

ALH TIMES

THE OFFICIAL ADRIATIC LUXURY HOTELS PERIODICAL



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An Eco Travel Bucket List

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ADRIATIC
LUXURY HOTELS

ALH News

Welcome to our hotel group! Adriatic Luxury Hotels (ALH) manages the most luxurious hotels and villas in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Currently, our portfolio consists of 12 properties. Find out more about our properties and ideas for your next holiday destination on page 50.

We are thrilled to announce the exciting renovation of Grand Villa Argentina – one of our most beloved historic properties.

Located just a few minutes away from Old Town Dubrovnik, this much-loved, nearly 100-year-old property is undergoing an extensive renovation as part of its transformation into the most luxurious hotel of the ALH brand. The new Grand Villa Argentina, a luxury seafront hotel with unparalleled views of Dubrovnik's Old City and the Adriatic

Sea, will boast the restored Mediterranean gardens of the original property, al fresco dining with endless sea views, an expansive spa with a dreamy outdoor pool area and spacious decks overlooking the sea and the Old Town. Special attention will be paid to sourcing and implementing natural local materials (stone, ceramics, wood), thereby

respecting the local heritage and integrating the project into its surroundings.

The Grand Villa Argentina, along with its neighboring heritage properties, Villa Orsula and Villa Glavić, is set to undergo a complete renovation and refurbishment and is scheduled to reopen in 2025. The renovation vision is led by the renowned Croatian architectural studio "3LHD studio" under the direction of Marko Dabrović from Dubrovnik.



The visualizations are for informational purpose only.

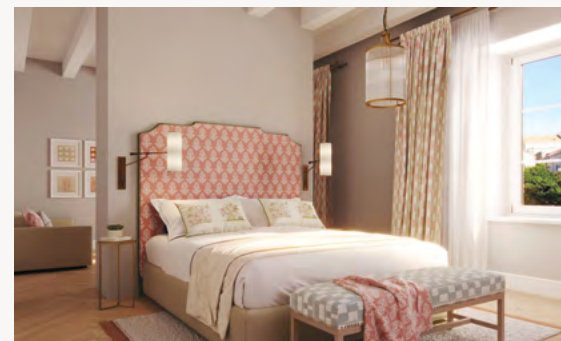
The Supetar Residence

A TRUE HERITAGE GEM

The newest addition to Hotel Supetar Cavtat Collection – The Supetar Residence – will open for the 2024 season as a boutique property in the very heart of the historic centre of Cavtat.

Housed within the time-honoured walls of a historic Dalmatian villa, just a stone's throw from Cavtat's enchanting waterfront promenade, the residence is tucked among the picturesque terracotta roofs of this little village, offering complete serenity and relaxation.

Five luxurious bedrooms await your arrival, each an oasis of comfort and style. A spacious living room and an intimate dining area invite you to relax and unwind in the elegant ambience, while those inclined to maintain their wellness and exercise routines will enjoy the compact fitness room as a serene space to rejuvenate.



The visualizations are for informational purpose only.

SupetART

HOTEL SUPETAR CAVTAT ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF SUPETART ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM



A rotation of both local and national artists, the SupetART program transforms Hotel Supetar's communal spaces into a month-long interactive pop-up gallery. Curated in partnership with an esteemed Croatian art consultancy agency, the exhibition provides a platform for travellers to engage with artists and immerse themselves in Croatian culture. Each event kicks off with an opening reception and informal discussion with the artist.

The SupetART artist-in-residence program is slated to be a continuing initiative and a cornerstone of Hotel Supetar Cavtat's commitment to art and culture.

Room makeovers in Hotel Croatia Cavtat

Opening in April 2024, Hotel Croatia Cavtat will proudly reveal its first set of completely refurbished rooms.

This marks the initial phase of the comprehensive renovation plan, with additional room transformations planned to complete the hotel's makeover.



The visualizations are for informational purpose only.

Committed to Sustainability

Unified in our belief that protecting nature and safeguarding our heritage and guided by the passion to make sustainability an integral part of our company's culture, the "COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY" project was born.

Endeavouring to provide a positive impact, we are proud to announce that we have launched several sustainability initiatives, which became a standard and an integral part of the ALH culture. To name just a few:

Join us in the #PlasticfreeAdriatic initiative!

Together with our partner, local non-profit Maritimo Recycling association, help us collect, sort, and repurpose plastic cleaned up from the Adriatic Seabed and shores.



INSIDE TIP Scan this QR code to help us make a difference and join in on some of the clean-up actions on the Elaphite islands.



Our Coaster's Story: Cleaning the Adriatic, One Bottle at a Time

Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic," with its captivating azure vistas and rugged coastline, exemplifies the inseparable connection between land and sea. Its clean, clear waters are cherished by residents and visitors for many activities. As travellers, we have the privilege of exploring the world's wonders, but we also have a responsibility to protect them. Adriatic waters aren't just a source of beauty; clean seas are essential for the sea world as well as for the local communities and their quality of life. By safeguarding our seas and practising sustainable tourism, we can ensure that places like Dubrovnik maintain their beauty and biodiversity.



A single piece of plastic, if discarded carelessly, can take centuries to degrade, harming marine life along the way.

Through our partnership with the local non-profit Maritimo Recycling association, we have collected, sorted, and repurposed plastic from the Adriatic seabed and coastlines. Through this process, we have created coasters that are made entirely from recycled plastic, in collaboration with Maritimo Recycling and directly contributed to the removal of 10 plastic bottles from the seashore, or equivalent to 100 bottle caps from the Adriatic Sea required to produce one coaster set.

Our actions affect the world around us. The small choices we make, from reducing plastic waste to conserving water, create waves of positive change. So, keep in mind that sustainable travel is not a compromise; it's a commitment to preserving the Earth's beauty.

In partnership with Croatian cosmetic company Magdis – producer of natural cosmetic brand Biobaza, ALH has created an authentic sustainable eco-friendly cosmetic line that is completely recyclable.

The cosmetic is exclusively available in selective ALH hotels. An ode to the Adriatic, this unique citrus and almond based collection is the result of extensive research, development, and an individual approach tailored to nurture the skin and calm and relax all the senses, at the same time going in line with nature. Moreover, we have implemented circular solutions into the production of cosmetics, meaning that materials, that are used, are completely recyclable and eco-friendly, and later sourced for the production of car tires.

INSIDE TIP

Look for wider Biobaza products at local dm drogerie markt, Bipa or Müller drugstores Croatia-wide.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.

Our employees have switched to EARTHBOUND sneakers as workwear – Croatian biobased sneaker brand, crafted for all the right reasons

The team behind the Croatian footwear brand EARTHBOUND have kickstarted a completely alternative manufacturing process with the goal of creating the next generation of footwear with minimal impact on the environment. Without compromising on comfort, durability and style, EARTHBOUND sneakers are crafted in Croatia from natural materials such as hemp, wool, cork, natural latex rubber and eucalyptus, sourced from suppliers who have passed EARTHBOUND rigorous ecological standards. Using the strongest natural fibers, they are crafting durable and stylish sneakers all the while ensuring minimal environmental impact through the whole process. EARTHBOUND is the first Croatian B Corp certified company.



INSIDE TIP Check out EARTHBOUND story and choose your own pair:

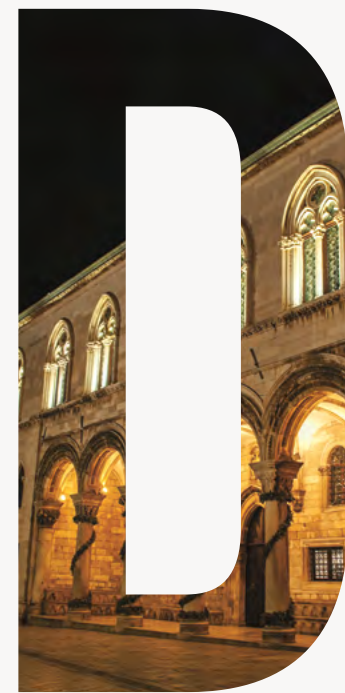


ALH IS ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY

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For more info visit www.arcticpaper.com





THE RECTOR'S PALACE

The unadorned simplicity of this Gothic-Renaissance palace may seem too modest for the affluence of the Dubrovnik Republic, but restraint was the style of those times, and this splendid building has survived explosions and earthquakes throughout the years. The Rector of Dubrovnik lived in this palace during his one-month rule, separated from his family, and was only allowed to leave the building for official business. The atrium is a harmonious space, with Corinthian columns, galleries, a beautiful Baroque staircase and outstanding acoustics. It is often used for chamber music concerts.

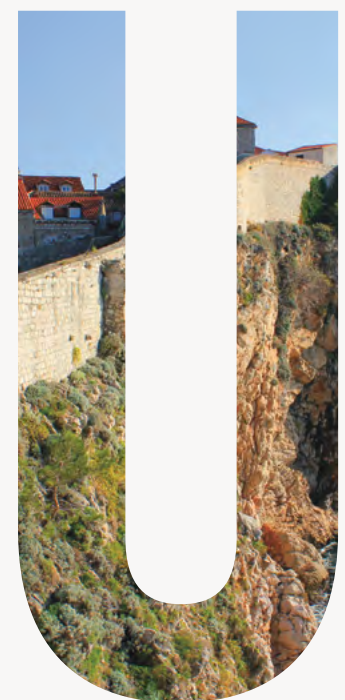


STRADUN

Although its official name is Placa, everyone knows the main street of the Old Town as Stradun, the favourite promenade of every Dubrovnik resident and visitor. Rebuilt after the earthquake of 1667, it is a broad axis of graceful and harmonious stone buildings, impressive in their simple dignity. After the disaster, the devastated city needed to secure its defence quickly and ensure that life in the city would continue. Thus all the houses along the Stradun were rebuilt according to designs approved by the Senate of the Republic. Buildings along the Stradun were all rebuilt to a uniform height, with nearly identical facades, and similar layout, with shops on the ground floor, as trade was a top priority of the Republic of Dubrovnik.

The Short List

Our guide to *must-see* Dubrovnik sights



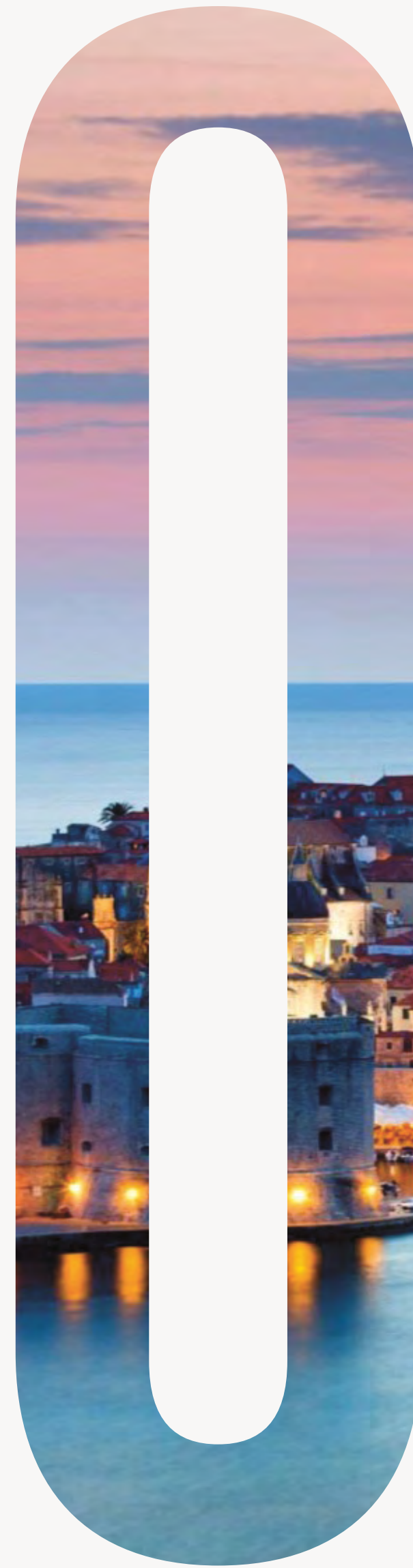
CITY WALLS

Dubrovnik's most celebrated landmark is its city walls, a 1,940m stone curtain surrounding the old city. Much more than a simple wall, the strongest and most beautiful city fortification complex on the Mediterranean includes towers, bastions, castles and fortresses. The outer dimensions have remained the same since the 14th century, but the structures themselves took shape gradually during the golden age of Dubrovnik - from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the great earthquake of 1667. Walking the ramparts is a magnificent introductory tour of the city.



LOVRIJENAC FORTRESS

Perched on a cliff 37 m above the sea, this fortress was built in the 16th century to protect the city from Venetian attack. On the fortress' walls an historic inscription can still be read: *Non bene pro toto libertas venditur auro*. Freedom cannot be sold for gold. The fortress is often used as a performance stage during the Summer Festival, and makes a magnificent setting for Shakespeare's Hamlet.

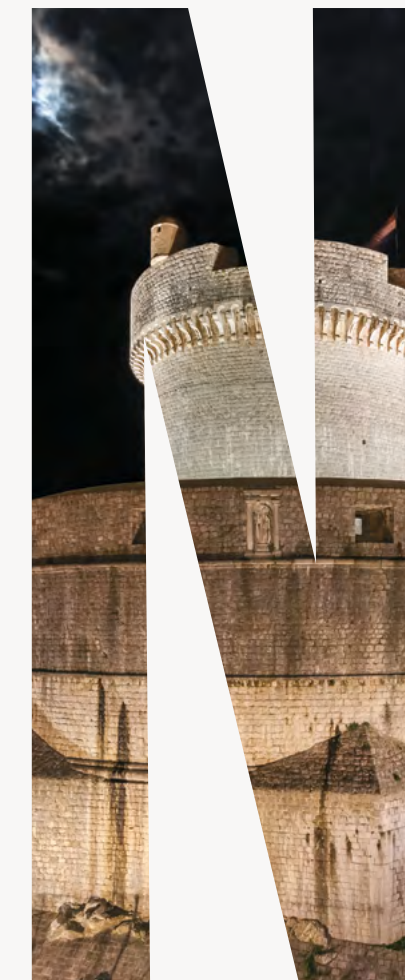


SPONZA PALACE

All trade routes of the Dubrovnik Republic led to this building, one of the loveliest palaces in the city. Constructed in a blend of late Gothic and Renaissance styles according to the designs of Paskoje Miličević, the palace successfully combines many styles and gives us a glimpse of the richness of the lavish palaces that stood in Dubrovnik before the 1667 earthquake. The arcaded courtyard was a lively trading centre and meeting place. One wing of the building housed the state mint, founded in the 14th century and operated with in the Sponza Palace until the fall of the Republic. Today the palace is the seat of the Dubrovnik archive, which safeguards the city's oldest documents and invaluable historical materials. The square in front of the Sponza Palace is the site of the opening ceremony of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival each year; from the palace's beautiful *piano nobile* terrace, actors dressed in costumes of Dubrovnik's rector and noblemen evoke the spirit and noble traditions of the Dubrovnik Republic.

MINČETA FORTRESS

Dominating the city, and defying all enemies, this beautiful fortress is a symbol of Dubrovnik's freedom. A smaller rectangular tower on this site dates from the 14th century, while the monumental round tower we know today was designed by the Florentine Renaissance architect Michelozzo Michelozzi and the Croatian Juraj Dalmatinac, and was completed in 1464. From the top of Minčeta tower, you can enjoy a stunning view of the town and surrounding areas.



ROLAND'S COLUMN

On the main square, between the Sponza Palace and Church of St Blaise, stands a 15th century stone column with a sculpture of a warrior. The sculpture represents the knight Roland, who allegedly saved Dubrovnik from the Saracens and was deeply revered during the Dubrovnik Republic. The white flag of the Republic was always flown proudly here.



CHURCH OF SAINT BLAISE

This church is a symbol of the city of Dubrovnik and its protector and patron saint. It stands at the centre of the Old Town. Each year the city celebrates St Blaise's Day on February 3, in festivities attended by the citizens of Dubrovnik and visitors from many cities across Europe.

Dubrovnik Quintessentially

CHOOSE YOUR OWN
EXPLORE
DUBROVNIK ADVENTURE

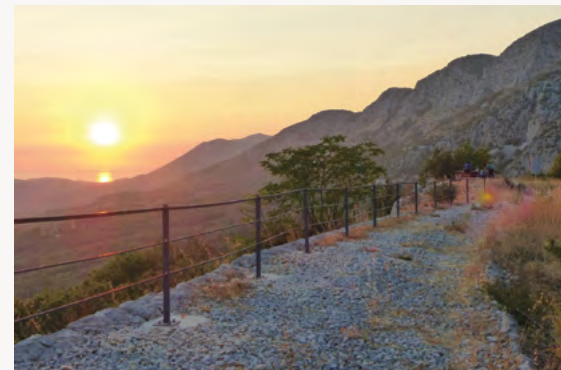
01

A DAY TOUR OF KONAVLE, THE COUNTRYSIDE OF DUBROVNIK

If you want to escape from everyday city noise, and prefer relaxing in nature, we recommend exploring the beauty of Konavle region by bicycle or by foot. Explore the contrasts and exceptional beauty of this rural region. The mountains and valleys are dotted with green hills and bare stone. This area is peaceful and serene, perfect for relaxing in nature. Slow down and breathe in the clean air, stress-free surroundings and the good old-fashioned way of life.

INSIDE TIP

Rent an e-bike or set your way on foot and explore the famous cycling and walking trail "Čiro" in Konavle.



02

DEEP BLUE TREASURES OF CAVTAT AQUARIUM

For scuba diving enthusiasts visiting Dubrovnik, it is worth the short drive to Cavtat. This area, once on the pathway of the main trading routes leading from Greece towards northern Italy and their colonies on the Adriatic coast is filled with ancient shipwreck sites.

One such has the largest and best preserved cargo of amphora (vases carrying olive oil and wine) on the Eastern Adriatic coast, located at a depth of 27 meters.



INSIDE TIP

Only one diving centre has a concession from the Croatian Ministry and the exclusive right to take tourists to this amazing "underwater museum" and that is Epidaurum Diving Centre whose owner of the company discovered this remarkable historical finding in 1996.

03

ISLAND OF LOKRUM

Just off the coast of Dubrovnik Old Town, the island of Lokrum is a place of stories, mysteries and legends. Once home to Benedictine monks, this island was also a legendary safe haven for Richard the Lionheart on his return from the crusades, a defence point built by Napoleon in 1806, and got's city of Quarth. Today, Lokrum remains a sanctuary – a perfect, crowd-free summer getaway for the people of Dubrovnik.



The wood of the ship is gone, only an anchor was found close to the site, but more than 600 undamaged amphorae from North Africa and the Aegean region have been documented on the surface layer, whereas the three site layers are assumed to contain more than 1800 pieces.

The site has been preserved with the assistance of the Croatian Ministry of Culture, and the main site has been fenced in by a metal cage to guard against thefts as the amphorae are worth quite some money.

Mother Nature has always reigned supreme here. Virtually untouched for centuries, Lokrum is legally protected as Nature Reserve and a Special Forest Vegetation Reserve, inhabited only by families of rabbits and peacocks that were introduced to the island in the 19th century by the Austrian archduke Maximilian, who also started an exotic botanical garden.

The entire coast of Lokrum can be considered a beach, with rocky shores that in some places create perfect swimming spots. A must-see is the lake known as the "Dead Sea" – a small salt water lake connected to the open sea on the east side of the island. The bravest visitors can also go cliff diving on the island's open sea side or visit the Purple Cave hidden at the far end of the island.

GETTING THERE

You can get to Lokrum by a lovely 10-minute boat ride on the "Skala" and "Zrinski" vessels, which depart every half hour in peak season from the Old City port. Tickets can be purchased at the pier, just before boarding. The first boat departs from the Old City port at 9 AM and the last one returns from Lokrum at 7 or 8 PM (depending on the season).

UNFORGETTABLE BUYS
GIFT LIST
FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR

04

FARAC FILIGREE & FINE JEWELRY

The craftsman behind our special antique replica earring from Hotel Supetar, Mr. Marko Farac, is a true jewellery enthusiast. Living in Dubrovnik and being immersed in its culture, he is constantly exploring the region's rich goldsmith legacy and history of jewellery making which has led him to study an array of traditional techniques, especially the art of filigree.



Walking the walls and enjoying the beach is always fun, but for a happening holiday packed with the best parties, bars and shops, you need some inside information. Let ALH Times be your guide to an oasis of chic, in Dubrovnik you've never seen before.

06

MADE IN CROATIA

For a wonderful selection of Croatian design & fashion, be sure to check out Life According to KAWA.

They await you at Ploče gate, on the street number Hvarska 2 @ Life according to Kawa

INSIDE TIP

If you are planning an event in Dubrovnik, their knowledgeable & helpful staff can help customize unique locally made gifts or giftboxes for you.

