

Central Croatia

Castles with a view



COUNTRY MANORS *have always left some mysterious and foreign impression on all who look upon them. It is as though a breath of unfathomable mystery, stemming from the constant change in human life, hangs over every old home.*
Ksaver Šandor Đalski

COVER: Trakošćan, castle of the Drašković family from the 16th century, adapted into the neo-Gothic style in 1855. The castle sits upon a hill in the midst of a park with a lake - the paradigm of romanticism and nostalgia for a lost past.

Drago Jurak: *City in a frame*, 1979



- 1 TUROPOLJE ST. GEORGE'S DAY, Velika Gorica, www.tzzz.hr
- 2 PETAR ZRINSKI AND FRAN KRSTO FRANKOPAN, Vrbovec, www.tzzz.hr
- 3 ANDAUTONIJA DAYS, Ščitarjevo near Velika Gorica, www.andautonia.com
- 4 MISCHIEF, Kalnik, www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr
- 5 MOSLAVINA BY BICYCLE, www.turizam-kutina.hr
- 6 WILLOW AND FISH DAYS, Kotoriba, www.kotoriba.hr
- 7 WINE FAIR, Kutina, www.turizam-kutina.hr
- 8 ZRINSKI DAYS, Čakovec, www.medjimurska-zupanija.hr, www.tzm.hr
- 9 SQUIRE'S FAIR, Dubovac, www.tzkhz.hr
- 10 VINODAR WINE FESTIVAL, Daruvar, www.bj-sajam.hr
- 11 KRIŽEVCI VELIKO SPRAVIŠĆE, Križevci, www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr
- 12 MIDDLE AGES IN HRVATSKO ZAGORJE, Gornja Stubica, www.viteski-turnir.com
- 13 SISAK KNIGHT'S TOURNAMENT, Sisak, www.sisakturist.com
- 14 VARAŽDIN HISTORICAL FESTIVITIES, Varaždin, www.turizam-vzz.hr
- 15 STORK FESTIVAL, Čigoč, www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr
- 16 DESCENT OF THE MURA BOATS, Sveti Martin na Muri, www.tz-sv-martin.hr
- 17 MARIA THERESE DAYS, Bjelovar, www.tzbbz.hr
- 18 FAIRY TALE FESTIVAL, Ogulin, www.tzkhz.hr
- 19 LOVRAK CULTURE DAYS, Veliki Grđevac, www.tzbbz.hr
- 20 MADERKIN BREG, www.tic-strigova.hr
- 21 ST. JOHN'S BONFIRE, Karlovac, www.tzkhz.hr
- 22 MOTOCROSS ON THE COURSE NEXT TO HOTEL VILA GARIĆ, Podgarić, www.tzbbz.hr
- 23 NOVLIJANSKO LAKE, www.novska.hr
- 24 LEGEND OF THE CHICKENS, Đurđevac, www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr
- 25 PODRAVINA MOTIFS, Koprivnica, www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr
- 26 DUGA RESA DAYS, Duga Resa, www.tzkhz.hr
- 27 CARLSTADT FESTIVAL, Karlovac, www.karlovac-touristinfo.hr
- 28 POOLSIDE SUMMER, Topusko, www.turizam-kutina.hr
- 29 MINER'S GRUB DAY, Samobor, www.tz-samobor.hr
- 30 POSAVAC, Sunja, www.sunja.hr
- 31 HARVEST FESTIVITIES - DOŽINKY, Daruvar, www.tzbbz.hr
- 32 INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL, Zagreb, www.msf.hr
- 33 LETOVANIĆ, VILLAGE ON THE KUPA RIVER, Letovanić, www.turizam-smz.com
- 34 TABOR FILM FESTIVAL, Veliki Tabor, Desinić, www.taborfilmfestival.com
- 35 HARVEST FESTIVITIES, Zaprešić, www.tzzz.hr
- 36 COMMAND UNDER THE LINDEN TREE, Čazma, www.cazma.hr
- 37 TEN DAYS OF SVETA NEDJELJA, www.tz-ludbreg.hr
- 38 NOBILITY DAYS, Gornja Rijeka, www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr
- 39 SUMMER IN THE ZRINSKI'S TOWN, Čakovec, www.tzm.hr
- 40 CHEESE DAYS, Rakovica, www.tzkhz.hr
- 41 FISH DAYS ON THE DRAVA RIVER, Sveta Marija, www.prelog.hr
- 42 PILGRIMAGE TO MARIJA BISTRICA, Marija Bistrica, www.tz-zagorje.hr
- 43 ST. LAURENCE'S DAY, www.tzg-petrinja.hr
- 44 EXHIBITION FAIR, Slunj, www.tzkhz.hr
- 45 WHAT OUR ELDERS ATE, Vrbovec, August, www.tzzz.hr
- 46 KARLOVAC BEER DAYS, www.tzkhz.hr
- 47 CROATIAN PERFORMANCE DAYS, Varaždin, www.tourism-varazdin.com
- 48 TABOR UNDER TABOR, Veliki Tabor, Desinić, www.tz-zagorje.hr
- 49 ŠPANCIRFEST, Varaždin, www.spancirfest.com
- 50 AUTUMN IN THE COURTYARD, Duga Resa, www.tzkhz.hr
- 51 VOLODER AUTUMN, Voloder, www.turizam-smz.hr
- 52 BJELOVAR FAIR, Bjelovar-Gudovac, www.tzbbz.hr
- 53 RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL, Koprivnica, www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr
- 54 GASTRO TUROPOLJE, Velika Gorica, www.tzvg.hr
- 55 KRAPJE, VILLAGE OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE, Krapje, www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr
- 56 VARAŽDIN BAROQUE EVENINGS, Varaždin, www.vbv.hr
- 57 LEPOGLAVA LACE, Lepoglava, www.lepoglava-info.hr
- 58 SAMOBOR MUSICAL AUTUMN, Samobor, www.sgj.pousamobor.hr
- 59 MUSHROOM PICKER'S EVENING, Duga Resa, www.tzkhz.hr

- 1 ST. GEORGE'S DAY, announces spring
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 AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

31 every other year 41 44 42 39 37 40 46 begins the final weekend in August and lasts ten days 58 51 52 55 50 54 35 40 38 weekend before the Feast of the Assumption 45 final weekend of August 56 57 58 59 53 second weekend 28 47

VICTORY AND HOMELAND THANKSGIVING
 International Youth Day
 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY, mead, gingerbread and votive candles
 Stork Day
 BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY, (lopač) (cane-crows) are placed in the vineyards
 NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, grape harvest is prepared
 Vanaččin County Day
 World Ozone Layer Protection Day
 BEGINNING OF AUTUMN
 International Cultural Heritage Day
 World Tourism Day
 City of Bjelovar day
 ST. MICHAEL'S DAY, end of the harvest is celebrated
 International Habitat Protection Day
 INDEPENDENCE DAY
 International Animal Protection Day
 Harvest Thanksgiving Day
 International Walking Day
 World Food Day
 ST. LUKE'S DAY, garlic and onions are planted
 WORLD APPLE DAY

Central Croatia
Castles with a view





Pack



Edo Murtić: *Gray Day*, 1974.

CENTRAL CROATIA

The word *tourist* was mentioned by Antun Nemčić Gostovinski, author of the book *Putositnice (Travel bits)* published way back in 1845. As a wanderer and a writer, he introduced this term for all those like him, heading out on tours. In this imaginary circle, the new age traveller passes by houses, vineyards, rolling hills and chapels on hilltops. He sits in a train pulled by a steam engine and, through the window, absorbs the landscape through which the train draws its course with coal, like in a sketch. It is twilight and the first lights of a large town appear in the distance. But if that were only an image, a man would gladly stop before it, if he were not already a part of it. But where to turn at the crossroads? If this passerby were to fly overhead in some lightweight plane made by famous local constructor Rudolf Fizir ♡, he would be overwhelmed by the rhythm of the wealth of alternation, meeting places, places of arrival and departure. The wanderer always feels welcome here, thanks to the warm hospitality of the host who is equally familiar with the call of distance and the warmth of home. Since long ago, many significant excursion areas have been known here; a combination of kind hospitality and pleasant formal courtesy, when one went into company dressed formally with

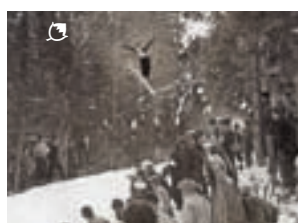


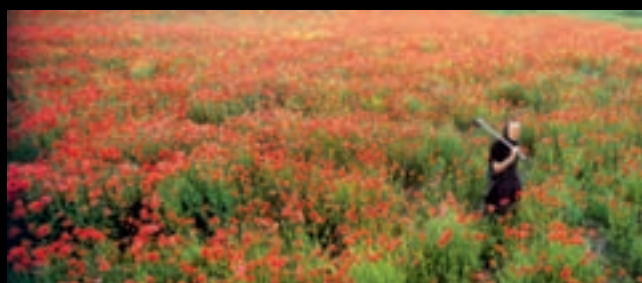
a tie. And these came to be right here, in nearby Turopolje. Here, the host and guest are a harmonious pair. It is no surprise that this area created the famed character of the wanderer with his pack, the one who leaves because he must, and the one who comes to explore the corners here, the picturesqueness and silence. Facts say that it is true that the wanderer Charlie Chaplin signed the guest book at the famed Horvat Villa in the village of Plešivica, between Jastrebarsko and Samobor ♣, leaving a star trail here, like a wizard behind whom a whirlwind of golden sparkles whirls.

♣ Sisak
 ♣ Varaždin



∩ The train *Samoborček* in Croatia's most loved film *Tko pjeva, zlo ne misli* (eng. *Who sings can think no evil*) by director Krešo Golik.
 * Karlo Drašković: *The Jump of Stjepan Erdödy*, 1895
 ☼ Ski jumping on Mt. Sljeme in the 1920s
 ♣ Maksimir Park, one of the first public parks in the world (1843), is still today a beautiful part of Zagreb.
 † Penkala's airplane, 1908





- Centrum mundi** 4 Central Croatia is a region situated at the crossroads of historical and modern paths and along the river courses. The warm hospitality and the symbol of the centre of the entire world is the happy phantasm town of Ludbreg. Laughter, shenanigans and welcomes, the openness and kindness of the people of this region.
- Smiles** 5
- Entertainment
- Mischief** 6
- Invitation
- Welcome** 7



- A walk through the year** 8 I walk through the year, towards the ancient myth and Green George closes the circle: awakening the sleepy land, spurring the wheat to ripen and the harvest of the autumn fruits, particularly grapes, and the making of wine that will be on the table when the winter fairy tale begins.
- Spring
- Jarilo** 9
- Summer
- Bonfires** 10
- Autumn
- Black and white** 11
- Winter
- Train in the snow** 12



- Green ring** 13 Virtually every city is circled by a natural green ring, within which lie significant historical sites and a concentration of creative potential and local ethnography. The people here, inspired by their imaginations, are turning the green ring into a crown of excellence.
- Croatian Renaissance** 14
- Masters
- Gingerbread hearts** 15
- Optimist
- Baltazar** 16

- Croatian region** 17 Looking out from a viewing point or an old abandoned mine shaft, riding a boat, walking through a flower-filled meadow, skiing the snow covered slopes or visiting an unusual place along the banks of a river from which gold was extracted until recently – this is a Croatian region.
- Croatian Lands
- Pyramids
- Viewing points** 18
- Decoration
- Miner's garden** 19
- Song filled valleys and fragrant hills
- Birds
- Nests** 20
- Flowers
- Magical carpet** 21
- Coloured gardens and mysterious forests
- Rainbow
- Perun's arrow** 22
- Imagination
- Stribor's Forest** 23
- Rocky heights and calm rivers
- Stories
- Witches' wheel** 24
- Sparkling
- The Goldsmith's Gold** 25
- Gentle hills and clear rapids
- Hill
- Scarecrow** 26
- Water
- Jana** 27
- Snowy slopes and hot baths
- Janica
- Snow queen** 28
- Thermal springs
- Aquae** 29
- Tranquil waters and wild paths
- Fish
- Blue-green** 30
- Paths
- Ochre** 31



Tale of long ago 32

Nobility

Fortresses

Legen grad 33

Castle

Baroque cake 34

Piano

Watercolours 35

Church

Sanctuaries

Jesus and Mary 36

Parish feasts

Valley of the Cardinals 37

Paulists

Ranger's path 38

Village

Folklore

Run Janko 39

Table

Cheese and cream 40

Naïve Art

Hlebīne 41

City

Statutes

Free royal city 42

Salon

Lute 43

Kremšnita

Štrukle 44

Like a Romanesque painting overflowing with detail, the ruins of an old town, a castle in the distance from which soft music can be heard and where something homemade is on the table for a bite before lunch. After mass or the feast day celebration, it is worthwhile taking a moment to collect our thoughts, to remember the scenes and transform it into a painting. The painting will be on the wall of a modest house or ballroom, to connect the distant past and present.

Magic crystals 45

Hubertus 46

Yuletide

Christmas tales 47

Dance

Brilliant ball 48

A walk through a year is marked by labour, simple piety and anticipation, from the start of the year (which we measure by the calendar) to its end; this is actually a combination of a nostalgic walk through history with the present.



In the clearing 49

Pisanica 50

Kukavica

Zeleni lug 51

Potkova

Petrica Kerempuh 52

Regardless of whether the landscape at the end of the circle will again be decorated with frost and the interiors with coloured lights, it all sparkles like the sun-bathed shoots on the branches in spring in the equinox, when long ago, the pre-Croats celebrated the New Year.

County of hidden charms

Bjelovar-Bilogora County



Bjelovar-Bilogora County is the easternmost county of central Croatia. It mostly stretches through the Lonja and Čazma River valleys and is surrounded by the hills of Bilogora, Mt. Papuk and Moslavačke gore. This is a gently hilly region with river valleys cut into the gravel-clay plains. Settlements are primarily lowland and often tie into one another, forming a series of long villages along the roads, extending several kilometres in length. The county stands out for its great ethnic diversity, which contributes to its cultural wealth. The county seat, Bjelovar, is one of our youngest towns. It was established in the mid 18th century as a military-border centre, with a grid layout of its streets around a large central square. Important cultural and historical monuments surround the square: the Baroque parish Church of St. Theresa, the town museum, military barracks and more. Čazma is an old settlement of great historical significance, particularly seen in the preserved Čazma Kaptol with its fantastic and lovely Church of St. Mary Magdalene. Daruvar was an important settlement back in Roman times, thanks to the hot springs found here. The bathing – medical function of the town was restored in the second half of the 18th century, when Count Antun Janković erected a one-story manor with park and bathing building. Daruvar is the centre of the Czech minority in Croatia.

County of clear rivers

Karlovac County



Karlovac County covers the southwestern part of central Croatia – the Karlovac Pokuplje region, Kordun with the western part of the Petrova gora mountains, the southwestern part of the Žumberak mountains and the Potkapela Valley as well as stretching into the mountainous Gorski Kotar area. The majority of the county is poorly cultivated and poorly inhabited karst terrain, though rich in natural and cultural sights of interest. The seat of the county is Karlovac – the city on four rivers. The city was established in 1579 as a typical Renaissance town with fortresses in the shape of a six-sided star and a regular grid pattern of streets within. In the 18th and 19th centuries, this was an important trading town and, from the end of the 19th century, Karlovac developed into an industrial and administrative centre. Ogulin is the main town in the Potkapela Valley. It was established in the 16th century as an important fortress of the Frankopan family above the chasms of the Dobra River (including Đulin ponor), under the picturesque Mt. Klek and in place of the old and destroyed fortress of Modruš. The towns of Slunj, Ozalj, Ribnik and others developed on the high plateaus above the rivers surrounding the medieval burghs. The water mill village Rastoka near Slunj is an attractive tourism destination, with the Slunjčica River flowing and falling over travertine barriers into the Korana River.

County of good traditions

Koprivnica-Križevci County



Koprivnica-Križevci County is situated in the northeastern part of central Croatia. It is made up of the Drava River lowlands and terraces and the hills of Bilogora and Kalnička gora. The county seat of Koprivnica evolved where these natural entities meet. The town received the status of a free royal town in 1356 and was fortified in the 16th century due to threat of Turkish attack. Today, only remnants remain of the fortifications, with a spacious park found here instead. The cultural heritage of the town mostly dates back to the Baroque and the 19th century period and is well preserved. The Koprivnica town museum holds valuable archaeological and ethnographical collections. Today, Koprivnica is the cultural centre of Bilogorska Podravina and one of the most important industrial centres of Croatia, having so developed due to its favourable position at the crossroads of important routes. Križevci received the status of a free royal town in 1253 and was one of the most important towns in central Croatia in the Middle Ages. Among the numerous cultural and historical monuments, the oldest is the former parish Church of the Holy Cross from the 14th century. The city is also known for its *Križevci Statuti*, written rules of how to conduct oneself in company and at the table.

