



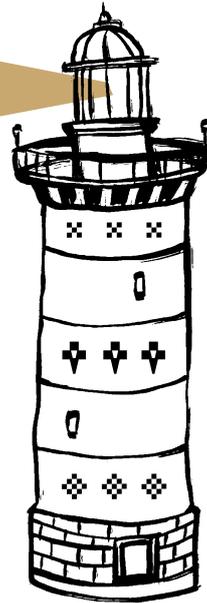
HVAR ISLAND

DISCOVER, FOLLOW AND BE THE LIGHT

DISCOVER,

FOLLOW AND

BE THE LIGHT





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Welcome to the Island of Hvar, the Island of Light

There are places where the light is more powerful, more intense, and brighter than anywhere else. Such places have always beckoned to people seeking inspiration, beauty and pleasure. Just like a lighthouse.

One of these areas of light is the island Hvar. Hvar reveals a hidden microcosm, opening our eyes to a better world where the light has won the battle against darkness. If you visit it, you will understand what attracted the ancient Illyrians, Greeks, Romans and Croats here — **the light that inspires and nourishes.**



The light is in the lamp we use to hunt for sardines. It is in the tower Tor, which guards the island. It is in the sun that nourishes the agave from which the Benedictine sisters have been making lace for hundreds of years. The light illuminates a Roman mosaic that bears witness to the light of this island with its depiction of a kantharos. And the greatest light is the one that spiritually nourishes our islanders in the Following the Cross procession. Light is everywhere here – Hvar is literally the sunniest island in the Adriatic – **and nothing is hidden in the light.** This light can shine for great distances, for even when we leave this island, we will forever take a part of its light with us, reminding us of the wonderful afternoon when we tasted paprenjoki cookies, drank Bogdanuša wine under a century-old pine tree or listened to the sounds of a *cappella klapa*.

If you stop, you will hear the whisper of the Renaissance poet from the 16th century, Petar Hektorović, who believed that nothing was hidden. And it's true. Nothing is hidden in Hvar's light. It reveals the optimism, the love in each of us, and returns us to the life we love. Here you are invited to **discover, follow and be the light.**



THE LIGHT THAT NOURISHES AND INSPIRES...

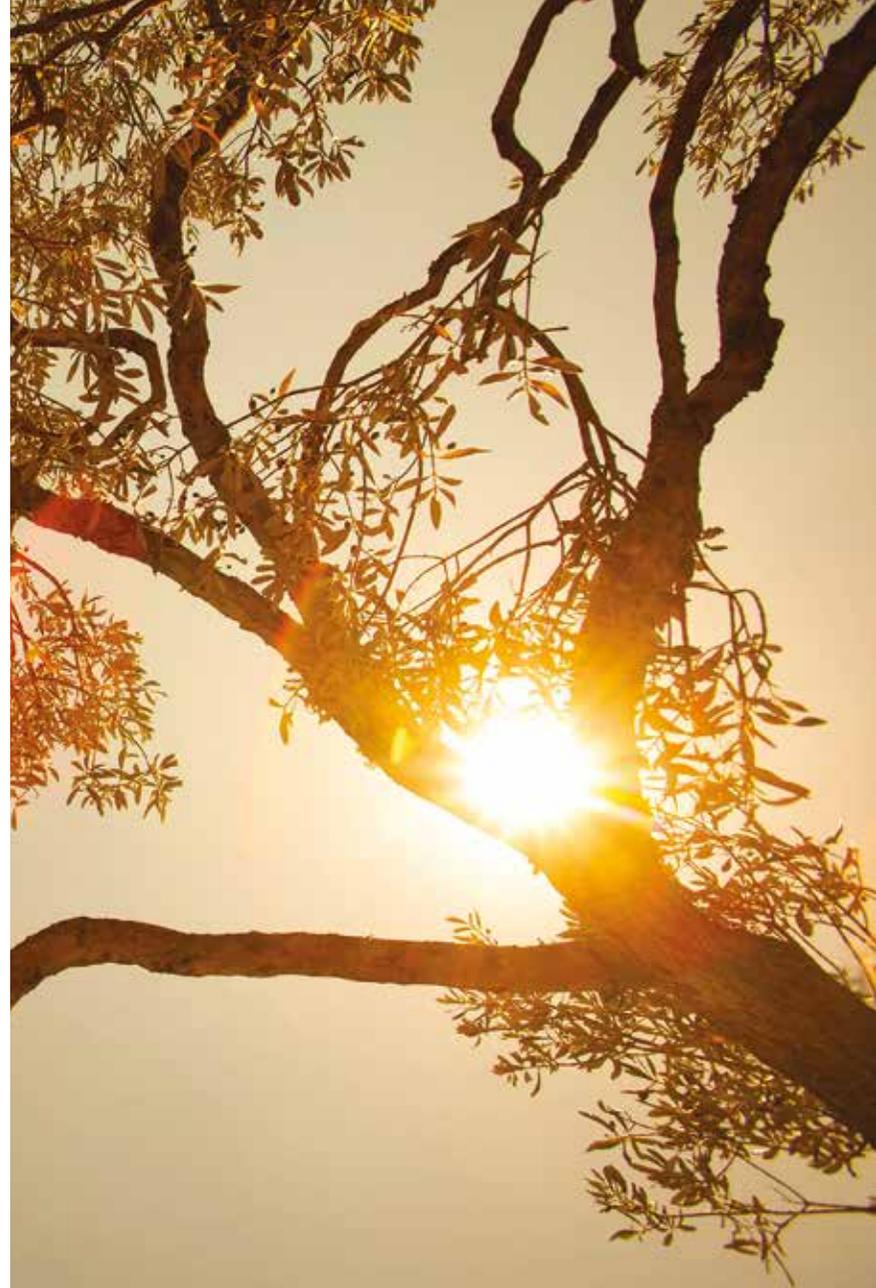
NIHIL OCCULTVM
NOTHING IS HIDDEN



The golden heritage of Hvar Island

This island has six UNESCO protected sites and is widely known as the UNESCO Island.

Captivated by the deep bay, the ample freshwater resources, and open, fertile plain at the heart of the island, ancient Greek colonists from the Island of Paros decided to settle in the area of today's Stari Grad. They recognized the farming potential of the **Stari Grad Plain**, surveyed the land and divided it into a grid of plots. From antiquity and into the medieval era, this area was used for growing grapes and for farming grains. Back then, the plain was dotted with olive groves and carob trees, while fruitful almond trees grew closer to the settlements, along the edges of the field. This landscape was also dotted with fig trees and terraced lavender plantations. Today it represents the best preserved example of the system the ancient Greeks used to divide land. Both the plain and the **historic core** of Stari Grad, originally called **Pharos** by its Greek founders, are UNESCO-listed sites.

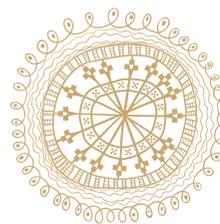


The Island of Hvar has two local and intangible customs protected by UNESCO: a unique way of making agave lace and the "Za Križen" ("Following the Cross") procession. The delicate art of **agave lace-making** belongs to the Benedictine Convent of St. John the Baptist and St. Anthony the Abbot. For several centuries the hardworking and dedicated hands of the Benedictine nuns have been extracting thin white threads from fresh agave leaves to create lace and intricate works of art.

On the night before Good Friday, the Island of Hvar becomes illuminated as a multitude of worshippers carry candles in the "**Za Križen**" ("Following the Cross") procession. Six solemn groups set out from the towns Jelsa, Pitve, Vrisnik, Svirče, Vrbanj and Vrboska, and return to their parishes in the early morning hours amid the dawn's rising rays.



THE CONSECRATED HANDS OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS...



AGLOW WITH CANDELIGHT...



Klapa, a traditional, ensemble, a *cappella* singing, and a cultural heritage also protected by UNESCO, is the perfect soundtrack to capture that real Mediterranean ambience. Klapa songs are usually about the sea, love and the Mediterranean lifestyle. The music touches the hearts of locals and visitors alike, particularly when sung among Dalmatia's stony corridors and island vistas. Klapa is an important means of cultural and musical expression on the Dalmatian coast and its islands.



