hotel under the name 'Suadade' has been opened in Gradac, on the beach itself. This four star hotel has 26 double rooms, three spacious apartments, a la cart restaurant, wellness centre, fitness, large jacuzzi and other facilities which reflect its four star status. The name of the hotel means desire in Portuguese.

The hotel represents an elegant mix of modern comfort, top service and a Mediterranean experience. It is located right next to the city beach and not far from the centre of Gradac with which it is connected by a coastal walking pathway. It is ideal for guests wanting to swim and sunbathe, explore surrounding sites and enjoy gourmet dinners on the hotel's summer terrace.

Gradac is a tourist village in the far south of Makarska Riviera, located half way between Split and Dubrovnik. The area of Gradac was inhabited even in prehistoric times. This is evidenced by the numerous stone piles from the Bronze and Iron Age. In ancient times, this area was probably a Roman civitas Biston which, as a coastal centre, belonged to the colony Narona, an important Roman stronghold on what is today Croatian territory. Also located in the area of today's Gradac, was the medieval town Lapčan or Labinac, which is mentioned by the Byzantine emperor Konstantin Porfiroge in the 10th century by the name Labinec. Gradac was mentioned for the first time by its current name in 1649. It was named after a fort which was located above the today's church of St. Mihovil and was most probably built during the Kandian War (1645-1669).

The beauty of the surroundings and the amazing mix of mountains and the clear blue sea with more than seven pebble beaches, have made it a favourite tourist destination. Its tourism symbol is the pebbled beach Gornja Vala, the most beautiful beach on the coast of Makarska and one of the most beautiful on the Adriatic. Stretching under the slopes of Biokovo Mountain are old, abandoned villages, symbols of old Dalmatian architecture. They are connected by marked walking and cycling paths that run through pine woods and olive groves, making them ideal for different types of excursions and outings.



PHOTO: TZŽ SPLITSKO-DALMATINSKE

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Gradac

www.gradac.hr

Opatija - New accommodation units on Kvarner



PHOTO: SERGIO GOBBO

Opatija, which belongs to the old school of Croatian tourism, has recently been enriched by a new hotel. It is called Villa Kapetanović and is a modern four star hotel with 21 rooms and three apartments. At their disposal, guests have an outdoor swimming pool, a large congress hall, a spa zone and the exquisite restaurant Laurus. The value of the investment is estimated at around nine million kunas. Villa Kapetanović is located above the lively Voloski and has a spectacular view stretching across Kvarner and its islands from the hotel terrace.

The Tourist Board of Primorje-Gorje County

www.kvarner.hr

Villa Kapetanović

www.villa-kapetanovic.hr

Plitvice lakes - Technology and science in the service of nature

The National park Plitvice Lakes will soon enrich its offer. It has begun with the construction of a presentation centre which will contain everything worth seeing, from films and photographs to museum exhibits. Visitors will - through scientifically popular methods and by using the most contemporary multimedia equipment - be able to see, how the geologically natural phenomena Plitvice Lakes have evolved, their basic biological properties as well as the hidden values of this landscape. Ethno culture of this part of Croatia will also be featured. The project is worth 18 million kunas and its completion is planned for November of this year. Plitvice Lakes are the oldest Croatian national park and were included on the UNESCO world heritage list in 1979.

The beauty and uniqueness of Plitvice Lakes is far known and this natural phenomenon is being included on lists of the most beautiful world destinations almost on a daily basis. CNN Travel recently included them among the ten most beautiful lakes in the world and Veliki Slap (Big Waterfall) was proclaimed the third most beautiful in the world. 'Hello' magazine called them 'a watery paradise' while the America LA Times recently published a report by Offbeat Traveller, which invited readers to mark the 20th anniversary of Croatia's independence by visiting the oldest Croatian national park, which will take their breath away. On the website lonelyplanet.com, Plitvice have found themselves on the list of the most beautiful European national parks. 'Almost like a hallucination, made up of 16 intertwined lakes located in the forest, rich waterfalls in an orgy of colours – turquoise, green, blue and grey...All in all – a sight for sore eyes!' states this prestige magazine, specialized for travel and adds that Plitvice lakes are certainly worth a visit in the winter time as well.