A County of national traditions

Krapina-Zagorje County



Krapina-Zagorje County includes the southern part of Hrvatsko Zagorje between the Medvednica, Kalnik, Ivančica, Strahinčica and Maceljsko gorje mountains and the Sutla River. This is a hilly region, with the Krapina River flowing through the middle. The county is densely populated though settlements are generally small and scattered about, while the larger towns formed only in the river valleys. The largest town is Krapina, the country centre in the Krapinčica River valley. This town is known for the world renowned find of Palaeolithic Neanderthal man, on display in the Museum of Evolution. In the centre of town is the birth house of Ljudevit Gaj, the father of the Croatian National Renaissance. Zagorje is well known for its hot springs (Stubičke, Krapinske, Tuheljske, Sutinske), old towns (Krapina, Oštrc, Belecgrad, Loborgrad, Cesargrad, Konjščina...), castles and manors (Veliki Tabor, Bedekovčina, Oroslavlje, Miljana, Bežanec...), churches and other monuments that bear witness to the rich cultural history of this region. Here we find the loveliest example of Baroque church architecture in Croatia, the Church of St. Mary of the Snow in Belec. Marija Bistrica is the capital of Croatia's pilgrimage tourism.

County of first-class wines

Međimurje County



Međimurje County is Croatia's northernmost county. It covers the area between the Drava and Mura Rivers and the Croatian-Slovenian border which, in the west, lies on the Međimurske gorice mountains, an extension of the Slovenske gorice mountains. Međimurje can be divided into two parts based on the characteristics of the natural environment and social factors: the upper hilly region and the lower lowland region. Upper Međimurje is poorly settled with many, small villages scattered about the hills, while the settlements in Lower Međimurje are closer together, more densely populated and better linked in terms of roads. An increasing number of families, particularly in Upper Međimurje, are turning towards the development of rural tourism which in turn has facilitated the development of wine-growing and wine-making. Međimurje wines are among the best quality wines in Croatia. The development of rural tourism is further aided by a good network of wine roads, while the national traditions and old crafts have not been neglected. The county seat is Čakovec, a town that lies where the two natural entities meet. In addition to being an important industrial centre, Čakovec is also an important centre for tourism and recreation.

County of ecological particularities

Sisak-Moslavina County



Sisak-Moslavina County is made up of the lowland and floodplain areas along the Sava River and is bounded by hills: Vukomeričke gorice, Moslavačka gora, Petrova gora and the hilly region of Banovina with Zrinska gora. The lowest area is Lonjsko polje, a nature park rich in bird species and known far and wide for its specific architecture: the Posavina wooden house (village Krapje). The village Čigoč has been proclaimed the European Village of the Stork. Among the particularities are the protected ornithological reserve Krapje dol, Rakita and Dražiblato, the Đon wetland botanical reserve and the Kotar–Stari Gaj forest park. Grape-growing is widespread on the hills of Vukomeričke gorice and Moslavačka gora. Voloderska Autumn, the ceremonious grape harvest and preparation of the wine, is the best known wine-related event here. The county centre of Sisak was a settlement back in Celtic and Roman times, as can be seen by the numerous archaeological finds here. The 16th century saw the construction of a fortress which would later be the site of the famous battle against the Turks in 1593. Petrinja is the economic and cultural centre of Banovina and has a developed meat industry. This is where Croatia's first teacher's school was established.

County of Baroque brilliance

Varaždin County



Varaždin County is one of the most densely populated parts of Croatia. The county covers the area between the Drava River to the north and the Strahinčica, Ivančica and Kalničko gorje mountains to the south. It is made up of the Varaždin and Ludbreg Posavina areas and the northern part of Hrvatsko Zagorje in the Bednje River basin. Numerous remnants and monuments from pre-historic times (Vindija cave and Mačkova cave near Ivanec, protected as palaeontological monuments), anti Quity (Varaždinske Toplice thermal springs, Petrijanec...), medieval (burgs: Vinica, Pusta Bela, Kneginec...) and more recent periods (castles: Trakošćan, Maruševec, Klenovnik, Martijanec, Ludbreg...) bear witness to the long history of settlement in this region. The county seat, Varaždin, is situated where the terraces of the Drava River meet the lowlands. Though the city was first mentioned in the 12th century, it experienced its greatest development from the 16th to 18th centuries, when numerous palaces and other Baroque structures were built (the Baroque city). The central city square that has been excellently preserved, the old fortress and cemetery, protected as a horticultural monument, are particularly valuable. The rich cultural calendar includes the Varaždin Baroque Evenings, the International Wind Orchestra Festival and many other events.

The dynamic county

Zagreb County



Zagreb County is made up of a ring of cities and municipalities surrounding the city of Zagreb, in the Sava River lowlands or surrounding mountains (Žumberačka gora, Medvednica, Marijagoričko pobrđe and others). The largest city in the county is Velika Gorica. In the town centre we find Turopoljski grad, a structure from the 18th century which was once the seat of the Noble Municipality of Turopolje and is now home to the Turopolje Museum. Samobor is the most attractive tourist destination in the county and is the cradle of Croatian alpinism (the first hiking excursion to the Samoborsko gorje mountains was taken in 1875). The Šmidhen tourism and recreation centre with its swimming pools, the old town core, the City Museum, parish church and events such as the Samobor *Fašnik* (Carnival) and the oldtimer rally are only a small part of the wealth of sights to see in Samobor. The Samobor *kremšnita* (cream custard pie) is known among dessert lovers far and wide. Cultural and historical monuments within the county include the ruins of Andautonija, the most important settlement of antiquity in the Zagreb area (at Ščitarjevo); numerous churches and fortresses (Okić Žumberak, Zelinograd, Vrbovec...) and castles and manors (Jastrebarsko, Januševac, Laduč, Novi dvori, Kerestinec...). Natural monuments include the Žumberak nature reserve and the Crna Mlaka ornithological reserve.



An intimate metropolis

Zagreb



Vladimir Kirin: *Dolac Market*, 1938

CENTRAL CROATIA, City of Zagreb, 3

The City of Zagreb is situated under Mt. Medvednica, where it stretches into the Sava River Valley, the crossroads of all important transport routes in Croatia. Since the 19th century, after construction of highly significant roads in this area, the city developed into Croatia's capital city and one of the most important in this part of Europe. Due to its rich cultural and natural heritage, Zagreb is the most important tourist destination in continental Croatia. The medieval town cores of Gradec [♠] and Kaptol [♣] are the most attractive sights in the city, with countless cultural and historical monuments (Church of St. Mark, Church of St. Catharine, Cathedral, the *Kamenita vrata*—stone city gates, Dverce, Lotrščak Tower and more). Under these town cores, the Lower Town developed in the 19th century with its grid pattern of streets and buildings of representative architecture that now house numerous museums and galleries. The loveliest part of the Lower Town is the series of squares and parks, together with the Botanical Garden [♣], all lined up in a horseshoe shape (called Lenuci's horseshoe). In this sea of city green, Maksimir Park and its zoo and the Mirogoj cemetery are also significant, while the forested Mt. Medvednica and its protected areas (nature park, forest park reserve, Veternica cave) and restored



medieval castle Medvedgrad are of great importance to Zagreb. The green belt along Sava River, including Jarun Lake and the hippodrome, sporting fields and swimming pools provide the city with countless opportunities for sport and recreation. The ski hill on Mt. Medvednica above Zagreb is host to the World Cup in alpine skiing. Zagreb is also an important centre for congress tourism and the venue for numerous international events (Zagreb Fair, Folklore Festival, Flower Fair, film, music and theatre festivals, etc.).

* Croatian National Theatre

☞ Monument to Croatian writer and poet August Šenoa, by Marija Ujević Galetović

♡ Art Pavilion

MARIJA JURIĆ ZAGORKA DAYS, First Croatian female political journalist, one of Croatia's most popular writers, who fought for women's and worker's rights.

Zagreb, Vrbovec, 30 November
www.zenstud.hr, www.vrbovec.hr





Centrum mundi



Ivan Rabuzin, *My world*, 1959

CENTRUM MUNDI, 4

The southernmost part of central Croatia is only about 40 kilometres from the sea. Ogulin is only 70 kilometres from Novi Vinodolski and the Josefina road across the famous Mt. Modruš leads to Senj. The southeastern part of the region includes the Plitvice Lakes and the Čorkova Uvala virgin forest. The Petrova and Zrinska mountains in the east dominate Kordun and Banovina, while the border on the Una River is guarded by the Zrinski fortress. To the northeast is the Lonjsko Polje biological reserve that begins where Turopolje ends and touches upon Sisak. Sisak has been an important city since Roman times, connected with the north by the Roman road Siscia-Andautonia: its western fork leading towards the sea and Akvilea on the Adriatic coast near present day Trieste, while the northern fork headed via Aquae lassae (present day Varaždinske Toplice) to Petovio (Ptuj in Slovenia) and continued on towards the north of Europe. This fundamental communication line is also a link to Čakovec, and to an area rich in geo-ecological treasures along the Mura and Drava Rivers. Therefore, it is no surprise that the first comprehensive map of Croatia showing the central part of Croatia was already printed in 1673, charted by Stjepan Glavač of Varaždin using the measure called the



Croatian mile! The Roman and medieval, Renaissance and Napolenic roads, the rail lines from the first industrial revolution and modern roads and hubs both brought people here and led them out into the world. This region has produced many notable travellers, pilgrims and explorers such as Ivan Ratkay, the brothers Stevo and Mirko Seljan, sailors Mladen Šutej and Joža Horvat... Among the travellers, globetrotter Gjuro Husti from Rasinja made nearby Ludbreg, a town that proclaimed itself to be the centre of the world, his home base and starting and ending point for all his travels.



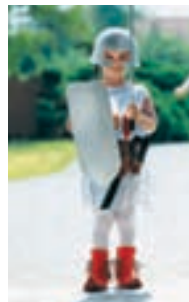
Smiles



The people of central Croatia are joyous, they love to celebrate and have fun and always find occasion to do so. They can be private, such as birthdays, weddings, celebrating personal success, anniversaries or the commemorations of certain events. For parties and holy feast days, everyone is invited to celebrate events from the past, the present, mythology or even fabricated ones – it doesn't matter! Traditions are respected here and, if necessary, they are eagerly re-established. If the re-established tradition lacks something, imagination will easily compensate! Dancing, stories, singing and music are always found around a large and plentiful table, under old rooves, under the crowns of orchards, near vineyards or in the park of a Baroque castle, next to a creek or on the banks of a river.

Zvonimir Lončarić: *Homage in images*, 1998

CENTRUM MUNDI, 5



MLADEN KERSTNER DAYS, days of comedy in the hometown of the great Croatian comedian.

Ludbreg, October
www.tz-ludbreg.hr

SAMOBOR FAŠNIK (CARNIVAL), the traditional proclamation of the Fašnik Republic.

Samobor, February
www.tz-samobor.hr

ACTING FESTIVAL
 Krapina, April
www.gfuk.hr



Entertainment
Mischief



Martin Mehkek: *Groom*, 1965

Naturally, humour, mischief and various pranks will follow you through this landscaped dappled with wine roads and when faced with a curve, either literal or metaphorical, it is necessary to react promptly to avoid unpleasantness. However, there is a long tradition of the rules of conduct in such situations, in the form of the various strict rules such as the *Križevci Statutes* from 1819, the *Koprivnica regula*, *Varaždin fureša*, *Krapina vandrčeka* and the *Ivanec smešancije*. However, perhaps the greatest curiosity in Croatian history of jokes is the establishment of *Pinta* (from the English word pint) – the Society of Wine Doctors, founded by Earl Baltazar Patačić in the Krkanac castle near Varaždin in 1694. Members were *doctors promoted to the very reputed new medical faculty*. The pint companions were obviously a merry crowd. The official language of the wine doctors was Latin, giving the impression of great learnedness.



ST. MARTIN'S DAY, traditional customs related to the celebration of St. Martin's Day. *Dugo Selo na Martin Bregu, November* www.dugoselo.hr

MISCHIEF *Kalnik, 1-4 May* www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr

CABBAGE FESTIVAL *Vidovec, October* www.turizam-uzz.hr

SAMOBOR SALAMI FESTIVAL *Samobor* www.tz-samobor.hr

OLD FIRE PUMP COMPETITION *Sveta Marija, August* www.svetamarija.hr



ŠPANCIRFEST, Street walker's festival: theatrical programme; classical, ethno and rock music; dance; old trades; street performers, musicians, actors, acrobats... *Varaždin, September* www.spancirfest.com



Invitation
Welcome



The *Fašnik* (carnival) in Samobor or the villages of Međimurje or Pokuplje, the *Terezijana* feast in Bjelovar or the *Špancirfest* in Varaždin, the *Vincekovo* of Dugo Selo and Plešivice and the Ogulin Cabbage Days with sausages and salami, the Karlovac beer festival... all are invited to participate. And hence the song from Zagorje entitled *Welcome, my friend*. Hospitality in central Croatia implies the specific and traditional fear of the host that the guest may be dissatisfied with how they were waited on, best expressed in the phrase, *Don't bear a grudge*. This phrase and a little something for the road will see every guest off on their departure.



KARLOVAC BEER DAYS, an event of food, drink and entertainment.
Karlovac, August/September (begins the final Friday in August and lasts ten days)
www.tzkz.hr



MEĐIMURJE MASKS, carnival parade with original masks.
Čakovec (and most Međimurje towns), February
www.tourism-cakovec.hr

TRADITIONAL ZAGORJE WEDDING EVENT
Kumrovec, September



JASKA WINE CELEBRATION
Jastrebarsko, September
www.tzgj.hr

EXHIBIT OF NEW WINES
Ludbreg, January
www.tz-ludbreg.hr



A Walk through the Year

There are still people who recall the dark that followed the sunset and remember the smell of wood burning in the stove. Perhaps the future of tourism here is to preserve the close ties to with nature and to offer guests a little of the simple beauties of life.



Ivan Lacković Croatia: *Four seasons*, 1973





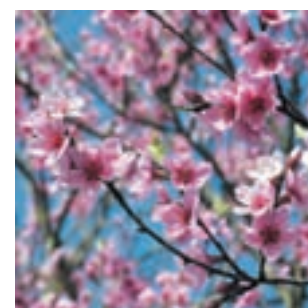
Spring Green George



One of the most interesting myths of the co-existence of man and nature in these parts is certainly that of *Jarilo* (*Zeleni Jura* or Green George in the direct translation). On the feast day of St. George on 23 April, the people developed the custom of decorating the door of their homes and stables with green branches and spring flowers. In this complex tale, spring is personified as a young man who turns the fields green as he rides his horse over them and he is followed by the people chanting, *He's come, he's come, Jarilo*. This myth is in fact a blending of early Slavic pagan mythology and the Christian legend of St. George who saves the imprisoned maiden by slaying a dragon. Jarilo brought thunderstorms and rain and broke the clouds, with a rainbow bridging land and sky. Hence the spring image of heaven on earth; it is therefore understandable why the beautiful poem by Antun Mihanović, today Croatia's national anthem, begins with a verse glorifying the beauty of the landscape, *Our beautiful homeland...*

Slavko Stolnik: *The cows return*, 1957

A WALK THROUGH THE YEAR, 9



TUROPOLJE GEORGE'S DAY, celebration of the feast day of St. George at the Lukavec Old Town. *Velika Gorica, June (about 23 June – the feast day of St. George)* www.tzvg.hr

♣ Monument to the first Croatian king, King Tomislav in Zagreb, the work of sculptor Robert Frangeš-Mihanović.



Summer Bonfire



Mirko Virius: *Harvest*, 1938

A WALK THROUGH THE YEAR, 10

Throughout central Croatia, various cultural events are held outdoors in the summer nights, an extension of the age old custom that was long nurtured in this area and has been restored as of late. Throughout the region, people would gather round a bonfire lit on Midsummer's Eve in honour of the sun at the peak of its strength. A modern version of this bonfire is certainly the fireworks festival held in Samobor. The town of Ogulin organizes various programs cloaked in local witch tales. The summer folklore festival in Zagreb is known on all the continents, as are theatre festivals such as the Histron Summer Festival and many other concert and theatrical events in the Croatian capital. In the villages around Lonjsko polje, festivals are held to commemorate European Stork Day and European Architectural Heritage Day (Čigoč, Krapje). Alongside the Catholic holidays of St. Peter and the Assumption of Mary and Annunciation of Mary, the people visit traditional pilgrimage destinations. Each regional centre, from Križevci to Bjelovar, Čakovec and Koprivnica organizes summer concerts and theatrical performances in attractive historical venues.



FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
Samobor, June
www.tzzz.hr

MIDSUMMER'S BONFIRE, traditional lighting of great bonfires, symbolically marking the beginning of summer.
Karlovac, 23 June (Midsummer's Eve)
www.tzkz.hr

ST. JOHN'S DAYS, includes the exhibit of wines from northwestern Croatia.
Sveti Ivan Zelina, end of June (with the day of St. John the Baptist on 24 June)
www.tz-zagorje.hr



SUMMER IN THE CITY OF THE ZRINSKIS, theatrical performances, film screenings, concerts, literary evenings.
Čakovec, July
www.cakovec.hr

DOŽINKY, a festival of cultural and economic activities of the Croatian Czechs.
Veliki Zdenci, July (every second year)
www.tzbbz.hr

LIPOVLJANI MEETINGS
Lipovljani, August
www.turizam-smz.hr



Autumn Black and white



Ivan Generalić: *Grape harvest*, 1973

A WALK THROUGH THE YEAR, II

In autumn, many cities and towns, once trading towns, celebrate the beginning or end of the harvest. In the Bjelovar area, a fruit festival is held, while Kostajnica is the site of a chestnut festival. From the wine-growing hills of Moslavina, via Kutjevo, Daruvar, Jastrebarsko to Međimurje, the harvest and ceremonies celebrating the new wine continue from one town to the next. This is reminiscent of the poem by Fran Galović with the verses beginning *Black, white, Black, white...* as a metaphor to the ripening of red (called black here) and white grapes, red (black) and white wine; this poem has ingeniously depicted the rhythm of life, day and night... The ties between culture, as in the case of Croatia, and the centuries long tradition of rural life is strongly present even in the most elite urban events. Beginning from the medieval status of towns as free trading towns, places where agricultural products grown in the surrounding green fields were traded and later permanent or seasonal events to present and sell crops were established and the days and sites of the autumn fairs were gradually set. The longest-standing tradition, even in comparison with European and world exhibitions, is held by Zagreb ^Ž, where craft fairs were commonly



held in the 19th century, and in 1909 this evolved into the *Zagreb Assembly* which changed its name to the *Zagreb Fair*. The authentic fair pavilions have been partially preserved from the times when the *Zagreb Assembly* was held on Savska Street. Among them is the round *French Pavilion* from 1937, the world's first building with an inverted conical roof, the work of architects J. P. Herbe and Bernard Lafaille ^ϕ.

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL
Ivanić Grad, October
www.tzig.hr

GUDOVAČ, international
livestock fair.
Bjelovar, September
www.tzbbz.hr

GALOVIĆ AUTUMNS
Peteranec and Koprivnica,
end of October
www.knjiznica-koprivnica.hr

CHESTNUT FESTIVAL, chestnut
harvest and enjoying chestnut treats.
Hrvatska Kostajnica, October
www.turizam-smz.hr

^ϕ Monument to poet Antun Gustav
Matoš.

^ϕ Zdenka Sertić, Maksimilijan
Vanka: poster for the 10th
International Fair in Zagreb, 1928





Winter Train in the snow



Franjo Mrzic: *Winter*, 1936

A WALK THROUGH THE YEAR, 12

The immortal works by writer and children's storyteller Mato Lovrak invoke memories of a happy and spirited childhood when even trouble was sweet. Lovrak wrote a series of children's books with a great sense for the beauty of nature, humour and imagination; the most popular among them is *Train in the Snow*. The snow and all that is associated with snow deeply touches us: in the freezing winter nights we drank tea that was never again that warm, we remember games in the cold snow as warm experiences filled with joy... And at this time of year comes St. Nicholas and the other grandfathers to remind us of the concept of goodness and, despite these times when everything is for sale, we are still willing to give, to approach one another, to visit family, to be better. Many cities organize winter fairs, skating areas and sledding rides to create that fairy tale atmosphere, which all generations will give in to, if but for a moment. If we are lucky to have a big snowfall, winter becomes a magical period when people are particularly sensitive to the aesthetic experience of the world. Veliki Grđevac is building an amusement park to honour Mato Lovrak, a classic of the nostalgic images of childhood *℞*.



LOVRAK CULTURE DAYS, a traditional cultural and educational event dedicated to the great works of children's writer Mate Lovrak.
Veliki Grđevac, June
www.tzbbz.hra

MUSEUM TRAIN, Lovrak Centre
Veliki Grđevac

SLJEME, preparation of the slalom course, 2006

- ☞ Jelačićevi Novi Dvori near Zaprešić.
- ☞ A view of Žumberačko gorje.
- ♡ Drava River near Koprivnica.



Green ring



Miroslav Šutej: *Bride*, 1982

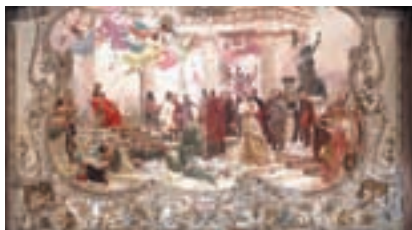
GREEN RING, 13

Upon arrival to their new homeland in the time of the Franks, Byzantines and Christened Romans, the Croatian tribes inhabited the areas along the Sava, Kupa and Drava Rivers. Wooden architecture developed from the strictly functional to the decorative, with elaborate ornamentation and floral motives, expressing the desire to beautify the living ambient. Each settlement was surrounded by a form of green ring, comprising the immediate vicinity of the town. This surrounding is a specificity of central Croatia and turns the geographic core into a type of nature park. Here small rural settlements alternate with forests and clearings, meadows and rivers that gently meander in some places, while in others, such as near Karlovac, Duga Resa or Slunj, they crash in impressive waterfalls.





Croatian Renaissance



Vlaho Bukovac: *Croatian National Renaissance*, 1895

GREEN RING, 14

In 1899, a light bulb lit up above the head of palaeogeologist and anthropologist Dragutin Gorjanović Kramberger P . He was called and headed from Zagreb to the Hušnjakovo hill above Krapina, where he was awaited by a find of *Homo primigenius* var. *Krapiniensis*. Tens of thousands of years later, humans in this area would permanently inhabit the areas between rivers, alongside forests, in the mountainous areas and rolling hills. Here they would discover the regularity of the moon's movements and, like many other communities, set the lunar calendar. With the era of antiquity, they would enter into history and, in the Middle Ages, they would become a part of European culture and finally come to the idea of national identity. It was in 1809 in Krapina, in the midst of the region of the Kajkavian dialect, that Ljudevit Gaj was born: Illyrianist, leader of the Croatian National Renaissance and the torchbearer of modern Croatian national thought. Over a period of many years, it has popularly been said that many waters have passed through the Krapina and Sutla Rivers, and people born along their banks who would later leave an indelible trace as significant figures in Croatian history: Josip Broz Tito from Kumrovec V and Croatia's first president Franjo Tuđman from Veliko Trgovišće, while Ban Josip Jelačić C lived in Zaprešić.

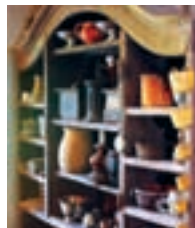


ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEASEANTS' REVOLT, an event that strives to preserve and enhance the Kajkavian dialect and the customs of Zagorje
Krapina, September
www.mhz.hr
www.druzba-vitezova.hr

THE JELAČIĆ DAYS,
Zaprešić, May
www.zapresic.hr



KRAPINA NEANDERTHAL MUSEUM
www.mhz.hr



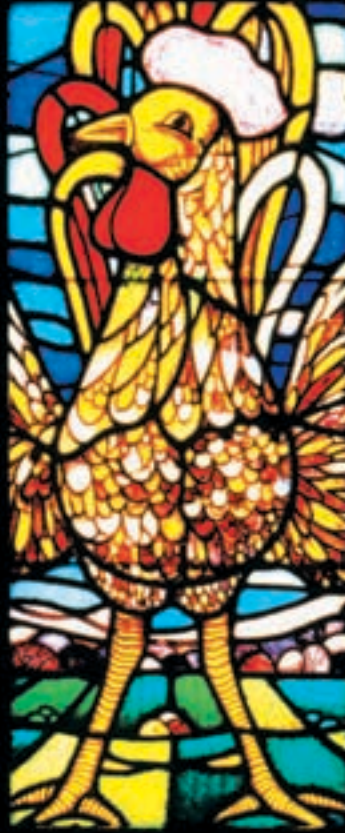
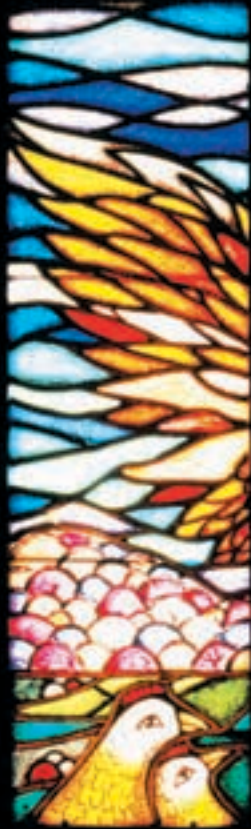
THE WEEK OF KAJKAVIAN CULTURE
Krapina, September
www.kajkavske.popevke.hr

THANKING AUTUMN IN KLANJEC
October
www.klanjec.hr



OLDTIMER RALLY featuring crews from Croatia and the neighboring countries.
Samobor, July
www.samobor.hr

“OLD VILLAGE” (STARO SELO) MUSEUM
Kumrovec



Gingerbread hearts

Masters



Ivan Generalić: *Boy with a gingerbread heart*, 1972

GREEN RING, 15

The Croatian master mead and gingerbread makers and candle-makers, included in the central craft guild in Graz as early as 1713, continued their medieval traditions, achieving the status of virtually privileged men collected around the craft's chest. Their activities were primarily tied to the needs of the Church. They developed the distinctive production of mead and candles. Honey cookies called *medenjaci* are today made according to a special recipe, in which the main ingredient honey gives this crunchy cookie a specific taste. Baked for special occasions and are most commonly offered before holidays, this thin cookie, the *lebzelter* or Croatinized word *leceter* or *licitar* over time became a must on every stand, always when it is expected that the traveller will want something tasty, decorative, symbolic and ceremonial. In many towns throughout central Croatia, the master gingerbread and candle makers, the makers of the *licitar*, have developed a diverse repertoire of flat figures, colours, decorations and applications with pictures and small fragments of mirror and messages of love and luck. The cheerful stylized forms—hearts, babies, horses, horseshoes, birds and crosses ♀ complement the votive wax figures that serve as votive gifts in prayers for healing or watching over the



health of eyes, legs as well as the cattle and the home. Croatian artists Miroslav Šutej[†] and Zvonimir Lončarić[‡], each in their own way established a closeness to folk figures and ornaments in their work, intending their mad character and infantile spirituality for adults. In this way, the joyous charm became a significant and almost paradigmatic part of Croatian modern art.

♡ Stained glass windows by Josip Turković in the Koprivnica beer hall, created by master artists under Zlatko Kauzlaric Atač.

* Cahun Hats, since 1935

☞ Cerovečki Umbrellas, since 1912

♣ Zozolly, Mahmet and Oslaković

mead and candlemaking workshops.

‡ Wooden toys, Čukelj-

Kunić, since 1950.





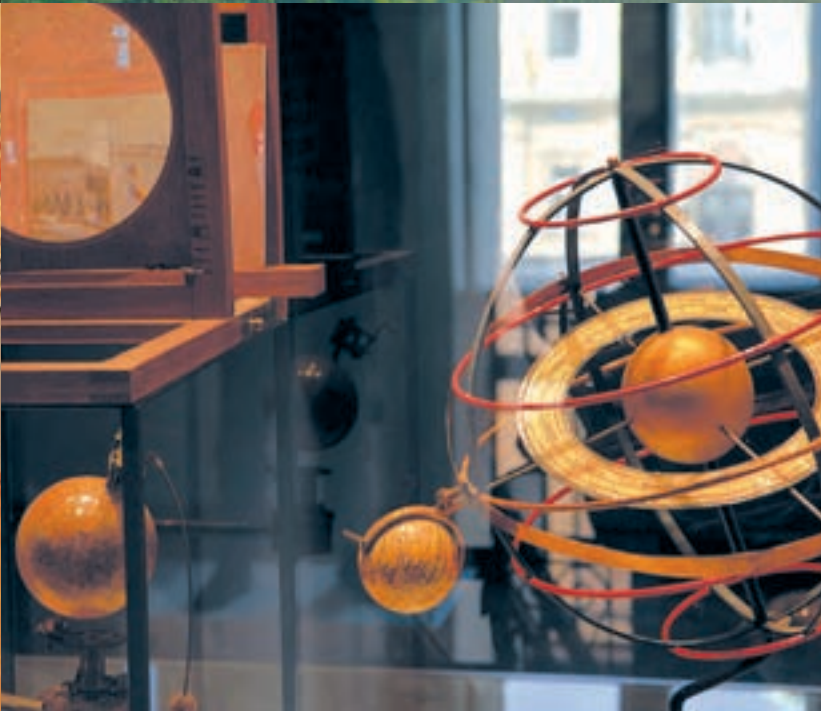
Optimist
Baltazar



Ranko Marton: *Engineer Penkala inspects the depot*, 1996

GREEN RING, 16

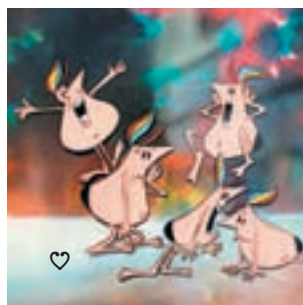
It would appear that the unexplored areas, not just geographical, that stimulate man to discovery and which oftentimes requires unusual boldness, drive the people of this region. Enthusiasts of all kinds are a pledge of the wonderful exploration madness that opens the doors of the imagination and lets it fly. Literally. At the Berlin airfield Tempelhof, David Schwartz of Zagreb achieved the first flight of a dirigible balloon, the predecessor of the Zeppelin β . Dragutin Novak was the first professional pilot in Croatia, taking off from Zagreb in 1910 in a plane designed by inventor Slavoljub Penkala. However, Penkala's most well known invention was the patented pen which even today many call by his name $\check{\nu}$. The first electrical station was already built in 1892, allowing the electric tramway to drive through the streets of Zagreb. This was also the sight of the takeoff of the first airplane with a wooden propeller, the work of Samobor carpenter Leisner! Rudolf Fizir of Ludbreg constructed his first airplane in 1926 at the start of a forty-year long career. From the early 1930s, unbelievable means of transport were invented, including the tourist hydroplane and the amphibian. All these good spirits of innovation were united into an eternal optimist, for whom no problem



was too complex – the charming inventor, *Professor Baltazar* ♡, a character created in the Zagreb School of Animation.



RUDOLF STEINER DAYS, (near the home where he was born): educational workshops, musical programmes and exhibitions of organically grown food.
Donji Kraljevec, June
www.donjikraljevec.hr



ANIMAFEST, international festival of animated film.
Zagreb, June
www.tzzz.hr
♡ Dušan Vukotić: *Surogat*, 1961.



THE GOOD SPIRIT OF BALTAZAR continues in the animated interactive stories inspired by the fairy tales of Ivana Brlić Mažuranić. These stories were adapted by an international group of artists, under the production of Helena and Zvonimir Bulaja (*FlashForwardzoo2*, San Francisco).



PENKALA'S COUSIN, painter Jadviga Matavovska, created the company logo in 1908; this is also the most original mascot for writing instruments in the 20th century. The corporate design was completed by Georg Achtelstetter.



Croatian Lands



Ivan Rabuzin: *My homeland*, 1961

CROATIAN LANDS, 17

Central Croatia is a region where forests intermingle with rocky mountain plateaus, hills and highland rivers and streams from Križevci to Čakovec and Štrigova, from Pokupsko to Belec and from Sisak to Daruvar and the Zrinska gora hills with the Una River in the foothills. The landscape is dappled with windy roads and bridges, mills and crucifixes at road crossings. The gentle rolling hills are scattered with homes, vineyards grow here and the roads wind up and down. Picturesque is truly the right work for the vistas that stretch out before newcomers as well as for those leaving along the hilly road to once again quietly promise to return. The view is as impressive as a unique flower garden through which rivers and countless streams flow as they descend from the nearby mountains and meander peacefully through the valleys, here and there creating impressive waterfalls such as those on the Dobra, Kupa or Tounjčica Rivers. The meadows and clearings of the Vukomerička gorica hills, the Žumberak and Samobor gorje hills, Bilogora or Moslavačka gora hills and Mt. Ivančica, are as colourful as impressionist canvases in varying seasons. The writer Ivana Brlić Mažuranić—whom poet A.B. Šimić described as being as specifically Croatian as the Croatian lands, Croatian folk costumes



and Croatian wine-combined tradition and the contemporary to create her magical characters: Palunko, Rutvica, Regoč, Kosjenka, Jagor, Malik Tintilinić, Stribor and the apprentice Hlapić who built towns and villages with *silver fences* in forests such as Stribor's Forest. If you take a closer look, you will see that this is not only the fruit of a vivid imagination, but also an inspired perception of actuality.