THE MEDITERRANEAN WAY OF LIFE...



A RICH TASTE OF TRADITION...



Besides klapa singing, the **Mediterranean cuisine** is an integral part of Dalmatia's identity. The rich traditional flavors in a modern setting offer experiences tailored for all the senses. There is no better way to mark important moments in life than with an authentic Mediterranean dish enhanced with spices and local olive oil, and paired with top-quality wine. The Mediterranean cuisine is more than just excellent meals, it is also the exquisite knowledge, skills, practices and customs of farming and fishing, processing and preparation that go into this traditional, local way of life.

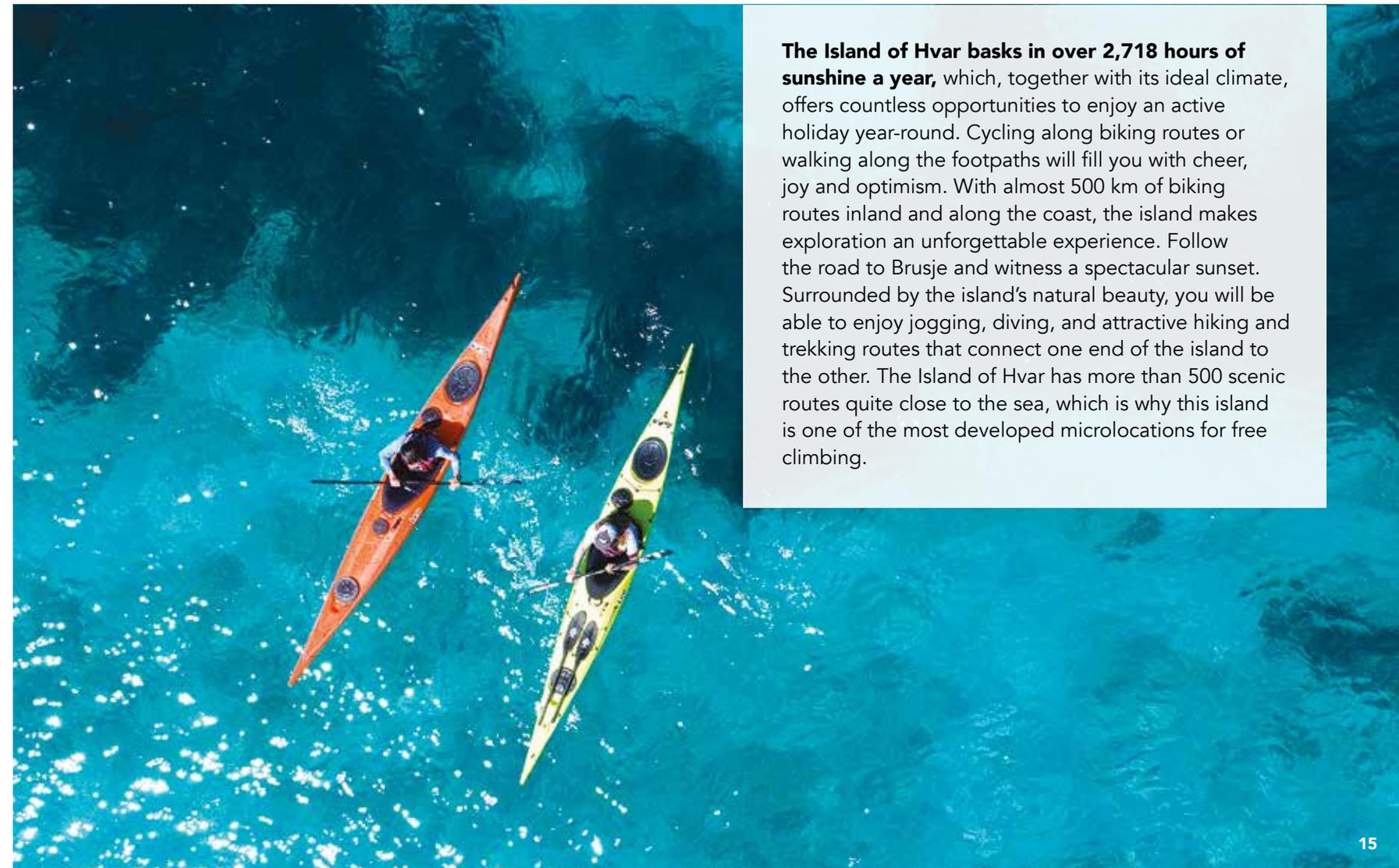
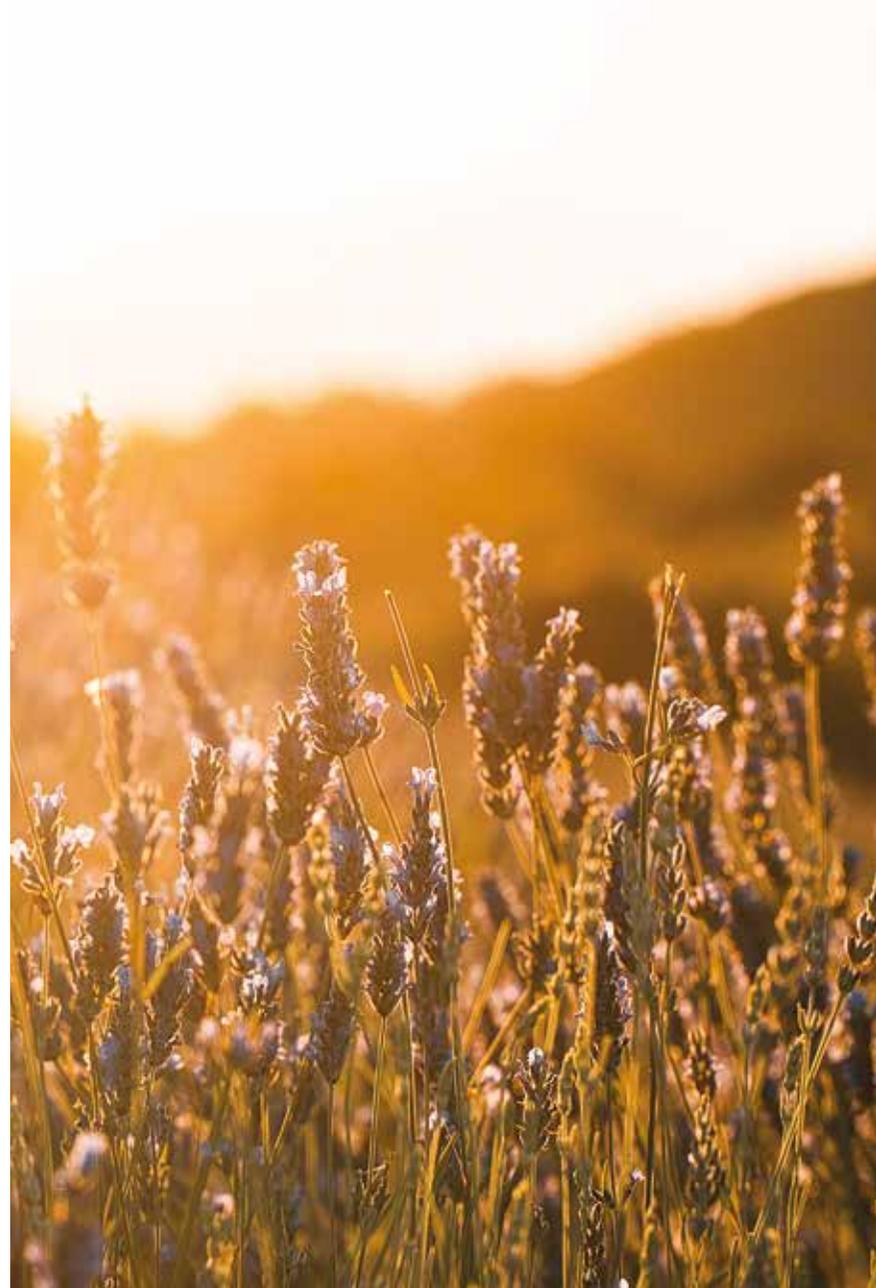
The art of dry stone walling is a unique stone building technique that doesn't involve the use of mortar. The resourceful and diligent inhabitants of the Island of Hvar used to lay broken pieces of stone on top of each other, creating exceptional architectural structures that blended perfectly into the natural environment. This technique was used to construct shelters and roads, but also served as a creative way of converting the island's rocky terrain into farmland.



