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*newsletter*

## Index

Hotel Istra: <b>New Facilities For A More Complete Holiday</b>	2
Istria: <b>Kempinski To Build Luxury Hotel Complex</b>	2
Crikvenica: <b>Hotel Therapia Draws Tourists Again</b>	3
Podravina: <b>Find Your Way Around Easier With An Interactive Map</b>	3
Sunčani Hvar: <b>Hotel Riva Opens</b>	4
Island of Brač: <b>Luxury On Brač Island Stone</b>	4
Šibenik-Knin County: <b>Summer Holidaying In An Oasis Of Peace</b>	5
Cres-Lošinj Archipelago: <b>Life With The Good Dolphin</b>	5
Opatija: <b>One Hundred Years Of The Bristol</b>	6
Island of Krk: <b>Back To The Middle Ages</b>	6
Dobrinj – Island of Krk: <b>Secrets Of Cultural Heritage</b>	7
Vienna: <b>The Cravat – Global Croatian Symbol</b>	7
Lonjsko polje Nature Park: <b>Life On The Edge Of The Marsh</b>	8
Cruise Idea Number 5: <b>Heading Out From Murter</b>	8
Contacts	9

# The Mediterranean as it once was

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## Hotel Istra

# New Facilities For A More Complete Holiday




Hotel Istra, located on the attractive islet of Sv. Andrija near the picturesque city of Rovinj, has been renovated and has become, as of this peak tourism season, another four-star Istrian hotel. The hotel is situated just ten minutes by boat from Rovinj. On the islet, besides the hotel complex, there is only the old Huetterott palace that houses a restaurant, the hotel's annex and a small maritime museum.


The islet of Sv. Andrija and the islet of Maškin, joined by an embankment together actually make up the island of Crveni otok. It is considered to be one of the most attractive in the Rovinj archipelago, thanks precisely to the ambient on these two islets – traffic is not permitted on them and some of their attractive pebble beaches sport the internationally recognised Blue Flag. There are also parks with over 180 different kinds of Mediterranean plants.


Guest looking for sports activities also have a choice, as the island boasts three tennis courts, there are sailboards, paddle boats and motor boats available for rent, you can play mini golf, table tennis, take sailing and diving lessons and more. Nudists, frequent guests in Istria, have a beach of their own on Maškin.

A large wellness centre, built in a Mediterranean garden theme, was opened in late July in the hotel so that it now offers a more complete holiday. It offers guests a lavish wellness and beauty program with a choice of pool, sauna and other accompanying facilities. While parents are relaxing in the various treatments several very attractive animation programs and sports activities have been organised for the children. The "fleet" of excursion boats has been expanded to guarantee a complete family experience, as the hotel is targeted primarily to families. There is, namely, a new ship run by the Maistra Company, of which the Hotel Istra is a part, meant for the transfer of guests of the hotel to and from Rovinj and the islet of Sv. Andrija. The ship is also used for organised excursions of the hotel's guests.

The ship has a capacity of 140 persons on its inside and outside deck and a special VIP salon that accommodates about 20 persons in comfort.

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## Istria

# Kempinski To Build Luxury Hotel Complex




A luxury resort operated by the world-renowned Kempinski chain of hotels is to be constructed on Istria's western coast, just opposite the Brijuni islands in the small town of Porto Maricchio. The Kempinski Hotel Porto Maricchio, as the complex is to be called, will consist of a luxury five-star hotel, a residential area with villas, a marina and a golf course.


According to Kempinski General Manager Reto Wittwer the hotel, for which the completion of construction is scheduled for late 2008, will offer a total of 250 rooms and suites and other accompanying facilities in keeping with a high quality offer, while the residential part of the resort will offer guests some 300 accommodation units in 72 semi-detached villas and 90 individual villas.

Special attention will be given in the construction of all of the accommodation capacities, whose design is to be the work of the well known WAT&G architectural company out of London, which are to be done in keeping with the traditional Istrian heritage and the local ambient – in other words in the stone building style.