Pyramids Viewing points



Oton Postružnik: *Klek*, 1929

CROATIAN LANDS, Picturesque peaks and unexplored abysses, 18

One spring day in 1834, a young woman from Karlovac named Dragojla Jarnević, a woman of very unusual conduct for her time, an Illyrianist, author and teacher, climbed up the rocks to the old Romanesque fortress of Okićgrad ρ . This was the first alpine conquest among the Croats. From the walls of the early Croatian town, Dragojla, then a 22-year old woman, saw vistas of untamed beauty, the moment when everything on earth was awakening and the landscape appeared to be an arranged display of dreams and desires. The local people have always been closely connected to the mountains, whose picturesque and wild heights arouse both fear and enticement. Mountaineering success is measured by the beauty of the panoramic view and the intensity of the experience up there, at the peak. Mountain conquests began under the influences of mountaineering in Austria. The prominent Mt. Klek $\check{\nu}$, part of the Velika Kapela range, holds an important place in Croatian mountaineering tradition. The first organized expedition on that mountain took place in 1838 under the leadership of Saxon King Friedrich August II and his friend Josip Jelačić, then a colonel in Ogulin. The idea to establish the Croatian Mountaineering Society arose on Mt. Klek in 1874. This was the world's ninth mountaineering society. In the May of the



same year, the first climb in the Samobor gorje mountains took place. Soon afterwards, construction of the pyramids viewing points on the mountain peaks began ☼.

MADERKIN BREG, art colony; every year, painters come together at this magnificent viewing point above Štrigova to eternalise the beauty of the Međimurje wine-growing hills.
www.tic-strigova.hr



NATURE, HUNTING, FISHING AND TOURISM, an international fair relating to environmental protection and outings in nature, exhibits of mushrooms and medicinal herbs.
Varaždin, October
www.varazdin.hr



Decoration

Miner's garden



Mirko Rački: *Francesca da Rimini*, 1908

Furrows, canyons, caves and chasms are a fascinating part of the relief, attracting people with not only their appearance but also the danger that lurks within, enticing them to speleological exploration [℞]. The underground world in central Croatia is also interesting. *Dulin ponor*, where the Dobra River sinks, is a cave system more than 16 km in length. Medieval silver, salt and iron ore mines [✚] are scattered on various sides of Mt. Medvednica. Photographer, journalist and mountaineer Vladimir Horvat began an admirable feat on the northern slopes of the Zagrebačka gora mountains beginning in 1945, when alone in the forest he began to build a path with 500 stone steps [☿] to connect the Hunjka meadow with the valley of the Bistri jarek stream, where he built a small picnic site with a shelter called Srnec. The 7000 metre long Veternica cave, on the western slopes of Mt. Medvednica, is also remarkable due to finds of endemic cave-dwelling organisms, traces of Neanderthal life and remnants of lions and rhinoceroses.



ZAGREB FILM FESTIVAL, a full evening of feature films, short films and documentaries.
Zagreb, October
www.zagrebfilmfestival.com

IVANEC MINING GROUP FESTIVAL,
Ivanec, 24 June
www.ivanec-turizam.hr

OIL EXTRACTION MONUMENT PARK IN PEKLENICA (AND SELNICA), the world's first oil find (exploitation from 1855/56, four years earlier than that in Pennsylvania, USA).
www.mursko-sredisce.hr

MINER'S GRUB DAYS, an exhibit of authentic culinary specialties
Rude near Samobor, July
www.tz-samobor.hr

♡ Gerhard Ledić,
wandering reporter



Birds Nests



Slava Raškaj: *Waterlily in blossom*, 1898

CROATIAN LANDS, *Song filled valleys and fragrant hills*, 20

Lonjsko polje, a unique wetland biological reserve in Europe, covers 500 square kilometres alongside the Sava River from Turopolje to Jasenovac and expands virtually from Petrinja to Kutina [♂]. In addition to the Sava River, the area is fed by the Lonja, Ilova, Česma and Pakra Rivers, which make up a distinct water system. The Romans called this area Aqua longa. Krapje dol is a wetland area and nesting ground for more than 300 bird species, many of which are rare and endangered including the spoonbill, black stork, grey heron and quacco heron. The white-tailed sea eagle and lesser spotted eagle soar high above this ornithological oasis, where we can watch and photograph birds as well as learn about them. In the alternation of flooding and dry ground, people have found a way to co-exist with the birds in a natural rhythm. In the village of Čigoč, there is no house without a white stork nest on the chimney or gables [♀]. Here, there are more storks than residents and in 1996, Čigoč was proclaimed the European Village of Storks. The traditional wooden homes tolerate the high waters that last for months. The main building material here is English oak, a tree which can reach up to several hundred years in age. The English oak is the most common tree species in the local forests and requires moist soil with a



ρ



high level of ground water. Houses made from oak beams and carved planks are a true architectural gem. The village of Krapje is the best preserved entity of rural architecture. A visit there offers the experience of ancient authenticity, while the home-style food will only complete the impression. For those who love bird-watching, the Crna Mlaka ornithology reserve near Jastrebarsko is a must. The wetland is filled with waters from the Kupa and Kupčina Rivers. This is a nesting ground for more than 200 species of birds, with many relying on the fish in the nearby fishpond. The wetland area is divided from the settlement by a wide road, however storks have nested on the chimney of one house in the centre of Jastrebarsko for decades, and the people in this town, named after the hawk (*jastreb*), set their biological clocks to the stork!

POSAVAC, horse breeding exhibit, loveliest carriage competitions, raft rides and a visit to Lonjsko polje.
Sunja, July
www.turizam-smz.hr

STORK FESTIVAL, sightseeing of the fields and an ecology workshop, visit by representatives of other European stork villages.
Čigoč, June
www.turizam-smz.hr





Flowers Magic carpet



Marija Brusić–Kovačica: *Iris*, 1973

CROATIAN LANDS, Song filled valleys and fragrant hills, 21

With the awakening of spring, the crocuses break through the last of the spring snows, followed by the snowdrops, primroses, daffodils. In shady areas, the fragrance of the violets and small wild cyclamens appears; the meadows are dotted with daisies and then following the yellow capes of the buttercups, the summer meadows are whitened by their lanterns *ℓ*. There are unusual plants as well, such as the carnivorous plants in Dubravica. Later species such as the dark green holly at the edges of the forests tell of the depth of the forest, while the open spaces breathe with life until the late autumn. Then, in the intensively coloured forests, the mushrooms take their reign: bolettes, chanterelles, parasols... This is the annual cycle of life of the gentle hilly landscapes, green meadows and valleys, glades and forests that are home to numerous plant species. The Vukomerička gorica, Žumberak and Samobor gorje, Bilogora or Moslavačka gora mountains, Mt. Medvednica, Mt. Ivančica or the grassy slopes of Križevci's Mt. Kalnik are true blossoming symphonies of a multitude of meadow flowers in various seasons. Paragliders descending from the rocky take-off strips experience these sights as true magical carpets.



FLOWER FAIR, traditional three-day fair of flowers and gardening, with cultural, entertainment and culinary programme.
Prelog, April (last weekend)
www.prelog.hr



MUSHROOM NIGHT, mushroom picking event and exhibit of mushrooms characteristic for the Duga Resa region.
Duga Resa, October
www.tzkz.hr



FLOWER EXHIBITION, flower event of regional importance.
Varaždin, September
www.turizam-vzz.hr

FESTIVAL OF MUSHROOM PICKERS
Pila, Stubičke Toplice, October
www.stubicketoplice.hr

STUBAKI MUSHROOM FESTIVAL, guided tour and picking mushrooms in the woods, identification of mushrooms with a professional lecture and tasting of mushroom stew
Stubičke Toplice, October
www.stubicketoplice.hr



*

Rainbow Perun's arrow



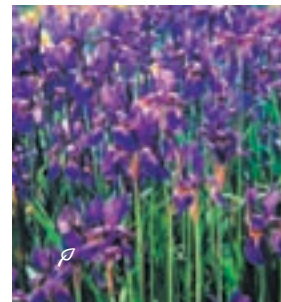
Mijo Kovačić: *Fisherman with harpoon*, 1965

There is a flower that is remarkable and rare. In the wet and sunny clearings of the Sutla River valley in Hrvatsko Zagorje, we can come across the exceptionally beautiful azure flower, the Croatian iris. *Iris croatica* ♀ is a flower which, in terms of its fragile beauty, is rivalled only by the orchids in the Drava River valley ♀. Its Croatian name (*perunika*) has its roots in ancient Slavic mythology, named after the early Slavic God of thunder Perun. It was told that the iris grew at the site where lightning had hit, where Perun's arrow had struck, where the sparks from the brimstone in his hand had landed or where the rainbow by which Perunika passed on message of the gods from on high had touched the earth. An iris garden ♀ has been planted in Donja Stubica where it is possible to view the majority of species in the iris family, including Croatian endemics and rare species. In Botanical garden Suban in Strmec near Samobor medicinal plants are growing ♀.



MOSLAVINA BY BICYCLE, bicycle race from Kutina to Lipovljani to commemorate Planet Earth Day on 22 April.
Kutina, April
www.turizam-kutina.hr

* City Park in Koprivnica
THE IRIS FESTIVITY
Donja Stubica, v.
www.tz-zagorje.hr





Imagination

Stribor's Forest

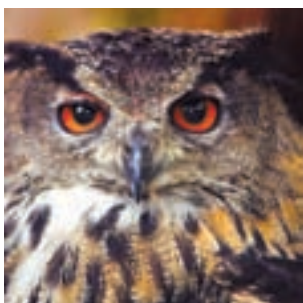


Vladimir Kirin: *Madness of rage over the steep ravine*, 1922

At dusk and on winter evenings when the wind rattles against doors and windows and the snow creates magical forms, long ago the doors to boundless imagination would be opened for children through tales of forests inhabited by magical and terrible creatures. In the winter moonlight, shadows become living fairy creatures. The deep green of the forest is a community of flora and fauna, filled with great mystery for man since ancient times, particularly after the sunset and the complete darkness sinks down to earth. It was as though the forests existed to be a home for all those creatures that were inaccessible, unfathomable and mysterious to people, though still dear and significant. But aren't those creatures very similar to the shadows of trees that the winter moonlight casts onto the freshly fallen snow? Already as a young girl, Ivana Mažuranić listened to others in her home tell the tales and legends of the Ogulin area. She wrote that she had been enchanted by *the peculiar shape of Mt. Klek... and all the happened around it in the deep of night.*



VARAŽDIN HISTORICAL CEREMONY, event intended for children and youth. Theatrical re-enactments of historical events and legends, theatrical performances, music and dance program, children's knight tournament, medieval games.
Varaždin, June
www.turizam-vzz.hr



ASSITEJ, Festival of professional theatres for children and youth.
Čakovec, October
www.czk-cakovec.hr



Stories Witches' wheel



Vladimir Kirin: *Grandma Mokoš in the mud near the swamp*, 1922

CROATIAN LANDS, Rocky heights and calm rivers, 24

There are many tales about Mt. Klek, the stone peak that rises above the forests of Ogulin, its silhouette reminiscent of a horizontal, giant, petrified human figure. It was said that during storms at night that the witches danced a wheel dance around its peak and that the noise from this whirlwind could be heard all the way to Ogulin ρ . Legend has it that a pile of golden ducats v lie in a cave at the very peak, protected by a beautiful princess transformed into a snake. The rocks open up every hundred years after midnight. If a brave young man kisses the snake, it will be transformed back into the lovely princess and she will marry him, with the hidden gold as her dowry. On maps charted in 1673, Ogulin was called Julingrad, a name tied to the legend of Đula who dove headlong into the ravine under the Frankopan castle over an unhappy love. Legend has it that the natural relief on the vertical cliffs of the ravine Đulin ponor represents the unhappy young man Milan looking for Đula in the ravine where the Dobra River crashes down vertically. The mysterious tales of the Ogulin area that Ivana Mažuranić listened to during her childhood, as well as the magical summer house Hališće on Varaždin breg where she vacationed with her mother, formed a lifetime of inspiration for this author's literary creations. Her novels



have forever marked the picturesqueness of the mountains and the interesting stone forms that abound in central Croatia, as a landscape full of secrets.



OGULIN'S FAIRY TALE FESTIVAL,
cultural and tourism event in which
artistic and cultural productions
intended for children, youth and
adults are created, stimulated and
performed through famous fairy
tales and fairy tale creations.
Ogulin, June
www.tzkz.hr

CELTIC NIGHT
Sisak, September
www.sisakturist.com



Sparkling The Goldsmith's Gold



Branko Šenoa (son of writer August): *Sava River landscape*, 1910

CROATIAN LANDS, Rocky heights and calm rivers, 25

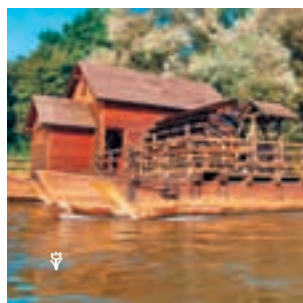
Scenes of foggy landscapes in the early morning are the embodiment of peace, such as those depicted on Japanese wood carvings when rivers turn gold with the first rays of the sun and a group of willows or hazelnut bushes separate from the greyness. The large Croatian rivers peacefully flowing through the lowlands of central Croatia have this effect on the soul. They also leave behind wealth hauled from the Alps: round gravel, sparkling sand and gold. The gold-bearing rivers here have never been the site of a rush for this noble metal. For centuries, gold has also been found in the creeks of Zagreb's Mt. Medvednica while, in the Međimurje town of Donji Vidovec, gold hunters have kept this craft up to the present day [℞]. On the Mura River, curious guests can join in the hunt. Here gold is like a miracle, a fascination and a gift of pure otherworldliness, something with which to make a chalice. No one will earn their fortune by rinsing out the silt to search for gold in the rivers and streams of Croatia. However, modern man must not lose touch with the rivers, as this loss would impoverish a part of his nature. Whether you head out to the Kupa, Mrežnica ♡ or Dobra Rivers, go river rafting along the Mura or Drava ♡ Rivers, try sports fishing on the Česma River or walk



along the banks of the Sava River, visit the peculiar two-storey bridge built on the Tounjčica River in 1836 as part of the Josephine road-that is for each to decide. What is important is that each of us deserves that little, though significant grain of gold from the river bed.

SUMMER ALONG THE DRAVA, theatrical, film and entertainment program (Summer Carnival).
Prelog, July
www.prelog.hr

SUMMER ALONG THE MURA, concerts, sports events, party in the streets.
Mursko Središće, August
www.mursko-sredisce.hr



PORCJUNKULE, exhibit of traditional trades, musical programme, art colonies, best cookie competition, equestrian and archery tournaments under the walls of the old town, and a costume programme dedicated to the Zrinskis.
Čakovec, July/August
www.tourism-cakovec.hr

▼ MILLING ROUTES, Slovenian and Croatian mills. Miller's Days, an old trade on th Mura River.
www.eol.hr



Hill Scarecrow



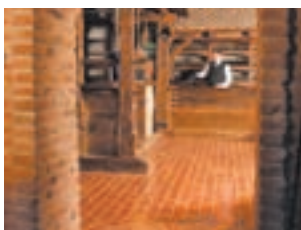
Maksimilijan Vanka: *Wine hill*, 1915

CROATIAN LANDS, Gentle hills and clear rapids, 26

The hilly regions of Žumberačko-samoborsko gorje, Mt. Medvednica, Mt. Ivanščica, Moslavačka gora and Bilogora, are regions of gentle rolling hills and villages scattered along windy roads. These are typical settlements with autochthonous wooden architecture. There are numerous chapels and churches in the areas surrounding Velika Gorica and the Pokupsko region, including some true gems of authentic wooden architecture, such as the richly fitted wooden Church of St. Barbara in Velika Mlaka, St. George in Pokupsko or the Church of the Holy Trinity in Draganić. The wooden houses in the Turopolje area and a number of other villages along the Sava River are also richly ornamented. The *klopotec*, a scarecrow in vineyards intended to scare off the birds, also belongs to these romantic scenes. Various grape varieties allow for an early harvest, the regular autumn harvest and the ice harvest—a late harvest of grapes picked and crushed after freezing to temperatures of seven degrees below freezing. Today, the vineyards have become a theatre for a type of competition among owners as to who can grow the better grape and make the better wine. The social custom of friendly and neighbourly wine tastings is a favourite tradition here. In the wine huts, these tastings take



place with a bite to eat and song, and wine discussions with great humour are mandatory. A common toast says *No Zagorje wine maker has ever sold any wine, it's all drunk by his happy companions*. In Pokuplje, in the Petrinja wine-growing region, and Moslavina, wine roads connect the cellars that are open to guests and that also serve traditional meals.