KAWA



Marko's vision for FARAC Filigree & Fine Jewellery is to reintroduce the traditional jewellery from Dubrovnik's history, hand-making stunning pieces from the past to be handed down to future generations. But being a man whose art is ever evolving, he hopes to fulfil other dreams too, such as making custom designs, creating one-of-a-kind pieces, and designing contemporary collections.

View his exquisite coral and mussels collection jewellery collections at www.faracjewelry.com

05

BLACK ROSE PRECIOUS FACE OIL BY SISLEY

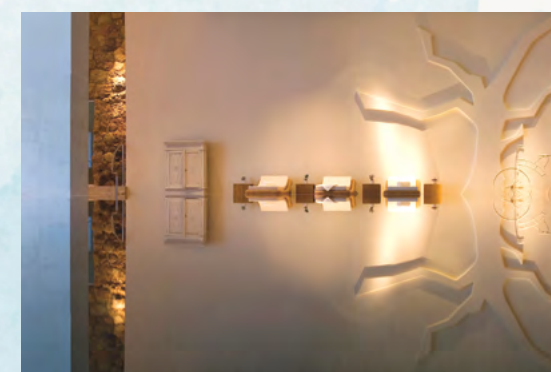
French luxury beauty brand Sisley was one of the first to use botanical essences in cosmetology.

For dry or mature skin, this Sisley Black Rose Precious Face Oil includes plant-based ingredients. It nourishes the skin and promotes a youthful-looking appearance. Black rose extract helps smooth the skin while camelina oil soothes, and phytosqualane moisturises the skin.



INSIDE TIP

Experience Sisley face and body treatments dedicated to beauty and wellness exclusively at Energy Clinic spa in hotel Excelsior in Dubrovnik.



08

WHERE TO TAKE YOUR ULTIMATE DUBROVNIK SELFIE?

DUBROVNIK BELLTOWER

Standing tall over Dubrovnik's main street Stradun the bell-tower and its Jaquemarts (bellstrickers) witness the life of the city which plays out underneath them. As of recently so can you as it has been opened to the public. Climb up, witness its past and share a "selfie" back dropped with Dubrovnik's red-tiled roofs.



TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN SRD (CABLE CAR)

It is only when you see the Old Town from above you will be able to fully understand what people of Dubrovnik wanted to protect when they build the City Walls.



PARK GRADAC

Drop into the Game of Thrones "Red Wedding" filming spot, while keeping the west entrance to the Old Town and Lovrijenac fortress behind your back.



09

COFFEE IN THE OLD TOWN

In Croatia, if somebody invites you for a coffee, you can actually order something else. Coffee culture is so strong, that the word "coffee" just got the meaning of the word "drink". Going for a coffee is a social thing. You get together, exchange the daily news, problems and gossip. Sometimes by watching busy cafes in the middle of the day, you might get a wrong impression that Croatians don't work. We actually do. In the bar. While we drink coffee. And while chatting away we can stretch our espresso or macchiato for an entire hour. Just to illustrate: one shot of espresso is 0.68 oz, while a Starbucks Tall cup is 12 oz. True story. If you are curious to observe this phenomenon, or just want some good coffee, explore the side streets of the Old Town. It would be hard to miss.



COLLECT BEAUTIFUL
MEMORIES
WHILE IN DUBROVNIK

07

TAILORMADE EXCURSIONS WITH ADRIATIC LUXURY SERVICES

Find out for yourself why Croatia is renowned for its spectacular scenery, rich cultural heritage and wonderful cuisine. There is no better way to discover the country than on a trip custom-made for you by Adriatic Luxury Services. Instead of the hassle of a coach tour, let the experts put together your perfect itinerary – a sailing trip along the coast, with stops in small fairy tale fishing villages; horseback riding through Konavle vineyards; or perhaps a private guided tour of the Old Town. Discover the possibilities at the ALS information desk at any Adriatic Luxury Hotel.

Dubrovnik

A MEDITERRANEAN TREASURE



Dubrovnik is more than a city. A perfect combination of past, present and future, of culture, heritage and natural beauty, it offers a unique experience and unforgettable holidays. No wonder it has become the latest must-see Mediterranean destination.

At the southern tip of Croatia's long coastline, Dubrovnik has long been known as the Pearl of the Adriatic, but it is in fact one of the great sights of the Mediterranean, rightly designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition to its natural beauty and rich history, Dubrovnik's cultural events and diverse programme of attractions and activities in all seasons, make Dubrovnik the perfect destination for sightseeing, sport, cultural events or simply relaxing in a beautiful Mediterranean setting.

For many centuries Dubrovnik was an independent Republic, a proud cultural centre and an important Mediterranean trading power. Although no longer politically independent, it remains a centre of culture and tourism - a city of museums and galleries, famous for its annual Summer Festival, an international celebration of outstanding music and theatre.

Add to all this the seductive charm of a balmy Mediterranean climate and coastal scenery of incomparable beauty, and you have a powerful magnet for international tourism. The enchantment starts with the panoramic view of the Old Town of Dubrovnik, glimpsed first from the winding road that brings you to town from the airport. Rare are the cities that can boast a comparable location, or such well-preserved medieval walls.

These ancient fortifications were built with good reason - conquerors have always been attracted to Dubrovnik's beauty and wealth, even as recently as the last decade of the 20th century. But now Dubrovnik's walls teem not with soldiers, but tourists and open-air theatre performers. Half a million people visit the city every year, to experience its fascinating historic attractions.

Dubrovnik is itself a living museum, a treasure trove of Baroque, Renaissance and medieval churches and palaces.

The people of Dubrovnik are immensely proud of their city. They love their beautiful coastline, the sparkling emerald and sapphire hues of the clear sea as it crashes against the rocks of countless bays and coves, and the cliffs of lush subtropical vegetation. And they love the warm southern climate. With more than 250 days of sunshine a year, Dubrovnik sunbathes even in winter, when the orange and lemon trees are filled with fruit. The average temperature is 10°C in winter and around 26°C in summer.

Dubrovnik's long history of renowned visitors starts with Richard the Lionheart, crusader king of England, whom legend claims visited here in the 12th century. The city's guest book includes royalty, statesmen, athletes, actors, artists, and musicians of every nation. Edward and Mrs. Simpson, Queen Elizabeth II, King Olaf, Margaret Thatcher, Edward Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, Michael Douglas and Catharine Zeta Jones, Richard Gere, Nick Nolte and Tom Cruise are just some of the great names who have walked the shining marble stones of the Old Town Stradun.

Many celebrities anchor their luxury yachts just outside the Old Town, in front of the island of Lokrum. Roman Abramović, Paul Getty, Bill Gates, Caroline of Monaco, the King of Jordan and the Sultan of Oman are among those who value the privacy of their floating palaces. Oligarchs and humble backpackers alike succumb to the seductive beauty of Dubrovnik.

DID YOU KNOW

The Dubrovnik Republic was one of the first countries in the world to recognise the newly independent United States of America, in 1776.

The pharmacy in the Franciscan monastery in Dubrovnik has been operating continuously since 1317.

Dubrovnik passed a resolution abolishing slavery and forbidding the transport of slaves on 27 January 1416, making it the first state in Europe to abolish slavery.

The first quarantine in the world was established in Dubrovnik in 1377. Travellers arriving from areas infected with contagious disease were separated and held in the quarantine until they were proven to be healthy.

Richard the Lionheart, King of England, came to Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1192, on his return from the crusades. He took shelter from a storm on the island of Lokrum.

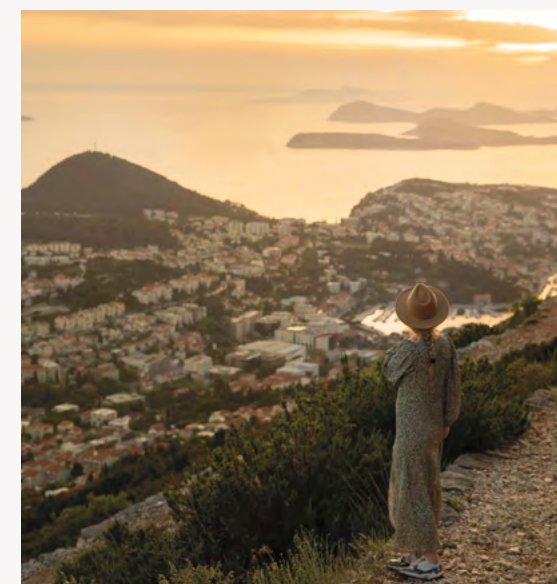
The Dubrovnik maritime insurance law ('Ordo super assecuratoribus', 1568) is the oldest such law in the world.

The orphanage founded at the Convent of St. Claire in 1432 was one of the first in the world.

In 1296 the Dubrovnik Republic built a sewage system which is still in use.

Dubrovnik's navy in the 16th century consisted of 40,000 sailors and more than 180 large ships, and was one of the most powerful in the Mediterranean.

When the Minčeta Tower was built in 1464, the builders did not have enough stones to complete the building. Everyone arriving from Gruž or Ploče was required to bring with them the heaviest stone they could carry to contribute to the project.



Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice' and 'The Taming of the Shrew' mention the term 'argosy', meaning 'a boat from Dubrovnik'.

Trsteno arboretum near Dubrovnik was founded in the 15th century and is the oldest arboretum in the world. Some of the plane trees are almost 400 years old.

BIOBAZA



THE ADRIATIC NATURE BEAUTY FORMULA

Indulge your skin and all the senses with the natural power of handpicked herbs from the Adriatic garden. The blend works perfectly on hydration, tone and blissfulness of the skin, while its unique scents take you to the most beautiful spots of the Dalmatian coast. Make your everyday beauty routine the sumptuous SPA experience.

Biobaza, the natural cosmetics of pharmaceutical quality. Offering only what your skin needs.

major
HOTELSKI SERVIS

Exclusive distributor for hotels and villas

MACOIS
GRUPA

Biobaza products are available at the dm, Bipa and Müller drugstores in Croatia.

DUBROVNIK SUMMER VILLAS

The Gundulić Summer Villa in Gruž



Owning a villa outside the crowded city centre still remains a dream of many – and it hasn't changed much since the 14th century when members of the Dubrovnik nobility started to understand the benefits of spending summer months away from the city crowds.

THE HAMPTONS OF RENAISSANCE DUBROVNIK

The villa culture in Dubrovnik holds great significance in the city's heritage and social life. These residences, known as *ljetnikovac* or *ladanjska kuća*, were more than mere summer or country houses – they served as vibrant hubs for family gatherings and social events year-round. Nestled near orchards, vineyards, and olive groves, the villas also played an important economic role.

The 16th-century explosion of second homes led to changes in lifestyle and culture. These villas became important centres of artistic and literary life, serving as venues for business discussions, artistic performances, and lively gatherings. The large gardens surrounding the villas were dedicated to leisure activities, providing a space for noble families and their friends to engage in various cultural pursuits. Scholars, philosophers, poets, painters, artists, scientists, and politicians would gather here to share ideas, discuss interests, and unveil discoveries.

Contrary to the elaborate architecture within the city walls, the villa facades were often understated, as Dubrovnik nobles preferred modesty. However, these villas offered luxury in terms of space and access to the outdoors, reflecting the trends of Renaissance Italy.

Despite the tumultuous history of Dubrovnik, such as the great earthquake of 1667 and the Croatian War of Independence in the 1990's, many Renaissance villas have survived. Some remain privately owned, others belong to institutions, while a significant number lie abandoned and dilapidated, awaiting restoration. Although only a few are accessible to the public, these villas still hold the secrets of a time long gone.

The villa culture in Dubrovnik not only contributed to the city's architectural heritage but also played a significant role in shaping its social life. These villas were not just secluded retreats, but busy centres of intellectual and artistic activity, where ideas were exchanged, and cultural pursuits thrived. Despite the challenges faced throughout history, the preservation of these villas testifies to their enduring importance in Dubrovnik's cultural landscape.

GRUŽ SUMMER HOUSES

Gruž bay serves as the main city harbour and trading centre in Dubrovnik. In the 15th century, the Gruž area, particularly the section that borders the harbour of Gruž, developed into a city district, where many wealthy Dubrovnik nobles built their summer homes in succession along the waterfront. While farmers, artisans, and shipbuilders lived in the fields, the opulent vacation homes of the nobility, with their Renaissance gardens, displayed influences from the south and east, hidden behind tall walls. These spectacular structures, typical of the Dubrovnik coastline, not only reflected the owners' social status and aesthetic preferences, but also provided a peaceful retreat from the noise and crowds of the city. The integration of gardens, architecture, and the surrounding environment was a key characteristic of Dubrovnik's Renaissance-era countryside residences.

THE SUMMER VILLA OF IVAN GUNDULIĆ IN GRUŽ

Among the many imposing villas in the Gruž area stands the summer villa of the Gundulić family – one of the largest and most monumental buildings in the area. Placed

just next to the famous local market, this summer house stands out as a unique example of Renaissance creativity. It was built in the late 16th century (1527) by Ivan Marinov Gundulić (Gondola), a member of the old noble family, a humanist and diplomat. Building a summer house for the Gundulić family was a status symbol and form of socializing in Dubrovnik's aristocratic past. The land that Gundulić family owned stretched from the coast to the slopes of Srd Mountain and the municipal waterworks, spreading over 13,500 square meters.

This historic summer home (today privately owned) features excellent architectural stonework features and harmonious proportions combined with outstanding greenery, as well as reminder of the luxurious lifestyle during Dubrovnik's most prosperous and influential period.

ARCHITECTURE

During his time in Italy, Ivan Marinov Gundulić associated with esteemed Italian academics in humanist circles. His summer residence in Gruž, Dubrovnik, is a remarkable architectural masterpiece influenced by the Italian Renaissance.

Strategically positioned facing the sea, the villa's gardens blend harmoniously with the captivating blue waters. Enclosed by tall walls, the estate features a smaller protective wall against waves.

The villa's true splendour lies in its expansive terraced gardens, spanning over 4000 square meters and featuring a charming fishpond. The symmetrical Renaissance-style garden takes precedence, while the single-storey summer

house serves as the accommodation. With vertically oriented wings and enclosed terraces, the building forms a "U" shape. The integration of architecture and gardens showcases a geometric design approach, with interconnected front and back gardens creating a system of walkways.



The entrance to the summer house features intricate Renaissance carvings, with Gundulić's coat of arms positioned above the semi-circular top of the grand entrance. Additionally, painted coats of arms of noble families from Dubrovnik adorn the walls of the ground floor.

In front of the house, there is a spacious patio and a covered gazebo, or "glorijet", embellished with a stone bench. This glorijet is among the largest of its kind found in Dubrovnik's country estates.

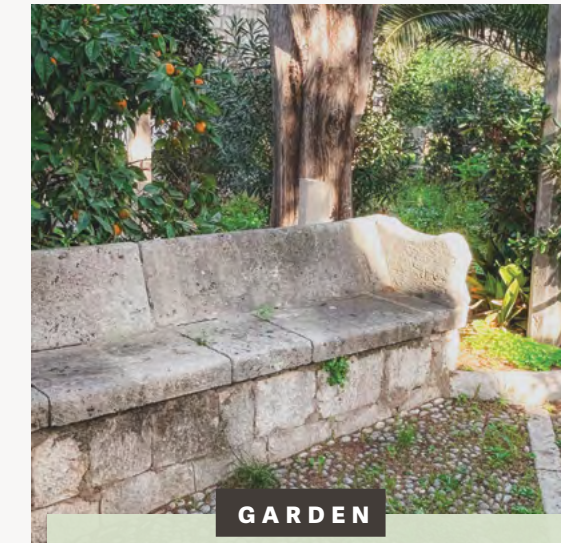
The east wing of the house features a chapel on the ground floor, while a covered boat dock, known locally as "orsan", can also be found on the premises.

GARDEN

In the 16th century, the Gundulić residence embraced the principles of regularity, order, and symmetry in its garden design. The summer house was enclosed by impressive stone walls, with entrances connected to main garden walks stretching over 100 meters.

The garden featured unique terraces connected by staircases, adorned with diverse plant life including cypress trees, lemon trees, oleanders, and palms. Fertile soil was imported from Italy by ships, enriching the plant diversity and leading to the transformation of the summer house into an agricultural school in 1887.

One of the garden's staircases bears the inscription of its construction date of 1535. To provide resting spots during long walks, strategically placed stone seats were positioned on belvederes, terraces, and in front of the house, creating spaces for gatherings, meetings, and discussions. These seating areas not only served functional purposes but also enhanced the garden's aesthetic appeal, complementing the overall symmetry and orderliness of the architectural design.

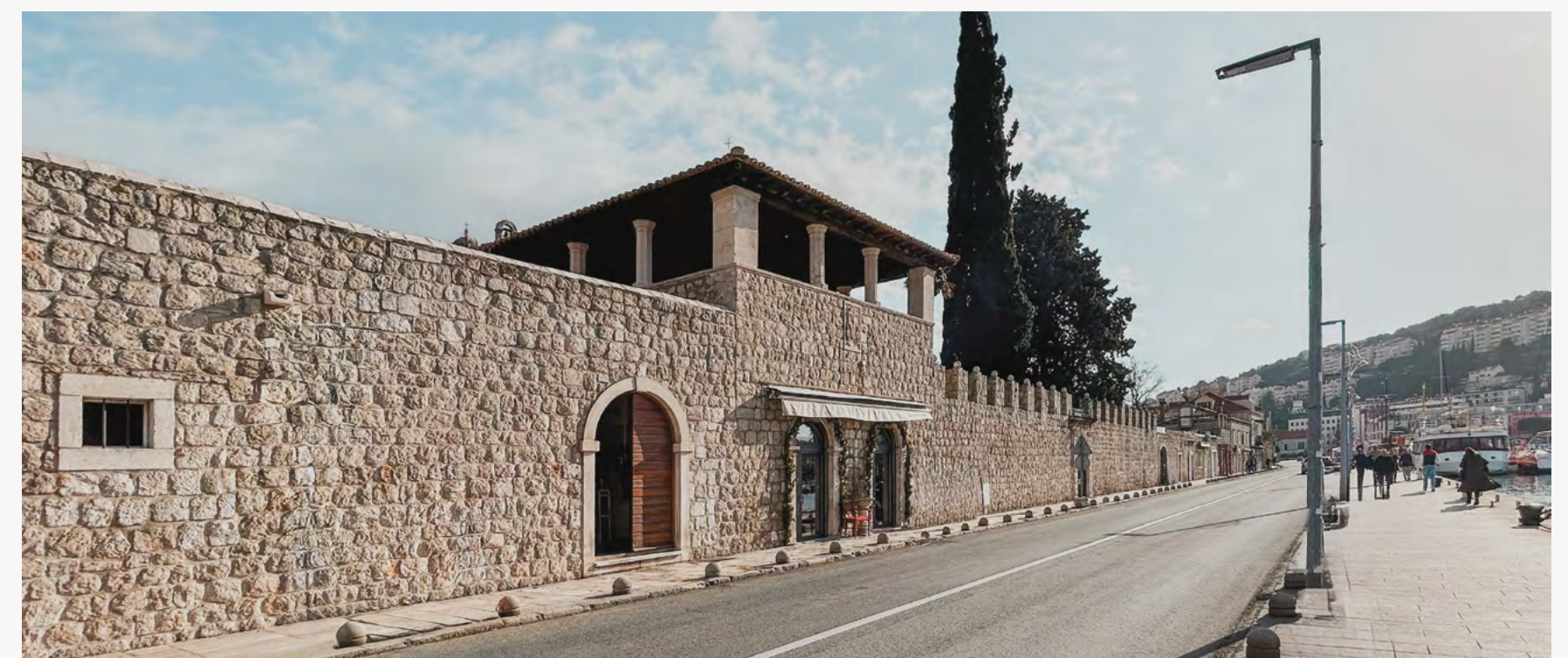


GARDEN

In certain walkways, a strip of soil flanked by polished kerbstones with rounded tops formed a designated area for ground plants and hedges, known as "arlar" in Dubrovnik, which can be found in the Gundulić garden.

FISHPOND

The Gundulić summer house, like many others, had a fishpond enclosed by a square low wall consisting of 14 slender stone pillars connected by a small channel to the seafront. These fishponds served both an aesthetic and practical purpose, acting as "water mirrors" while also cooling the air during summer. Unfortunately, in the 20th century, the fishpond was filled and cemented over to accommodate a market, leading to the destruction of the stone columns and border surrounding the pond.