The sunniest island

The Island of Hvar has always been considered a perfect place for living. Its pristine nature beckons visitors to explore the island's beauty.

Nature on Hvar isn't only stunningly beautiful, it can also have a healing effect on the body and soul. The island's inhabitants recognized the value of its medicinal herbs early on, and used them to make precious extracts, essential oils and miraculous hydrosols. At the same time, they also acknowledged the multiple benefits of their island's excellent microclimate. This knowledge prompted Franz Unger, an Austrian botanist and professor at the University of Graz, to take action and set up a health resort, inaugurating the tradition of organized tourism on Hvar more than 155 years ago.



The Island of Hvar basks in over 2,718 hours of sunshine a year, which, together with its ideal climate, offers countless opportunities to enjoy an active holiday year-round. Cycling along biking routes or walking along the footpaths will fill you with cheer, joy and optimism. With almost 500 km of biking routes inland and along the coast, the island makes exploration an unforgettable experience. Follow the road to Brusje and witness a spectacular sunset. Surrounded by the island's natural beauty, you will be able to enjoy jogging, diving, and attractive hiking and trekking routes that connect one end of the island to the other. The Island of Hvar has more than 500 scenic routes quite close to the sea, which is why this island is one of the most developed microlocations for free climbing.

Beaches, islands and coves

The entire southern side of the island and its pristine surroundings reveal breathtaking beauty. Hvar's countless coves and beaches, tucked away all over the island, its crystal clear, sunlit sea make the island the perfect place for lovers of nautical tourism. It's also great for those who enjoy pebbly and sandy beaches such as the magnificent ones in **Zavala, Ivan Dolac, Sv. Nedjelja, Zračće, Dubovica, Jagodna, Pokonji Dol, Milna, Bruške Vale and Gdinj**. Rent a kayak or a stand-up paddle board and start exploring!

Cape Kabal dominates the northern side of the island. Its inlets and coves serve as a natural windbreak. Because of its environmental importance, this cape is included in the EU Commission's Ecological Network Natura 2000, a network of designated sites deemed essential to endangered or threatened species. **The Island of Zečevo** is also a Natura 2000 site. This picturesque island is located north of Vrboska, and is a favorite spot because of its shade-casting pine trees. **The Soline Peninsula** is another northern gem. It's a place to enjoy the crystal clear sea and a variety of water sports.



It's hard to find places closer to paradise than Hvar, but the neighboring **Pakleni Islands** are just that. This protected landscape is a unique archipelago lying opposite the Town of Hvar. The name of this group of islands is not derived from the word "pakao" (hell in English) but from the word "pâklina", a type of pine resin used in shipbuilding. The locals simply refer to them as the "Škoji" ("škoji" in local dialect = islands). You will surely find a piece of paradise in glittering rocky coves enclosed by the turquoise blue sea.

The Islet of Šćedro is situated off the southern coast of the Island of Hvar. It is a protected nature park with alluring, untouched nature, secluded coves and tranquil surroundings.



BEACHES, ISLANDS AND COVES...





BEACHES, ISLANDS AND COVES...



A place of inspiration

The Island of Hvar is a place of inspiration. Its light of inspiration has awakened the curious spirit of the island's residents and guests for centuries.

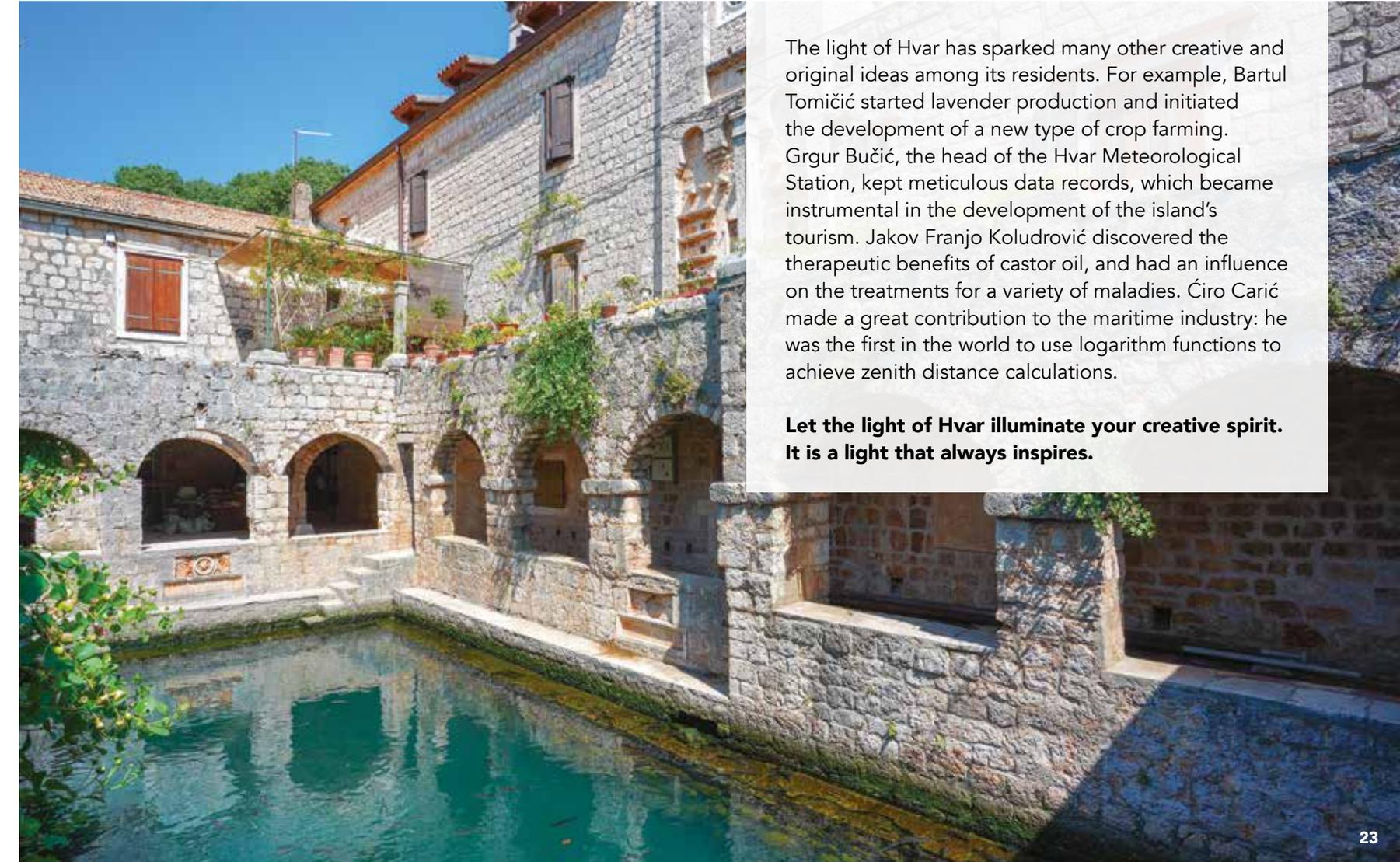
The beauty of the Island of Hvar has inspired writers, artists, builders and scholars – ranging from historian Vinko Pribojević, Hvar writers Petar Hektorović, Hanibal Lucić and Marin Gazarović, to the intellectual elite of the 19th and 20th centuries, including theologian Šime Ljubić, composer Antun Dobronić, poets Rajmund Kupareo and Tonko Maroević, and one of the most prominent Croatian historiographers, Grga Novak. This list even includes Ivan Vučetić, one of the first innovators of finger print identification or dactyloscopy, his achievement is highlighted by the inscription on his monument – as “the man who recognized a man by his finger”.