URBANOVO, Wine Days: wine cellar open to guests offering wines at promotional prices; each host prepares a special programme; the Šipon Festival in Štrigova is a special event.
Međimurje wine road, May (three-day event)
www.tzm.hr

INTERNATIONAL PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES WEEK (IPEW), presents the greatest accomplishments and most significant names and groups in percussion music: concerts, music workshops.
Bjelovar, January
www.tzbbz.hr

WINE CELLAR "VINSKI VRH"
 Wine & blues tasting
 Hrašćina
www.vinarijavinskivrh.com

GRAPE PICKING
Pregrada, September
www.pregrada.hr



Water
Jana



Vladimir Varlaj: *Old mill*, about 1930

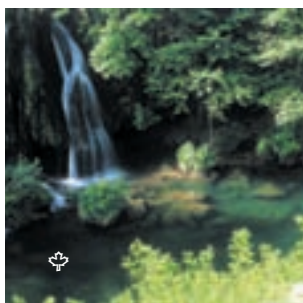
CROATIAN LANDS, Gentle hills and clear rapids, 27

Rich springs of noble mineral water gush to the light of day from the depths of the ground where porous and non-porous rock layers meet. This has been known since Roman times, when the first springs of tasty and reputed medicinal waters were built up. The streams and rivers of the Karlovac region, the bathing areas on the waterfalls and rapids of the turquoise Mrežnica [♯] River in Duga Resa or on the Kupa [♯] River under the old town of Ozalj offer the possibility to step into the clear cold water and experience something magical, while the water of the Dretulja and Vrnjika streams near Plaško is drinking water! These waters are home to the brook trout and noble crayfish, which best tells of their purity. Lakes, rapids and waterfalls at the confluence of the Slunjčica River into the Korana River near Rastok flow [♯] over the paddles of the old water mills—a true sight to see. The most abundant source of drinking and mineral water is in Jamnička Kiselica, about half-way between Zagreb and Karlovac. This spring has been of world repute since the mid 19th century when the demand for Jamnica was so great that the plans to build a health clinic here were never realized. Today, Jamnica is Croatia's best known mineral water, while Jana is the name for the delicious spring water. The



village Apatovec on Mt. Kalnik, near the old town of Veliki Kalnik, has long been known for Apatovečko vrelo mineral water spring. Today, this water is bottled under the motto 'A drop from the Kalnik spring'.

DUGO RESA DAYS, sports, recreation and entertainment event at the town bathing area; water games, boat races; scouts, firefighters, majorettes, marching bands, folklore groups participating.
Duga Resa, June/July (tied to the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul)
www.tzkz.hr



MURA BOAT RACE, international marathon of Mura boats; fifty traditional wooden boats start out at Bad Radegsburg in Austria and race through Slovenia all the way to Sveti Martin na Muri.
Sveti Martin na Muri, June
www.tz-sv-martin.hr

♡ Rapids of the Una River.



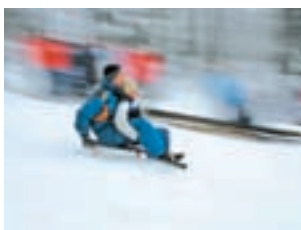
Janica Snow queen



Josip Generalić: *Hlebina queen under golden stars*, 1989

CROATIAN LANDS, Snowy slopes and hot baths, 28

What Jamnica is to the world of mineral water, Janica is to the world of skiing. The success of Janica Kostelić is even more amazing given the small number of ski runs in Croatia; however, Zagreb can boast of being the world's largest city ever to host a FIS World Cup ski race! The longest, loveliest and, many claim, toughest slalom course in the world is only half an hour by car from the centre of the city. In addition to its proximity, the ski runs are also lit up at night, making this the perfect place to ski after a long day at work. Racing down the snowy slopes is a popular form of winter entertainment on the slopes of Mt. Medvednica, at the Bjelolasica Olympic Centre near Ogulin and at the small rope-tow on Petrov vrh near Daruvar. Real winter is very short here, and few are willing to pass up a few moments of excitement in the winter landscape.



SNOW QUEEN, FIS women's slalom ski cup.
Red run, Bistra municipality.
City of Zagreb
www.tzzz.hr

FIS ROLLER SKIING WORLD CUP,
Nordic snow-free skiing, from the centre of Stubičke toplice to Sljeme, to the Snow Queen's (Snježna kraljica) apartment house Oroslauje and Stubičke Toplice, July
www.oroski.hr
www.stubicketoplice.hr



Thermal Springs Aquae

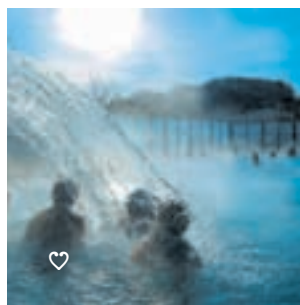


Vlaho Bukovac: *Gundulić's dream*, 1894

The winter cold has a complementary, thermal side to it. Below the slopes of the small recreational ski hill at Petrov vrh near Daruvar is the renowned Daruvar Thermal Resort ♪. The Krapinske toplice thermal resort is a rehabilitation centre, while the Tuheljske toplice thermal resort has been both a winter and summer bathing area for many years. Sutinska vrela is a thermal spring just outside of Zagreb, while the Mihanović springs have been turned into an attractive recreational park. The Stubičke toplice thermal resort is both an excursion destination and a medicinal centre ♫. In Roman times, the Varaždinske toplice, *Aquae lassae*, was the most important crossroads and health centre for Roman soldiers in this part of Europe ♧. Many ruins bear witness not only to the popularity of the health centre, but also to the high cultural status of the site, today an archaeological site. The St. Martin thermal springs in Međimurje, turned into an attractive swimming pool complex, frame this bathing empire ♡. A curiosity here is Europe's only naphthalene site at Ivanić Grad, one of only two in the world with this liquid that aids in treating various dermatological ailments.



ANDAUTONIJA DAYS (living history), marks the beginning of the season at the Andautonia Archaeological Park. Ščitarjevo near Velika Gorica, April/May www.andautonia.com



SUMMER IN THE POOLS, entertainment programme on a water stage. Topusko, June – August www.ljeciliste-topusko.hr



TUHELJ THERMAL SPAS www.terme-tuhelj.hr



Fish Blue-green



Mirko Virius: *Fisherman*, 1939

CROATIAN LANDS, *Tranquil waters and wild paths*, 30

Here we can find virtually intimate, closed, picturesque oases of peace, offering the conditions for various sporting and recreation activities. Newcomers can come to the river banks and wade through the water for the sake of refreshment, enjoying untouched nature, or can enjoy fishing in the pure clean waters, as they wish. Others will opt to fish in the crystal clean Dobra, Mrežnica, Korana, Tounjčica or Kupa Rivers. Others yet will visit the banks of the Glina River, where the landscape is different from that in the Karlovac area. The shores of lakes are also a pleasant place to spend time in sports and recreational activities, such as on Sabljaci near Ogulin or on the Vrbovec lakes, Sinac-Plaškom or one of the many fish ponds in the foothills of Moslavačka gora or Bilogora. The Odra, Česma, Ilova, Sunja and Pakra Rivers, belonging to the Sava River basin, make up a tangle of lowland and floodplain waters that provide a special experience. The experience will be different on the rivers in the Međimurje region, which is also called the inter-water area, as the waters of the Drava and Mura Rivers define the life of the residents there. Traditional songs of this area sound as melancholic as the waters that flow and never return. The streams that flow down the slopes of Bilogora or Mt. Ivančica are a valuable segment



of the ecosystem here and each gives it own region a specific picturesque quality. The Krapina River carries with it the round stones of our ancient past from the depths of the period of the birth of human consciousness. It is on the surface of these clean waters that the blue sky is reflected and mixes with the colour of deep green transparency in which we see an occasional flash of silver—swimming fish.

FISHING FESTIVAL, sports fishing competition and fish cook-off.
Sveta Nedelja
www.tzzz.hr

FISH DAYS ALONG THE DRAVA, fishing competition with culinary, recreational and entertainment events.
Sveta Marija, August
www.prelog.hr

LOVRENČEVO, sporting competition on the Kupa River, bicycle races, fish stew cook-offs.
Petrinja, August
www.tzg-petrinja.hr

WILLOW AND FISH DAYS, traditional willow weaving competition and river fish cook-off.
Kotoriba, May
www.kotoriba.hr

NOVLJANSKO LAKE, outdoor concert, volleyball, darts, art colony and bicycle race.
25 June – 3 September
(every weekend)



FISHERMEN GIVE BACK TO THE TOWN, a tourism and gastronomy event, preparing freshwater fish specialties.
Koprivnica, Palm Sunday weekend
www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr



Paths Ochre



Matija Skurjeni: *Kamnik metal workers*, 1959

CROATIAN LANDS, *Tranquil waters and wild paths*, 31

The municipality of Draganić offers a program of bicycle tourism and invites bicyclists to try out the loveliest part of the *Putaćeva glava-Piramida* bicycle path and enjoy the magnificent views along the route. From its inception as an urban fashion detail with one large and one small wheel that made it clumsy to drive, the bicycle has since evolved into one of the most ecologically acceptable vehicles. Ivan Dornbacher, who moved from Graz, Austria to Zagreb in 1895 gave his contribution to the bicycle when he became Croatia's first bicycle maker, making the *Ilyria* brand. Dornbacher was the founder of cycling in Croatia and a multiple champion in the sport. For his design of a bicycle with two equally sized wheels, he took the gold medal at the 1896 Paris Exhibition. In addition to athletes and numerous automobile acers, many bicyclists ride through the trails throughout the Zaprešić, Samobor, Klanjec, Sveta Nedjelja, Krašić, Ozalj, Jastrebarsko, Plešivica and Mt. Medvednica areas. There are also bicycling and trekking trails throughout Moslavačko gorje and Lonjsko polje, those from Rastok to Rakovica and Drežnik grad and those running through the surroundings areas of Čakovec, Bjelovar and Koprivnica where a monument to the bicycle was erected on the main square, the only one of its kind in the world.



Given the long-standing tradition, it is no surprise that the auto-moto track in Mladina is host to the world championships. This sport is recognizable for the ochre coloured clay track and the drivers and their motorcycles splattered with mud beyond recognition. It is as though the Croatian Enformel painters Ivo Gattin and Eugen Feller were inspired by these scenes. Were someone to colour a circular track with dry ochre chalk to look as though it were a cloud of dust, this would resemble the Prelog Speedway, the only speedway in the interior of Croatia.

MLADINA MOTO CROSS,
Staza Mladina, Jastrebarsko, June
www.tzzz.hr

EQUESTRIAN CARAVAN,
equestrian marathon
Duga Resa, August
www.tzkz.hr

OFF ROAD FESTIVAL
Kneginec, February

RALLY
Toplice Sveti Martin, April
www.toplicesvetimartin.hr

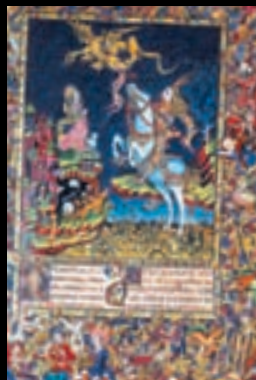
WORLD CUP IN MOUNTAIN BIKING,
Karlovac, September
www.bbk-t-rer.hr

▼ Path Drava Route (80 km)
Legrad – Pitomača.
⊕ Sava River, between Krapje
and Jasenovac.





Tales of Long Ago



Miniature from the Missal of George of Topusko, about 1495

Regoč, a character of the *Tales of Long Ago* by Ivana Brlić Mažuranić is as simple-minded and massive as a church tower and his task is to count the stones of the great Legen grad. For a thousand years, he counted and recounted stone by stone of the walls that offered security. Often in the past, the poor serf fantasized about the city, mystified it and compared it to a labyrinth, predestining him to be part of the legend.





Fortresses Legen grad



Celestin Medović: *Coronation of Ladislav of Naples*, 1893

TALES OF LONG AGO, Nobility, 33

Nothing remains of Kamengrad near Koprivnica except the name. Only a few walls remain of the prominent town of Modruš (*castrum*) which, with the walls of its fortress descending down the slopes of the hill, touched upon the settlement of Modruš (*civitas*) on the Roman road that led towards the sea. Medvedgrad, the fortress above the City of Zagreb was erected about 1250, and is a precious architectural monument of the medieval period. From its high tower, one can see the once separate settlement of the future Zagreb, the free town of Gradec, the old town of St. Ivan Zelina and the Samobor fortress. The fortress Dubovac stands high above Karlovac. Nearby is the town of Ozalj and the fortress Ribnik, once surrounded by waters, and Bosiljevo, the city where Katarina Zrinski was born. Further north is the largest castle in Croatia, the fortified town of Klenovnik which King Bela IV granted to Varaždin prefect Mihalj in the 13th century. At this site, a castle and luxurious Baroque chapel would be erected here through history. Veliki Tabor, situated in the midst of Hrvatsko Zagorje, is the largest Renaissance fortified town in central Croatia. Its towers preserve the legend of an ill-fated romance between a common girl and noble man. This castle is also a fantastic backdrop for knight's games P.



While the old town of Zrin, the former home of the famed Šubić family that took on the name Šubić-Zrinski in 1347 after this town, has been completely demolished, the walls of Veliki Kalnik above Križevci still defy time. In place of the medieval towers, the Šubić-Zrinski family would establish a Renaissance complex, the core of the town of Čakovec. And to finish off that which we started, it would appear that the world between dreams and reality exists, like the scenes in the paintings of self-taught artist Drago Jurak, who began creating his opus of painting minutely detailed castles and palaces in the 1950s, as though they were a part of *Legen grad*.

MIDDLE AGES IN HRVATSKO ZAGORJE
Gornja Stubica, June
www.viteski-turnir.com

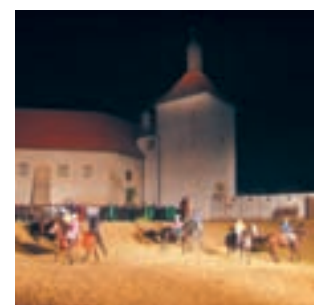
SISAK KNIGHT'S TOURNAMENT
Sisak, June
www.sisakturist.com

LEGEND OF THE CHICKENS,
re-enactment of the defence of the town from the Turks.
Đurđevac, June (last full weekend)
www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr

THE PEASANTS' REVOLT
Gornja Stubica, January
www.mhz.hr

THE BATTLE OF SAMOBOR
Samobor, 1. March
www.tz-samobor.hr

☞ Fortress in Hrvatska Kostajnica.





Castle Baroque cake



Anton Lerchinger: *Trumpeter, fresco details*, 18th century

TALES OF LONG AGO, Nobility, 34

A true specificity of central Croatia is the more than 40 Baroque castles and manors surrounded by valuable parks and gardens, some of which, already in the dusk of nobility, were built in the neo-Classical style of the 19th century. The Croatian nobility gave the fundamental tone of Baroque culture along the border with Slovenia, to Hungary in the north and towards Turopolje. The castles are representatively furnished and the walls are painted with frescos, scenes of amusement or hunting or motifs that occupied the intellectual circles of Vienna, Budapest and Paris. The Erdödy, Kulmer, Zrinski, Drašković Ratkaj, Patačić, Jelačić, Frankopan, Vranyczany and Janković families, as well as others, built structures of high architectural value and lived within them, promoting chamber music in their salons, fostering portrait paintings and even the first photographic attempts, such as that by Karl Dragutin Drašković in 1895 when he took the significant photograph of Stjepan Erdödy jumping over a bench in the courtyard of the Trakošćan castle. The Novi Dvori castle near Zaprešić, where Ban Josip Jelačić lived until his death, is a unique complex in Croatia. The Gornja Bistra castle is a Baroque complex with beautiful wall murals. The Gornja Stubica castle has been adapted to



house the Peasant's Revolt Museum. The castle in Miljana, painted with excellent Rococo frescos ☞, houses a collection of furnishings collected by Dr. Franjo Kajfeš, collector and world renowned pharmacologist. Bežanec castle is an example of a successful hotel. Klenovnik, the largest castle in Croatia, is a cultural monument of the highest category and today houses a modern hospital complex. The manor of the Batthyany family in Ludbreg has been renovated into an art restoration workshop, thus appropriately fitting into modern life. The large salon of the Maruševac castle ☞, like the Varaždin Cathedral♥ are venues for the musical programme of the Varaždin Baroque Evenings. Music, candles, drinks and a cake – what more could you want?!