The resorts overall offer will be completed with a top-notch 18-hole golf course which will also include a golf club and golf academy which, according to Manager Reto Wittwer, will be one of the most luxurious golf courses in Europe. An elite Kempinski marina is to be located on the coast with anchorage for over 350 boats. This will be the first marina owned by the Kempinski chain of hotels and the idea to have one presented itself given the resorts location on the coast and the expectation that many guests will arrive by sea, not just by road.

The Kempinski chain of hotels have achieved global recognition for their quality and also for their great brand diversity with none of their hotels resembling another from the chain, and will with this resort expand their already impressive portfolio

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## Crikvenica

# Hotel Therapia Draws Tourists Again



After almost two years of complete renovation the oldest and most representative hotel on the Crikvenica riviera – the Hotel Therapia – is once again ready to open its doors to tourists. The offer of this hotel, built back in 1895, has been raised to a four-star standard. The facility is targeted to healthcare tourism and is open year-round.

During the summer season when classic vacation tourists stay at the hotel, guests have at their disposal an indoor and outdoor pool, a wellness and fitness centre, tennis courts, mini golf and other facilities. As far as accommodations are concerned, there are a total of 109 rooms and three suites on offer.

The story of this hotel is not interesting only on account of its classic function as tourist accommodation because this hotel has also drawn great attention in history. The hotel, located in the most beautiful part of the city of Crikvenica, was built by the Archduke Joseph. As of 1899, from when the hotel has been known as the Therapia, it has been a synonym of quality with a healthcare and accommodation function and was well visited in the past by the European aristocracy. The edifice also draws attention with its appearance given that it was built in a combination of the secession and classicism styles of architecture and is for this reason often referred to as one of Crikvenica's most beautiful buildings.

And today, besides its beauty, refreshed by a complete renovation, the hotel draws attention because of its new proprietor. The hotel has been, namely, purchased by well-known Croatian soccer player Igor Štimac, a member of the line-up that won the bronze medal at the 1998 World Cup. He has already for this summer announced the arrival in his hotel of two celebrated English team members, Frank Lampard and Joe Cole. The many people of Crikvenica are therefore hopeful that the hotel will soon also play host to other well-known personalities from the soccer world and wider, given the Igor Štimac's numerous acquaintances with world famous personalities.



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## Podravina

# Find Your Way Around Easier With An Interactive Map



An area situated in the northwest of Croatia, known as Podravina, has a quite developed tourist offer and certainly deserves more attention as a year-round tourist destination. With the aim of improving this part of the country's value as a tourist destination, Podravina has gotten its first interactive map whose purpose is two-fold – to promote tourism and to help tourists that decide to visit the region get around easier.

The interactive map is tied predominantly to the Drava Route cycling path that leads through a large number of municipalities, towns and villages in Podravina, and covers a length of 84 kilometres.

The route stretches from the mouth of the Mura River as it flows into the Drava River at the town of Legrad and along the Drava River to the town of Pitomača. The entire route is well marked and easily oriented making it an ideal place for family tourism and recreation. The route avoids long sections through the same landscape and does not pass only along the main streets of settlements, but turns also to fields and forests and passes through hidden hamlets. Besides that it also meanders through world famous Hlebine, the cradle of Croatian naive painting. As it also passes beside Lake Šoderica and along the Drava River it gives those out for a ride the opportunity to, along with their ride, take a swim or enjoy a picnic in natural surroundings.

The map leads the tourist or chance traveller precisely to the desired destination and it also contains detailed descriptions of all tourist attractions – restaurants, hotels, village homesteads, the top fishing spots, points of cultural interest and more...

A total of 49 places spread across all of Koprivnica-Križevci County are on the map, and those among them that are on account of their history or tradition of particular interest are described in more detail, places, for example, like Hlebine or Kloštar Podravski, in whose vicinity gold has long been washed from the Drava River.

Besides the settlements, the map also shows all of the natural wealth hidden in the forests of Podravina and along the Drava River, a waterway that has for ages marked the life and geography of the Podravina region.



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### Interactive Map of Podravina

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## Sunčani Hvar


### Hotel Riva Opens




Late June saw the Riva boutique hotel opened on the central Dalmatian island of Hvar by the Orco Group, majority owner of the Sunčani Hvar Company within which the hotel operates. This is a hotel with 56 luxuriously outfitted rooms and eight suites located in the old city core on the Hvar waterfront. The hotel was reconstructed based on the recommendations of conservators and its opening, says the Orco Group, marks the start of the realisation of its plans as majority owner of Sunčani Hvar.