Prominent writers Petar Hektorović and Hanibal Lucić, the author of the first secular drama in Croatian, are just two examples of how Hvar was once the center of Croatian literature and humanist thought during the Renaissance.

The island had a great architectural and artistic flourishing as well, evidenced by the glorious palaces, summer residences and churches built by local and Venetian masters that still richly decorate the island's towns today.



OMNIVM CONDITORI
THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS



The light of Hvar has sparked many other creative and original ideas among its residents. For example, Bartul Tomičić started lavender production and initiated the development of a new type of crop farming. Grgur Bučić, the head of the Hvar Meteorological Station, kept meticulous data records, which became instrumental in the development of the island's tourism. Jakov Franjo Koludrović discovered the therapeutic benefits of castor oil, and had an influence on the treatments for a variety of maladies. Ćiro Carić made a great contribution to the maritime industry: he was the first in the world to use logarithm functions to achieve zenith distance calculations.

Let the light of Hvar illuminate your creative spirit. It is a light that always inspires.

Gastro- nomic delights

The Island of Hvar is renowned for its superb gastronomy. Savor the authentic, local cuisine rich in the exquisite tastes and aromas of the Mediterranean.



DELIGHTFUL
HVAR

Traditional dishes

Over the years, many of the island's dishes have been described by local writers. Skilled fishermen Paskoje and Nikola from Hektorović's poem "On Fishing and Fishermen's Tales" prepared the famous "gregada" (fish and potato stew), and served cheese, bread and "paprenjaci" (gingerbread cookies) at the end of the meal. "**Gregada**" or "**brujet**" (fish and potato stew) is one of the best-known seafood dishes from Dalmatia. Its preparation seems simple, but its flavors are rich, making it one of the top choices among connoisseurs looking for genuinely local culinary experiences.

Every family has its own cherished tradition of preparing "**pašticada**" (marinated beef, usually served with gnocchi). Although this meal requires a lot of time, its tremendous taste is worth the effort. The blend of aromas and flavors return each islander to past, memorable, family meals. However, if you decide to try a quicker dish, you'll be indulging in another time honored tradition, that of **grilled meat**. This meal offers a unique flavor that comes from being grilled over a fire fueled by dried grapevines. It pairs perfectly with grilled seasonal vegetables and a glass of one of the island's wines.

Hvar abounds with a tradition of preparing sweet, local delicacies. The gingerbread cookies "**paprenjaci**" don't actually contain any pepper despite the name ("papar" in Croatian = pepper). Instead, they are filled with the sun's rays and a medley of the finest spices, flour, honey, olive oil and prosecco. Like gregada, they too are featured in Hektorović's poem "On Fishing and Fishermen's Tales". Many recipes for paprenjaci have been passed down from generation to generation, and today they can be enjoyed by every visitor to the island. Or perhaps, they'd prefer a custard pudding? The perfectly balanced chilled cream and caramelized sugar in "**rožata**" is especially appetizing in the hot summer months. There is also the traditional cake "**hvarski cviti**" ("cvit" in Croatian = flower) which will also awaken each of your senses.



UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES, SCENTS AND TASTES...



Olives, grapes and lavender

Olives and grapes have been grown on the Island of Hvar since the time of the ancient Greeks, while the wines from this island have been exported all over the Mediterranean. Hvar's excellent terroir, fertile soil, fresh water and high number of sunny days combine to create **some of the best Croatian Plavac and Pošip wines**, as well as the **indigenous variety Prč**. Each of these incredible wines is produced at the very heart of this island and on its southern slopes. **Bogdanuša** is a local grape native to Dalmatia, and it creates a wine so delicious it might be divine. After all, the translation of bogdanuša means *God-given*.

In the past, 10 percent of the world's lavender production came from the Island of Hvar. Today lavender is grown mainly in the highlands of Velo Grablje and Malo Grablje, Zastrazišće, Hvar Town, Pitve and the Stari Grad Plain. **Lavender** is an important symbol of the island. It is a natural ingredient in cosmetic products, and in the honey made by the island's bees.

Hvar's local products are grounded in tradition, product excellence, and the identity of the island. This island has its own label of authenticity: "Delightful Hvar".



DISCOVER, FOLLOW AND BE THE LIGHT

Touch and feel the lavender scent of Hvar



THE TOWN OF HVAR



A 15th century veduta, or panorama, shows that even 600 years ago the Town of Hvar was already a place of appealing beauty, diversity and wealth. **The Arsenal** stands like a sentinel, guarding the city's harbor and paying homage to its maritime importance. Another testimony to Hvar's famous naval heritage is "The Beast", a well-preserved dragon figurehead from a galley that fought in the famous Battle of Lepanto in 1571 between the Catholic maritime states and the Ottoman Empire.

The Arsenal's construction was prompted by Venice. This space used to be a vaulted warehouse for galley repair and marine supplies. Nowadays it is a multifunctional space that plays an important role in the town's social events and activities.



ENCHANTING BEAUTY...

THE TOWN OF HVAR

The Hvar Theater, the first public theater in Europe, was built above the Arsenal in 1612. Its construction was promoted by a peace established between the town's social classes, the unique humanistic environment and the rich creativity of the Renaissance writers on the island. At a time when social upheavals were commonplace, the Island of Hvar gave a new dimension to coexistence between commoners and nobles. The Hvar Theater inaugurated a profound social change, paving the way for the further development of the dramatic arts, but also altering cultural and social life in the entire region.

Pjaca is Hvar's central square and the largest in Dalmatia. It is here that the residents of Hvar have gathered for centuries for community and news, it's also the place from which to start exploring this beautiful town. On the west side of the square sits the **Town Loggia**, formerly the public courthouse and customs house, and subsequently a café and reading room. The Loggia and the Clock Tower form a unique architectural complex which is used today as a multifunctional exhibition space.

The town's main square is home to the **Cathedral of St. Stephen I**, who was a pope and martyr and patron saint of the Diocese of Hvar and the Town of Hvar. The beautiful 17th century Bell Tower has long been a witness to the local lives, art, culture and traditions of Hvar. Discover the miracle of the small Holy Cross ("Križić" in Croatian) and cherish the lesson learned in your heart.



Leaving Pjaca and walking through the main town gate, the stone steps take you through a park and up to the imposing fortress above the town. **Fortica** was built in the early 16th century and represented a defense system against would-be invaders and conquerers. Within the fortress walls you'll find a valuable collection of recovered artifacts from Hvar's ancient and medieval past. From its strategic vantage point, Fortica has stood guard and witnessed Hvar's turbulent history. Today, this once defensive position offers an unforgettable view of the Town of Hvar, its harbor, the sea, and the surrounding Pakleni Islands.



THE TOWN OF HVAR

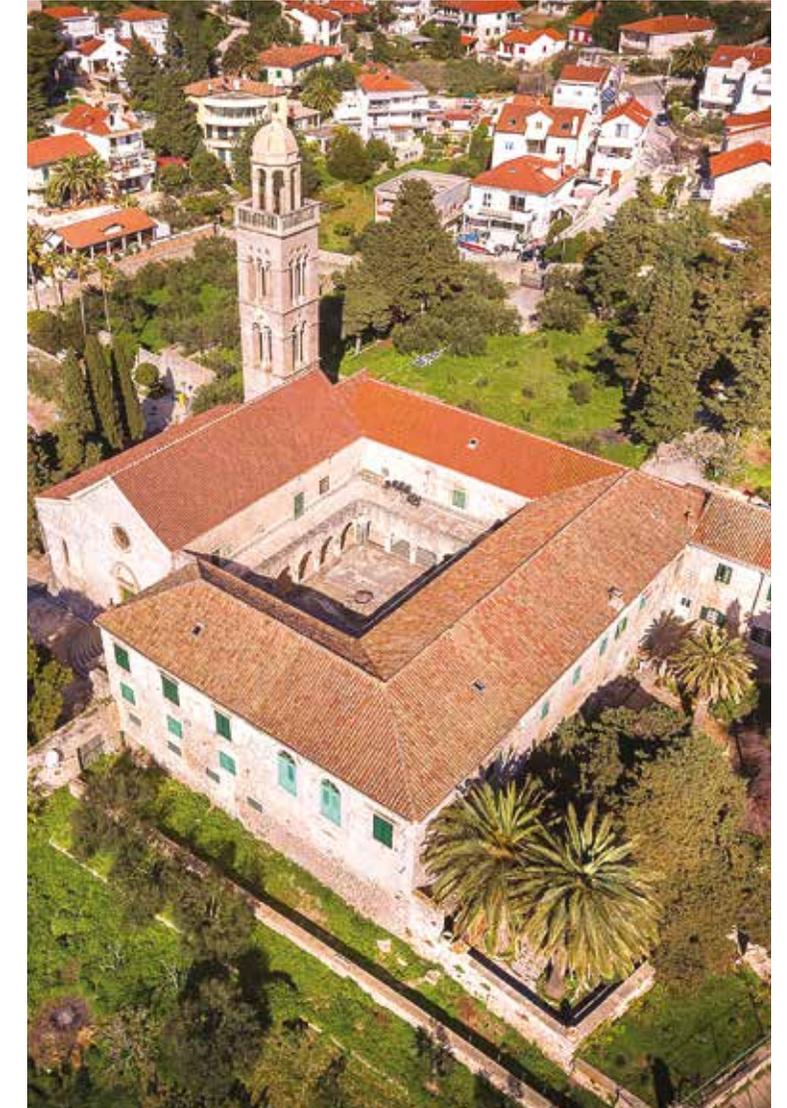
MAKING UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES...