DAYS OF BAROQUE CUISINE, culinary programme with dishes prepared from recipes of the 18th century. *Varaždinske Toplice, September*
www.toplice-vz.hr



Piano Watercolours



Fresco detail in Miljana castle, 18th century

TALES OF LONG AGO, Nobility, 35

While spending the winter days with her family in Vienna, and not in the castle at Lohor, Barbara Ana Keglević was a student of Beethoven for six years, beginning from 1795. The maestro even dedicated four pieces to this lady. Music and a refined taste for musical and theatrical performances spring from a deep tradition, and the special attention given to teaching music in this area has given rise to a series of famous names. The first international star was the prominent Milka Trnina, born in the village of Vezišće in Turopolje. The wooden birth house of the famed singer is a protected architectural structure. Near the end of her life, she taught in Zagreb, and her best known student was the remarkable Zinka Kunc. Opera singer Nada Puttar-Gold originated from Varaždin Breg, Ruža Pospiš-Baldani and soprano Lidija Horvat–Dunjko *♀* (photo: Lupino) from Varaždinske Toplice and Tomislav Mužek from nearby Ludbreg. It would appear as though this area of meadows, vineyards, streams with forest groves and village houses surrounded by orchards incites open and joyous rhapsodic singing. This rhapsody remains preserved even when the musical image is transformed into the visual, as achieved by painter Slava Raškaj, whose subtle watercolours and pastels painted on the banks of



the Kupa River and next to the old town of Ozalj bear witness to the glorious past of the Croatian nobles, the Zrinskis and the Frankopans, as well as to the surrounding villages and their hay roofed houses. Created in the final years of the 19th century, her water lilies in the botanical garden are a fantastic announcement of the art nouveau period to come, while elements of and a foreboding of impressionism is recognizable in her works.

MAY MUSICAL MEMORIAL TO JOSIP ŠTOLCER SLAVENSKI, music programme with participation of distinguished Croatian and foreign orchestras and soloists; exhibition. Čakovec, May www.czk-cakovec.hr

NOBILITY DAYS, revival of the times in which Sidonija Erdödy Rubido lived—the first Croatian opera primadonna; the Podkarnik nobility association wears restored costumes to revive the music and dance of that era; competition for the best noblewoman and best nobleman. Gornja Rijeka, August. (Assumption Day weekend) www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr



VARAŽDIN BAROQUE EVENINGS, traditional international festival of Baroque music in the Varaždin Cathedral and town concert venues. Varaždin, September www.vbv.hr

SUMMER IN ORŠIĆ CASTLE music festival June www.mhz.hr www.gornjastubica.hr



▼ Bežanec castle near Pregrada. ☼ Miljana castle, 17th century



Sanctuaries Jesus and Mary



Unknown artist (Roman art circle):
Christ in his glory, 8th century

TALES OF LONG AGO, Church, 36

The Roman Empire expanded throughout this region, conquering and assimilating the native people, Romanizing them in part and, at the dusk of their glory, marking them with early Christianity. With the migration of the peoples in the early Middle Ages, the newly settled Slavs gradually converted to Christianity. Over time, in the general spirit of the emerging Europe, resting places and inns began to be erected along the roads. These became places where the pilgrims gathered on route to places where it had been said miracles had occurred. The Miraculous Mother of God of Remete; the transforming of wine to blood in Ludbreg is the miracle of the Most Holy Blood of Christ; the miraculous find of the old statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Marija Bistrica; the miracle of intactness and complete lack of damage of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in a fire in today's *Kamenita vrata* (Stone Gates) in Zagreb, untouched and unscathed. The tradition of piety testifies to the deep roots of adoration for Our Lady in central Croatia. The Baroque period was marked by the phenomenon of building hundreds of churches and chapels that would become an inseparable part of the culture of this region.



♡ Baroque pilgrimage Church of the Appearance of Mary in Vinagora.

♣ Church of Mary of the Snow in Belec.

♠ Baroque pilgrimage Church in Trški Vrh.



TEN DAYS OF THE HOLY SUNDAY, with religious, entertainment, sporting and cultural programmes; Fizir cup, a motor plane pilot competition.
Ludbreg, August/September
www.tz-ludbreg.hr



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION, pilgrimage of the faithful to Marija Bistrica.
Marija Bistrica, 15 August
www.tz-zagorje.hr



ST. MARK'S DAY, pilgrimage to the birthplace of St. Mark of Križevci.
Križevci, 7 September
www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr

✠ Zagreb Cathedral, the apse and main altar to St. Stephen the King (1269–1284).



Parish feasts

Valley of the Cardinals



Michael Peck and Johann Franz Maltz (court chapel):
Procession with the relic of the holy blood, 1753

TALES OF LONG AGO, Church, 37

In central Croatia, fortified medieval cities, churches, convents and chapels in the period following the decline of direct danger of Turkish attack were either doomed to deteriorate, or were modernized into the Baroque style. In places, continuity was preserved, such as in Zagreb's Chapel of St. Stephan and in the sacristy of the Cathedral, where valuable medieval frescos have been preserved. The south portal of the Church of St. Mark on Gradec, the work of masters from the Czech Parler family, is the largest and most complete structure of Gothic sculpture in central Croatia. Significant ruins of medieval structures and frescos are also found around Jastrebarsko and, separately, in Križevci, the former seat of the Croatian Parliament and an important cultural centre. Centres of faith and literacy were Kostajnica, Lepoglava and Varaždin. When the conditions for peace and a more carefree life were later attained, people began visiting the sanctuaries during Christian holidays, particularly Christmas, Easter and the Assumption of Mary. A specific form of gathering arose for the people—the parish fair. This was a place to make vows, to obtain holy pictures and colourful sweets for the children as well as the unavoidable pork and potato stews that were cooking.



Together with mead or wine with mineral water, a parish fair without these stews was simply unthinkable. The succession of Baroque motifs of angels, grapevines, grapes and fish was like a frame for the Valley of the Cardinals. For when one small area gives rise to two cardinals, the Blessed Alojzije Stepinac and his successor Franjo Kuharić, then the valley where Krašić is situated can truly be called the Valley of the Cardinals.



DANI KRAŠIČKOG KRAJA, spiritual film festival, art colonies and the Valley of the Cardinals athletic race. Krašić, about 8 May www.tzzz.hr

STEPINAC DAY IN KRAŠIĆ, commemoration of the death of the blessed Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac. Krašić, 10 February www.tzzz.hr



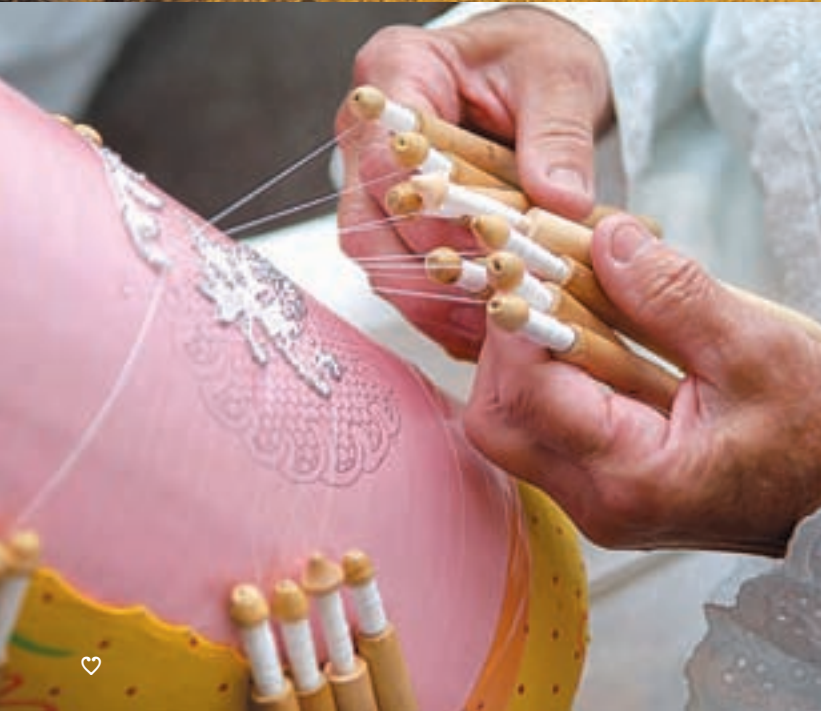
Paulists Ranger's path



Ivan Krstitelj Ranger: *Elders of the Apocalypse*, (fresco in the Church of St. Mary in Lepoglava), 1744

TALES OF LONG AGO, Church, 38

Lepoglava, a town with a long tradition of making the famed native lace, is also the historical centre of the Paulists. The distinctive Baroque painter of European renown, Ivan Krstitelj Ranger, born in 1700 in Tyrol, also lived here. He painted frescos in numerous sacral structures in Lepoglava, Štrigova, Remete, Sv. Ivan na Gorica, Purga Lepoglavska and Kamenica. He also worked for the Franciscans, painting their apothecary in Varaždin, and he painted the walls in the Church of St. Mary of the Snow in Belec. As a skilled illusionist of Italian provenance, he painted both on wooden boards and on canvas, however all his sketches and a multitude of Ranger's smaller works went to ruin following Joseph II's decision to eliminate the Paulist order in 1786. Ranger died in Lepoglava in 1753, leaving behind a significant number of works of supreme value to the central European Baroque movement, as well as painting the first independent landscape in Croatian painting history. In Kamenica, he painted a landscape that formed the backdrop in the tradition of illusionism, the scene for the sculpture of St. John the Baptist. From this to the termination of the order, an entire school of painters, sculptors and decorators worked in Lepoglava. The traveller can head out to visit all of the

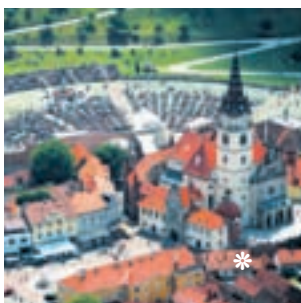


places that Ranger stopped and painted, and experience all the sensations in the landscape.

☞ Church of St. Mary Magdalena in Sela (near Sisak), built from 1756 – 1759 (interior decorated with stucco work).

♡ Lace-making school maintains the centuries long tradition of making the renowned Lepoglava lace.

* Marija Bistrica.



LEPOGLAVA LACE, an international lace festival; lace-making workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations, entertainment programmes, fair of old crafts and their presentation, local Lepoglava cuisine.

Lepoglava, September/October
www.lepoglava-info.hr

FROM KAPTOL TO KAPTOL, traditional athletic road race from Zagreb to Čazma (61 km).
Bjelovar, March
www.tzbbz.hr



Folklore Run Janko



Zvonimir Lončarić: *Companion*, 1998

TALES OF LONG AGO, Village, 39

The villages in central Croatia comprise a distinctive whole. They all have one thing in common: a conservative resistance to centuries of change that would erode the essence of their being. Another common factor is that all houses in these villages were built from the materials available in the immediate vicinity—clay, stone, wood and straw. The best piece of land next to the house was farmed. Houses were adapted to suit the terrain and were modest, rarely on two floors. More room was necessary for the cattle and storing the crops than for the people. Cellars were for wine and were the venue for social life; a place for conversation, tasting wine and breaking into song. In the plains, villages would be at crossroads or along the road, while on hills, they were most commonly scattered into small groups of houses on the hills. The houses were usually surrounded by vineyards and a wine hut and an orchard. A few walnut or linden trees could commonly be found planted next to the house. Nearby, each house had a bread oven where corn bread was baked, ever since corn conquered Europe, or the older rye breads, while white wheat breads were rarely baked. Stored away in grandma's chest are the hand-woven linens, bed linens, formally embroidered handkerchiefs, tablecloths and snow-white



napkins. This art of weaving would form the basis of the weaving industry in Duga Resa, Varaždin and Čakovec. When Janko headed off to the white city, basket in hand and dressed in a freshly washed shirt, and had to run to catch the train, he was seen from far off. The poem about Janko who is running for the train has preserved all that is typical of life in the village near the city, which has always given folk culture a little of the picturesque, an image that inspired A.G. Matoš to write his poem *Nocturno*, in which the train has forever become a part of the local landscape.

LETOVANIĆ, village near the Kupa River, picnic on the Kupa River. Exhibit of ethnology collections in beautiful arks and a competition in old sports.
Letovanić, July
www.turizam-smz.hr

KRAPJE, village of architectural heritage; a visit to Lonsjko polje, folklore groups, special gastronomy experience.
Krapje, September
www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr

HARVEST CELEBRATION, traditional event with participation of groups from the International Folklore Festival in Zagreb.
Zaprešić, July
www.tzzz.hr





Cheese and cream

Table



Ivo Režek: *Still life with bullrush bag*, 1938

TALES OF LONG AGO, Village, 40

The land bears fruit! Wheat and barley and rye and corn and beans and cabbage, all fruits of the earth. Hens, geese and ducks lay eggs, the cows give milk. On occasion, alongside the walnut loaf, poppy seed loaf, *gibanica* (cheese and egg pie), *zljevanke* (traditional cake), rolls, corn rolls or the yellow Easter sweet breads, cheese and cream, corn bread, green onions and horseradish are mandatory elements on the table. On special occasions, a roasted turkey with *mlinci* (bread tatters) is served, while carp is a favourite dish in Međimurje. In the autumn, the farmer will raise his head in suspicion upwards at the dark clouds and frown at the threat of frost. However, once the hay has been cut, the woven basket will be filled with plums for making spirits, the crates will be filled with potatoes and the mangers filled with rosy apples. As a symbol of love, an apple will accompany the bride and groom to the altar in autumn along with their wedding guests. Wood is laid ready by the house, after the slaughter, the smoke-houses work and the children will await the snow with anticipation, ready to race with rosy cheeks down the white slopes on sleds. On Christmas Eve, the tree is decorated.



WHAT OUR ELDERS ATE, culinary event presenting traditional dishes.
Vrbovec, August (last weekend in August)
www.tzzz.hr

INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF ECOLOGY AND HEALTHY EATING, exhibition of a hundred exhibitors from five countries, educational workshops, ethno music festival.
Čakovec, November
www.eol.hr

GASTRO TUROPOLJE, traditional event presenting typical dishes of the Turopolje region.
Velika Gorica, September
www.tzzz.hr

FESTIVAL OF MEĐIMURJE FOLKLORE,
Donja Dubrava, June
www.donjadubrava.com



Naïve Art
Hlebine



Ivan Večenaj: *Grey rooster*, 1976

TALES OF LONG AGO, Village, 41

Between the two World Wars, the Hlebine School of naïve painting was born in the midst of Podravina. This mode of expression of the Podravina peasants, initiated by painter Krsto Hegedušić (born in Petrinja in 1901), was recognized early on in the art world. Hegedušić spent several years in Hlebine teaching painting to the peasants there. In his search for a national style in the late 1920s, this Zagreb and Paris educated academic painter attempted to achieve a level of common simplicity, but with the values of European art. He was cofounder of the distinguished art group *Zemlja* (Land), established in 1929. In painting with tempera on the back side of glass, he created the painting *Five in the wine hut* in 1931, showing the peasants inclined towards the art of Ivan Generalić and Franjo Mraz his method of painting. Close to him and virtually paradigmatically clear at that time was painter Marijan Detoni from Križevci. Later, after the first exhibition of *Zemlja* in 1931, Mirko Virius, Mijo Kovačić, Ivan Večenaj, Ivan Lacković Croata and Josip Generalić joined the group. With their exhibitions in São Paulo in 1955 and Brussels as part of the 1958 World Exhibition in the selection of 50 years of modern art, the Hlebine School was entered into the World Register of Art History.