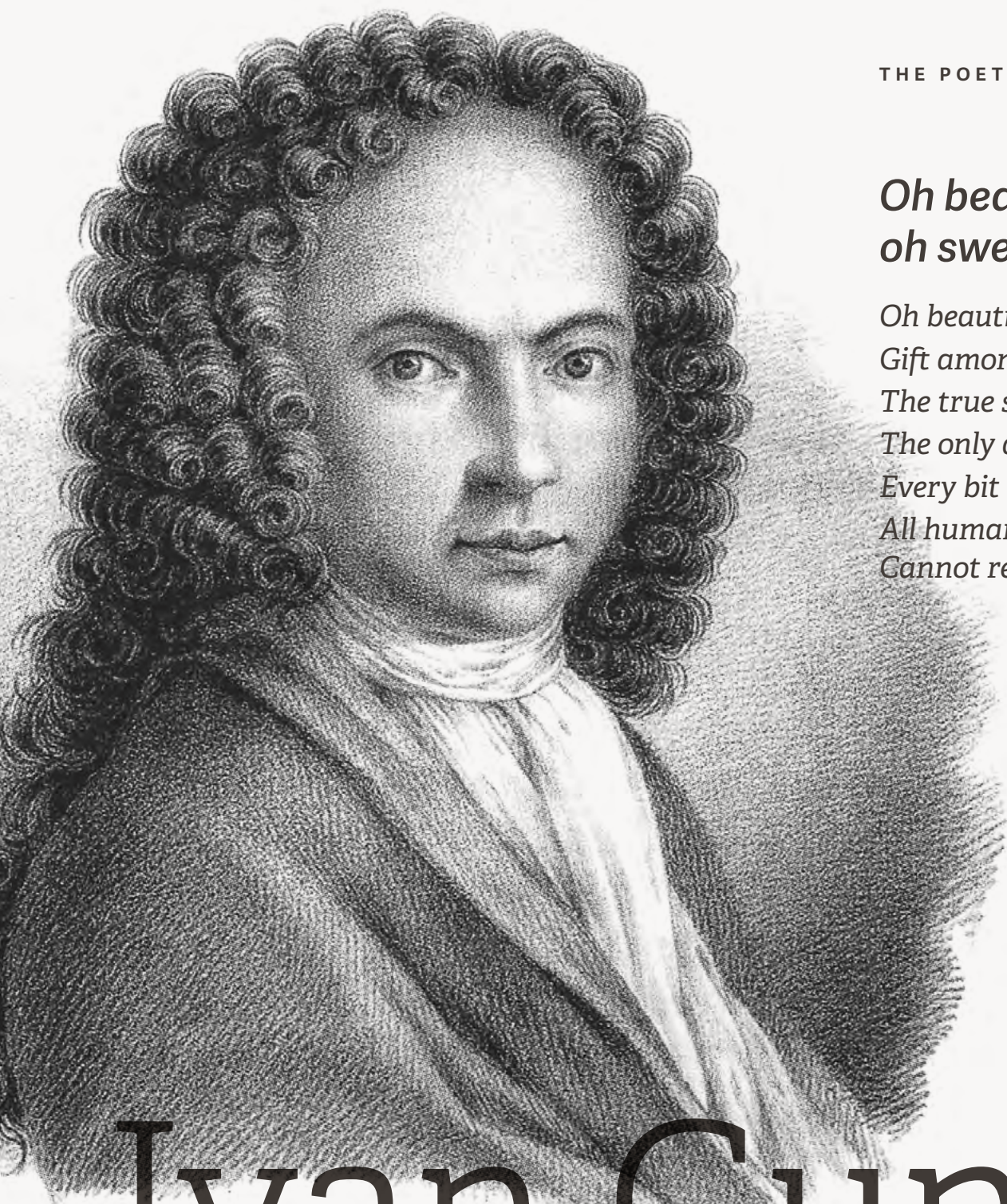


The terrace of Gundulić's summer house has served as an open stage for the Summer Festival for many years. It has hosted performances of the works of the renowned Dubrovnik writer Ivo Vojnović and his famous dramatic trilogy "On the Terrace", adding to the cultural legacy of the location.

The first pharmacy in the Gruž area was originally located in Gundulić's summer house in 1904. It later moved to the shipyard in 1908 and operated there until the early 1990s when it was relocated to a different location within the Gruž area.



This old summer house stands as a testament to times past, with its harmonious proportions, exquisite architectural stonework, sprawling gardens, lush greenery and serene pond. It reflects the refined lifestyle during Dubrovnik's golden age of economic and political prosperity.



THE POET OF DUBROVNIK FREEDOM

*Oh beautiful, oh dear,
oh sweet liberty...*

*Oh beautiful, oh dear, oh sweet liberty,
Gift among all treasures God has given us,
The true source of all our glory,
The only adornment of these woods,
Every bit of silver, every bit of gold,
All human lives,
Cannot repay your pure beauty!*

The "Hymn to Liberty" written by renowned Dubrovnik poet Ivan Gundulić, is one of the most beautiful expressions of freedom and perhaps the first known hymn to freedom in Europe. This Dubrovnik anthem is found in Gundulić's pastoral play *Dubravka*, a text that glorifies liberty and shines with patriotism.

Who was Ivan Gundulić? Why did Dubrovnik name the city's largest square after him and even place his timeless statue in the middle of the square? Let us take you a bit in the past, precisely to the year 1589 when it all started...

Ivan Gundulić

(1589 — 1638)



Gundulić's "Hymn to Liberty" is traditionally spoken, and then followed by the singing of the chorus, each year on the same date, July 10th, during the opening ceremony of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. This emotional ode, known to every citizen of Dubrovnik, rings out on this day as the "Libertas" Flag of the former Dubrovnik Republic rises from the mast on top of Orlando's Column.

On 8 January 1589, one of the most prominent Croatian Baroque writers and poets, Ivan Dživo Franov Gundulić, known as Mačica (kitten), was born in Dubrovnik.

Being the son of a wealthy and well respected diplomat, Francesco di Francesco Gundulić, Ivan's future was nicely secured. He received the best education, studying Roman law and philosophy. After graduation in 1608, at the age of nineteen, he became a member of the Great Council of Dubrovnik.

In 1615 and 1619 he held the temporary function of Rector of Konavle, an area southeast of the city. At the age of 30 he married Nikoleta Sorkočević with whom he had three sons and two daughters.

In 1634 he became a senator, in 1637 a judge, and in 1638 a member of the Small Council. He died on the 8th of December 1638, at the age of 49, of an intense fever, resulting from an infection in his ribs. It is believed that, if he hadn't died, at the age of 50 he would probably have been elected Rector of the Dubrovnik Republic, the highest office of the time. This position was held for a term of just one

month by the most respected members of the nobility (the Dubrovnik legal statute did not allow the Rector to have less than 50 years of age). Ivan Gundulić was buried in the Franciscan church of Dubrovnik where even today you can see his grave.

However, Gundulić was never forgotten, neither by the people of Dubrovnik nor by Croatians). On the 25th of July, 1893, in honour of this beloved Dubrovnik poet and writer, his statue created by the famous sculptor Ivan Rendić, was unveiled on Dubrovnik's largest square which was also named in his honour.

IMPACT ON CROATIAN LITERATURE AND LEGACY

Ivan Gundulić had an immeasurable influence on the formation of today's Croatian language. His whole life, Gundulić had a passion for writing poetry. He first started as a writer of love poems and melodramas, but at the same time he was revising and rewriting Italian mythological dramas. Sadly, most of his love poems were lost, and out of ten dramas only four have survived, but unfortunately,

not completely. Those where: Arijadna, Prozerpina ugrabljena, Dijana and Armida. Later, after this first youthful phase, Gundulić translated seven biblical psalms and printed them as a collection of poems in Rome in 1621 under the title of "Pjesni pokorne kralja Davida" (Poems of King David).

Later on Gundulić began to write more mature works and published only his largest works with Baroque elements, which, have been, from the first moment, treated as masterpieces and are also listed as essential reading on Croatian literature in Croatian high schools.

His major works are:

"Osman", baroque epic poem in 20 cantos (1621)

This is Gundulić's most complex work in which he lays out his own interpretation of the difference between freedom and slavery. *Osman*'s theme is the victory of Poland in the battle against the Turks in Hoćim (Khotin, now in Ukraine) in 1621, as well as the rebellion against the young Sultan Osman in 1622. The epic was created from 1621 until Gundulić's death in 1638. *Osman* had 20 cantos, but the 14th and the 15th were never found. It is thought that Gundulić died before being able to finish them. The poet Ivan Mažuranić (a member of the so-called Illyrian movement that sought to unite South Slavs) successfully composed the two cantos that were missing, and thus completed *Osman* which was then published in Zagreb in 1844.

"Suze sina razmetnoga" (Tears of the Prodigal Son), a religious poem in three cantos (1622)

This is a well-known biblical poem through which Gundulić elaborated the three "Cries" as a metaphor for Christian faith: Sin, Cognition and Repentance, focusing on the transience of life and a powerful reflection Christian beliefs. The poem represents innovation in the composition of older Croatian literature and also served as inspiration for young poets. A single copy of the first edition is preserved at the National library in Paris. The work was later reprinted in Venice in 1670 and 1703, and in Dubrovnik in 1828 and 1838.

"Dubravka", a pastoral play in three acts (1628)

This is Gundulić's most famous play in which he glorifies liberty and cherishes the former glory of Dubrovnik while using contrasts like freedom-slavery, beauty-ugliness and truth-lies. Liberty is here shown as the symbol of beauty. The play starts and ends with the most famous verses in Croatian literature which became known as Dubrovnik's "Hymn of Liberty". *Dubravka* was first printed in 1837 and since 1888 it has been frequently performed in Croatian theatres.



GUNDULIĆ WORE A CRAVAT BEFORE LOUIS XIV

Although it was a general belief that the French King Louis XIV was the predecessor of tie-wearing fashion (according to one of his portraits made in the late 17th century where he is shown wearing a scarf, tied as a cravat), the recent evidence (according to Academia Cravatica) show that the oldest portrait of a person wearing a cravat was the one from 1622 and was made in Dubrovnik. The portrait shows Ivan Gundulić and is kept today in the Rector's Palace.

Interesting thing is that, until this discovery, it was never thought that Gundulić was wearing just a scarf that looked like a cravat. Instead it was always thought that he was wearing a cravat.

This is obvious evidence that the origins of the cravat derive from Dubrovnik, thus showing that Dubrovnik gentlemen wore the cravat 55 years before it was even introduced in France.

The four bas relief panels on the base of the statue illustrate the main episodes from Gundulić's most important epic, *Osman*.



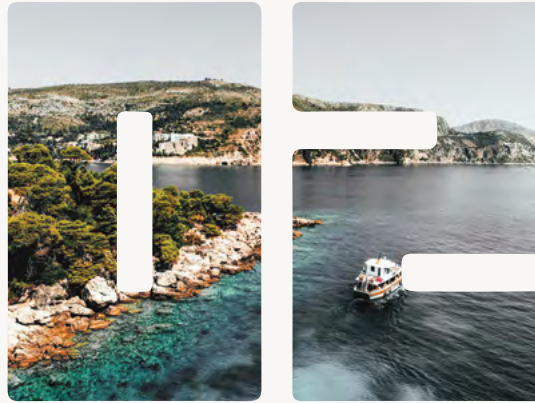
DISCOVER DUBROVNIK SUSTAINABLY

An Eco Bucket List

Discover Dubrovnik, a captivating city with a rich heritage and a commitment to sustainable tourism. From its limestone-paved streets to its historic buildings and ancient fortresses, every corner of the Old City tells a story of the past. The city's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage has earned it the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage status since 1979. With its "Respect the City" programme, Dubrovnik has undertaken various measures and initiatives to safeguard its environment and promote eco-conscious travel.

To ensure the preservation of the Old City, measures such as limiting the number of daily visitors have been implemented. This helps to maintain the integrity of the site and prevent overcrowding, allowing visitors to fully appreciate its beauty without compromising sustainability.

So, get ready to explore Dubrovnik and embark on an eco-friendly adventure. Our eco bucket list will guide you through the city's attractions while providing valuable sustainability tips, making your journey inspiring and environmentally conscious.



VISIT LOKRUM ISLAND'S NATURE RESERVE

Take a short boat ride to Lokrum island, a haven of natural wonders. Wander through lush botanical gardens, encounter peacocks, and relax on secluded beaches. If you are more active, a hike along the natural trails or a dive into the crystal-clear waters is highly recommended. As you explore, respect the fragile ecosystem and wildlife by staying on designated paths and refraining from disturbing the native flora and fauna.

TIP

Pack a picnic with locally sourced ingredients and reusable containers to enjoy a sustainable feast amidst Lokrum's tranquil surroundings. Remember to take your waste with you and dispose of it responsibly. If you have more time, book an island-hopping tour to the nearby Elafiti islands as well. These tours often prioritize responsible practices, such as minimizing waste and respecting marine ecosystems.



EXPLORE DUBROVNIK'S GREEN MARKET

Immerse yourself in local culture and visit Dubrovnik's Green Market in the Old Town at Gudulić Square, or head up to the biggest and most popular market in Gruž with the fresh fish market next door. By buying directly from the farmers, you support the local economy, promote sustainable agriculture practices and reduce the environmental impact of long-distance transportation. Treat your taste buds and savour the flavours of the region's fresh and healthy produce by purchasing fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, olive oil, wine, homemade products, aromatic herbs and traditional Dubrovnik delicacies while contributing to a more sustainable food system.

TIP

Bring a reusable bag or basket to carry your groceries and reduce the need for single-use plastic bags. Plus, don't forget to sample some traditional Dubrovnik delicacies like cheese in oil, candied orange peel "Arancini" or wild orange jam.



EXPLORE THE ANCIENT CITY WALLS

A visit to Dubrovnik would not be complete without a walk along the historic city walls where you will enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the city and the surrounding environment. Opt for a guided tour to learn about the walls' history and conservation efforts while enjoying the fresh sea breeze as you admire the city's captivating beauty.

TIP

Remember to bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated during your walk. Refill stations are available at various points along the walls, ensuring you can quench your thirst sustainably. Also, bring your snacks to minimize single-use plastic waste.



INDULGE IN LOCAL ORGANIC CUISINE

Dubrovnik prides itself on its local cuisine, which emphasizes fresh and organic ingredients sourced from local farmers and fishermen. So why not savour the flavours of the region's culinary traditions by dining at family-run restaurants that use seasonal ingredients from nearby organic farms, while at the same time, supporting sustainable and ethical food practices?

TIP

Opt for vegetarian or vegan options to reduce your carbon footprint and support sustainable farming practices.



CHOOSE ECO-FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION

When exploring beyond Dubrovnik, opt for eco-friendly transportation. Public buses and ferries are excellent choices for exploring nearby towns and islands, as they have lower carbon emissions compared to private vehicles or planes. Additionally, consider carpooling or shared transportation services to reduce your environmental impact.

TIP

Consider renting an electric or hybrid vehicle from eco-conscious car rental agencies. Alternatively, explore Dubrovnik's charming streets on foot or use the efficient public bus network to minimize traffic congestion and emissions.

PHOTO CREDIT: LIBERTAS DUBROVNIK D.O.O.

for Conscious Travelers



DISCOVER THE CITY BY BICYCLE

Explore Dubrovnik's charming streets and picturesque neighbourhoods on two wheels. Rent a traditional or e-bicycle from one of the many rental shops in the city and pedal your way through the narrow alleys, nearby hills or hiking trails that lead to breathtaking viewpoints and hidden gems. Cycling not only allows you to experience the city and connect with nature at a leisurely pace but also reduces air pollution and traffic congestion.

TIP

Plan your cycling routes, taking advantage of dedicated bike lanes and quieter roads. Be aware – cycling in the Old Town itself is forbidden. Be sure to follow local traffic rules and park your bicycle in designated areas to keep the city tidy.



PHOTO CREDIT: FANACI FILIGREE & FINE JEWELRY

SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISANS

Dubrovnik has a vibrant arts and crafts scene, with talented local artisans creating unique handmade products. Support the local economy and reduce your carbon footprint by purchasing authentic souvenirs and gifts directly from these artisans. Look for shops and markets that showcase locally made paintings, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, and other crafts.

TIP

Seek out artisan workshops and studios where you can witness the creative process firsthand and learn about traditional craftsmanship. By choosing locally made products, you contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and sustainable livelihoods.



REDUCE WASTE

Carry a reusable water bottle, shopping bag, and utensils to avoid using single-use plastics. Look for recycling bins and dispose of waste properly. Participate in beach clean-ups or organized environmental initiatives during your stay. We recommend the local organisation "Maritimo Recycling". For more info on how to engage or donate check out page 5.

TIP

Pack a reusable shopping bag or tote in your daypack for impromptu purchases. Opt for products with minimal packaging, and if you do come across waste during your travels, dispose of it properly in designated recycling or trash bins.



RESPECT CULTURAL HERITAGE, LOCAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Dubrovnik's Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, rich in historical and architectural treasures. Respect this heritage by following designated paths, refraining from touching fragile structures, and avoiding any activities that could cause harm. By respecting local customs and traditions and being aware of your surroundings, you contribute to the preservation of Dubrovnik's unique charm for future generations.

TIP

Join a guided tour led by a knowledgeable local guide to discover the city's history and cultural significance. Respect local etiquette, adhere to dress codes in religious sites and the Old Town, and follow guidelines or restrictions to show respect for cultural sites and monuments.



ECO-FRIENDLY TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

Engage in eco-friendly activities such as kayaking, hiking, or cycling, taking photos along the shoreline that allow you to appreciate Dubrovnik's natural beauty without harming the environment. Discover the underwater wonders of Dubrovnik through snorkelling or diving excursions. (We will discuss this more in detail in the next edition).

TIP

Respect marine life and ecosystems by refraining from touching, removing or harming any marine creatures and use reef-safe sunscreen to protect the delicate marine environment and your skin of course. The Dubrovnik Natural History Museum and Dubrovnik Aquarium are also excellent places to learn about the region's biodiversity and marine conservation efforts.

Embark on your journey to Dubrovnik as an eco-conscious traveller, knowing that every small, mindful choice you make will contribute to a positive impact on the environment. By embracing these suggestions, you'll not only enjoy a sustainable and eco-friendly stay in Dubrovnik with lasting memories, but also become part of a larger story of preserving the city's cultural heritage and natural beauty for generations to come.



75TH

Dubrovnik Summer Festival

10 JULY – 25 AUGUST 2024

In its anniversary 75th edition, one of the oldest and most prestigious European festivals will present its domestic and international audiences with over 60 theatre, music, ballet, film, folklore, and other events over the course of 47 summer days.



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

10 JULY | WED
21:00h

In front of St. Blaise's Church
OPENING CEREMONY
invitations only

11 JULY | THU
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
JORDI SAVALL & HESPÈRION XXI
Mare Nostrum: A Dialogue of Souls

12 JULY | FRI
21:30h

Gradac Park
LINDO FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE
Croatian folk songs and dances

15 JULY | MON
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
DUBROVNIK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Sebastian Lang-Lessing Conductor
Monika Leskovar cello

16 JULY | TUE
21:30h

Lovrjenac Fort
JM JAZZ WORLD ORCHESTRA
Luis Bonilla Artistic Director

20 JULY | SAT
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
Max Emanuel Cenčić countertenor
LATINITAS NOSTRA ENSEMBLE

21, 22 JULY | SUN, MON
21:30h

Gradac Park
Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb
W. Shakespeare: HAMLET
Leo Mujić Choreographer and Director
ballet

23 JULY | TUE
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
ANTIPHONUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Petrit Ćeku guitar
Romancero Gitano

25 JULY | THU
21:30h

Gradac Park
LADO
Croatian traditional songs and dances ensemble

26 JULY | FRI
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
AROD QUARTET

27 – 31 JULY | SAT – WED
21:30h

POSAT
PREMIERE
I. Vojnović: EQUINOX
Festival Drama Ensemble

28 JULY | SUN
21:30h

Gradac Park
LINDO FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE
Croatian folk songs and dances

29 JULY | MON
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
Krešimir Špicer tenor
Lovre Marušić piano

30 JULY | TUE
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
Pierre-Laurent Aimard piano

02 AUG | FRI
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
Marko Genero viola
Marija Grazio piano

03 AUG | SAT
21:30h

Gradac Park
LINDO FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE
Croatian folk songs and dances

04 AUG | SUN
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
ZAGREB QUARTET
Ivan Krpan piano

05 AUG | MON
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
Ibrica Jusić
From Shakespeare to Sevdah

06 AUG | TUE
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
BACH CONSORT WIEN ENSEMBLE

08 AUG | THU
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
PAPANDOPULO QUARTET

14 AUG | WED
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
Renaud Capuçon violin
Guillaume Bellom piano

17 – 19 AUG | SAT – MON
21:30h

Gradac Park
M. Fumić: THE MELANCHOLY WOMEN OF RAGUSA
Dora Ruždjak Podolski Director
Festival Drama Ensemble

19 AUG | MON
21:30h

Rector's Palace Atrium
DUBROVNIK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Valentin Egel Conductor
Pablo Sáinz-Villegas guitar

20 – 24 AUG | TUE – SAT
21:00h

Island of Lokrum
PREMIERE
W. Shakespeare: THE TEMPEST
Vito Tauffer Director
Festival Drama Ensemble

21 AUG | WED
21:30h

In front of the Cathedral
LINDO FOLKLORE ENSEMBLE
Croatian folk songs and dances

22 AUG | THU
21:30h

Revelin Fort Terrace
CRISTINA AGUILERA FLAMENCO TRIO
Cristina Aguilera dancer
David Caro guitar
Miguel Lavia voice
TARAB flamenco show

25 AUG | SUN
22:00h

In front of the Cathedral
OPERA GALA
Croatian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra
Ivan Repušić Conductor
Sonya Yoncheva soprano
Joseph Calleja tenor
Ante Jerkunica bass
on the 75th anniversary of the Dubrovnik Summer Festival

Programme subject to alteration

MORE INFO

TICKETS ONLINE: www.dubrovnik-festival.hr, www.ulaznice.hr

TICKETS: Adriatic Luxury Hotels

FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE: Od Sigurate 1, Dubrovnik

E-MAIL: sales@dubrovnik-festival.hr, **TEL:** +385 (0)20 326 107

FACEBOOK: Dubrovnik.Festival **INSTAGRAM:** dubrovnikfestival

TIKTOK: dubrovnikfestival

DUBROVNIK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING CONCERT SEASON

April 18 – June 13

INTERNATIONAL OPERA ARIAS FESTIVAL

„TINO PATTIERA“

19 June – 27 June

STRADUN CLASSIC FESTIVAL

26 August – 1 September

AUTUMN CONCERT SEASON

5 September – 29 October

+ 385 91 613 7314

sales@dso.hr

programme available

at www.dso.hr



DUBROVAČKI SIMFONIJSKI ORKESTAR
DUBROVNIK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dress and Fashion Etiquette



Croatians are known as dedicated followers of fashion and care about their appearance, so you will rarely see someone looking sloppy even if they are just going to buy something at the grocery store or going out for a beach walk.