THE TOWN OF HVAR

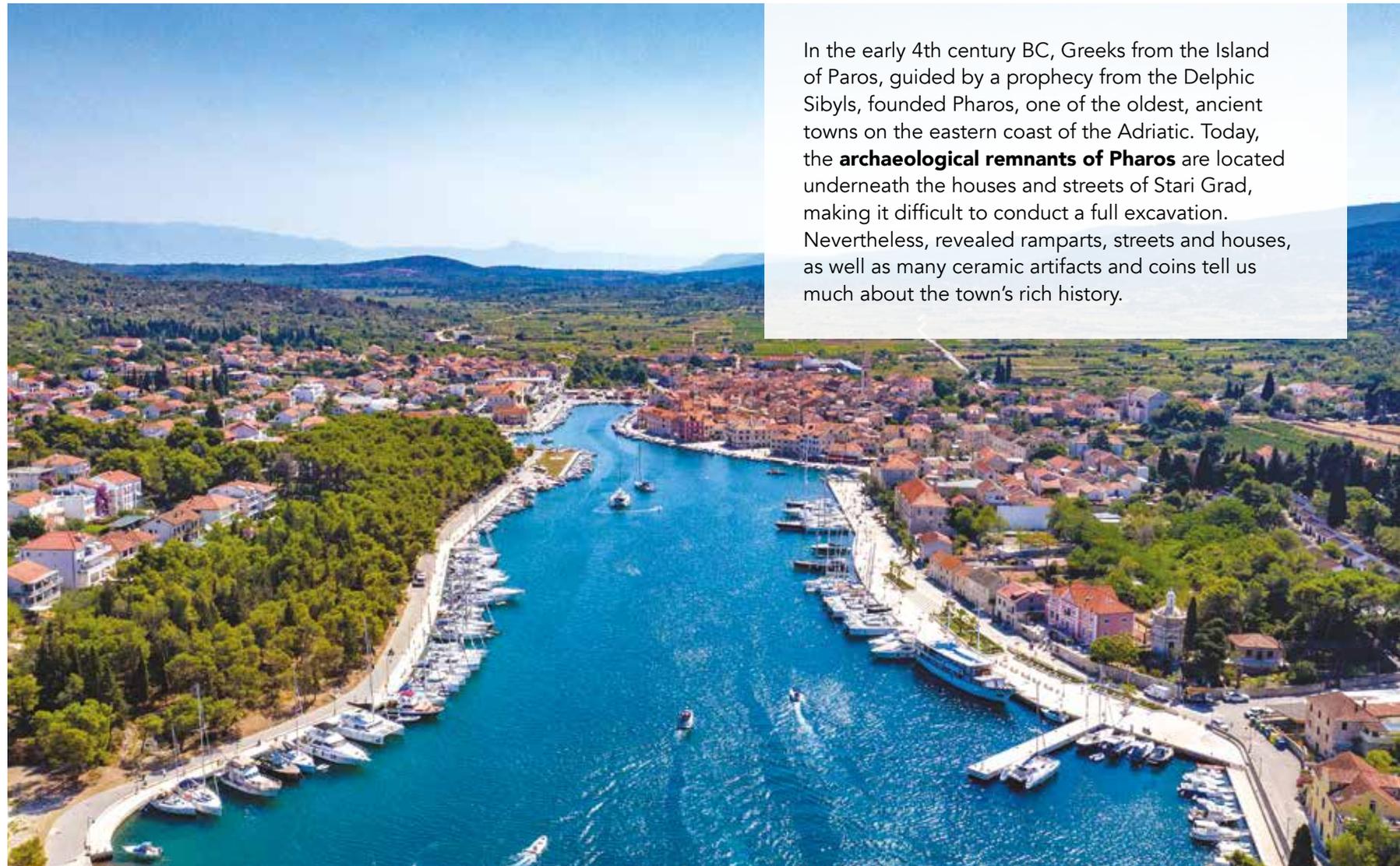
INSPIRING WITH ITS BEAUTY...

The beauty of the Island of Hvar has long been inspiring to locals, but will also inspire visitors with its allure and grace, even if they come here only once. For centuries the Benedictine nuns have found their own grace in their order's traditions. Their convent is a rich treasure trove of art and a unique place that preserves the art of making lace from agave threads, a cultural heritage protected by UNESCO. The Town of Hvar is also a place of peace and reflection to a congregation of Franciscan monks. **The Franciscan Monastery Museum** hosts the famous "Last Supper", a work of art by the Venetian master Matteo Ponzoni.

Only a few hundred meters from the bustling Pjaca, on the old road connecting Hvar and Stari Grad, the **poet Hanibal Lucić** built his summer residence. It has a beautiful garden enclosed by high walls. The estate consists of two houses, one of which was Lucić's place of retreat. The villa is part of the Hvar Heritage Museum, and contains a large number of collections that bear witness to Hvar's inspired past.