PODRAVINA MOTIVES, the largest fair of naïve art, traditional and artistic crafts, gastronomy and folklore.
Koprivnica, July (the 1st weekend)
www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr

CVETLIN, international festival of ethnic music and local entertainment.
Cvetlin-Trakošćan, July
www.bednja.hr

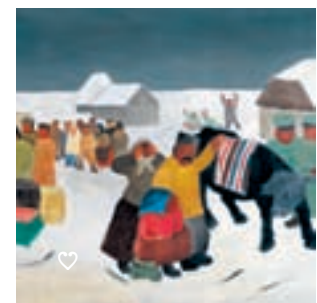
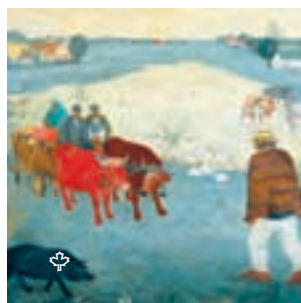
NEBO, Zagreb World Music Festival is the logical continuation of the promotion of new ethno music of the 1990s, the group Legen, Lidija Bajuk and Dunja Knebl, and Cinkuša.
Zagreb, November
www.tzzz.hr

♡ Krsto Hegedušić: *Hlebine*, 1931

♡ Ivan Generalić: *Relics*, 1934

♣ Posavina horses

BAGPIPE FESTIVAL
Mihovljan, October
www.tz-zagorje.hr





*

Free royal city

Statutes



Jakov Šašel: *Panorama of Karlovac*, 1874

TALES OF LONG AGO, city, 42

Having emerged primarily as trading (hospicies), settlements (oppidum) and inns along important old Roman roads (hospitium), many cities would receive the statue of a free royal city in the mid 18th century. Earlier, this had been attained by: Varaždin in 1209^ℓ, Petrinja in 1240, Zagreb ^ř and Samobor in 1242, Križevci in 1252, Jastrebarsko in 1257, Krapina in 1347 and Koprivnica in 1356. The Renaissance fortified town of Čakovec [☙] received this status directly from its owner, the Zrinskis in 1579, the same year the construction of Karlovac [♡] and Koprivnica in 1356 began, with its walls and entrenchments in the shape of a six-sided star. The most significant role in the later phases of the development of these towns in this part of continental Croatia was the constant threat of Turkish conquest. An important victory against the Turks, famous in European dimensions, was achieved near Sisak ^{*} in 1593, when the Croatian forces under Ban Toma Bakač Erdödy, outnumbered three times to one, defeated the Turkish army. Graphics with scenes from this battle circled Europe as a sensation, as this destroyed the myth of invincibility of the Turkish army [♣]. In 1756, Maria Therese established the new town of Bjelovar, built upon the model of a castrum. Varaždin (often called *Kleines*



Wien) was the capital of Croatia from 1756 until it was ravaged by a terrible fire in 1776. Despite having the status of a free royal city from 1242, Zagreb only officially became Croatia's capital in 1852! The development, building and significance of these towns was accompanied by and stimulated by the *regule*, rules important for collective life. In 1883, Canon Marko from Varaždin wrote the Rules for good behaviour as rule for adapting to urban table manners! And, for example, when the people of Samobor proclaim their *Fašnik* (Carnival) Republic, then the strict rules are briefly accompanied by new, humorous rules.

CROATIAN PERFORMANCE DAYS, full-day marathon of performance in the city streets.

Varaždin, August
www.tourism-varazdin.com

MARIA THERESE DAYS, re-enactment of the arrival of Empress Maria Theresie in the city.

Bjelovar, June
www.tzbbz.hr

¶ J.J. Strohberger: *Marco's square*, 1846.





Salon
Lute



Vjekoslav Karas: *Roman lady with lute*, 1847

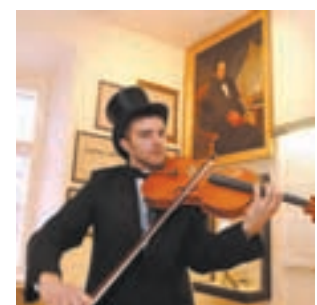
TALES OF LONG AGO, city, 43

Playing music among family and friends in the salons of urban villas is a part of musical culture and the core of chamber music in Croatia from the mid 19th century right up to the Zagreb Soloists today. Virtuoso guitarist Ivan Padovec from Varaždin, who performed in courts and salons throughout Europe, invented a two-neck, ten-stringed guitar in order to perform his complex compositions. This guitar was built in the 1830s by the most pronounced Viennese guitar builder of the day, Stauffer, based on Padovec's design. Ivo Robić, a musician who set the standards for easy music side by side with Sinatra, started in Garešnica and from salons and school gyms worked his way to the title of *Mister Morgen*. The town of Bjelovar is marked by the spirit of the artists born there or in the surrounding areas, from Nasta Rojc, the first artist schooled in the art nouveau period at the Academy in Munich to photographer Tošo Dabac from Nova Rača and painter Edo Murtić from Velika Pisanica. Vjekoslav Karas, author of the most distinctive painting of Croatia in the 19th century, *Roman lady with lute* from 1847, headed from Karlovac to Italy for his education. This piece of classical tranquillity unites painting and music and the entire time of sophisticated taste, of life in the



salons. As a town, Karlovac was modelled after the ideal of the Renaissance town and in accordance with the demands of the border, thereby becoming the paradigm of urbanism.

SAMOBOR MUSICAL AUTUMNS, series of classical music concerts, in commemoration of composer Ferdo Livadić. Samobor, September/October www.sgj.pousamobor.hr



♪ Lada Furlan, The Bambi Molesters
♣ Vladimir Proskurnjak, violin maker

♠ Golden Hall (1895), Zagreb, Opatička 10



Kremšnite Štrukle



Miljenko Stančić: *Boy Franck*, 1968

TALES OF LONG AGO, city, 44

When a particularly tasty meal is prepared, especially if this is a dessert, then it is commonly said that it comes from grandma's kitchen *ŕ*. This is particularly the case for *štrukle* (a baked cottage cheese pastry) when made right *ŕ*. Croatia's confectionary industry emerged in the 19th century on exactly this combination of local skill and technology. The company Kraš and its products are a symbol of excellence, particularly with respect to the *505 candy*, while the *Bajadera* is a classic chocolate treat. Indeed, it is difficult to separate certain products with the names of towns or villages. *Podravka* – Koprivnica, *Koestlin* – Bjelovar, *Gavrilović* – Petrinja, *Zdenka* – Veliki Zdenci, *Segestica* – Sisak, *Franck* – Zagreb, *Vindija* – Varaždin, *Pik* – Vrbovec, *Badel* – Zagreb. Some of the products from these famed manufacturers have become a synonym for similar products, such as the bouillon soup cube bearing the *Podravka* rooster or the triangles of *Zdenka* cheese with the image of a young girl framed by a horseshoe. *Vegeta*, a universal food seasoning, goes with everything, from soups and stews to fish dishes and salads. Travellers intended to visit Samobo – where the home of Ferdo Livadić was once a meeting place for poets and musicians, including Vatroslav Lisinski, composer of Croatia's



first opera – will be lead by the myths like the water that flows through the town into one of the cult dessert shops in the centre of town and order a *kremšnita* ☺, a magnificent cream custard cake, still hot... Take a few slices home, just as Antun Gustav Matoš, poet moderne and brilliant essayist and a frequent guest of Samobor, once did.

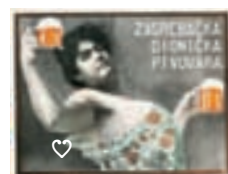
INTERNATIONAL CRAFTSMEN'S FAIR,
economic event presenting crafts
and small businesses.
Varaždin, May
www.turizam-vzz.hr
www.varazdin.hr

♡ Menci Klement Crnčić: *Zagreb Brewery*, 1910
♣ Pavao Gavranić: *Vero Lemonade*, 1930

* Pavao Gavranić: *Pokorny Liqueur Factory*, 1935

☞ Tomislav Krizman: *Stari graničar Liqueur Factory*, about 1913

☞ Radionica Rudolf Mosinger: *Zagreb Autumn Choir*, 1910





Magical crystals



And even then when frost covers every branch, turning it into a sparkling rod, and then when the snow crystals squeak under foot like they did before when the people returned home from the Midnight mass in silence, as though trying to attain the otherworldly, and then like now, the purity of the ice crystals opens the door to the human soul. As though we move away from the daily rush of life, we return to the forgotten oasis of peace and light-heartedness. It is these crystals of ice flowers that form on the window panes that create such strange scenes, like maps to a distant world where only good can come from. If you blow your hot breath and melt the ice, in the opening that arises for only a moment, you will see a world that is ordinary, but overwhelming.





Hubertus



Oton Iveković: *Woodcutter*, 1909

MAGIC CRYSTALS, 46

Eustachius, Hubertus and the knight Guigemar met at the end of what is most likely the oldest tradition of all of mankind – the hunting tradition. All three men met with a white deer, a symbol of the world beyond, with a cross shining between its horns; for each of these men, this was a sign of conversion. In these regions with magical oases of natural diversity, both the serf and the noble were hunters and hunting was both a matter of sheer necessity and entertainment. Therefore, hunting and hunters make up a special segment of the culture in this area. Today, to stand under the protection of Hubertus (both the cloak and the saint) on 3 November means to again be the protector of the forest and all animals. Typical of the white deer that connects these two worlds, it would appear that certain people show that the world of hunting and hunters is more than just a pursuit. The first president of the Croatian Hunter's Association, Dr. Milovan Zoričić, together with Franjo Bučar, founder of the Olympic movement in Croatia, organised the first sledding competition. The Plešivica Cup, a traditional local sledding competition, has been held from 1907 to the present¹⁷. The deer with its horns which, as legend would have it, are the crystallisation of



his powerful spirit, again becomes that mythical creature, the lone symbol of freedom, he who dwells in the deep woods. And when it emerges into the clearing, it becomes one of the most typical archetypal images of the very concept of ceremony. The deer and the foe stand upon a snow covered clearing, in the silence, on Christmas Eve.

☞ Ozalj Fortress on the Kupa River

☞ Christmas/New Year's greeting card (1930–1960)

☞ Church of St. George in Stojdraga





Yuletide Christmas tales



Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Lepoglava: *Mother of God*, (altar painting), 17/18th century

Winter is a period in which snow unquestionably confirms the identity of the season and it is our great fortune that this has remained true even to this day. For that reason, the very concept of Christmas in these areas is strongly associated with a special mood and memories of childhood. Long ago, Christmas was very modest, with hay, apples and walnuts as symbols full of life, and somehow more humane. Despite all their differences, this was a unity of three generations, with grandmother and grandfather taking on mystical roles in these days, those from fairy tales. Grandmother would bake the cookies, while grandfather would bring and lay the Yule log in the hearth on Christmas Eve. The Christmas tree would then be decorated and the nativity scene set up underneath. The snow falls silently and squeaks under boots upon returning from church. The candles in the night raise man to the level of the otherworldly.



CHRISTMAS STORY IN ČAZMA, event surrounding the Christmas customs in the Moslavina area, with a nativity scene and thousands of brightly coloured lights.
Salaj Estate, Grabovnica near Čazma, December
www.tzbbz.hr

CHRISTMAS CONCERT, traditional gala concert.
Bjelovar, December
www.tzbbz.hr

LADO'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT, Song, dance and portrayal of national customs relating to Christmas.
Zagreb, Varaždin, December
www.lado.hr

THE YOUNG YEAR, fair of traditional handicrafts; music and theatrical events surrounding Advent and Christmas.
Čakovec, December
www.tzm.hr





Dance Brilliant ball



Ivan Tišov: Art, wall painting in the Golden Hall, 1893

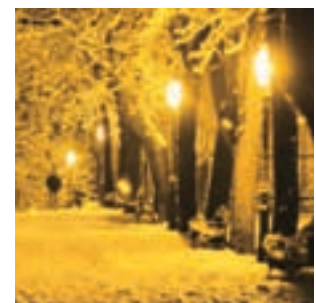
MAGIC CRYSTALS, 48

Unlike the coastal parties and all forms of Mediterranean entertainment, deeply rooted in the traditions of antiquity, over the long historical periods, the central part of Croatia was grasping to catch onto a variety of traditions. This was evident at all levels, from music to cuisine. After the end of centuries of threat of Turkish conquest and in the period of restoration when Rome was promoting the brilliance of its luxurious Baroque to Europe, castles and manors began to sprout up throughout central Croatia, their forms and furnishings indicating these were places of pure hedonism. With the logistics of the rural farms in the hierarchy of feudalism right up until 1848, life here was tied to the leisure time of the nobles, who commonly organized hunting events, balls, concerts, matinees and soirees. Musical culture was stimulated, as it was by the gentleness in neighbouring countries. Of course, they also danced as they did in Vienna and Budapest, and later in Paris. Fashion and poetry were esteemed; the nobles spoke German, Hungarian and French. Croatian, as the language of the people, began to gain its literary identity and increasingly became an expression of local finesse. The current dance steps were adopted, as was cavalier behaviour based on the European courts



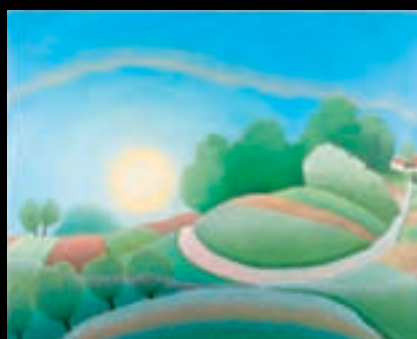
to which many were invited guests. The mazurka, polka and later the waltz was danced under bouquets of candles in the Murano chandeliers.

BRILLIANT BALL, a humanitarian event in which guests enjoy the magnificent ambient of the Varaždin Theatre and culinary delicacies typical to the Varaždin balls of the 18th century
Varaždin, February
www.varazdin-online.com





In the clearing



Ivan Rabuzin: *Dawn*, 1963

IN THE CLEARING, 49

It is the clearing, the edge of the forest, a clean meadow with a background making the forest look like stage design, that is one of the characteristic landscapes of central Croatia. This is where the forest and meadow meet, edged with hornbeam or hazel. Here in spring, the first snowdrops emerge from under the snow covered moss, followed by the primroses and hellebores and later by the mushrooms and wild strawberries. This is an area where the animals that hide deep within the forest in holes or nest in the trees come to feed or to play in a safe zone, in the clearing. This is the view from the forest and into it, from the mysterious and hidden to the open and sun-drenched. The deer in the clearing, in the dawn, appears to be captured in its frail innocence. This is where the rabbit runs, this is where we hear the call of the cuckoo from within the forest, announcing the awakening of spring. In these areas we commonly find villages, series of houses tucked up to the very edge of the forest into which, completely naturally, the village road continues onto the forest road, oftentimes deeply grooved from the horse-drawn carts loaded with dried leaves and acorns. Viewed from above, the clearing surrounded by forest, appears to be intimate.





Easter eggs



Ivan Lovrenčić: *From the gingerbread heart series*, 1985

IN THE CLEARING, 50

Easter, the most significant of Christian holy days, is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. This period, from Christmas, i.e. the Epiphany to Easter, abounds with many important events. The period up to Ash Wednesday, when we begin our spiritual preparations in Lent, is filled with all kinds of foolery and symbolic events which are the remnants of ancient rituals. After the winter, it is necessary to cast off evil spirits and to make way for new life. This is the basic message of the transformation in the mystery of the Christian faith of Easter. The folk traditions in these parts have retained a combination of paganism and Christianity in the symbol of the Easter eggs, painted eggs, most often red, ornamented with floral motifs and various Christian symbols. Braided Easter bread, resembling a newborn bundle, or crescent shaped cookies send out their messages. The quick and fertile rabbit is borrowed from ancient shaman history. A bean or coin is hidden within the Easter bread. In the morning after the blessing, the people sit down to enjoy the ham, boiled eggs and spring onions. Who finds the bean or coin in each piece of bread, this represents a grain of luck, as does the horseshoe placed over the front door.



EASTER SHOOTING FROM THE PISTOL UNDER KOSTELA, Joyful welcoming the awakening of nature and new life (tradition since the 16th century).
www.pregrada.hr



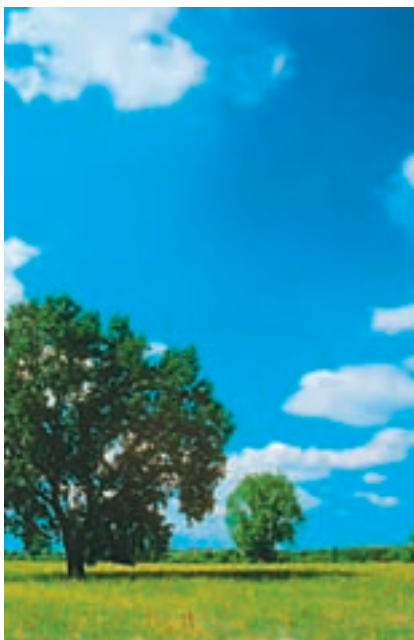
Cuckoo Green woods



Ivan Ranger: *Flora, Allegory of Spring*,
Chapel of St. George, Purga Lepoglavska, 1750

IN THE CLEARING, 51

After the winter, the world again begins to sprout and blossom. A pleasant spring rain and thunder that seems to evoke good. This is St. Elias' lightning, the Christian substitute for the pre-Slavic god of the sky, returning the son taken on the New Year and taken into another world. There will be the feast day of St. George, and soon the lily of the valley will blossom. People will decorate their homes with green branches. The entire forest is turning green, and an evergreen tree grows in the courtyard before the house. All the woods are covered with the freshness of dew drops on the branches and new leaves, like a poet's painting. The red colours of Christmas and Easter have received their complement. Once long ago, the New Year was celebrated at the time when spring awakened, and the green wood was its symbol. The green trees were then decorated with apples, and a key placed underneath to *unlock* the land. Then the people feasted merrily. Just imagine, a forest hut in the green wood! Come!