Having a pretty sophisticated sense of style, men often wear branded sport clothes for day and classy dress shirts when out at night. Women, on the other hand, are often fully dressed (hair, makeup, clothes, jewellery) and no matter which time of day it is, they will always look like they are on a fashion catwalk.



- Never, ever wear socks with sandals
- Never wear too much perfume as it will look like you did not shower
- If you decide to go for a walk in the Old Town (especially after the beach) be aware of the formal dress code law: You can't walk around in your bathing suit. So cover up a bit. For men, this means wear a shirt. – Otherwise, you will pay a fine.
- Never leave home without sunglasses – Rain, hail, or sun, it's not a secret that sunglasses are a must-have fashion accessory. Shhhh... it is common to have two pairs, cheap ones for the beach and expensive and more stylish ones for going out or walking in the city.

Capsule Wardrobe Dream-Haves

BY MARIA STORE

Whether you're a fashionista or a no-frills traveller, here are the top 10 must-have pieces you have to wear this summer easily customizable to fit your style and stay updated on the latest trends straight from the runways of Paris, London, New York and Milano.

SUMMER ROMANCE

When in Dubrovnik you cannot miss the perfect sunset over Elafiti islands or a gourmet dinner in one of its fine dining restaurants and there is no better fashion choice than a lace adorned dress that will give your every experience an elegant romantic touch.



VALENTINO

MESH DANCE

Let's dance! Put on your mesh ballerina flats that are all the rage this summer and get ready for every possible occasion with style – not only on the dance floor of one of many buzzing night spots but also for an everyday leisurely cool outfits with long skirts and jeans.



ALAIA

RED PASSION

Red is THE colour of this summer! Choose just one fiery red piece or wear it head-to-toe – the colour of love and passion makes every outfit the ultimate fashion statement.



ALAIA

YACHT CLUB

Yachting has always been an important part of Dubrovnik's maritime history and what better way to blend in its timeless style than chic marine striped tops, navy blazers with gold buttons, crisp white pants and rope detailed accessories.



SAINT LAURENT

BACK TO NATURE

From spending all day at the beach or having a delicious seafood lunch at one of traditional konobas to enjoying a relaxed stroll at Stradun in the evening all you need is a perfectly sized tote bag made of natural fabrics like straw or linen.



LOEWE

GOLD RUSH

It doesn't matter if you're visiting a museum, having a cocktail on a yacht or dining at a fancy restaurant, whichever outfit you choose sprinkle it with gold – statement jewellery pieces in yellow gold work fabulously with absolutely every summer style!



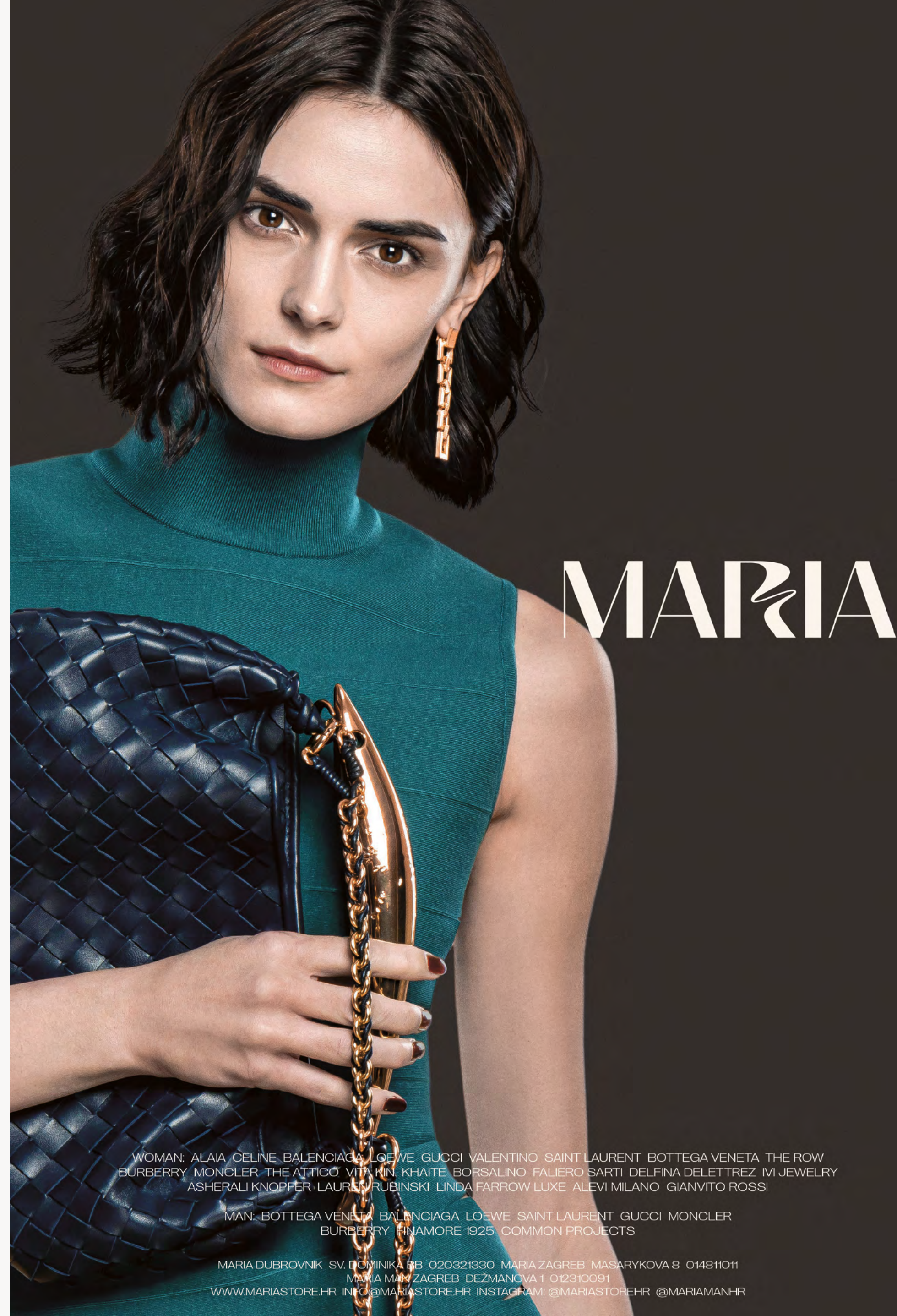
IVI JEWELRY

PRETTY IN PINK

Gorgeous summer weather and bright sunshine inspire the most colourful outfits – this season look no further than an enchanting palette of subdued pastel shades of pinks, blues and yellows that guarantee an effortlessly chic colour mix.



BURBERRY



WOMAN: ALAIA CELINE BALENCIAGA LOEWE GUCCI VALENTINO SAINT LAURENT BOTTEGA VENETA THE ROW BURBERRY MONCLER THE ATTICO VITA KIN KHAITE BORSALINO FALIERO SARTI DELFINA DELETTREZ IM JEWELRY ASHERALI KNOPFER LAUREN RUBINSKI LINDA FARROW LUXE ALEVI MILANO GIANVITO ROSSI

MAN: BOTTEGA VENETA BALENCIAGA LOEWE SAINT LAURENT GUCCI MONCLER BURBERRY FINAMORE 1925 COMMON PROJECTS

MARIA DUBROVNIK SV. DOMINIK 8B 020321330 MARIA ZAGREB MASARYKOVA 8 01481011
 MARIA MAN ZAGREB DEZMANOVA 1 012310091
 WWW.MARIASTORE.HR INFO@MARIASTORE.HR INSTAGRAM: @MARIASOTOPHR @MARIAMANHR

Dubrovnik Theatre



PHOTOS BY ALUŠKA REŠOU

Dubrovnik has long been known as a home for performance and dramatic arts as well as for its excellent local dramatic literature. Throughout Dubrovnik's rich history, although the architecture has changed over time, there has always been a space intended for theatrical performances. Dubrovnik served as the epicentre for theatrical productions and dramatic expression in the past, and it has continued in various social and cultural-historical contexts until today.

HISTORY

In the past, Dubrovnik did not have a dedicated theatre building. Instead, various open-air locations such as educational academies, family residences, and aristocratic mansions served as venues for theatrical performances. These spaces had distinct architectural features separating the spectators from the performance areas. Religious dramas were often held inside or outside of churches, while dramas with global themes, comedies, and tragedies were staged in front of the Rector's Palace. Since there were no streetlights, performances typically occurred in the early evening, particularly during the carnival season. The Rector and noble citizens would watch the plays from the Palace's porch, while the stage was set up in the square, allowing additional audience members to stand around it. In case of bad weather, the plays were staged in the Great Council's Hall.

After many years of open-air performances, finally, in 1865, Dubrovnik constructed its own theatre in the southern wing of the neo-Renaissance complex that also housed the City Hall and the popular 'Gradska kavana'. This location was previously used for various functions including a granary, the Dubrovnik Republic's Senate and Major Council Halls, and an armoury for ships. The new theatre building had a connection to Dubrovnik's theatrical history as a portion of the Orsan, originally an arsenal, had been converted into a theatre in 1682. Local amateur theatre groups and Italian touring companies performed there until Napoleon's conquest of Dubrovnik in 1806 when it was taken over by French forces and turned into a military bakery and storeroom.



Over the years, the theatre underwent several name changes.

In 1809, the French general Marmont ordered the construction of a new and improved theatre within the complex, naming it the "Ducal Theatre" in honour of Auguste Marmont, who briefly held the title of Duke of Dubrovnik. Unfortunately, the Ducal Theatre burned down in 1816, leading Dubrovnik's dramatists to relocate to the Gozze family's palace.



THE BONDA THEATRE (FIRST ORIGINS)

The theatre we have today was initially designed in 1841 by Luko Bonda, a member of an aristocratic family in Dubrovnik. However, it wasn't until 1862 that he personally financed the project, as the funds collected from other noble families were insufficient to complete the construction. The newly constructed theatre, named "Bonda Theatre after its generous benefactor", finally opened on January 1, 1865, with a performance of Giuseppe's Verdi opera "Ernani". Luko Bonda received a warm reception from the audience, who greatly appreciated his remarkable personal sacrifice to bring the dream of the theatre to life. Despite the financial strain of building the magnificent venue, Luko Bonda maintained a gracious and joyful demeanour. Sadly, he passed away on October 15, 1878, in Dubrovnik, after facing financial hardships in his later years.



Over the years, the theatre has undergone various technical updates, adaptations, and renovations. In 1945, the National Theatre was officially established, marking the beginning of its function as a professional theatre. In 1988, it underwent a comprehensive refurbishment, which included connecting it to the adjacent structure that now houses the Bursa Theatre, a smaller chamber stage. Throughout this process, new decorative features have also been added.

MARIN DRŽIĆ THEATRE (TODAY)

Later, in 1967, on the momentous occasion of the 400th anniversary of the death of Dubrovnik's most cherished 16th century playwright, Marin Držić, the theatre was officially renamed in his honour.

Ever since, the Marin Držić Theatre has presented a varied repertoire, with a focus on plays from the Mediterranean and Dubrovnik regions. Today, it continues to function as the hub of Dubrovnik's summer theatre scene playing host to numerous events. Although at first it might seem small, it can accommodate up to 350 people. With its exquisite woodwork, rich velvet curtains, beautifully sculpted balustrades and three levels of private balconies,

this theatre exudes luxury and elegance. Created as the centre of cultural life, it has been recognized as one of Croatia's best theatres at different times due to its superb cast of performers and its partnerships with the most illustrious directors.

With its captivating charm and grandeur, the Marin Držić Theatre serves as the vibrant artistic centre of the city. It is not merely a relic of the past, but a dynamic space that attracts theatre enthusiasts from near and far. Our theatre has and always will continue to be the beating heart of the city keeping its doors always open, warmly welcoming audiences to experience the magic of live performance.



DID YOU KNOW

Protected by UNESCO, the Marin Držić Theatre was built in 1865. The construction was financed by the family of Luko Bonda.

.....

Marin Držić (Dubrovnik, 1508 – 1567, Venice) is the most famed Croatian Renaissance writer of comedies.

.....

The theatre programmes are based mostly on Dubrovnik's literary heritage performed by the theatre's permanent ensemble of about 20 talented actors who perform also at Dubrovnik Summer Festival.

.....

The captivating ceiling fresco, titled "A Double Coronation on Heaven and Earth", was masterfully painted in 1901 by Vlaho Bukovac, a founder of Croatian modern painting. The fresco highlights Dubrovnik's esteemed poets, with a special focus on capturing Marin Držić's essence as envisioned by the artist.

.....

During the restoration of the theatre building in 1986, Frano Delale painted the first ceremonial curtain, which depicted motifs from the vibrant life of Dubrovnik. In 2007, on the momentous occasion of the 500th anniversary of Držić's birth, Matko Trebotić created another curtain featuring the text of the prologue from Držić's work, Tiren.

.....

In 1906 Bonda's theatre was briefly transformed into a Gigante Cinema, whereas it was also frequently rented by filmmakers.

.....

A statue of Dubrovnik's beloved playwright Marin Držić stands proudly outside the theatre, paying homage to his literary contributions.

IN OLD TESTAMENT DAYS, TO DESTROY A RIVAL'S OLIVE TREES WAS THE ULTIMATE ACT OF WAR

An Immortal Fruit that Bears Golden Oil

All Mediterranean people have their own stories and legends related to the olive. The common link among all of them is the olive as a sacred tree, as a result of which it is a symbol of peace, wisdom, strength, victory, persistence, progress, fidelity and purity, but also a symbol of healing and light.



ALH TIMES
DID YOU KNOW
ISSUE 2024

The oldest olive tree in Croatia is over 1.600 years old and can be found in the National Park Brijuni.

The same is true in the Dalmatian region and Dubrovnik. Olives have shaped the history and culture of Dubrovnik and its surroundings more than any other. Throughout the millennia of olive growing, this hardy, modest and long-lived fruit tree has always been available to man as a source of food, warmth and light. Its oil was used in cuisine as a spice in cooking, as a cure in medicine and as an ointment in religious ceremonies.

fishermen invented an old saying: *"A fish swims three times: the first time in the sea, the second time in olive oil, and the third time in wine!"* So, thanks to the rough terrain, favourable soil and perfect climate conditions with long summer days, this area has ideal conditions for growing olives.

To conclude, the olive is a special and indispensable fruit with a Mediterranean flair, and in Dalmatian cuisine its golden oil is THE key ingredient and the essence of all cooking, giving a distinctive flavour to any food.

With the Latin name *Olea Europaea*, the olive tree has been present in our region since ancient times. Next to wine growing, olive growing has been an important part of the local economy for centuries. No wonder that Dalmatian

Currently, there are over 30 indigenous varieties of olives cultivated in the area of Dubrovnik, with approximately 700,000 olive trees in the area. Many of the olive oils from the Dubrovnik region have received top medals at international competitions.

According to a famous proverb, an olive tree is like a mother - it gives selflessly even if you neglect it. The olive tree is truly a miraculous creature - it can live for several thousand years, it survives in soil that is poor in water, and in the place of an old, dried tree, new shoots always sprout. The olive is a guardian of health and the most beautiful possible gift that we could have received on the coast.



For those who don't know, the olive harvest usually lasts from the end of October till the end of November, and the most important factor in determining the start of the harvest is the amount of oil in the fruit, which is determined by the variety, locality and climate. In the stage when they are purple and black, they are the best for pressing and processing the oil. The darker the olive, the higher the acid content, giving it a richer flavour. So, if you are looking to have a good time somewhere in the southern region in October and spend time in nature, pick any place along the Croatian coast and join an olive harvest.

"The olive tree is a symbol of peace, wisdom and steadfastness, and so are the people of this region."

CARVED ON THE OLIVE TREE MONUMENT IN SLANO NEAR DUBROVNIK



Hard Rock
CAFE

DUBROVNIK

VISIT US IN THE OLD TOWN
Poljana Paska Miličevića 4
Info: +38520222444



Present this ad's image for a 20% discount on Hard Rock Cafe Dubrovnik merchandise

Dubrovnik

For All Seasons

Spring

Nature is waking from its slumber, but Dubrovnik never fell asleep to begin with! Shed your winter coats and warm boots and celebrate spring! From the end of the March onwards, enjoy exploring the beauty of Dubrovnik and its countryside without the usual crowds, or just relax with a drink on a sun-drenched terrace. If you happen to be in Dubrovnik during springtime, it won't take you long to discover all that the city has to offer at this time of the year. The area is filled with natural parks that are magnificent when everything is in full bloom.

WHAT TO DO

Take a stroll through the Trsteno Arboretum, a 500-year-old garden that used to be a nobleman's summer residence and immerse yourself in its peaceful and captivating beauty.

If you find yourself in Ston on St Joseph's Day (19 March), make sure to **visit the Mali Ston Oyster Festival** and taste the delicious locally grown oysters, which are at their peak of quality at this time of the year. While you're in Ston, don't forget to explore the impressive Ston walls, the second longest fortification system in the world (after the Great Wall of China).

When Easter Sunday arrives, make your way to Stradun and witness the **traditional pomica palm-weaving and Easter egg-painting workshops**. Acquire new skills and bring them back home to make an interesting addition to your own Easter traditions.

Take part in the Du Motion "Run the Wall" race within the Old Town, where the centuries-old city walls will serve as your remarkable racetrack.

During your spring visit to Dubrovnik, **take a short trip to the Konavle region** and learn about the methods of **silk production** which Konavle women used for crafting the traditional Konavle embroidery.



Summer

We hope you have packed your sunglasses and sun cream, so you can enjoy the summer delights of Dubrovnik without any discomfort. The long days allow you to make the most of your visit. Mornings are ideal for sightseeing and trips to the countryside; the afternoons are best spent at the beach, swimming in the deep blue of the Adriatic Sea or relaxing on a lounge chair. Evenings are perfect for a dinner at some of Dubrovnik's finest restaurants, enjoying a cocktail under the stars and simply admiring the beauty of the Old Town at night. However, if you choose to spend your summer holiday in Dubrovnik, remember to stay hydrated during daylight hours.

WHAT TO DO

If you happen to be in Dubrovnik between 10 July and 25 August, take an opportunity to attend some of the events organised as part of **Dubrovnik Summer Festival**, a long-standing tradition offering world-class theatre, music, dance, folklore and many other types of programmes.

For those visiting Dubrovnik towards the end of August or in early September, a **visit to the Ston Salt Festival** on the Pelješac peninsula is a must. Learn about the ancient tradition of salt production through workshops and tours witness the traditional salt harvesting methods at the local saltworks, or simply enjoy the splendid gastronomic offer of the local restaurants.

Take an island-hopping trip to the Elafiti islands and enjoy the beauty of the crystal-clear Adriatic.

And for fans of water polo, don't miss **the local Wild League water polo games** played in the old Dubrovnik harbour.

For additional local summer activities in the Dubrovnik area, read more on page 36.

Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic, is a captivating destination that attracts visitors all year round. Located on the southern coast of Croatia, this walled city boasts a rich history, stunning architecture, and a vibrant cultural scene. Whether you're looking for a relaxing getaway or an action-packed adventure, Dubrovnik has something for everyone, in every season.