PHOTO: DAMIR FABJANIĆ

Yahoo Travel has also not resisted the beauty of Plitvice Lakes, enlisting them among the ten most beautiful places in the world, along the Indian Taj Mahal, Grand Canyon in the USA the Versailles palace in France, the Peruan Machu Picchu and the Great Wall of China.

The Tourist Board of Lika-Senj County

www.lickosenjska.com

The Public Institution National Park Plitvice Lakes

www.np-plitvicka-jezera.hr

Rovinj - Hotel Lone receives its first guests

The first five star design hotel in Croatia, Maistra's hotel Lone in Rovinj has recently opened its doors to guests. 339 million kunas have been invested in the construction of this hotel. Preparations lasted three years, while building works lasted around nine months. Hotel Lone is located in the vicinity of the sea and together with the hotels Monte Mulini, Eden and Park is part of the exclusive zone Monte Mulini, which will offer 750 high quality accommodation units once finished.

The unusual ground plan is in the shape of a swallow's tail or the letter Y. The hotel has six levels and has 248 spacious and modern accommodation units, from which 236 are luxury rooms, 11 apartments and one presidential suite. There are also numerous additional facilities, including a few restaurants, sushi and night club, wellness and spa centre on 2400 square metres, 10 multipurpose halls, outdoor and indoor pools, eight open tennis courts, four covered tennis courts, a bowling alley and a gym.

Everything in the hotel, from the architecture to the interior design, has been created by Croatian designers and everything has been made exclusively for Lone, which was named after the island that most rooms are facing. The hotel is located along the sea and the park forest Zlatni Rt from which it only takes a fifteen minute stroll to get to the lively city centre of Rovinj



PHOTO: HOTEL LONE

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istria.com

The Tourist Board of Rovinj

www.tzgrovinj.hr

Maistra

www.maistra.hr

■ Events

Fažana - A summer full of surprises

The small Istrian village Fažana, located not far from Pula and opposite the famous Brijuni islands, has this year prepared a lot of cultural and entertainment surprises for its guests. Every seven days during August, there will be an event on the waterfront of Fažana held under the name 'Traditional Evenings'. This will be a fair of Istrian souvenirs and products, ideal as memorabilia from tourist travels. Fažana is a fishing village which has nurtured the tradition of sardines and sardine dishes, a fish that generations grew up on, since ancient times. The biggest event is the Sardine Feast, during which this blue fish can be tasted by visitors through hundreds of different dishes. There are also competitions in carrying fishing carts, rowing, rope pulling and other sports, cultural and entertainment activities. It could be said that Fažana's whole gastro offer is based on this blue fish.

In the 1920s, Fažana was famous for its factory for processing and canning sardines, which was moved in 1952. The locals have even opened a unique open air gallery on the promenade called Sardine Park to show how much they are connected to the sea and the sardine, where one can see sculptures by artists from Fažana, dedicated to this silvery-blue fish.

There is also the Sardine Road, on which restaurants offer unforgettable palatable pleasures and the Little Sardine Fishing Academy, which organizes lessons in the salting of sardines.

'What Fishermen Know' is the name of another fishing feast at which fishermen show and teach different fishing skills and visitors can see old fishing tools, a regatta of unique old boats and even join the fishermen while they demonstrate fishing. Along with village events, this small fishing village near Pula also offers 'Fažana Dusks'. This is a festival of classical music, during which numerous chamber concerts by young talented musicians from Istria are held in sacral ambient.