☞ Marijan Detoni: *Majalis by st. Vurja*, 1930.



Horseshoe Petrica Kerempuh



Farm building of the Batthyány Castle,
Ludbreg (wall painting), 1761

IN THE CLEARING, 52

And to end this story that began with a greeting for the reader, a greeting that, instead of a welcome, lists the facts of a sincere welcome deeply rooted in the tradition of this area, of the joy people bring to life when they are not overburdened with daily troubles and of simple pleasures, the name Petrica Kerempuh should certainly be mentioned. Kerempuh, rogue and rascal, the one who juggled in the squares and sang, lamenting and preaching about the fate of man as the axis in the centre of the Croatian state to live here through long and turbulent historical periods in which life was not excessively kind. In his distinguished work *The Ballad of Petrica Kerempuh*, written in the Kajkavian dialect and, unfortunately, difficult to translate, Miroslav Krleža achieved monumental success. The bitter humour of this lyric poetry is seen in the debate among the flowers about the rights and wrongs of nature, which is the only constant. Kerempuh's singing comes across through its beauty and wisdom as the perfect frame for the tale of central Croatia.





Nasta Rojc: *Wine hut at Gudovec*, 1905

BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY TOURIST BOARD
Trg Eugena Kvaternika 4, 43000 Bjelovar
tel. 385 43 243 944, fax. 385 43 241 229
info@tzbbz.hr
www.tzbbz.hr



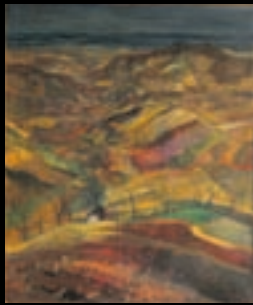
Ljudevit Šestić: *Motives from the river*, 1940

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www.tzkz.hr



Ivan Lacković Croatia: *Long winter*, 1966

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tz-kk-zupanije@kc.htnet.hr
www.tz-koprivnicko-krizevacka.hr



Ljubo Babić: *My homeland*, 1938

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tel. 385 49 233 653, fax. 385 49 233 653
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Ladislav Kralj Međimurec: *Winter*, 1956

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info@tzm.hr
www.tzm.hr



Nikola Mašić: *Goose-girl on the Sava River*, 1881

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tel. 385 44 540 163, fax. 385 44 540 164
tzsmz@email.t-com.hr
www.turizam-smz.hr



Franjo Klopota: *Zagorje dandy*, 1987

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tz.var.zupanije@vz.t-com.hr
www.turizam-vzz.hr



Oskar Herman: *Landscape from three trees*, 1963

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tel. 385 1 4873 665, fax. 385 1 4873 670
info@tzzz.hr
www.tzzz.hr



Dragutin Stark: *View of Zagreb from the north*, 1859

CITY OF ZAGREB TOURIST BOARD
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tel. 385 1 4898 555, fax. 385 1 4814 340
info@zagreb-convention.hr
www.zagreb-convention.hr



Maksimilijan Vanka: *So that the fields bear more fruit*, 1934

ORIGINALLY CROATIAN

Bajadera, Vegeta, Stara Badel plum brandy, Dukatela dairy spread, Petrine pletilje knits, Paprenjak – traditional Croatian pepper cookie, Koprivnica Ivanec Embroidery, Melem, Plum jam, Lepoglava lace, Gavrilović salami, Gavrilović pepper sausage (*kulen*), Fresh pork meat, Varaždin pumpkinseed oil, Podravka beef goulash, Varaždin sauerkraut, Varaždin pickled turnips, Penkala pens, Penkala fountain pens, Dimsi, Podravec, Zagreb cheese, Table fashions: woven table runners, tablecloths and placemats, Bermet Filipec.

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Igor Zidić, *Director of the Modern Gallery* and Vladimir Crnković, *Director of the Croatian Museum of Naive Art*

THANKS FOR CO-OPERATION

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Modern Gallery, Zagreb
Croatian Museum of Naive Art, Zagreb
Museum of the City of Zagreb
Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb
Museum of Modern Art, Zagreb
Ethnography Museum, Zagreb
Croatian History Museum, Zagreb
Croatian School Museum, Zagreb
Museum of the City of Karlovac (*Vjekoslav Karas Gallery*)
Museum of the City of Sisak (*Cultural and Historical collection*)
Museum of the City of Varaždin (*Gallery of Old and New Masters*)
Museum of the City of Bjelovar (*Gallery Section*)
Museum of Međimurje Čakovec (*Memorial Collection of Ladislav Kralj Međimurec*)
Museum of the City of Krapina
Brlić-Mažuranić Monumental Collection
A very heart-filled thank you.

CENTRAL CROATIA, ARTISTS

Antun Augustinčić (*Klanjec* 1900 – Zagreb 1979), Ljubo Babić (*Jastrebarsko* 1890 – Zagreb 1974), Vojin Bakić (*Bjelovar* 1915 – Zagreb 1992), Vlaho Bukovac (*Cavat* 1855 – Prague 1922), Marija Brusić Kovačica (*Punat on Krk* 1911 – Rijeka 1990), Menci Klement Crnčić (*Bruck na Muri* 1865 – Zagreb 1930), Marijan Detoni (*Križevci* 1905 – Zagreb 1981), Robert Frangeš – Mihanović (*Sremska Mitrovica* 1872 – Zagreb 1940), Ivo Friščić (*Bjelovar* 1937 – Zagreb 1993), Pavao Gavrančić (*Zagreb* 1905 – Zagreb 1973), Vilko Gecan (*Kuželj near Broda na Kupi* 1894 – Zagreb 1973), Ivan Generalić (*Hlebine* 1914 – Koprivnica 1992), Josip Generalić (*Hlebine* 1936 – Koprivnica 2004), Sergije Glumac (*Užgorod, the Ukraine* 1903 – Zagreb 1964), Krsto Hegedušić (*Petrinja* 1901 – Zagreb 1975), Oskar Herman (*Zagreb* 1886 – Zagreb 1974), Oton Iveković (*Klanjec* 1869 – Zagreb 1939), Drago Jurak (*Pušća near Zagorskih sela* 1911 – Zagreb 1994), Vjekoslav Karas (*Karlovac* 1821 – Karlovac 1858), Zlatko Kauzlarčić Ataç (*Koprivnica* 1945), Željko Kipke (*Čakovec* 1953), Vladimir Kirin (*Zagreb* 1894 – Zagreb 1963), Franjo Klopotan (*Presečno near Novi Marof* 1938), Mijo Kovačić (*Gornja Šuma near Molve*), Tomislav Krizman (*Orlovac near Karlovac* 1882 – Zagreb 1955), Ladislav Kralj Međimurec (*Čakovec* 1891 – Čakovec 1976), Mihovil Krušlin (*Ključ* 1882 – *Laduč near Zagreb* 1962), Ivan Lacković Croata (*Batinska* 1932 – Zagreb 2004), Antun Lerchinger (*Rogatec around 1720 – Rogatec after 1792*), Zvonimir Lončarić (*Zagreb* 1927 – Zagreb 2004), Ivan Lovrenčić (*Sveti Križ Začretje* 1917 – *Sveti Križ Začretje* 2003), Ranko Marton (*Zagreb* 1946), Nikola Mašić (*Otočac* 1852 – Zagreb 1902), Celestin Mato Medović (*Kuna on Pelješac* 1857 – *Sarajevo* 1920), Martin Mehkek (*Novačka near Gola in Podravina* 1936), Franjo Mrzaz (*Hlebine* 1910 – *Brežice* 1981), Edo Murtić (*Velika Pisanica near Bjelovar* 1921 – Zagreb 2005), Oton Postružnik (*Maribor* 1900 – Zagreb 1978), Ivan Rabuzin (*Ključ near Novi Marof* 1921), Mirko Rački (*Novi Marof* 1879 – *Split* 1982), Ivan Ranger (*Axanus in Tyrol* 1700 – *Lepoglava* 1753), Slava Raškaj (*Ozalj* 1877 – Zagreb 1906), Ivo Režek (*Varaždin* 1898 – Zagreb 1979), Nasta Rojč (*Bjelovar* 1883 – Zagreb 1964), Zdenka Sertić (*Sv. Ivan Zelina* 1899 – 1986), Matija Skurjeni (*Veternica near Golubovec* 1898 – Zagreb 1990), Miljenko Stančić (*Varaždin* 1926 – Zagreb 1977), Milan Steiner (*Sisak* 1894 – Zagreb 1918), Josip Johann Strohberger (*Vienna – Zagreb*), Slavko Stolnik (*Voća Donja near Varaždin* 1929 – *Voća Donja* 1991), Jakov Šašel (*Kapela in Corinthia* 1832 – *Karlovac* 1903), Branko Šenoa (*Zagreb*

1874 – Zagreb 1939), Ljudevit Šestić (*Đakovo* 1900 – Zagreb 1962), Zlatko Šulentić (*Glina* 1893 – Zagreb 1971), Miroslav Šutej (*Duga Resa* 1936 – *Krapinske Toplice* 2005), Ivan Tišov (*Viškovci near Đakovo* 1870 – Zagreb 1928), Josip Turković (*Đurđevac* 1936 – Zagreb 1982), Maksimilijan Vanka (*Zagreb* 1889 – *Mexico* 1962), Vladimir Varljaj (*Zagreb* 1895 – Zagreb 1962), Ivan Večenaj (*Gola near Koprivnica* 1920), Mirko Virius (*Đelekovec* 1889 – *Zemun* 1973).

A TRADITIONAL CROATIAN PRODUCT

Wooden toys of the Zagorje region are a traditional 19th century Croatian product, and their manufacture has continued till today in the villages of the Marija Bistrica and Gornja Stubica municipalities. The toys are sold at fairs, church festivities and markets. The manufacture of these toys features on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Ferdo Kovačević: *Spring in the garden*, 1913



Nikola Mašić: *Summer ideal*, 1883



Zlatko Šulentić: *Autumn*, 1921



Oton Iveković: *Winter*, 1908

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BILIKUM
Cheh, Lech and Mech, three connected jugs, the symbol of ancient Slavic history; in Krapina pottery, this has become a cult three-part dish of heartfelt welcome, filled with the host's wine and passed in a circle from person to person. The name of the bilikum is of German origin (*Willkommen*) and means: WELCOME!

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- 99 MEĐIMURJE RALLY, Toplice Sveti Martin, www.toplicesvetimartin.hr
- 100 TUROPOLJE ST. GEORGE'S DAY, Velika Gorica, www.tzvg.hr



United Nations Day

ALL SAINTS' DAY, visits to cemeteries

ST. HUBERT'S DAY, patron saint of wild game and hunters
City of Koprivnica day

World Youth Day

ST. MARTIN'S DAY, bishop christens the new wine, hearty table, tambura music
Beginning of the pig slaughter

ST. CATHERINE'S DAY, snow at the door

Buy nothing day

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE'S DAY, last holy day before Advent

ST. BARBARA'S DAY, women plant wheat in containers

ST. NICHOLAS'S DAY, joyous day for children
City of Varaždin Day
City of Krapina Day

World Mountains Day

ST. LUCY'S DAY, wheat is planted

BEGINNING OF WINTER

CHRISTMAS EVE, trees and homes are decorated

CHRISTMAS DAY, the most joyous holiday

ST. STEPHAN'S DAY, Christmas greetings

International Biodiversity Day

ST. SYLVESTER'S DAY, New Year's Eve

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast of the Epiphany

World Laughter Day

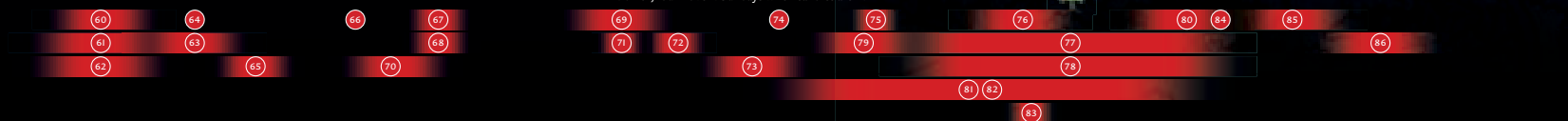
ST. VINCENT'S DAY, holiday of winegrowers

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

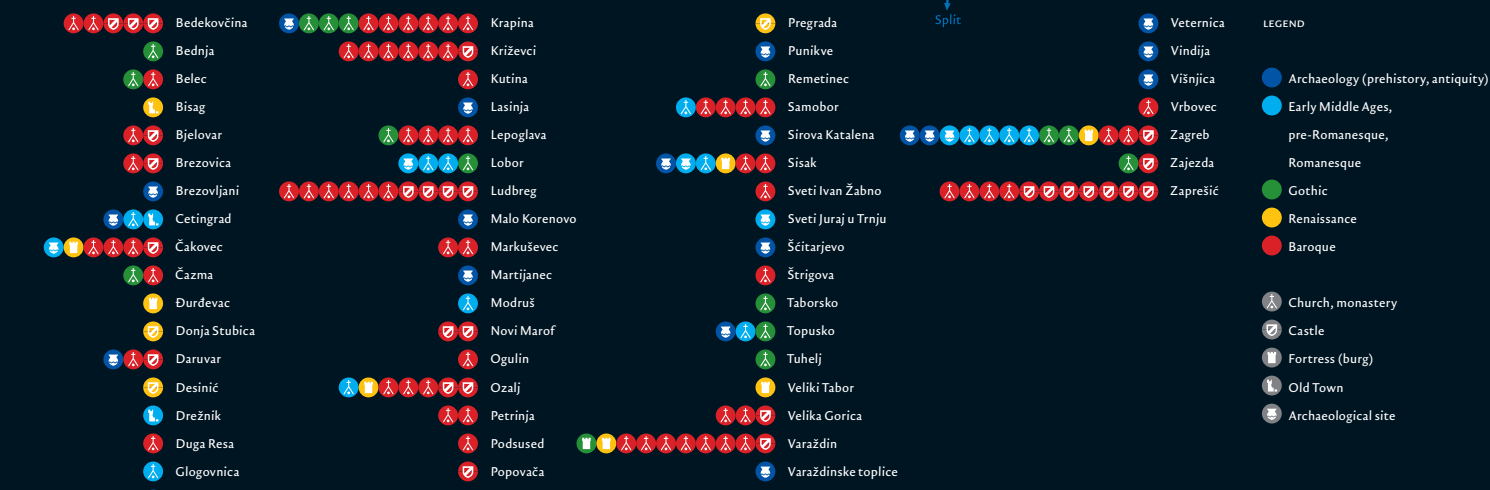
ADVENT, four Advent Sundays when candles are lit

JANUARY





DATE	EVENT
28	
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1	CARNIVAL: entertainment, dancing, masks and doughnuts
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1	April Fool's Day
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1	World Health Day
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1	Planet Earth Day
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1	ST. GEORGE'S DAY: brings spring and good luck



LEGEND

- Archaeology (prehistory, antiquity)
- Early Middle Ages, pre-Romanesque
- Romanesque
- Gothic
- Renaissance
- Baroque
- Church, monastery
- Castle
- Fortress (burg)
- Old Town
- Archaeological site

HRVATSKO ZAGORJE
 Gornja Bistra
 Gornja Bedekovčina
 Bežanec
 Donje Orosavje
 Miljana
 Jalkovec
 Marja Bistrica
 Klokovec
 Stubički Golubovec
 Novi Marof
 Varaždinske Toplice
 Klenovnik
 Varaždinsko groblje
 Šaulovec
 Bajnski Dvori
 Vidovec
 Križovljanski
 Veliki Bukovec
 Martijanec
 Perivoj Zrinski
 Čakovec

ZAGREB
 Jurjevska ulica
 Mallinov park
 Markuševac
 Mlinovi
 Maksimir
 Ribnjak
 Zrinjevac
 Trg kralja Jurja Strossmayera
 Dvorac Junković



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*Things have never been
without being some way or other,
So they cannot forever be without
being one way or other,*

*For: things have never been without
something being there,
So they will never be with nothing
being there.*

Miroslav Krleža, *The Ballad of Petrice Kerempuh*
Translated by Željko Bujas