Autumn

As the days grow shorter and the bustling city begins to quiet down, autumn is the perfect time to enjoy the best Dubrovnik has to offer while avoiding the heat and peak crowds. If you're arriving in early autumn, take advantage of the warm sea and the pleasant weather and go for a swim. Moreover, autumn in Dubrovnik is a season of gastronomic delights. Wine and olive oil are the stars of this season. Renowned for their quality, these local products have gained international recognition. In addition, the local market stalls are piled with fresh autumn fruits such as pomegranates, tangerines, grapes, pumpkins, cabbage, and much more. Prepare to savour the bountiful fruits of autumn during your stay!

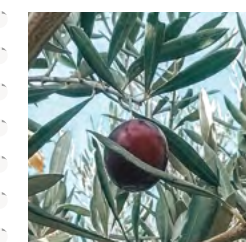
WHAT TO DO

Visit the Good Food Festival which takes place in and outside the city walls each October, with special offers from participating restaurants, lectures, tastings and cooking classes. Feast on a wide range of delicious dishes that will satisfy the taste buds of any foodie.

A wine tour of the Pelješac peninsula is a must-do day trip for all wine enthusiasts. Visit Pelješac and be captivated by the beauty of the vast vineyards, as well as by the exquisite taste of the local wines.

Explore the Dubrovnik countryside and **savour the local farm produce**, such as olive oil, prosciutto, cheese and pickled vegetables.

For those who enjoy sports, consider **participating in the Lapad Run charity race** and have fun knowing that you're running for a good cause.



Winter

Don't let the idea of winter weather discourage you from visiting Dubrovnik during this time of year. Winter in Dubrovnik is completely different from one's typical notions of the season – here, winter is marked by mild temperatures, and snow is extremely rare. The serenity of the off-season is interrupted only by an occasional gust of wind or a rain shower. Another common misconception about winter in Dubrovnik is the lack of activity. Don't be fooled, the city is filled with various celebrations throughout the season! Moreover, winter provides you with the unique opportunity to explore every nook and cranny of the Old Town without being bothered by the usual crowds of the other seasons. Visit Dubrovnik in winter and have a very special winter holiday!

WHAT TO DO

If you visit in December, join in with locals and **take part in the annual Dubrovnik Winter Festival**. Feast on the exquisite *prikle* (a traditional Christmas sweet dish) and sausages, warm up with a glass of mulled wine – all this and much more is offered at the Christmas booths on the Stradun.

New Year's Eve in the Old Town is another special celebration which has gained international recognition. If you've been to the Advent Festival, you know what to expect – except this time, it's all amped up to 11 with an open-air concert on the Stradun featuring some of Croatia's best popular performers! The highlight of the evening is the majestic midnight fireworks launched from the boats off the coast of the Old Town harbour. It's truly an unforgettable experience!

However, by far the most famous winter celebration in Dubrovnik is **the Feast of St Blaise (Festa svetog Vlaha)**. If you're in town on 3 February, prepare to witness a grand celebration of the city's patron saint. Aside from the outdoor Mass in the historic town centre, enjoy watching the procession of people from the Dubrovnik countryside, along with pilgrims from afar, showcasing their traditional folk costumes.

Events

IN DUBROVNIK

PLEASE NOTE

Some events are subject to change. Please visit their web domains for more information.

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS

Featured by Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra | www.dso.hr

DUBROVNIK MUSICAL SPRING April 18 – June 13, 2024 Old Town Dubrovnik

In Dubrovnik springtime, classical music lovers have the opportunity to enjoy carefully selected programs that take place in local churches and Rector's Palace Atrium. In recent years, dso has hosted many renowned artists, soloists, and conductors, emphasizing the importance of music and its traditions in Dubrovnik.

INTERNATIONAL OPERA ARIAS FESTIVAL "TINO PATTIERA" June 19 – 27, 2024 Rector's Palace

This Festival is named and organized in the memory of the world-famous opera singer, tenor Tino Pattiera, born in 1890 in Cavtat near Dubrovnik. He was a significant and famous name of European and world opera houses at the first half of the 20th century. Therefore, the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra and its associates organize this Festival and gather renowned European opera singers in Dubrovnik. This year brings interesting programmes such as music that was used in movies, „Puccini for eternity“ and „Once upon a time in the world of opera“.

STRADUN CLASSIC FESTIVAL August 26 – September 1, 2024 Rector's Palace

The festival brings to Dubrovnik innovative programs performed by a roster of outstanding international artists with whom she maintains a long-time collaboration. Each program is conceived with a unique theme, combining beloved chamber works with lesser-known compositions that will bring freshness even to experienced listeners.

DUBROVNIK'S MUSICAL AUTUMN September 5 – October 29, 2024 Old Town Dubrovnik

This musical cycle includes symphony and chamber concerts, recitals, premieres, and collaborations with famous soloists and conductors, showing virtuosity and skills. In addition, they play well-known pieces by foreign and Croatian composers, thus promoting Croatian musical tradition and reputation. Many consider this is the most beautiful time of the year to be in Dubrovnik, and attending dso's concert is definitely a special experience.

SPORTING EVENTS

RUN THE WALL – DU MOTION April 27, 2024, 10:00h Stradun

An unforgettable, but dangerous race as well. Once a year The Walls of Dubrovnik,

considered to be amongst the greatest fortification systems of the Middle Ages and running an uninterrupted course of approximately 1,940 metres and 1080 stairs, while encircling most of the Old City, serve as a track field to a very tricky 2K race.

www.du-motion.com

DUBROVNIK HALF MARATHON – DU MOTION April 28, 2024, 09:30h Stradun

The marathon running, especially two-kilometre-long race with a limited number of participants held at Dubrovnik walls is certainly an attraction. With the motto "More than a race" this new event is more than just a sporting event since, through running, healthy lifestyles will be promoted.

www.du-motion.com

5K – CHARITY RACE – DU MOTION April 28, 2024, 09:30h Stradun

One of the most beautiful race tracks for a good cause.

www.du-motion.com

LAPAD RUN September 30, 2024, 09:30h Lapad Bay

Enjoy the late summer run in Lapad bay whilst supporting a praiseworthy goal of Breast Cancer Awareness.

www.du-motion.com/hr/utrke/lapad-run

"EARTH, SEA & FIRE" DUBROVNIK TRIATHLON October 20, 2024

A weekend multi-sport event welcoming athletes, looking for a flat course aiming at their PB or other records with Super Sprint, Sprint, and Olympic Triathlon on the menu.

www.earthseafire.eu

STON WALL MARATHON September 22, 2024

Starting and ending in the picturesque town of Ston, the full marathon route takes you south to Pržina and north to Duba Stonska, following stretches of the medieval Ston Walls and the Adriatic coast.

www.ston-wall-marathon.com

WATERPOLO "WILD LEAGUE" July – August, 2024

This is the largest amateur water polo competition in the world, first started in 1922. More than 40 teams from various local neighbourhoods compete at beach locations throughout the city.

www.divljaliga.hr

GASTRONOMY

CROATIAN FESTIVAL OF JAMS AND MARMALADES October, 2024

In front of St. Blaise church Exhibitors dress in the national costumes of the places from which they come, from counties from all around Croatia, and present their products to visitors and Dubrovnik restaurateurs caterers, who will use these native delicacies to elevate and enrich their gastronomic offerings.

www.desa-dubrovnik.hr

GOOD FOOD FESTIVAL DUBROVNIK October, 2024

The four-day programme includes several presentations of culinary specialties of the region, cookbooks in English, programmes for children, tasting of regional wines, culinary workshops and other activities such as "dinner with a famous chef" and workshops on how to prepare a typical Dubrovnik sweet "gulozece", "Eat & Walk" gastro tour, "Sweet Tooth Map"

– a map for those who have a sweet tooth and other surprise activities.

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

NIGHTLIFE

CULTURE CLUB REVELIN

Located in the Revelin fortress at the entrance to the Old Town at Ploče Gate, the club is famous for its 3-day festival in August featuring famous performers on the global electronic music scene.

www.clubrevelin.com

CELEBRATIONS

FESTIVAL OF ST. BLAISE

February 2 – 4

Each February 2nd, Dubrovnik celebrates the Virgin Mary Candlemas. An old saying is then repeated: *Candelora, winter is gone, followed by Saint Blaise, who says it is untrue?* Indeed, on this day, Dubrovnik is full of mimosa, narcissus, and sunny, spring weather. On the morning of the festival, white doves are released in front of St. Blaise's church, and prayers are said in front of the altar by the faithful the entire day. The priests bless everyone with a cross-shaped out of two intertwined candles, and raise a silver monstrance to their lips, the work of Dubrovnik goldsmiths.

www.dubrovnik.hr

DUBROVNIK CARNIVAL FESTIVITIES

February

Our ancestors had fun, so why shouldn't we? This proverb can often be heard in Dubrovnik in February, during the carnival season preceding Lent. Experience the special atmosphere of the Dubrovnik carnival festivities characterized by jokes, laughter, merriment, joy and satire.

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL

July 10 – August 25

This is the largest and most representative cultural manifestation not only in Dubrovnik but in Croatia. Festival sees more than 80 performances of music, theatre, dance and film, at various open-air locations in the old town, plus a programme of outdoor cinema.

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr

DUBROVNIK WINTER FESTIVAL

December – January

During the Advent season, Dubrovnik shines with magical decorations and sparkles with lights, creating an atmosphere of a fairytale Renaissance city. The festival offers innumerable reasons for gatherings while combining fun, culture, enjoyment, music, gastronomy and art on the most attractive stages in the City and its surrounding areas.

www.tzdubrovnik.hr

ADVENT IN THE CITY

The program of Dubrovnik's winter festival – Advent in the City – begins with the lighting of the first Advent candle. This year's Christmas market will be set up on the most beautiful street in Dubrovnik, Stradun featuring local craftsman presenting traditional arts and crafts, Dubrovnik sweet delicacies, Christmas decorations, candles, toys, glassware, embroidery, ceramics, porcelain and a variety of other hand-made souvenirs and gifts.

DUBROVNIK NEW YEAR'S PARTY

On New Year's Eve, the musicians of Dubrovnik see the old year out with traditional carols and an all-day music program leading up to the wildest night of the year. The Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Day concert on the Stradun on January 1 will be a special gift to those visiting the city.

BEST DUBROVNIK INSTAMOMENTS

Ulica

Step into the enchanting story of Dubrovnik's historic town centre, where time weaves stories through its cobbled streets. Living in the Old City is not just a choice, it is a dance with history. Beneath the surface of the magnificent historical tapestry and the initial visual allure, Dubrovnik's identity lies in the souls of the people who call it home. Each resident contributes to the beauty and charm that define the heart of the city.



So, take your camera and unleash your inner photographer as you discover many hidden streets on your own and capture the timeless charm of this city.

The streets of Dubrovnik await your lens! And remember, every corner holds a story waiting to be told...

THE LONGEST AND MOST FAMOUS STREET — Stradun

Stradun, the heart of Dubrovnik, is more than just a street; it's a living picture where the past meets the present. Each step is a chapter, and every corner holds a secret. The lively beat of Stradun is filled with the sounds of laughter from busy cafes, street musicians playing heartfelt tunes, and locals sharing their tales. As Dubrovnik's main pedestrian street stretching 292 meters in length, Stradun is the perfect place for a relaxed stroll or a meeting point. Its photogenic beauty shines through from dawn till dusk, with its golden limestone surface creating stunning photo opportunities.

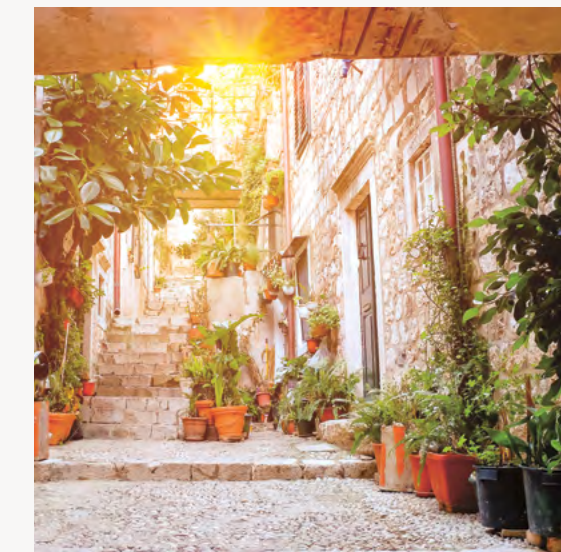
HINT While walking along Stradun, keep an eye out for a unique irregularity in the fishbone pattern of the pavement. Look for a small rectangular limestone slab that stands out from the rest.



120 375

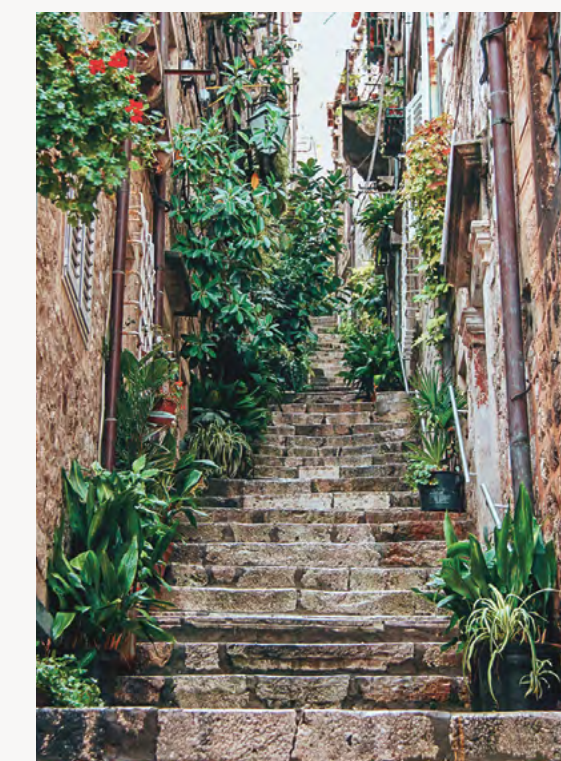
eng. Street or alley

For locals in Dubrovnik – a place where magic happens, where you can truly immerse yourself in the rhythm of daily life.



THE MOST PHOTOGENIC — Green streets

The special beauty of the Old Town lies in its picturesque green streets. What makes them special are the abundance of plants that adorn them, which is where the name green street comes from. These streets beautifully blend the history with nature as the vibrant green complements the colours of stone and terra cotta roof tiles. This beauty is a result of special care taken by locals who throughout the year enhance the beauty of the street by nurturing and sustaining the greenery. What makes them so attractive for tourists? These green streets are visually stunning and certainly Instagram worthy.



HINT No matter the season, peek into the side streets and meet friendly locals who will be happy to share a story or two with you.

THE STREET WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF STAIRS — Buža

Dubrovnik is renowned for its abundance of streets and staircases, and one street that is particularly cherished by locals is Bošković Street. Starting from Stradun, it winds its way up to a lovely gate on the north side of the



city walls famously called Buža (meaning hole). While officially named Bošković Street, locals prefer to call it "Buža". Although the set of stairs in this street is actually not the longest, it surely feels that way because of the steep and continuous climb up more than 100 stairs.

The street's charm lies in its numerous cafes and small restaurants, filled with smiling faces of both locals and tourists, who spend hours there, soaking in the energy of that street. To fully experience this street, all you need is good company, a spot on the stairs, and a drink to toast with.

HINT When meeting someone there, just mention the "the street with the greatest number of stairs" – Buža. And if you plan to reach the top without stopping, make sure you're in good condition.

HIDDEN STREETS

Although it seems like a relatively small part of the city, Dubrovnik's historic core is a treasure trove full of hidden locations just waiting to be discovered. If you enjoy exploring the unknown, the streets of Dubrovnik are the perfect destination. These charming streets are home to well-preserved old buildings that still withstand the test of time. Dive into the local vibe, go on a hunt for your ideal street until it calls your name, step into it, and feel the magic of something new and hidden.

HINT Try to find true gems that are really special – search for the alleys with small stone balconies that bridge eras and keep history alive.



So ... No excuses in Dubrovnik Old Town: if you're truly eager to discover the neighbourhoods where the locals live, it's time to take things up a notch. Leave behind the crowds of the main street and explore the charming side streets and alleys. It is here that you'll uncover hidden gems and capture picture-perfect Insta-worthy moments.

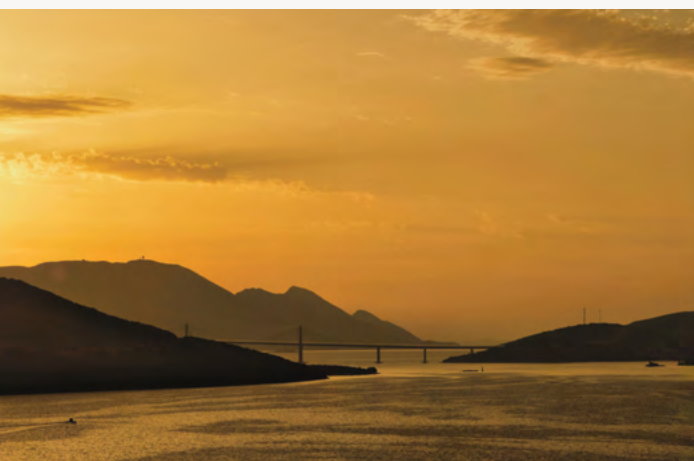
A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO THE MAJESTIC PELJEŠAC BRIDGE

Bridging Horizons

Nestled along the sun-kissed coast of Dubrovnik, Croatia, lies a modern engineering sensation that stands as a testament to human engineering and the tireless pursuit of progress – the Pelješac Bridge.



Picture yourself standing on the Pelješac Bridge, the soothing sea breeze caressing your cheeks as you gaze upon the panoramic views that unfold before you. The Adriatic Sea sparkles below, inviting you to explore its azure depths while the lush green hills of the Pelješac Peninsula stretch out as far as the eye can see, forming an idyllic backdrop that invites you to discover its hidden treasures.



First, let us introduce you to the backstory of this monumental project. The Pelješac Bridge spans the Adriatic Sea, connecting the Pelješac Peninsula to the mainland. Before it was built, reaching the peninsula required a very long detour or a ferry ride, often causing delays and inconvenience for locals and tourists alike.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that the Pelješac Bridge is not only a testament to architectural prowess but also a symbol of international collaboration?

To resolve these problems, after many years of planning and coordination, an international team of experts and engineers joined forces to bring this vision to life, showcasing the power of unity and shared expertise. The construction of the bridge started in mid-July 2018 and lasted until July 26th, 2022, when the bridge finally opened.

Moreover, the bridge is renowned for its vital role in connecting Dubrovnik with the rest of Croatia. It serves as a lifeline, providing a faster and more convenient route for travellers, as well as facilitating the transportation of goods and services.

So, with the completion of the Pelješac Bridge, travel between the Pelješac Peninsula and the mainland became smooth and easy, not only making it more accessible but also opening up opportunities for greater economic growth and cultural exchange between these two regions. In short, the region flourished, and residents now enjoy easier access to essential services and amenities.

The bridge itself stretches an impressive length of just over 2.4 kilometres and proudly holds the title of Croatia's longest bridge. Its sleek, modern design, with twin pylons and elegant stay cables, seamlessly blends with the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape, creating a stunning combination of man-made and natural elements, with shapes reminiscent of the surrounding mountains or the bright sails of ships. Whether you're driving across it or admiring it from afar, the Pelješac Bridge is sure to leave you in awe of human achievement.

But let's share some interesting facts and tips that also make the Pelješac Bridge a must-visit destination.



Stretching across the Pelješac Peninsula, this architectural masterpiece is a perfect starting point to explore the surrounding area. So, head off beyond the bridge itself and explore the Pelješac Peninsula.

01

EXPLORE PELJEŠAC WINE ROADS

This region is renowned for its vineyards and winemaking traditions. Take a scenic drive through the vineyard-dotted hills, visit local wineries, and sample the rich flavors of the region's wines.

The picturesque village of Ston, famous for its ancient city walls and delectable oysters, is also worth a visit.

02

TASTE LOCAL DELICACIES

Croatians take great pride in their culinary traditions, and the Pelješac Peninsula is no exception. Indulge in fresh seafood delicacies bursting with flavors, such as grilled fish and succulent oysters, which are renowned in this region. Pair your meal with a glass of locally produced Dingač or Postup wine, both of which are made from the Plavac Mali grape variety that thrives in the peninsula's vineyards.

03

DISCOVER COASTAL BLISS

Discover the peninsula's stunning coastline, dotted with picturesque coves and pristine beaches, where you can bask in the sun and take refreshing dips in the crystal-clear waters or embark on a scuba diving adventure to explore the vibrant underwater world.

04

SCOUT NATURE TREASURES

The Pelješac Peninsula is a paradise for nature lovers. Alongside the bridge, you'll find pedestrian walkways and cycling paths, perfect for those looking to explore the area on foot or by bike. For all you hiking enthusiasts – lace up your hiking boots and explore the rugged trails that wind through the peninsula's hills, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

05

CAPTURE THE MAGIC

For photography enthusiasts, the Pelješac Bridge offers endless opportunities to capture stunning shots. The best time to photograph the bridge is during the golden hour of sunrise or sunset when the warm light bathes the landscape, infusing it with a captivating glow. Experiment with different angles, compositions, and perspectives to create unique and memorable images.