The Hotel Riva will also operate as a part of the global Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, that gathers 360 luxury hotels in 60 countries and is for the moment the only hotel of its kind in Croatia and one of five of its kind in Europe owned by the Orco Group. Unlike its exterior, reconstructed under the watchful eyes of conservators, the hotel's interior has an air of modern design adapted to the latest developments in architecture and the demands of the contemporary tourist market. Besides glass partitions placed between the rooms and washrooms and painted hallway walls, there are photos of James Dean, Brigitte Bardot, Audrey Hepburn and Ursula Andress on the walls above the beds that remind the guests of the silver screen. Guests of the hotel have at their disposal an attractive B.B. Club, bar and restaurant and 24-hour room service. Part and parcel of the offer are numerous activities on the island – theatre performances, private dinners, picnics, fishing and more.

When we think of Hvar – we think of the island of heather, sun and cicadas, the island of lavender, sage and wine, the island of rosemary and solitary coves that is thanks to its pleasant Mediterranean climate attractive both in summer and winter. This very modern facility gives Hvar's attractiveness as a tourist destination a new dimension because it offers relaxation in a somewhat unusual ambient hidden among an otherwise traditional surroundings. This is all, however, not really so unusual as Hvar has over the past few years become a real draw for the Croatian and international jet set and their fans and its development has started to move in that direction.

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## Island of Brač

### Luxury On Brač Island Stone




The small town of Supetar, the first place you get to when coming by ferry from Split, recently got a new, luxury hotel that boasts an elite and yet traditional appearance and the high standard of services its four star rating guarantees.


The hotel, called Bračka perla (the Pearl of Brač), is located on the seaside in Vela Luka Bay, and its singular look is the result of the hand-worked indigenous Brač stone of which the hotel is constructed. Brač is, besides for its tourism, known as the place where stone that is counted as one of the best in the world is quarried so that the most logical choice for the owners of this hotel was to build it entirely of that stone.

Bračka perla, reminiscent in its appearance of traditional Dalmatian summer residences, stretches across two thousand square metres and is surrounded by pine forests and olive groves on the gentle slope down to the sandy bay. In the complex, a melding of three one-story stone buildings, guests are offered six large and luxurious suites on the ground floor, each with a separate entrance, a spacious terrace and parking spot, while the first floor offers five luxurious rooms with flower-decked balconies from which a vista shoots out over the bay and the surrounding Mediterranean vegetation.

All of the rooms are air-conditioned, and besides the standard criteria associated with the four-star standard, each one has a large LCD television. Besides accommodation capacities guests of the hotel have at their disposal a restaurant, fitness studio, sauna and pool.

The hotel, into the construction of which about two million Euros were invested, besides offering its guests classic room and suite also has an option of their purchase through the classic time-sharing model.

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## Šibenik-Knin County

### Summer Holidaying In An Oasis Of Peace




In looking for a place where our vacations will not be disturbed by crowds, and where we will nevertheless be able to enjoy both the sea and tranquillity, our search takes us to Šibenik-Knin County and places that offer an idyllic combination of sea and village. Hidden not far from the city of Šibenik are several places that, on account of an interesting combination in which river, lake and sea take the lead role, offer tourists an all but typical combination of tourism offers.


On the lower stretches of the Krka River, where the well-known Krka National Park is situated, is the stunning but unusual Lake Prokljansko. It is connected to the open sea by a narrow channel and for this reason the deeper waters are salty while the surface has fresh water. Refreshing oneself in Lake Prokljansko, just like swimming in Skradinski buk, one of the most beautiful natural phenomenon of Krka National Park, is only one in a series of what this region has to offer. Skradinski buk is a waterfall made up of limestone cascades, and those who do not want to experience it while swimming can view it walking along a network of bridges and paths. The entire area around Skradin has really come to life since the highway leading to Split was constructed, and a large suspension bridge was built right at Skradin from which there is a view of the city and Lake Prokljansko. Thanks to the highway Skradin has seen the start of more intensive activity in tourism which last year saw works on a new beach, a square with a fountain and 20 kilometres of cycling routes, which have all made the entire area an excellent destination for lovers of active holidaying.