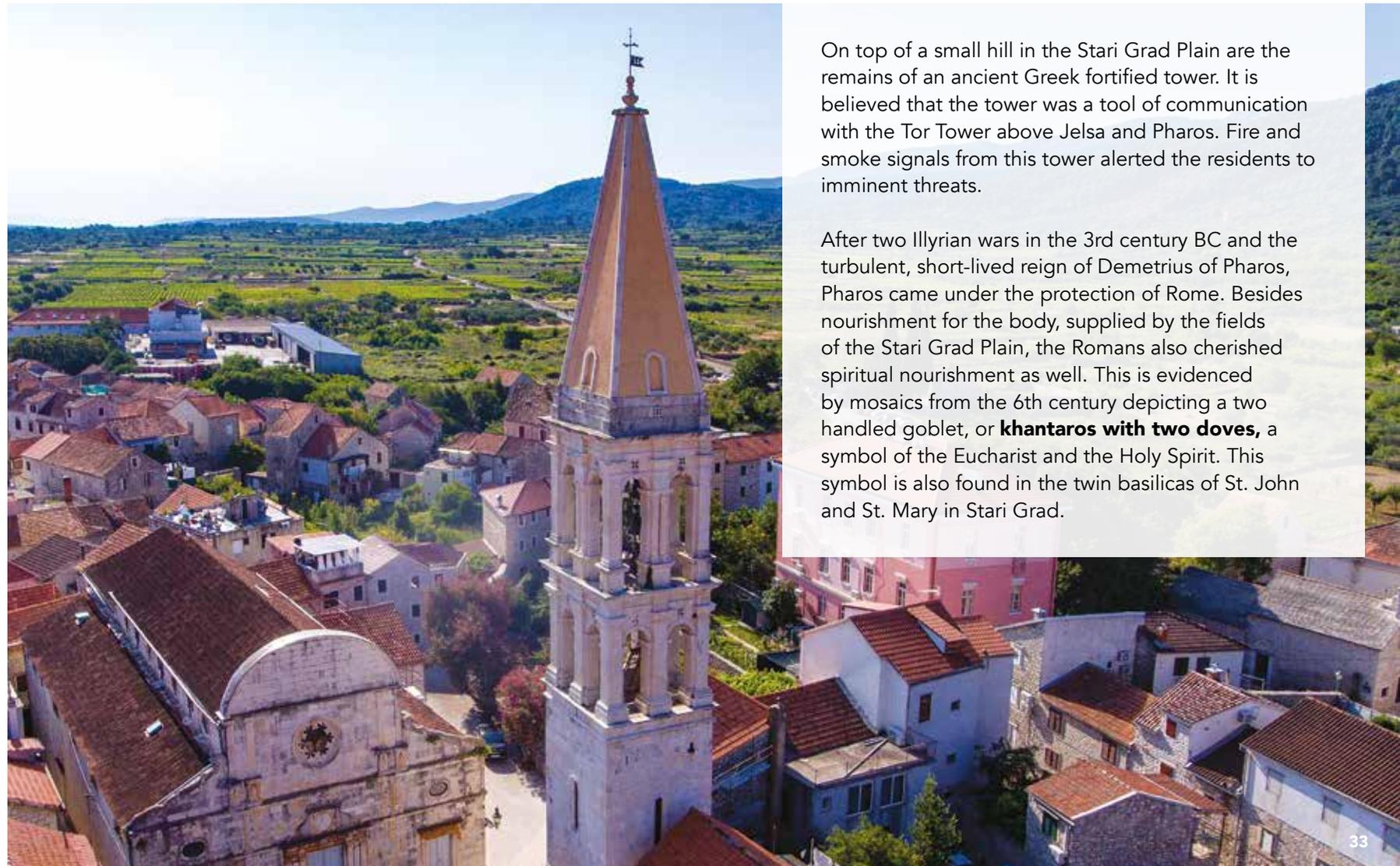
STARI GRAD



In the early 4th century BC, Greeks from the Island of Paros, guided by a prophecy from the Delphic Sibyls, founded Pharos, one of the oldest, ancient towns on the eastern coast of the Adriatic. Today, the **archaeological remnants of Pharos** are located underneath the houses and streets of Stari Grad, making it difficult to conduct a full excavation. Nevertheless, revealed ramparts, streets and houses, as well as many ceramic artifacts and coins tell us much about the town's rich history.

A RICH THOUSAND-YEAR HISTORY....

STARI GRAD



On top of a small hill in the Stari Grad Plain are the remains of an ancient Greek fortified tower. It is believed that the tower was a tool of communication with the Tor Tower above Jelsa and Pharos. Fire and smoke signals from this tower alerted the residents to imminent threats.

After two Illyrian wars in the 3rd century BC and the turbulent, short-lived reign of Demetrius of Pharos, Pharos came under the protection of Rome. Besides nourishment for the body, supplied by the fields of the Stari Grad Plain, the Romans also cherished spiritual nourishment as well. This is evidenced by mosaics from the 6th century depicting a two handled goblet, or **khantaros with two doves**, a symbol of the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit. This symbol is also found in the twin basilicas of St. John and St. Mary in Stari Grad.

The Dominican Monastery of St. Peter the Martyr

contains the tomb of the great Croatian poet Petar Hektorović and his mother Katarina. His verses are carved into the stone above the entrance to the church. This spacious single-nave building has fascinating marble altars and a beautiful crucifix on the main altar, as well as the painting "The Lamentation of Christ" by the Venetian master Jacopo Tintoretto.

The message "nothing is hidden" ("nihil occultum") inscribed in **Hektorović's Tvrdalj Castle** is an invitation to discovery. Petar Hektorović had a vision for his summer residence, wanting it to be an enclosed microcosm in which every being could find its place around the tranquil pond. The stone inscriptions carved into the residence's walls still echo his timeless thoughts.



STARI GRAD

STARI GRAD

INVITING YOU TO DISCOVER...

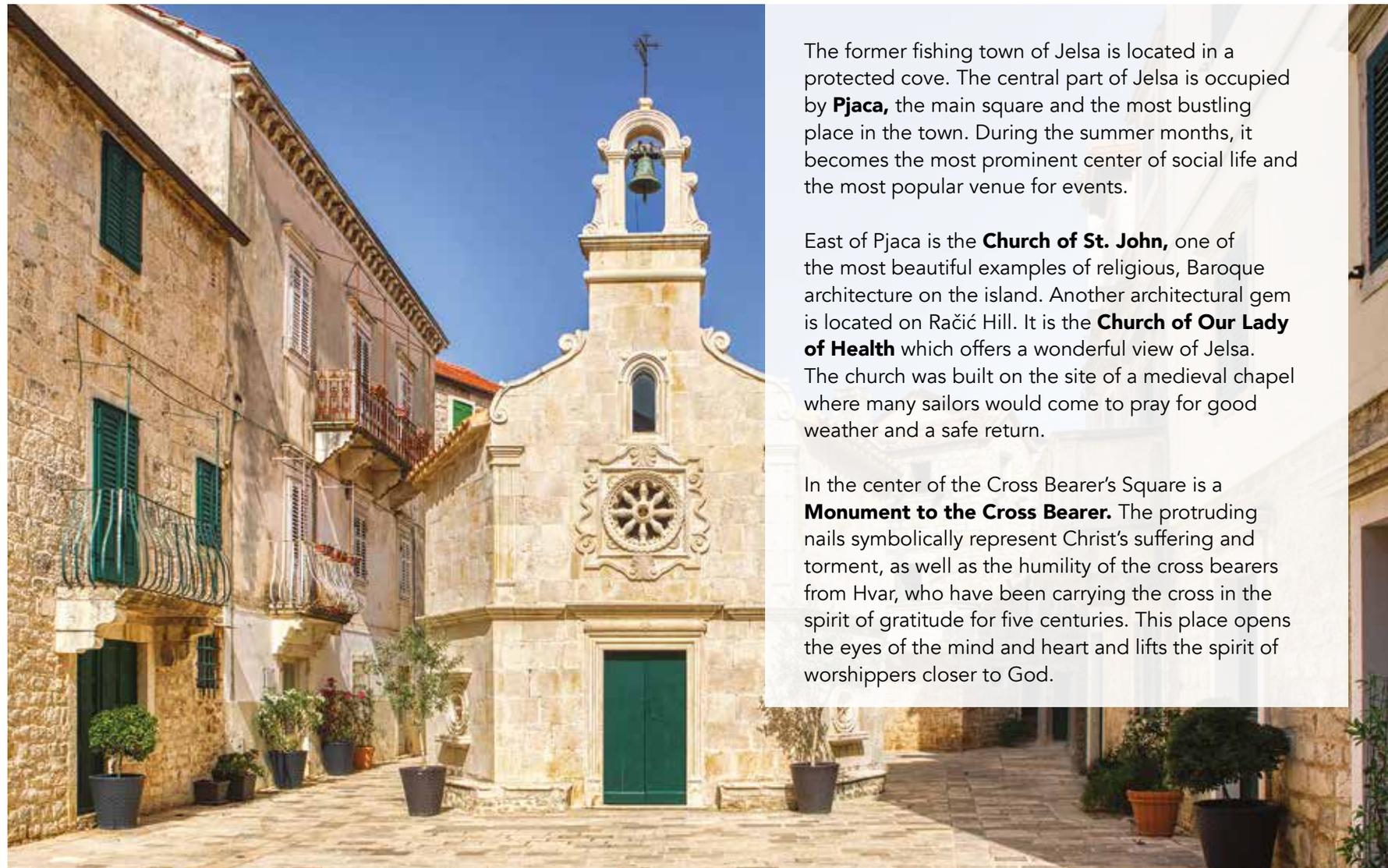
The Biankini brothers built a large palace on the west side of the **Tvrđalj Castle**. This Neo-Renaissance building with a garden was converted into a museum, and today represents the cultural center of Stari Grad. The palace built by the shipowner Juraj Biankini and his four sons gave a strong impetus to the urban transformation of Stari Grad in the late 19th century.