In conclusion, the Pelješac Bridge is more than just a bridge – it's a symbol of progress, unity, and human achievement. From its sleek design to its breathtaking views, it's a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together towards a common goal.

So come, take a stroll across its majestic expanse, and discover the wonders that await on the other side. After all, it's not just a bridge – it's an experience.

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Nestled within the timeless allure of Dubrovnik's Old Town, **NAMFLEG** extends an invitation to explore a world where art and tradition merge into a singular, **exquisite** experience. Our **exclusive** collection of jewelry and timepieces represents the pinnacle of **craftsmanship**, unmatched in Dubrovnik, offering you unique artifacts created using the unparalleled technique of **hot enamel**, a method revived and perfected by the legendary **Carl Fabergé**.

Each piece from our collection is the culmination of hours of meticulous **handcrafting**, embodying the art of manual skill. The hot enamel technique we employ ensures **eternal beauty** and vibrancy of color, making each item a true **timeless treasure**. Our timepieces are **limited editions**, each a **unique masterpiece** demanding an extraordinary level of detail and craftsmanship.

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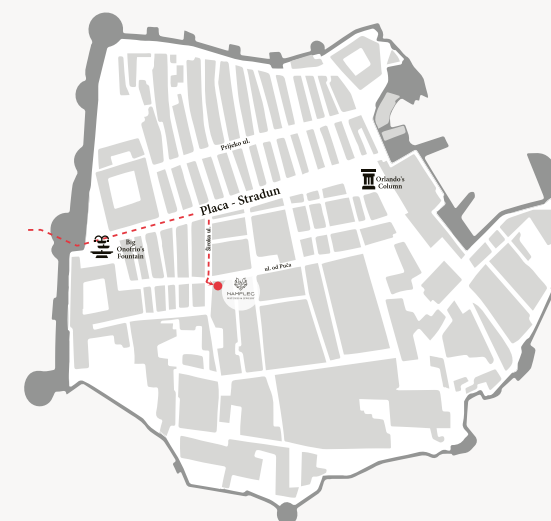
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INFO

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WORKING HOURS:
10:00 – 22:00 (summer season)
10:00 – 17:00 (winter season)

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FINEST SELECTION

Wine 'n' Dine in Dubrovnik

Restaurant 360

CONTEMPORARY MEDITERRANEAN

A renowned Michelin-starred restaurant nestled in Dubrovnik's historic old town, offering an exquisite terrace along medieval walls. Inspired by Dubrovnik and Mediterranean cuisine.

PRICING: €€€ | OPEN: 28 MAR – 31 OCT
A: Sv. Dominika 2
T: +385 20 322 222
www.360dubrovnik.com

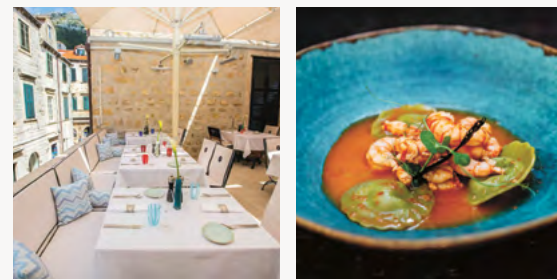


Fish Restaurant Proto

AUTHENTIC DALMATIAN CUISINE

In the heart of the Old City, savour the traditional specialities once enjoyed by the distinguished citizenry of Dubrovnik's olden days.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: all year round
A: Old City, Široka ul. 1
T: +385 (0)20 323 234
sales2@esculap-teo.hr
www.esculaprestaurants.com



Dubravka 1836

Restaurant & Café

CASUAL MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

The rich Mediterranean cuisine, prepared from original ingredients from the Dubrovnik area, directed by top culinary masters, will contribute to the full experience of the beauty of Dubrovnik.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: all year round
A: Brsalje 1 (Pile Gate)
T: +385 (0)20 426 319
sales@nautikarestaurants.com
www.nautikarestaurants.com



Nautika Restaurant

SOPHISTICATED MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

Among the world's ten most romantic restaurants according to Condé Nast Traveller magazine.

PRICING: €€€ | OPEN: 21 MAR – 31 OCT
A: Brsalje 3 (Pile Gate)
T: +385 (0)20 442 526
sales@nautikarestaurants.com
www.nautikarestaurants.com



Restaurant Dubrovnik

TASTE MATTERS

Fresh ingredients, capably prepared: simply a good meal.

PRICING: €€€ | OPEN: 31 MAR – 31 OCT
A: Marojice Kaboge 5, Old Town
T: +385 (0)99 2585 871
restorandubrovnik@gmail.com
www.restorandubrovnik.com



Posat Restaurant

AUTHENTIC MEDITERRANEAN FINE DINING

Restaurant Posat has established itself as the definitive authority in seafood cuisine, attracting world-famous celebrities seeking exceptional dining experiences.

PRICING: €€€ | OPEN: all year round
A: Uz Posat 1, Pile Gate
T: +385 (0)20 421 194
info@posat-dubrovnik.com
www.posat-dubrovnik.com

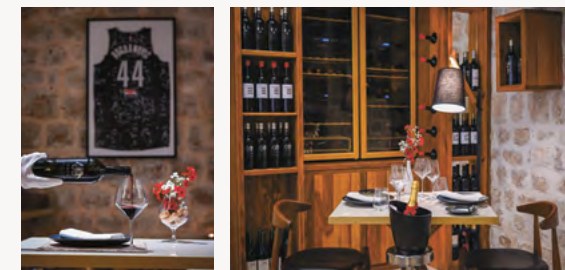


Forty-Four Dubrovnik

COZY FINE DINING

An elegant ambient that takes you back in history at the same time. Food prepared with an original style that also takes into account the new frontiers in healthy cuisine.

PRICING: €€€ | OPEN: FEB – JAN
A: Miha Pracata 6, Old Town
T: +385 (0)20 746 030, M: +385 (0)99 5290 440
info@fortyfourdubrovnik.com
www.fortyfourdubrovnik.com



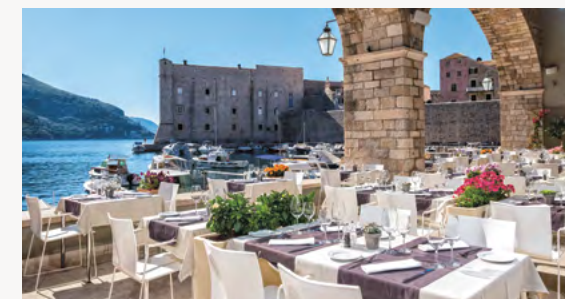
Gradska kavana Arsenal

Restaurant & Bar

MODERN MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

Experience the atmosphere of the Mediterranean meal prepared from selected local ingredients, ennobling old recipes with modern culinary techniques.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: all year round
A: Pred Dvorom 1, Old Town
T: +385 (0)20 321 202
sales@nautikarestaurants.com
www.nautikarestaurants.com

Konavoski Dvori
Eco Green Restaurant

AUTHENTICALLY CROATIAN

Konavoski Dvori offers a unique experience for the senses, with its picturesque setting and national specialities prepared in the style of Croatian grandmothers.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: 01 MAR – 01 DEC
A: Ljuta b.b., 20217 Ljuta – Konavle region
T: +385 (0)20 791 039 | sales2@esculap-teo.hr
www.esculaprestaurants.com



For all your foodie lovers, we bring you our recommendation of the finest places to eat and drink in Dubrovnik. Choose wisely or choose all...

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- FINE DINING
- CASUAL DINING
- RESTAURANT & CAFÉ
- RESTAURANT & BAR
- ETHNIC / NATIONAL RESTAURANT



Hard Rock Cafe Dubrovnik

LOCAL FLAVOR WITH HARD ROCK SIGNATURE

Surrounded by Medieval walls of the Old Town Hard Rock Cafe fits right in with the modern restaurants and classic museums.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: all year round
A: Poljana Paska Miličevića 4, Old town
T: +385 (0)20 222 444
sales@hrdubrovnik.com
https://www.hardrockcafe.com/location/dubrovnik/



Restaurant Sesame

MODERN MEDITERRANEAN DINING

200 meters from Pile gate there is a hidden gem where you can enjoy the natural shade of terraces. Experience local food – the best of Mediterranean cuisine.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: 01 MAR – 31 OCT
A: Dante Alighieri 2
T: +385 (0)20 412 910
info@sesame.hr
www.sesame.hr



Restaurant Kopun

CROATIAN NATIONAL CUISINE IN A NEW WAY

Here at restaurant Kopun we take great pride in our efforts to bring back some of the old Croatian recipes handed down through centuries.

PRICING: €€ | OPEN: 15 MAR – 01 DEC
A: Poljana R. Boškovića 7
T: +385 (0)20 323 969
reservation@restaurantkopun.com
www.restaurantkopun.com



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COLD
MATURATION



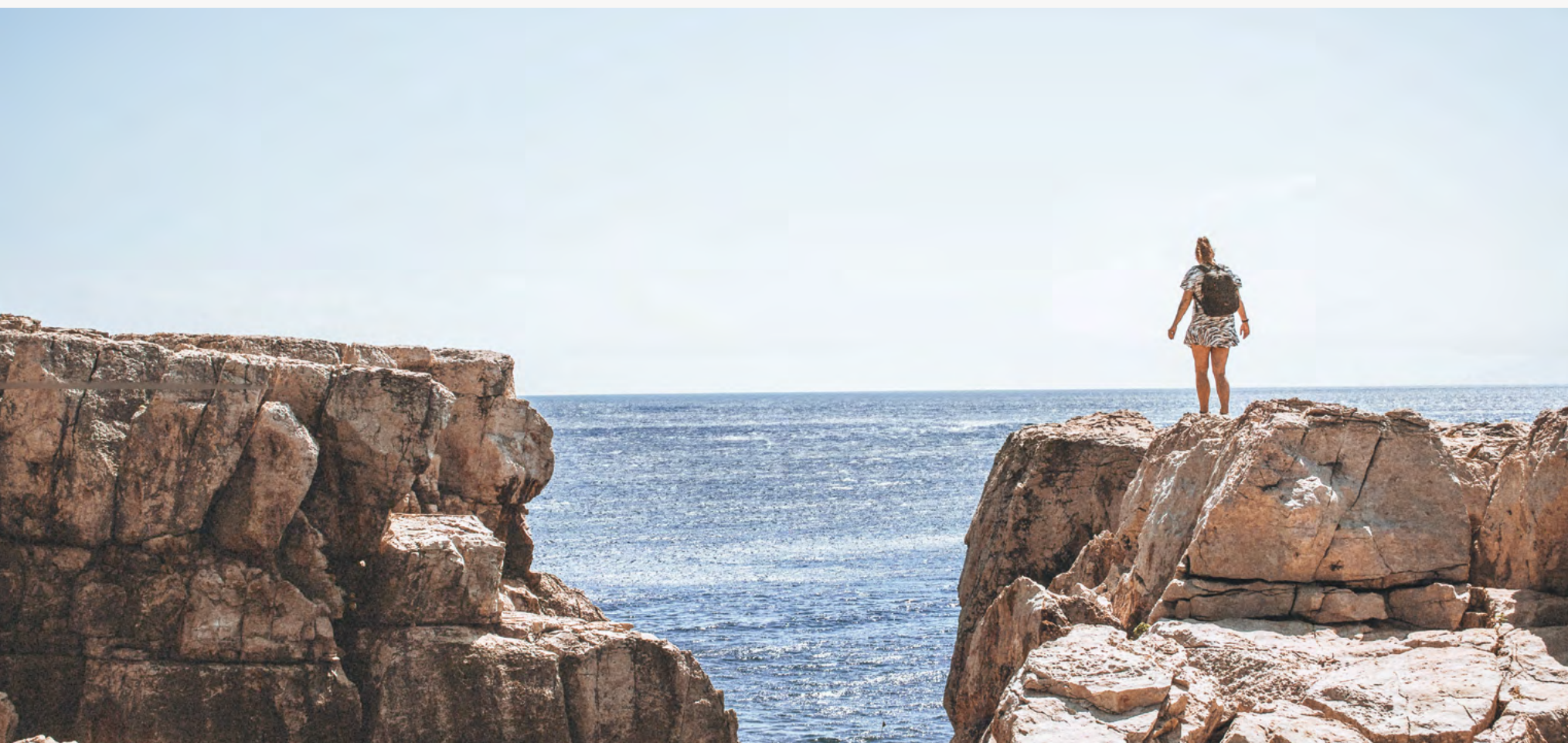
COLD
FILTERED

*Žuja's bubbles contain 98% CO₂ coming from natural beer fermentation



AUTHENTIC ADVENTURES

Must-try Local Activities



Have you ever wondered what makes a city truly unique? Beyond its famous landmarks and tourist attractions, every city has its own hidden treasures – local games or activities that are cherished and practiced solely by the locals themselves. They are an integral part of the city's identity and offer a glimpse into the vibrant culture that thrives within its walls.

These activities are not just a way to keep traditions alive, they are rituals that bring people together and create lasting memories. They are deeply ingrained in each of us, providing a sense of belonging and a reason to gather, connect, and have fun.

So, you may be wondering, what are these activities that bring so much joy to the locals in Dubrovnik?

While we can only scratch the surface in this edition, fear not, as we will continue to unveil more in future editions. We will do our best to familiarize you with these unique experiences, so that when you find yourself in Dubrovnik, you can fully engage and join in the excitement as well.

DIVLJA LIGA OR "WILD LEAGUE" WATER POLO
An informal water polo league in Dubrovnik, played during the summer season among teams representing different Dubrovnik neighbourhood beaches.



Water polo has long tradition both in Dubrovnik and throughout Croatia; the national team just recently won the World Championship title and has once again earned its reputation as a champion.

Sport aside, Dubrovnik's "wild" league is primarily a unique spectacle of competitive spirit, diligent teamwork, and an entertaining and adventurous approach to sports. It is played for fun, or at least half-seriously, and the main goal is for everyone to have a good time.

So, it is no surprise if one of the teams doesn't show up if they feel that the sea temperature is too cold or if someone can't get a day off at work. It is not unheard of for the referee to be thrown into the sea because someone in the audience feels that his decision is not fair. And for the most part, the



real competition happens outside the water – whose fans are going to dominate; be louder, funnier, numerous and all together more noticeable.

TIP

If you are in Dubrovnik in August, do not miss the finals, traditionally held in the Old Town port, with fans supporting their favourite players from every side – the auditorium, floating boats, the city walls, etc.

... And if you are a bit more adventurous: In addition to standard water polo rules, there is an additional rule that only amateurs may play in the league, so even you can try to join if you manage to find one of the league's "officials".

LEAP OF COURAGE: THE CLIFF JUMPING CHALLENGE

Dubrovnik has many cliff jumping spots, but two of them are the most popular among adventurous locals whose jumps will give you chills. Meet Bellevue beach and Lokrum island.

Bellevue beach located right underneath homonymous hotel in a cliff-surrounded bay is a perfect scenery for scaling the rocks and finding a perfect one. The highest one is locally named "Borići" and it serves as a confirmation of courage for decades. If you've never tried cliff jumping before, start with one of the lower spots, and jump feet-first. If you're a more experienced diver, then try diving headfirst. Make sure to check out the depth of your landing spot before you take a deep breath and collect your courage for a jump into the azure Adriatic. Once you find the one up to your alley, hurl yourself into the cyan colour sea.



TIP

Because of its location, this beach has a lot of shade as of early afternoon, due to the rocks that block the sun. Make sure to come earlier in the day - that way you can soak up the sun while rock climbing.

Lokrum island is located just 15 minutes from Dubrovnik Old Town by boat and happens to be a perfect spot to do some acrobatics since the high cliffs extend along the coast of the island.

Two locations stand out for their unique shapes and crystal-clear sea, which are the perfect setting for your free-falling.

The Dead Sea is a salty lake connected to the open sea, surrounded by 10 meter high cliffs where skilful jumpers do their acrobatic manoeuvres. It is one of a kind natural adrenaline park.

Pigeon Cave Cliffs with cliffs up to 12 meters high is a very isolated location on west side of the island and is considered a hidden gem. It is highly recommended to bring snorkelling equipment, as the cave underneath offers stunning natural wonder.

TIP

Lokrum island is uninhabited, as well as being officially designated as a nature and special forest vegetation reserve, so staying overnight is forbidden. Make sure to plan your fun hours to the sailing schedule, and don't miss the last boat!



TIP

If you find yourself on a shallow sandy beach in the Dubrovnik area, and you see the game starting, join in! There is no limit to the number of players, and you don't have to be an experienced player – just do your best to keep the ball out of the sea.

By watching or joining these local activities, you not only create unforgettable memories but also forge connections with the locals, who warmly welcome visitors to embrace their traditions and join them.

So, next time you find yourself in Dubrovnik, let go of any inhibitions and allow yourself to be swept away by the flow of these local activities. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture, meet new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

After all, it is through these hidden gems that you truly experience the heart and soul of a city like Dubrovnik.

Keep watch on the next edition. Coming up, discover local sports such as Nogotenis or "Futnet" or "Football tennis", Boćanje (Boules) and many more...



PICIGIN (pronounced "pih-tsih-gheen") traditional amateur beach sport, typically played in shallow water.

This unique and lively game could be described as circular volleyball without a net. It involves a group of players forming a circle in shallow sea water, passing a small ball to each other and attempting to keep it from falling in the sea using only their hands.

Even though Picigin is an amateur sport, and there are no strict rules, as it is still played according to tradition with small variations.

It is not a competitive sport since there is no scoring system, but it requires a lot of cooperation to keep the ball out of the sea. It is not uncommon for players to set a certain numerical goal of consecutive passes that they want to reach, just to make a game a little bit more fun. It may sound simple, but the real challenge lies in the acrobatic manoeuvres and impressive teamwork required to keep the ball in the air as long as possible. This calls for a lot of physical activity as players jump, dive, leap and splash to reach the ball before it hits the sea.

Fun fact: any kind of ball can be used, but real picigin players will only use the heart of tennis ball which is created by stripping away the yellow layer of regular tennis ball and scraping the rubber until the ball is super thin, which makes it bounce better.



DELICIOUS SECRETS: RECIPES FROM OLD DUBROVNIK

The Spring Empress: Wild Asparagus



Foraging for wild asparagus has become a popular activity among nature enthusiasts and food lovers. However, it's very common in the Dubrovnik countryside to see older couples, or a little group of friends, slowly walking along the sides of the road, gathering wild asparagus in the early spring.

Although they usually know where to go and what to look for, "asparagus hunting" can be harder than you would think. Because asparagus blends into so well with other plants, it can be very hard to notice until you calibrate your eyes to only look for the "intruder" among the other greens in the wood. So, when going asparagus hunting always look for bright green stalks of sharp leaves in which wild asparagus sprout.

BASIC INFORMATION

Wild asparagus, a perennial plant in the lily family, (*asparagus officinalis*) thrives in natural habitats like meadows, riverbanks, and forests. Unlike its cultivated counterpart, wild asparagus grows freely. The stalk is slender and boasts a fresh green hue with a high water content. Despite its slightly bitter and earthy taste, it is nutrient-dense, rich with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, low in calories and is known for its great detoxifying effects.

This Mediterranean plant grows in forests, along old stone walls in fields, rocky areas, and forest roads. It prefers semi-shaded and moist places and can be found up to 1200 m above sea level. Every spring, young shoots emerge after rainfall and warmer weather, sprouting from the protected underground tubers, which enable rapid regrowth after harvesting.

HARVESTING

Harvesting wild asparagus can be a rewarding and delicious experience. Here are some tips and instructions to ensure a successful harvest:

Wild asparagus, is a delightful and nutritious vegetable that grows in the wild. Known as the empress of spring, wild asparagus is very special seasonal delicacy and can be found only in the spring and early summer, typically from April to June.

Timing is Key: Wild asparagus typically grows in early spring, so mark in your calendar to stay alert.

Identify Wild Asparagus: Look for feathery, fern-like foliage and slender green stalks with pointed tips.

Harvest Responsibly: To preserve the plant population and ecosystem, it is essential to practice responsible harvesting techniques. Take only what you need and avoid overharvesting. Instead of breaking the tops and leaving the root behind, always pull out the entire plant from the ground to ensure proper regeneration. Failing to remove the root can lead to decay and destruction of the asparagus tuber.

Select the Right Spears: Choose spears that are young, tender, firm and are about the thickness of a pencil. Look for ones that are about 6-8 inches in length and have tightly closed tips.

However, if you don't feel like wandering about in the woods, scouting the local green market for local asparagus is always a safer option.

Here are few easy traditional Dubrovnik recipes that will leave your taste buds craving for more... Enjoy!

Wild asparagus can be prepared in various ways and is best enjoyed when it's fresh, immediately after harvesting to prevent losing its unique flavour. Cooking times may vary depending on the thickness of the stalks and cooking method, but a general guideline is to cook them until they are tender but still slightly crisp.