PHOTO: TZ FAŽANA

The Tourist Board of Istria County

www.istria.com

The Tourist Board of Fažana

www.infofazana.hr

Krapina - Summer with the Krapina Neanderthal man

One of the most impressive symbols of Krapina, a town in the heart of the Croatian Zagorje, is most certainly the Neanderthal man, the pride and proof of Krapina's long and rich history. A visit to Krapina will not just be an ordinary visit to a town but a visit to a famous archaeological site, one of the cradles of mankind in this area.

Marking this unique value, there will be various programs taking place in August, on the streets of Krapina, all under the name 'Summer with the Neanderthal man'. There will be an organized tour of the city with expert guides, a religious fair on Trški Vrh and a trip to the nearby hill Strahinjčica.

Krapina is most famous for the archaeological site of the Neanderthal man on the hill Hušnjakovo. One of the most contemporary museum projects in Croatia and this part of Europe, the Museum of the Krapina Neanderthal Man, was opened last year. On a surface of around 1200 square metres, visitors can experience an interesting story about the life and culture of the Neanderthal man in Krapina, numerous multimedia and other contents, as well as special architecture. The new museum is connected with sandy walking pathways to the site itself, on the hill Hušnjakovo.



The Tourist Board of Krapina-Zagorje County

www.tz-zagorje.hr

The Tourist Board of Krapina

www.tzg-krapina.hr

Sinj - Three centuries of knighthood



PHOTO: IVO PERVAN

Not many towns in the world can boast a tradition that has been nurtured for three centuries by the Dalmatian town Sinj, located around 40 kilometres north of Split. This is the Sinjska Alka – the knightly tournament which is unique in Europe and the world. Ever since 1715 the people of Sinj have kept the memory of their victory over the Turkish conquerors. In honour of this heroic event, when 700 soldiers, after a 15 day siege, managed to fight off the Turkish army, which counted 60000 soldiers, the inhabitants of Sinj thought up a game in which every year on the anniversary of this victory, the knights that actually fought in this battle participated and competed in.

In the following years, their heirs and heroic descendants competed in Alka and the competition has been held up to this day. On authentic locations, the Alkar knights proudly maintain the tradition which symbolises heroism and a desire for freedom. The peak of the three day event is competing for the `alka`. The knights do not fight each other, but compete by riding a horse in full gallop, and with a three metre long spear, aim to hit the alka which hangs on a rope across the race track. The alka is an iron ring, made up of two concentric rings which are connected with three iron bars that separate the space into three identical parts. The winner of the Alka is richly awarded, and the people of Sinj and Cetina Krajina celebrate him as their most determined hero and knight, until the Alka competition the following year. This year's 296th Sinjska Alka will be held on 7th August.

The Tourist Board of Split-Dalmatia County

www.dalmatia.hr

The Tourist Board of Sinj

www.tzsinj.hr

Sinjska Alka

www.alka.hr

Varaždin - When the streets become «too tight»



PHOTO: DARKO GORENAK

Špancirfest festival will be held from 19 - 28 August for the 13th consecutive year in the Baroque city of Varaždin, situated in the northwest of Croatia. During this time the streets and squares of Varaždin become centres of music, theatre and many other art forms as street performers take over the town.

The Varaždin street festival Špancirfest is also called 'the festival of good emotions'. It is one of the most visited festivals in Croatia and the region. During the past 12 years it has been visited by more than two million people and more than 11000 performers from all over the world, some of whom are established names on the world music scene. During the ten days of the festival there are over 250 hours of program: world music concerts, rock, blues, ethno music, children's programs and shows, adult theatre comedies as well as street performers', entertainers' and musicians' shows. On the five stages and on the streets of Varaždin old town core there will be 50 concerts, 150 street theatre performances, 9 theatre shows, 25 children's shows and 6 creative and educational workshops. On the MTV stage in the Old town there will be performances by Asian Dub Foundation and Morcheeba among others.

The Tourist Board of Varaždin County

www.tz-zagorje.hr

The Tourist Board of Varaždin

www.tzg-krapina.hr

Špancirfest

www.spancirfest.com

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