If you decide to explore the streets of Stari Grad, the path will surely take you to **Škor Square**. This scenic, picturesque square was built on the former shipyard site ("škor" in local dialect = shipyard). It is surrounded by workers' houses typically found in Dalmatia, with their original architectural elements of luminaries (skylights) and sulars (a stone terrace with outer staircase).

Not far from Škor Square, you can take a walk along **Srinjo Kola**, the former high street and commercial center of Stari Grad. A mosaic from the 2nd century was discovered in this street, inviting you to see traces of the Roman town Pharia.

Likorova kuća (Doctor's house; "likor" in local dialect = doctor) is one of the town's favorite tourist attractions. This country house on the northern slopes of Purkin Kuk Hill belonged to the doctor Petar Ostojić. It is also mentioned in "The Courtesan", a novella by the writer Verka Škurla Ilijić from Hvar. Although in ruins today, the house is still featured in the stories told by some senior locals.





The former fishing town of Jelsa is located in a protected cove. The central part of Jelsa is occupied by **Pjaca**, the main square and the most bustling place in the town. During the summer months, it becomes the most prominent center of social life and the most popular venue for events.

East of Pjaca is the **Church of St. John**, one of the most beautiful examples of religious, Baroque architecture on the island. Another architectural gem is located on Račić Hill. It is the **Church of Our Lady of Health** which offers a wonderful view of Jelsa. The church was built on the site of a medieval chapel where many sailors would come to pray for good weather and a safe return.

In the center of the Cross Bearer's Square is a **Monument to the Cross Bearer**. The protruding nails symbolically represent Christ's suffering and torment, as well as the humility of the cross bearers from Hvar, who have been carrying the cross in the spirit of gratitude for five centuries. This place opens the eyes of the mind and heart and lifts the spirit of worshippers closer to God.

A RICH PAST....

JELSA

On the southern slope of the Island of Hvar, near the Village of Humac, is **Grapčeva Cave**. It is a protected geomorphological, natural monument. In addition to a large number of stalactites and stalagmites, the cave also harbors the oldest depiction of a boat in Europe. It is believed that the image of a boat carved on a vase dates back to 3000 BC.

The members of the merchant family Dobrović were prominent participants in the cultural and intellectual life of Jelsa. The **Museum of the Jelsa Municipality** is located in what was once their house. In this museum you can see the original contents of a typical home from the second half of the 19th and early 20th century. The museum's exhibits offer you a look at the life of bourgeois families, take you back in time, and reveal the rich history of Jelsa.

The **Viticulture Museum** in Pitve is part of the Museum of the Jelsa Municipality. This museum's exhibits vividly depict the daily life of the island's peasants, the tradition of viticulture, and valuable tools plus other accessories. The southern side of the island with the settlements of Gromin Dolac, Ivan Dolac, Zavala, Jagodna and Sv. Nedjelja is known for its views of sunlit vineyards and top-quality autochthonous wines.

It is interesting to note that the Jelsa Municipality has become a member of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) not only in Croatia, but also in Southern Europe, and is a significant contributor to protecting the night against light pollution.

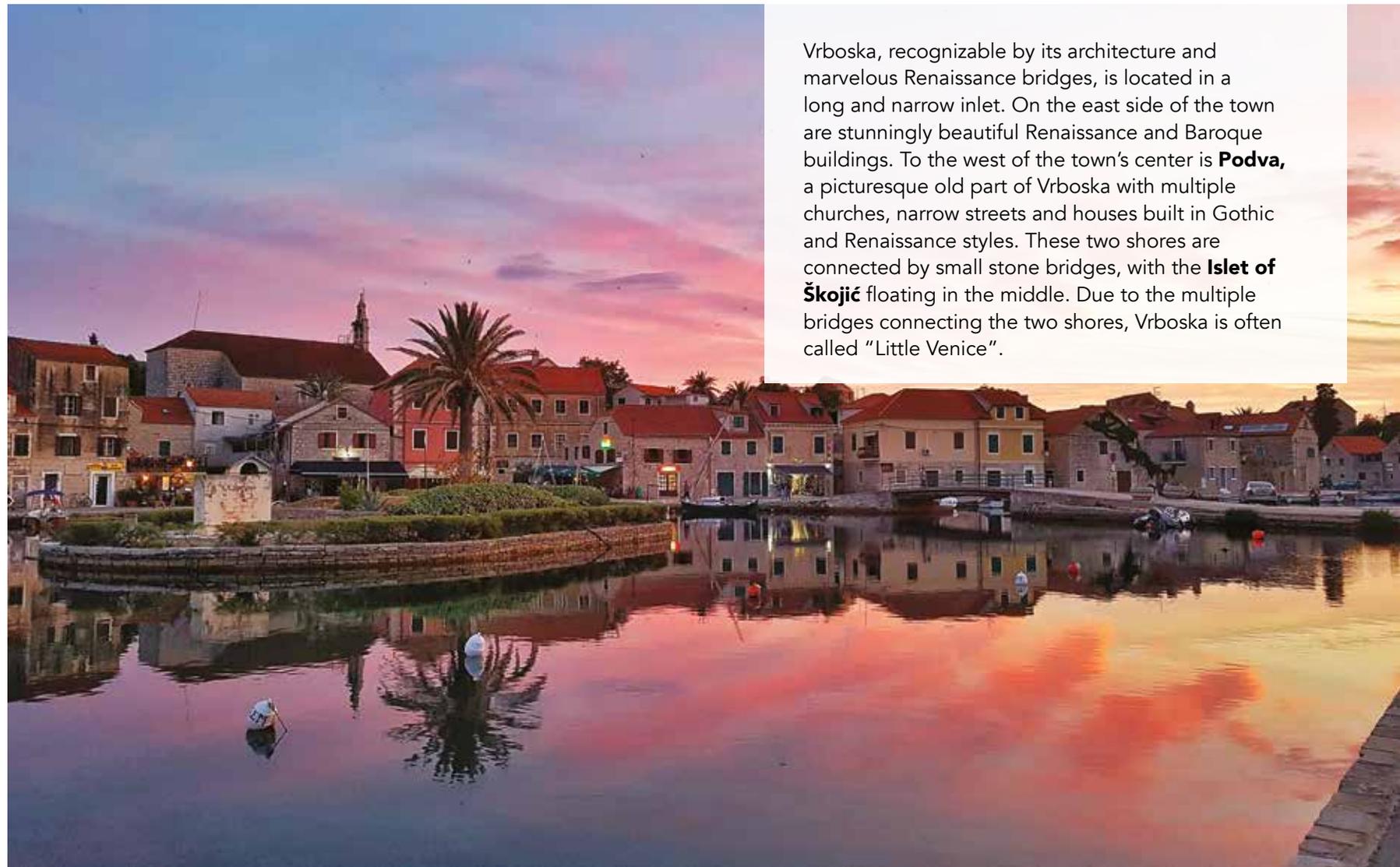




JELSA

JELSA





Vrboška, recognizable by its architecture and marvelous Renaissance bridges, is located in a long and narrow inlet. On the east side of the town are stunningly beautiful Renaissance and Baroque buildings. To the west of the town's center is **Podva**, a picturesque old part of Vrboška with multiple churches, narrow streets and houses built in Gothic and Renaissance styles. These two shores are connected by small stone bridges, with the **Islet of Škojić** floating in the middle. Due to the multiple bridges connecting the two shores, Vrboška is often called "Little Venice".

Besides agriculture, trade and seafaring, fishing was an extremely important economic activity for the islanders. The locals acquired a variety of traditional skills. One of them was **hunting for tiny blue fish under a lantern**. The fishermen used lanterns ("svičala" in Croatian) on each boat's bow as sources of light. At night, fish from the dark depths would be drawn to the bright lights and cleverly caught by the fishermen. **The Fishermen's Museum** in Vrboška evokes the memories of the fishing past and exhibits a collection of versatile, and historic fishing and fish processing tools.