COOKING PREPARATION TIPS

CLEANING THE ASPARAGUS

Rinse the harvested wild asparagus under cold water to remove any dirt or debris. Trim off the tough ends of the stalks, usually the bottom 1-2 inches (3-4 centimetres).

STIR-FRIED

Stir-frying wild asparagus quickly helps it retain its vibrant colour and crisp texture. Heat some olive oil in a pan over high heat. Add the trimmed and cut asparagus. Stir-fry for a few minutes until the asparagus is tender yet still slightly crunchy and gets nice fresh green colour. If you want to make it the way the locals do, then add two eggs in pan and fry them together with the asparagus. Season with a pinch of salt and get ready for a real feast!

COOKED

Cook asparagus in boiling salted water for 5 to 8 minutes, depending on the thickness of the stalk. In order to preserve the nutrients, the lid must be kept on during cooking, and the minimum amount of water should be used. If the asparagus is cooked too long, it loses its taste, becomes bitter, falls apart and loses its characteristic colour. After cooking, the asparagus is drained.

CREAMY ASPARAGUS SOUP

Sauté onions and garlic in butter until soft. Add trimmed and chopped wild asparagus and cook briefly. Pour in your choice of vegetable broth, bring to a boil, and simmer until asparagus is tender. Blend until smooth, season with salt and pepper, and add a touch of heavy cream.

Beside these simple recipes, wild asparagus also works well in various dishes such as salads, omelettes, pasta, and risottos. Consider adding them to your favourite recipes, substituting wild asparagus for store-bought (if the wild ones are not available) for a unique twist.



Tastefully Yours!

RESTAURANT VAPOR

Contemporary Fine dining

Recommended by a Michelin Guide

The restaurant follows the fundamental philosophy of the Hotel Bellevue: everything is adapted to the wishes of the guests.



Hidden from the outside world on a 30-metre high cliff, the Hotel Bellevue's fine dining restaurant Vapor, is the must-taste dining experience for every gourmet visiting Dubrovnik. Taste the traditional Mediterranean cuisine at this elegant à la carte restaurant and don't forget to try the special chocolate soufflé - it's absolute heaven.

The focus is on the finest seasonal produce prepared with an innovative and aesthetic twist and complemented by one of the best wine lists in Dubrovnik. Small wonder that Vapor has quickly gained an iconic reputation as one of the finest in Croatia and is recognized by Michelin guide.

INFO

LOCATION

Hotel Bellevue Dubrovnik
Pera Čingrije 7, Dubrovnik

STYLE TIP

Should you choose to join this restaurant's chic atmosphere, keep it jet-set casual.

RESERVATIONS

Please contact your concierge.

INSIDE TIP

Book a table on the terrace and enjoy incomparable vistas of the Adriatic azure. While trying to decide what to indulge in, order one of the Vapor's delicious cocktails or sample some of the best local wines.

PRORA BEACH RESTAURANT

A Secluded Hideaway

Nestled in arguably Dubrovnik's most chic hotel that caters jet-setters from around the world, Restaurant Prora is an ideal base from which to the finest seafood from the region served in a relaxed setting.



Occupying an exclusive spot under the arches of the Excelsior Hotel on its sea-front, with views across to the Old Town of Dubrovnik, the Prora Beach Restaurant is a lovely spot, both truly intimate and archetypal Mediterranean, day or night, to enjoy a light bite or a more indulgent meal during the summer time.

Linger over sun-drenched summer lunches and savour the local seafood alongside regional fish and meat dishes infused with the magic of the Mediterranean by the gifted hands of Executive Chef Peter Obad.

At Prora, the food can only be upstaged by the impressiveness of the setting: the sun flashing on the stone walls of the Old Town and crystal clear deep blues of the Adriatic in the background.

INFO

LOCATION

Hotel Excelsior Dubrovnik,
Frana Supila 12, Dubrovnik

STYLE TIP

Casual by day, spruced-up by night. Linen for him – a silk dress for her.

RESERVATIONS

Please contact your concierge.

INSIDE TIP

if you are planning a romantic dinner, make sure to reserve a table on the stone terrace by the water's edge with a magnificent view of Dubrovnik's Old Town in the background. Make sure you are there right before the sunset.

SPHERE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE BAR

A Homage to Mediterranean Dining

The views of Uvala Lapad promenade and the beach are sublime from the very large open terrace of Sphere Restaurant on the ground floor.



A generous buffet breakfast is served here every morning, and at night, an innovative dinner menu accompanied by twinkling sea and night-sky scenery.

INFO**LOCATION**

Hotel Kompas Dubrovnik
Kardinala Stepinca 21, Dubrovnik

STYLE TIP

Something cool and breezy; light summer dress by day, spiced up with a bag and a gentleman in your hand by night.

RESERVATIONS

Please contact your concierge.

The glamorous lounge with its ergonomic armchairs set beneath oversized moon-like light shades serves top-notch cocktails, a fine wine list and great coffee with fantastic sea views.

And is set to once again be one of the best places in Lapad Bay for cocktails at sunset.

INSIDE TIP

Arrive before sunset and ask for a table right on the edge of the promenade to enjoy romantic views while the sun sets over the bay. Pssst... Don't forget to order some dessert before you head off.

MASLINA TAVERN

A Contemporary Dalmatian Tavern

Nestled on the balmy beachfront with irresistible views day and night, Maslina has the atmosphere of a Mediterranean tavern, with a menu inspired by the finest local ingredients.



Everything about this Tavern is fresh. The breeze coming in from the open sea directly beneath you, the taste of Adriatic seafood on the plate in front of you, and the smell of salt and sea rock coming in on the splashing waves.

INFO**LOCATION**

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace
Masarykov put 20, Dubrovnik

STYLE TIP

Seaside casual – summer dresses and sandals will do nicely.

RESERVATIONS

Please contact your concierge.

Located at Dubrovnik Palace Hotel, Maslina offers a twist on traditional, Dalmatian al fresco dining. From light appetizers and a choice of fresh fish specialities to typical Dalmatian meat dishes, you'll enjoy fabulous cuisine complemented by stunning views all the way to the Elafiti Islands.

INSIDE TIP

You may want to jump in the sea or the nearby pools after you've finished your meal. And you can!

RESTAURANT AT HOTEL SUPETAR

Authentic Delicacies in a Romantic Setting

Food lovers will savour the Mediterranean fare in our gourmet Restaurant. Set in the newly opened Hotel Supetar Cavtat, a stone's throw from the buzz of the Cavtat centre, the fine-dining restaurant serves a rich buffet breakfast in the morning, and a diverse a la carte menu in the afternoon.



Authentic delicacies are carefully prepared by our Chef and served in a romantic al fresco setting on the open terrace, as amazing views of the Cavtat bay and the Adriatic sea on the horizon unfold in front of you.

INFO**LOCATION**

Hotel Supetar Cavtat
Obala A.Starčevića 27, Cavtat

STYLE TIP

Think breezy summer linens for a pleasant al fresco dining experience...

RESERVATIONS

Please contact your concierge.

There's enough to seduce even the most seasoned foodies so with all its prerequisites – its location, service and innovative menu, the Restaurant at Hotel Supetar is for sure the hottest dining spot in Cavtat.

INSIDE TIP

Don't leave without trying one of the exquisite regional desserts from the menu and ask for the perfect wine pairing to go with it – you'll love it.

SPINAKEE

Seafood on the Pier

Seafood lovers shouldn't miss this one-of-a-kind restaurant. Perched above the platform beach with comfy chairs to sink into and admire the fabulous sea views and twinkling lights of Dubrovnik in the distance, this is the spot to spend laid back summer holiday nights with a bottle of wine.



A sublime seafood menu offers baby octopus, scampi, lobster, scallops, and tuna, together with the catch of the day, prepared exactly as you like it.

INFO**LOCATION**

Hotel Croatia Cavtat
Frankopanska 10, Cavtat

STYLE TIP

Wear white summer wraps to blend in – or vibrant-toned sarongs to stand out. Sunglasses are de rigueur.

RESERVATIONS

Please contact your concierge.

At lunchtime, a special menu gives a simple, appealing introduction to traditional Dalmatian cooking.

Find yourself tucked away along the sea-shore surrounded by pine trees, right on the promenade, enjoying splendid views of Cavtat bay.

INSIDE TIP

Choose a waterfront table and select your own fish right from the tank

INSIDER TIPS: GOING LOCAL

In your research, before visiting Dubrovnik you have probably learned something about the local attractions, places to see, and must-visit locations. But in these pages, we will introduce you to our local customs, the way in which Dubrovnik people live and talk – something you cannot read in any guide. By now you have probably learned a few Croatian words to get by, but here we will teach you some of the local phrases that capture our way of living. Once you learn them, you can easily drop them into a conversation. O.K. Let's get started...

Mind Your Manners

Learning to behave like a local in Dubrovnik may seem daunting at first, but with an open mind and willingness to adapt, you can easily embrace the local manners. Here are some tips that will get you as close to living like locals as a non-local can :)

Morning routine — Coffee first!

When Dubrovnik locals open their eyes in the morning, all they want is good, strong coffee. As a result, the first meal of the day is often not breakfast but rather a slightly later marendica, typically a sandwich between 9 AM and 11 AM. Coffee is more important than you think!



HINT

Make sure to familiarize yourself with the local coffee culture and master the correct coffee terminology. If you missed our previous edition discussing the coffee culture in Dubrovnik, be sure to grab a copy.

Now, let's talk about **food**. Dubrovnik offers some of the best dishes in the Adriatic, and you'd be a fool to miss out on some of the local delicacies. So, head on out to explore some of the neighborhood *konobas* (taverns). Look for the ones packed with locals – that's a sure sign the food will be fresh and authentic. Seafood is a must, so don't be shy to try some local specialties like *brodet* (seafood stew), grilled fresh fish and black or seafood risotto.

Mornings are also reserved for Local Markets (especially Friday)

Here's the thing: the locals don't eat out at fancy restaurants all the time. No, they know the real magic happens at the local markets. So, forget about the malls and shopping centers and head to the vibrant neighborhoods. Visit the largest market in Gruž, with its fish market next door, for homemade goodies like honey, oil, cheese, jams, eggs, fresh produce, and morning-caught fish. Trust me, it's worth it.



TIP

If you happen to be in the Old Town, visit the main Green Market at Gudulić Square.

And speaking of food, don't forget to sample our **local wines!** The theoretical part is pretty straightforward: if your taste buds crave local red wines then go for unique flavors of Plavac, Dingač, and Postup. However, or if you are more of a white wine lover – then Pošip and Grk are worth going for along with the queen amongst whites, Dubrovačka Malvasija. So now that you know the basics, go put this theory into practice.



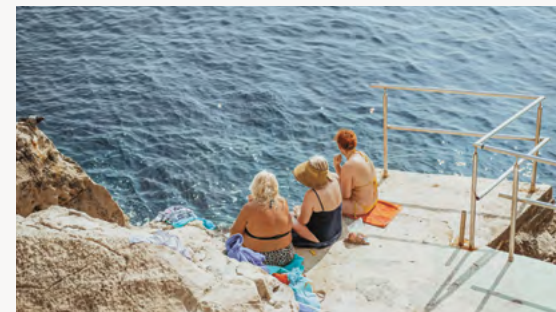
But it's not all about the food and wine. Remember the concept of *fjaka* we talked about before? It represents the local way of embracing relaxation and enjoying life without stress. It's advisable to avoid strict schedules

and embrace the slow pace of life here. So, follow the locals and embrace the *fjaka* lifestyle by leisurely exploring side streets, engaging in conversations over coffee with locals (yes, again!) and soaking up the sun. Speaking of sun, make sure you pack your sunscreen to avoid getting sunburned like certain tourists do :)



During summer, always carry a towel in your bag. As the sea is never far away there's nothing better than a quick and refreshing dip. Although mornings are the best time to enjoy deserted beaches, locals typically head to the beach around 4 PM, wearing only a towel over their shoulders, without a bag, and stay until sunset. Engage in local activities (read more on page 36) and learn how to play local card games (*treseta* or *briškula*) to blend in. Remember, if you're in the Old Town before or after your swim, please cover up. Walk around in swimwear is prohibited and may result in a fine.

Last but not least, let's talk about the **locals** themselves. Dubrovnik residents are friendly, welcoming people who'll make you feel right at home. They're passionate about their city, culture, and way of life. So, be respectful, interact with them, and show a genuine interest in their stories and traditions. And don't be afraid to give back. Support local businesses, eat at family-run restaurants, and engage with the community. It'll make your trip even richer, leaving you with some amazing memories and new friendships.



There is still lots more we need to cover on this topic, but we will leave something for other editions as well. So, stay tuned.

And there you have it. With these tips, you'll be well on your way to blending in like a local in Dubrovnik. Remember, it's all about taking it easy, enjoying the moment, and showing some respect for the city and its people. Focus on that and you'll fall in love with Dubrovnik just like the rest of us!

MANNERS EDITION

Along with our tips on how to blend in perfectly as a local in Dubrovnik, here are some useful basic local phrases for getting around when interacting with locals. Please note that these are not standard Croatian language terms - most of these terms are local dialect so be patient :)

Pardon my Croatian

COMMON INFORMAL PHRASES

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Hvala lijepa. [HVAh-lah LYEH-pah]

GOODBYE!
Adio [Ah-di-o]

HI
Kenova. [KE-no-va]
or
WHAT'S UP (used also as hi)
Đe si [jeh-see]

Greeting for hi and bye

TAKE IT EASY
Pomalo [POH-mah-lo]

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
Đe ćeš? [jeh-chesh]

NICE TO MEET YOU
Drago mi je [DRA-goh mee yeh]

GOOD MORNING
Dobro jutro [DOH-brohYOO-troh]
Pronounced together as one word

SEE YOU
Vidimo se [VEE-dee-moh seh]

LET'S GO
Ajmo ća [eye-mo-CHA]

TAKE IT EASY
Nije preša [NEE-jeh PRE-sha]

LET'S GO FOR A WALK
Ajmo u dir [EYE-mo oo JEER]

I'M IN A STATE OF "FJAKA"
Uhvatila me fjaka
[oo fat ee lah meh FEE yah kah]
No we are not kidding

SHOPPING AT THE LOCAL MARKET

IS IT FRESH?
Je li freško? [Yeh lee freshko]

IS IT HOMEMADE?
Je li je domaće? [Yeh lee DOH-ma-chay]

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
Pošto? [po-shto]

PAPRIKA
Paprika [PA-pri-ka]
Croatian is a piece of cake, right?

TOMATOES
Pomadore [po-MA-dor-ay]

ZUCCHINIS
Tikvice [TIK-vi-tsaj]

EGGPLANTS
Balančane [ba-LAN-cha-ney]
Good luck with this one

CUCUMBERS
Kukumari [ku-ku-ma-ri]

EATING / DRINKING

A GLASS OF RED/WHITE WINE, PLEASE.
Molim Vas čašu crnog /bijelog vina.
[MOH-leem vahs CHAH-shoo TSER-nog / BYEH-log VEE-nah]

LET'S GO HAVE A COFFEE
Idemo na kavu. [EE-dem-oh nah KA-voov]

CHEERS!
Živjeli! / Nazdravljite! [Zhee-ve-lee / Naz-dra-vleh]

BON APPETIT
Dobar tek! [DOE-bar tek]

That's all for now ...
Coming more in next editions.

STAY TUNED!
Budite atento! [boo dee teh ah ten toe]



ECHOES OF THE PAST

Popret

Imagine a place where families gather, where friends share stories, and where memories are made. The crackling of the wood stove, and the flickering of the flames, are a sensory experience that's both comforting and invigorating. It's a feeling that's hard to replicate.



But the fireplace isn't just a place for physical warmth, it's also a symbol of tradition and custom. Think about it – for centuries, families have gathered around the fireplace to share stories, to cook, to celebrate, and to pass down traditions from one generation to the next. It's a place where we connect with our past, where we feel a sense of belonging and continuity.

WHAT IS IT?

The term "popret" refers to a large square fireplace somewhat elevated from the floor which is found in a small stone building with a saddle roof and a chimney. These buildings, known as "komin", typically consist of a single room serving as a kitchen, dining area, and hearth (*popret*). In the Dubrovnik countryside, the popret holds great cultural significance as a place where families gathered for communal activities. It served as the heart of everyday life, where a fire was always burning, food was prepared, stories were told. These magnificent hearths, adorned with intricate stonework and weathered bricks, tell tales of generations gathered in their warm embrace. With their crackling flames and the lingering aroma of burning wood from oak or olive branches, these old fireplaces exude a sense of cosy nostalgia, inviting people to gather and share stories on chilly evenings while the food is slowly being cooked and spreading a wonderful scent.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In the centre of the room, there was an open fire area for cooking, slightly elevated from the rest of the floor. The pyramid-shaped part of the ceiling, known as "kominata", directed the smoke towards the chimney at the top.

In larger houses, there was a millstone opposite the fireplace for grinding wheat into flour, used for making bread. The room also featured wooden tripod chairs and a low, round table where the entire family gathered to eat. Over the fire usually stood a cooking tripod stand, used for holding bronze cooking pots and huge cast iron pots and pans in which food was prepared.



The bronze pots, known as "bronzin", contained delicious ingredients like meat in fragrant soup and large portions of thick, boiling milk. These pots, called "kačuo", with their dark exteriors and smooth interiors, as well as immense size and sturdy cast iron construction, were used to preserve the enticing aromas of sausages, paprika-flavoured salami, cabbage, corn porridge, and other locally prepared dishes. Each of those culinary delights were the result of hard work on farms and vegetable plots from spring to late autumn.

Additionally, the pots and pans could be hung from chains attached to the ceiling, called "komoštre". Another important utensil was the dome-shaped lid, known as "peka", originally made of clay and later of metal.

While commonly used with pots and pans, the *peka* was (and still is) the most famous vessel for baking bread and roasting meat.

THE LOCAL CUISINE

Home to all the traditional dishes of the Dubrovnik countryside, the *popret* is typically associated with meals cooked *ispod peke* ("under the bell").

For the women of the household, baking bread under the bell involved lighting a fire and waiting for the wood to turn into embers. The embers would then be pushed to the side of the fireplace, creating a clear space in the centre. The dough, prepared in advance, would be placed in this central area, naturally forming a wide, flat round shape. Unlike roasting meat, baking bread required a cold *peka* (bell-shaped lid) to cover the dough. This allowed the dough to rise properly without burning. The *peka* would be placed over the dough and covered with embers. When it comes to meat dishes cooked under the bell, veal and lamb were commonly used in local recipes.



As the fire turned into embers, the *peka* would be positioned to the side of the open flame to warm up. Once heated, the *peka* would be placed over the meat, allowing it to roast and cook in its own juices. Potatoes were often included in the dish, absorbing the flavourful meat juices and adding their own distinct taste.



To experience a *popret* first hand and immerse yourself into the region's fascinating history, travel north or south of Dubrovnik to witness traditional hearths and savour the regional under-the-bell specialties. Feel free to contact the Adriatic Luxury Services desk at our hotels to help you organise this unique and memorable experience!

TRADITION

Transport yourself to a time without modern technology – no Internet, TV, or electricity. In those days, the hearth was the centrepiece of social and family life, but aside from that, it would also provide much-needed warmth during the cold winter days. The *popret*, serving as both a kitchen and a dining room, brought families together. It was a place where women would prepare meals while the entire family gathered around the table to eat.

The *popret* was not only a functional space but also a hub for social gatherings. The head of the household would generously offer guests wine, *rakija* (grappa), and home-made food. Remarkably, even nowadays, *poprets* continue to be utilized. Locals still enjoy feasting on meat cooked under the bell on various occasions, often when hosting guests.

Remember, *popret* isn't just a place, it's also a feeling. It's the feeling of tradition and custom, of being a part of something that's been passed down through generations. In a world that's increasingly fast-paced and digital, *popret* is a reminder of the simple things that bring us joy and comfort. It's a reminder of the importance of tradition, of custom, and of connection. It's a reminder of the things that make us human, and of the things that bring us together.

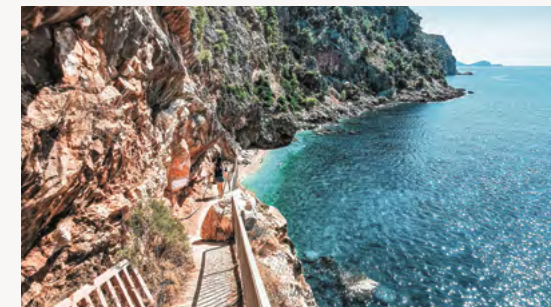
Escape from Dubrovnik...

If you are up to escaping Dubrovnik for a day, why not visit Konavle...

PASJAČA BEACH

No music, no bars, no cars, no crowds, no phone or internet signal, just pristine waters and the open sea in front of you – sounds like a dream right? Or DiCaprio's movie description? And it is, but a hard reached one. Pasjača is a hidden gem located near village Popovići, emerging from Konavle cliffs. It's not a natural beach but formed by stone surplus from ww2 tunnels creating surreally beautiful beach. Locals have not made it easy to find, and it is definitely not easy to reach; think about thousand steps up and down on a steep cliffside, and no mojto waiting for you on either end. But once you do get there, as a reward the views are simply breathtaking. Unfortunately, the beach is disappearing because the sea is eroding the sand so don't miss this piece of heaven while it's still available!

DIRECTIONS ... don't think so. You have to be perusive enough to have the locals show you the way or persistent enough to google it yourself (remember no internet signal).



ČILIPİ



If you want to explore the folklore and ethnography of Konavle, you must visit Čilipi, the cultural centre and one of the largest settlements in Konavle. For over forty years now, every Sunday morning at 11:15 am, from Easter to the end of October, traditional folk dancing is held in front of the St. Nicholas church. This is surely the best way to get to know the tradition and customs of this region.

We also recommend visiting the Konavle County House museum that contains the ethnographic treasures of Konavle, displayed in a perfectly restored typical Konavle house. The collection contains about 500 items including men's and women's folk costumes, embroidery, jewellery, arms, musical instruments and items used in the everyday life.

FORT 'SOKOL' (HAWK FORT)

Dating from the 15th century, the impressive Sokol fort was built at the foot of the stone cliffs that rise above the village of Dunave in Konavle. It was the largest fort in the area, built to guard the border of the Dubrovnik Republic and defended the area from enemy invasions through the natural passage between the massive Snježnica and Bjelotina Mountains. Throughout the centuries it was constantly adapted and upgraded.



INSIDE TIP

When you set foot on the last step and reach the top of the fort, you will be impressed by the breath-taking view of the entire Konavle region.

SUMMER CARNIVAL

Carnival Celebration in Cavtat Wrapped in *Domino*

It's carnival season in Europe — a crazy time of parades, masks, music and mischief

No one is sure where the carnival tradition comes from. The name is possibly derived from the Latin "carne vale" meaning "meat, farewell", as the celebration is a final fling of fun before the 40 days of fasting for Lent. Giving credence to this theory is the German name for carnival, Fastnacht, which means "fast night", referring to the night before fasting begins on Ash Wednesday.

Some claim the festivities are rooted in the ancient Greek celebrations for their god of wine, Dionysus, while others trace them to pagan customs of driving out the evil spirits of winter. In many places, these rituals evolved into a series of street parties and balls with masked revellers who, some say, developed costumes so all classes could celebrate together and poke fun at authority figures without revealing their identities.

One such costume, designed to completely disguise the person wearing it, is 'Domino', which is typical for the carnival celebration in Cavtat, a small town on the southern border of the Dubrovnik region.

With a large cape and hood, resembling a monk's vestments, the costume came "en mode" during the 19th century as an ironic response of the people of Cavtat towards the strong Church prohibitions intended to prevent carnival.

Ever since then, on the last Thursday before Ash Wednesday, Dominali take over the streets of Cavtat. Hidden behind the wide dark robes with hoods, gloves, and masks on their faces they go from house to house laughing, making jokes and leaving an aura of mystery, wit and innocent deception in the air.

Adding to the mystery, these masked groups then proceed to the cave Šipun on the Cavtat coastline. According to legend, in this cave nested the dragon Vojaz whom St. Hilarion (Ilar) managed to expel and slay. The legend can be linked to the penetration of Christianity in the former

Greek settlement Epidaurus where the cult of Aesculapius (the symbol of the dragon) was replaced by the cult of St. Hilarion. It is also said that the dragon motif influenced the creation of the Domino mask.

Upon return, the party continues in the town's hall, with a traditional carnival dinner of "šporki makaruli" – a special kind of pasta with meat sauce.

Besides Dominali, a children's carnival procession and various other parties culminating on Ulltime (the night before Ash Wednesday), carnival season was and remains among the most festive times to be in Cavtat. It was the famous Croatian painter, Vlaho Bukovac, who immortalized this tradition by painting "The Cavtat Carnival" at the turn of the 20th century.

CAVTAT SUMMER CARNIVAL

The annual series of cultural and entertainment events lasting from the end of June until the beginning of September.

It contains various cultural and entertainment programs, such as dance and music shows, street performances, classical music concerts, etc. All events are free of charge.

The carnival tradition in Cavtat is over a hundred years old. It was the famous Croatian painter, Vlaho Bukovac, who immortalized this tradition by painting "The Cavtat Carnival" (property of the Baltazar Bogišić Collection in Cavtat) at the turn of the 20th century.

Today the carnival tradition is kept by The Carnival Organization "Dominali" has preserved this tradition through the "Carnival Days of Cavtat", which is held during carnival days and honors local customs and traditions, and the Cavtat Summer Carnival, which is held on the last weekend of July.

Easy-going fun is the trait of the summer carnival, Summer carnival offers casual entertainment with the performances of bands, street entertainers, jugglers and actors turning the whole town quay into a giant stage with a bit of fun for everyone.



TOP CONSUMER BRANDS (CONTINUED)

Quintessentially Croatian

If you are wondering what to take home as a souvenir or are intrigued by what Croatians genuinely enjoy... Here is a brief review of the best known, most cherished and most talked about domestic brands that Croatians hold dear to their hearts.

01

PELINKOVAC

[PEH – lin – koh – vahts]



WHAT IS IT? A bittersweet herbal liqueur (since 1862)

PRODUCER Badel 1862 d.d., Croatia

THE STORY Its creation is credited to Franjo Pokorny, the founder of the Pokorny company which was the predecessor to Badel 1862. Its oldest form, now known as Antique, was first sold exclusively in pharmacies as a "digestive elixir". This was the result of a belief that wormwood (Artemisia absinthium), its main ingredient, purified the blood and provided digestive benefits. Over time, Pelinkovac has achieved the status of one of the largest national alcoholic beverage exports. Today, it is exported to numerous European countries and the United States of America.

TRADITION On the coast of the Adriatic, Pelinkovac is typically served pure as an aperitif or digestif, with ice and lemon as the sole additions. However, we also urge you to try "Strukani Pelinkovac", a mixture of Pelinkovac and freshly squeezed lemon juice. Throw in a few ice cubes and enjoy yourself. Cheers!

Also, the locals use Pelinkovac to treat stomach issues. Shhh! It's our little secret. Don't tell anyone about it!

FUN FACTS

- Pelinkovac was the first Croatian drink served in the court of Napoleon III of France.
- During World War II, the original recipe for Pelinkovac was lost under mysterious circumstances, but it was unexpectedly rediscovered at the beginning of the 21st century. This original recipe has since been known only to Badel's master distiller, and as such it remains one of Croatia's best kept secrets, surrounded by stories of intrigue.

More info at www.badel1862.hr

02

VEGETA

[veh – GEH – tah]



WHAT IS IT? A combination of spices and dried vegetables, Vegeta has served as an inspiration in Croatian kitchens for decades. Whatever you are preparing, whether it is meat, vegetables, stews, roasts, simple dishes or culinary delights – Vegeta will inspire your creativity.

PRODUCER Podravka d.d., Croatia

THE STORY In 1959, the world met a doll named Barbie for the first time at a New York toy fair; meanwhile, in Croatia, a different kind of star was born. The culinary beauty Vegeta would soon conquer the world and become a global brand. Several Croatian generations were raised on a tv culinary show displaying recipes, each ending with "...i jedna žlica Vegete" ("...and one spoon of Vegeta"). It was a campaign that everyone over 30 remembers and a strategy many still use as an integral part of their cooking.

TRADITION Prior to preparing meat or fish, just richly sprinkle both sides with Vegeta. Add Vegeta to cooked and stewed dishes (soups, sauces, rice, vegetables, etc.) five minutes before finishing. One spoon of Vegeta (3 g) is recommended for 250 ml (1 serving). Use it wisely whenever you want to wow your guests!

FUN FACT Vegeta has also been on Tik Tok since 2023, where its followers also promoted it as the perfect fit for popcorn and pancakes, as well as something that can also be used in craft ideas that have nothing to do with the kitchen (zen garden, edible candles, kinetic sand, etc.). For the third year in a row, it has been the number one food additive in Europe, confirmed by Nielsen for 2023. Somewhere in the world every second, Vegeta makes more than 250 dishes tastier. Namely, every year over 8 billion teaspoons of Vegeta are added to a variety of dishes around the world. Today, it is present in more than 60 countries and can be found on five continents.

More info at www.vegeta.com

03

KALODONT

[kah – loh – DOHNT]



WHAT IS IT? A toothpaste (since 1929)

PRODUCER Saponia d.d., Croatia

THE STORY One of Saponia's signature products, Kalodont, predates the company itself. Namely, Saponia's predecessor, the Schiht company, started the production of Kalodont in 1922. Its name is a tribute to a toothpaste of the same name originally produced in Austria-Hungary at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Saponia stopped production of Kalodont in 1992, during the Homeland War, but the beloved product returned to the stores in 2012.

TRADITION Kalodont's popularity was so great that the brand's name has become a synonym for all toothpaste throughout the nations of the former Yugoslavia.

FUN FACT The name Kalodont has spawned a game of the same name, sometimes also referred to as kaladont. Two or more players take turns saying random words. The only rule is that the first two letters of each new word must be the same as the last two of the preceding word (letters in Croatian alphabet). The game ends when the next player can't continue the string of words. One of the winning words is kalodont, since there are no words in Croatian which start with the letters "nt".

More info at www.saponia.hr

04

FAKS HELIZIM

[FAHCKS HELL – izz – im]



WHAT IS IT? A laundry detergent (since 1968)

PRODUCER Saponia d.d., Croatia

THE STORY The production of Faks Helizim started in 1968. It was a revolutionary product in this part of the world because it was the first to contain enzymes which ensured that the laundry was thoroughly washed. On top of that, the enzymes in question made it possible to wash the laundry at a lower temperature while using less water.

TRADITION Faks Helizim has been a commonplace item in every Croatian household's cleaning arsenal for 55 years. Its decades-old tradition and proven reliability have made it the number one choice for Croats.

FUN FACT Faks Helizim was initially packaged in a small box. However, the original packaging was changed to a cloth bag which held 3 kg (6 lb 9 oz). The cloth bag packaging was extremely popular among the Croatian housewives, who re-used it for other purposes, such as making dishcloths.

More info at www.saponia.hr

05

BORBOLETA

[Bore – boh – LEH – tah]



WHAT IS IT? A thread bracelet adorned with various meaningful symbols (since 2012)

PRODUCER Borboleta d.o.o., Croatia

THE STORY Borboleta Jewelry was created in 2012 as a not only an elegant addition to one's style, but also as a symbolic reflection of their moods and wishes. For instance, the brand's original and most recognisable motif – the butterfly – represents the feelings of lightness and joy.

Other popular motifs are the heart, which stands for love; the clover – a lucky charm, the star – a symbol of wish-fulfilment; the angel – symbolising a guardian angel's protection.

TRADITION Yet to be established...

FUN FACT Borboleta Jewelry is worn by high-profile celebrities such as actress Jennifer Aniston and media personality Paris Hilton. Other famous women from the world of fashion who have added Borboleta Jewelry to their personal collections include Miroslava Duma and Lena Perminova, as well as Kendall Jenner.

More info at www.borboleta.co

06

RUNOLIST

[RUGH – noh – leest]



WHAT IS IT? A chocolate bar (since the late 1970s)

PRODUCER Kraš d.d., Croatia

THE STORY In the late 1970s, Josip Kraš, the Kraš company founder and CEO, revolutionised the chocolate industry by releasing the Kraš Mini chocolate bar packs. These consisted of bite-sized chocolate bars, wrapped individually and put into a standard-sized chocolate bar packaging. The most popular of the flavours from the Mini packs was Runolist, the alpine milk chocolate. Unfortunately, Runolist was eventually discontinued, but Kraš reissued it periodically. Finally, Kraš permanently reissued Runolist in 2019, this time as a standard-sized chocolate bar. However, this format can only be found in Kraš retail stores.

TRADITION Whenever Runolist was reissued, all the national newspapers would announce it, since many Croats have a special fondness for Runolist Mini packs because they remind them of their childhood and youth.

FUN FACT The name Runolist comes from the Croatian name for the edelweiss, a mountain flower native to the Alps. It serves as a reference to the Alpine milk.

More info at <https://www.kras.hr>

07

KRAVATA

[crah – VAAH – tah]



WHAT IS IT? A tie

PRODUCER Croata d.o.o., Croatia (since 1990)

THE STORY The original *kravata* first appeared as part of the uniforms worn by Croatian mercenaries who fought for the French king Louis XIII in the Thirty Years' War. This fashion detail caught the king's eye when the Croatian troops were presented to him at court. Its name stems from the French name for Croats – le Croate.

TRADITION Since the French adopted the *kravata*, it gradually overtook the world of fashion as an obligatory accessory when it comes to formal attire. As a result, the tradition of wearing a *kravata* has transcended the national boundaries of its origin.

FUN FACT The largest *kravata* in the world – 808 m (2,650 ft) long – was made by the Academia Cravatica organisation. It was tied around the amphitheatre in the Croatian city of Pula on 18 October 2003. That date has since been celebrated as International Necktie Day.

More info at www.croata.hr

08

LINO LADA

[LEE – noh LAAH – dah]



WHAT IS IT? A chocolate cream spread (since 1998)

PRODUCER Podravka d.d., Croatia

THE STORY Lino Lada cream is Croatia's favourite sweet spread, with a tradition dating back to 1998. The first flavour in the product line was the bicolour spread Duo. Since then, Podravka has spoiled the loyal Lino Lada fans with a selection of five different flavours. Even though the Lino Lada Duo remains the most popular choice for consumers. Today, Lino Lada is exported to more than 30 markets around the world.

TRADITION From 1998 till today Lino Lada has constantly expanded its product portfolio and offers 13 different packaging options. In 2018 the "queen of flavours" was born – Lino Lada Gold, a chocolate spread with 16% hazelnut content and chopped hazelnuts. Cream spread fans were quick to accept it, and immediately after its launch, the spread was awarded the Product of the Year award, the Superior Taste award and, later on, the highest Crystal Taste award.

FUN FACTS Zlatko Dalić, the coach of the national football team of Croatia, served as the ambassador of then-new Lino Lada Gold flavour after the team's success at the 2018 FIFA World Cup. For that reason, in this football year 2024, the value of the Lino Lada brand is further heightened by the new brand ambassador, world renowned Croatian football player, Luka Modrić.

Whichever flavour you choose, you cannot go wrong :)

More info at <https://www.linolada.hr>

TAKE YOUR PICK!

ONE OR ALL OF THEM

Lino Lada

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ADRIATIC LUXURY HOTELS
Hotel Information

HOTEL EXCELSIOR DUBROVNIK

Dubrovnik's iconic Hotel Excelsior is one of the finest luxury five-star hotels in the Mediterranean. Overlooking the island of Lokrum and the Old Town of Dubrovnik, the hotel offers an outstanding location, understated elegance, and incomparable charm. Enjoying a rich 100-plus year history, the Hotel Excelsior has a long-standing reputation and loyal client base, having played host to some of the world's greatest performers and royalty.
ACCOMMODATION: 139 rooms and 19 suites
DINING: three restaurants and one bar
CONFERENCE FACILITIES: six multifunctional rooms for up to 650 people
WELLNESS AND RECREATION: Energy Clinic spa and beauty centre; beach

HOTEL BELLEVUE DUBROVNIK

Completely refurbished and opened in Spring 2019, Hotel Bellevue re-emerged as an icon of private boutique luxury and design. It prides itself on its chic style, attracting a younger, funkier, and more design-savvy clientele to the city of Dubrovnik. Perched 30m above the picturesque Miramare Bay, nestled in a sandy cove overlooking the Adriatic Sea, the Hotel Bellevue sets a new standard for Croatian properties, attracting the most discerning and affluent visitors.
ACCOMMODATION: 77 rooms and 14 suites
DINING: two restaurants and two bars
CONFERENCE FACILITIES: two meeting rooms for up to 140 people
WELLNESS AND RECREATION: Energy Clinic spa and beauty centre; pebble beach

HOTEL SUPETAR CAVTAT

Housed in an original 1920s three-storey private villa which was built on the remains of the ancient settlement of Epidaurum, after a complete renovation, Hotel Supetar opened in summer 2022 emerging as a boutique, heritage property in the very heart of the charming historic center of Cavtat, a typical Dalmatian seaside town with harmonious architecture. The hotel is just steps away from the beach and offers guests a more intimate setting to enjoy their Adriatic vacation. Old Town Dubrovnik is a pleasant 20-minute drive away.
ACCOMMODATION: 16 rooms
DINING: restaurant and wine bar

OPENING 2024

THE SUPETAR RESIDENCE

Housed within the time-honoured walls of a historic Dalmatian villa, just a stone's throw from Cavtat's enchanting waterfront promenade, the five-bedroom residence is tucked among the picturesque terracotta roofs of the little village, offering complete serenity and relaxation. A compact fitness room, a spacious living room and an intimate dining area invite you to relax and soak in the ambience.

VILLA AGAVE

Recognised as the best way to experience the ancient and luxurious city of Dubrovnik, Villa Agave is one of the most exclusive villas on the Mediterranean. With an atmosphere of relaxation, comfort, and informality, Villa Agave is a three-bedroom, 270 m² summer house overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Surrounded by five terraces, Villa Agave offers exceptional privacy and breathtaking views across the bay of the Old Town of Dubrovnik and the Island of Lokrum.

OPENING 2025

GRAND VILLA ARGENTINA

Undergoing extensive renovation, the new Grand Villa Argentina, will boast the renowned Mediterranean gardens of the original property, al fresco dining with endless sea views, an expansive spa area with a dreamy outdoor pool area and spacious decks overlooking the sea and the Old Town.

Grand Villa Argentina with its neighboring heritage properties, Villa Orsula and Villa Glavić is set to undergo a complete renovation and refurbishment with a plan to open in 2025.

HOTEL DUBROVNIK PALACE

Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, a luxury five-star resort is revered for its multi-faceted approach to lavish holiday escapes. It offers a full range of activities and facilities for couples and business travellers. Celebrated as Europe's finest five-star resort for 2011, the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace was also the proud winner of two World Travel Awards for two consecutive years – Croatia's Leading Hotel and Croatia's Leading Spa Resort. Its wellness and spa centre, conference rooms, superb gastronomy, and spectacular terraces with breathtaking sea views make it the first choice for a memorable, luxurious stay.
ACCOMMODATION: 271 rooms and 37 suites
DINING: four restaurants and three bars

CONFERENCE FACILITIES: eleven conference and meeting rooms for up to 750 people
WELLNESS AND RECREATION: Energy Clinic spa and beauty centre, three outdoor swimming pools, PADI diving centre, tennis court, beach, jogging paths and walking routes.

HOTEL CROATIA CAVTAT

Located a pleasant 20-minute drive from historic Old Town Dubrovnik, near the picturesque town of Cavtat, Hotel Croatia Cavtat is the leading 5-star resort and conference hotel on the southern Adriatic. Built to demanding specifications allowing Hotel Croatia to blend seamlessly with its natural surroundings, it is the ideal destination for relaxation or business. The hotel serves as a convenient base for exploring Dubrovnik, the crown jewel of the Adriatic.
ACCOMMODATION: 480 rooms and 7 suites
DINING: four restaurants, three bars, night club
CONFERENCE FACILITIES: ten conference and meeting rooms for up to 850 people
WELLNESS AND RECREATION: Energy Clinic wellness and spa centre, beach, outdoor swimming pool

HOTEL KOMPAS DUBROVNIK

4-star charming Kompas is located in the most peaceful and calm neighbourhood of Dubrovnik, the beautiful Lapad Bay. Less than 4 km from the Old Town city centre - away from summer crowds, Hotel Kompas enjoys one of the best positions in Dubrovnik. Thanks to its proximity to the sea and the beach, its ideal location in a quiet area, hotel Kompas has become one of the most popular places to spend summer holidays in Dubrovnik.
ACCOMMODATION: 170 rooms and 3 suites
DINING: Sphere Restaurant & Lounge Bar and Zenith bar
CONFERENCE FACILITIES: conference room for up to 400 people
WELLNESS AND RECREATION: Energy Clinic wellness and spa centre, outdoor and indoor swimming pool

HOTEL ODISEJ MLJET

Hotel Odisej is a three-star hotel in the heart of the Mljet National Park, on the Island of Mljet. It is a perfect place for nature enthusiasts, history buffs; those who like to explore the myths of ancient times or scuba diving fans. If you are looking for a secluded island retreat, where time stands still, the island of Mljet makes a perfect choice.
ACCOMMODATION: 153 rooms and two suites
DINING: two restaurants and two bars
WELLNESS AND RECREATION: Children's swimming pool; fitness studio; hiking and biking trails; diving centre

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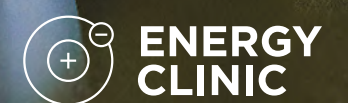
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