The fortified Church of St. Mary of Mercy is an imposing architectural building. It was fortified in the 16th century after an Ottoman attack on the island, and is considered one of the most beautiful examples of fortified churches.

The veneration of the cross has a great importance on Hvar, which is why Vrboška celebrates the Feast of the Miraculous Holy Cross on the first Friday in March. In 1614, a small Holy Crucifix in the parish **Church of St. Lawrence** shed tears of blood, which was understood as God's call to the conversion and reconciliation of two feuding brotherhoods. The interior of the church displays a rich collection of art by famous Venetian and Croatian artists.



SUĆURAJ



SUĆURAJ

GUARDING THE COAST AND LIGHTING THE WAY...

Sućuraj is located on the eastern cape of Hvar. The town developed along a narrow and deep cove with a port, traditionally called "the pirates' port". Sućuraj is famous for its **lighthouse**, which guards its coast and illuminates the way.

A stone axe with a hole for a handle is one of the oldest archeological artifacts found on the island, and dates back to the 3rd millennium BC. It is believed that the courts of the Illyrian Queen Teuta were located in the vicinity of Sućuraj, which is corroborated by the remains of a wall popularly known as "**Teuta's Wall**", and a trove of amphorae found in the sea.

Whilst fleeing from the Ottomans, the settlers from the mainland led by Franciscans built a **Baroque church dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua**. The church contains the oldest painting in Sućuraj depicting St. Paschal, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Roch. Another valuable sacral monument of Sućuraj is the Church of St. George. According to the floor plan, the church was built in the shape of a cross. It has a statue of St. George slaying a dragon with the inscription "St. George, protect Sućuraj".

The Franciscan Monastery dates back to the 19th century. It is the oldest surviving building in Sućuraj. It stores important archival documents about the history of this region, as well as a fragment of a white Roman mosaic.



INLAND ON THE ISLAND



The inland area of the Island of Hvar is a real oasis of tranquility. This part of the island is strongly imbued with the invigorating scents of flowers and herbs, and purple lavender fields. Some of the most picturesque villages are located here, such as Humac, which sits beneath the darkest night sky on the island, or Velo Grablje, home to the Lavender Festival, and Malo Grablje, which consists of delightful architecture and charming stone houses. The narrow cobble-stone streets and attached stone houses in Pitve, Dol and Vrisnik have an enchanting effect on visitors. The inland architecture, sun-lit stones and lavender bushes tell incredible stories and bear indelible traces of history.

INLAND ON THE ISLAND

AN OASIS OF PEACE...



Events on the Island of Hvar

Throughout the year the Island of Hvar offers a variety of sporting, cultural, art and gastronomic events. Take part in exciting, authentic, local events, and enrich your life with memorable experiences.

“ZA KRIŽEN” (“FOLLOWING THE CROSS”) PROCESSION

On the night before Good Friday, the night sky brightens with the glow of lanterns and candles carried by worshippers walking across the island in the “Za Križen” (“Following the Cross”) procession. Six processions set out from six Hvar parishes: Jelsa, Pitve, Vrisnik, Svirče, Vrbanj and Vrboska.



JELSA TRAIL

The fresh sea salt air permeated with aromatic Mediterranean herbs, sunny vineyard slopes, green olive groves and a view of the turquoise blue sea will keep you company while you run in the one-of-a-kind Jelsa Trail race in April. This race follows the route of the “Za Križen” (“Following the Cross”) procession. While running, you will be able to relish the scenic beauty of the sites protected by UNESCO.



EVENTS ON THE ISLAND..:

HVAR SUMMER FESTIVAL

From June to October the Hvar Summer Festival takes place across historical locations in the Town of Hvar. This cultural manifestation has been held for more than sixty years and brings together a multitude of Croatian and foreign artists. Savor this cultural delight, and you’re sure to find inspiration among the rich offering of concerts, theater and folklore performances.



WINE, OLIVE & HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The Wine, Olive & Heritage Festival takes place in May. During this festival, Jelsa’s residents promote their products, ranging from top-quality wines made from indigenous varieties of grapes to excellent, locally produced olive oil. Come to Jelsa, and enjoy the scents and tastes of Hvar’s culinary heritage.



ST. PROSPER’S FESTIVAL

St. Prosper is the co-patron of the Town of Hvar. He is a protector of Hvar’s story of prosperity, and a guardian of traditional skills and customs featured in the festival. Art and cultural events, Mediterranean-inspired culinary feasts, and hours of sunshine are enticing incentives to visit Hvar in May.

CULTURAL SUMMER PROGRAM / CULTURAL CHILDREN SUMMER PROGRAM

From July to September, Jelsa hosts an exciting summer program for all visitors. Relax, indulge your artistic spirit and join an extensive range of cultural events. The events are organized for islanders and visitors alike, and even the youngest among them will be able to enjoy themselves.

KLAPA SINGING ON THE ISLAND OF HVAR

You can enjoy the harmonious form of a *cappella* singing (klapa) throughout the year. The cultural summer in Stari Grad begins on St. Stephan's Square with the Klapa Singing Festival. The "Jelsa od versa" Festival ("Jelsa Verse Festival") is held in the beautiful surroundings of Pjaca in Jelsa. The meeting of klapa ensembles from the Island of Hvar in Vrboska brings together klapa singers from all over the island in August. The harmonious songs of a klapa ensemble are the authentic sounds of the Adriatic, and certain to gently inspire while replenishing your body and soul.

"BOKUN FESTIVALA" ("A SLICE OF FESTIVAL")

The festival of silent film and other senses is an interesting event in Jelsa, which combines classics from the world of film and art, and works by young artists. Discover a new dimension of art and indulge your senses.

EVENTS ON THE ISLAND ::

EVENTS ON THE ISLAND ::

LAVENDER FESTIVAL

Lavender has always been important to the residents of Hvar. The Lavender Festival is held annually in Velo Grablje in late June and early July. Visit this festival and enjoy a countryside permeated by the calming scent of lavender.

STONE CRADLE OF THE WRITTEN WORD

Stari Grad has always been a place of inspiration for many writers. In July it hosts an event that celebrates the beauty of the written word and promotes language and culture.

FISHERMEN'S EVENINGS AND DANCE OF THE SAILS

Traditional wooden boats with sails of the Lantina Association provide visitors to Vrboska with a special experience. Fishermen's Evenings are held in July every year, and visitors can enjoy an unusual sight – the dance of the sails.



WINE FESTIVAL

If you decide to visit Jelsa in August, all roads will lead you to the traditional Wine Festival. For more than seventy years this event has promoted indigenous varieties of grapes from the Island of Hvar. Enjoy the abundance of wine aroma and flavors from the Island of Hvar.

CYCLING THROUGH HERITAGE

Whether you are a professional cyclist or a recreational cyclist, you must take part in the traditional race "Cycling through Heritage" held in Stari Grad in September. Riding through the Stari Grad Plain and other picturesque places, you will learn a lot about Hvar's valuable heritage and recharge your spirit.

HVAR HALF MARATHON

Autumn is traditionally reserved for the Hvar Half Marathon. Accompanied by the inspiring sights of Hvar's invigorating nature, ignite your inner sporting flame, and embark on the route connecting Stari Grad and the Town of Hvar.

EVENTS ON THE ISLAND ::

EVENTS ON THE ISLAND ::

NORDIC WALKING FESTIVAL

The mild September sun is perfect for outdoor activities. If you want to explore the island on foot, come and visit Jelsa. The Nordic Walking Festival is a real opportunity to enjoy its beauty, but also to invigorate your body.

DAYS IN THE BAY

The international festival of traditional boats, sea, and sailors is held in the Bay of Stari Grad. While enjoying gastronomic delights, workshops, exhibitions and live music, stop for a moment and admire the scenery in the Bay of Stari Grad. You can also relish the maritime heritage during the Hvar: Metropolis of the Sea event, held every October in the Town of Hvar and showcasing Hvar's maritime history.

ADVENT ON THE ISLAND

A special light will shine on the island at the end of the year. Anticipation fills the streets of the towns and villages as they are lit with the light of Advent. Indulge your taste buds with holiday treats, and rejoice in the island's temperate microclimate, reveling in the magic of Advent.



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