Lovers of a traditional village ambient can come into their own a little further on from Skradin. Near Krka National Park is Kalpić, an old village of farm hands that offers guests accommodation in small indigenous and rustic stone houses.


For those who love an original attraction there is the Falconry centre situated in the town of Dubrava, eight kilometres from Šibenik. Guests are there offered a one-day or five-day course in which they can get to know the life of these feathered hunters.

Along with a diverse offer of various attractions, Šibenik-Knin County boasts a varied gastronomic offer, considering that hidden among the indigenous specialities are numerous dishes specific to both continental and maritime cuisine.

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## Cres-Lošinj Archipelago


### Life With The Good Dolphin And The Griffon Vulture




The Cres-Lošinj archipelago, located in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and stretching from Tramuntana on the north of the island of Cres to the south of the island of Lošinj covering a length of almost 100 kilometres, is an area of exceptionally beautiful and preserved nature. The 45th northern latitude passes through it and on this account the area balances both continental and Mediterranean characteristics that have endowed this island in the Kvarner region with a wealth of biodiversity. Besides this, hidden in the area is a series of cultural and historic attractions. Large and small churches, seafaring legends, the unique pine forests of Lošinj, the stone lace of Cres dry stone walls, olive and olive growing, sheep and sheep herding, medicinal herbs, solitary hidden coves, small settlements built on stone cliffs jutting above the sea... are only a part of what makes this archipelago special. Here too is the sandy island of Susak – the only one of its kind in the Mediterranean, and an entire series of other natural phenomenon.

The attention of guests is perhaps drawn most to the island of Cres, above all because of its special "inhabitants", the griffon vulture and dolphin. The griffon vulture habitat is located predominantly on the northern part of the island. There is probably not a single tourist that has visited that part of the island that did not learn at least the basic information about the griffon vulture. But not only of this bird – this is an area where tales are told of the good dolphin whose colonies can be seen throughout the entire Cres-Lošinj archipelago.

Because of them, but also because of its many other qualities, the Cres-Lošinj archipelago – made up of 36 islands and islets, reefs and rocks – is an area that definitely must be visited, hiked across, sailed around or just flown over because a unique ambience is offered from any perspective, linked closely with the traditional surroundings and the all but typical tourist offer.

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## Opatija

# One Hundred Years Of The Bristol



One of Opatija's oldest hotels – the Bristol, recently celebrated a commendable jubilee, its one-hundredth birthday. A gala event was held on the occasion reminiscent of those held during the time of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, during whose rule a rich legacy of recognisable architecture was left in Opatija and in many other places.

The Hotel Bristol, once known as the Palme, whose appearance is also linked to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, was last year completely renovated and turned one hundred working at full steam.

The hotel was constructed in the period from 1903 to 1906 by a certain Wilhem Rudovitz who even then drew only the eminent personages of the upper nobility and banking circles to his edifices.

The new Bristol has the same four star standard it had when first built and in its early years. The hotel has a total of 78 rooms – 67 double rooms, nine classic and two large suites. The well-known Opatija café Palme is located within the hotel premises, decorated in the style of old Viennese cafés and offering numerous specialities of local and international cuisine. The large dance area that stretches across it once again reveals the old Austro-Hungarian tradition that saw well-known Baroque dances organised almost daily.



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## Island of Krk

# Back To The Middle Ages



During the now already traditional Krk Fair, to be held from August 8 to 10 in the city of Krk on the Kvarner area island of the same name, tourists who know of the event from before will be more than pleasantly surprised.

The Krk Fair will as of this year begin its transition to a fair that promotes the traditional culture of Krk associated with its medieval characteristics and former traditions, somewhat forgotten until now.

The medieval characteristics of the city – the city ramparts, towers, its small and colourful Mediterranean streets and squares that bear a vivid witness to the emergence of Krk as a city will as of this summer get a new attraction that will launch a more intense promotion of its picturesque tradition.

The underlying idea of linking Krk's former and present day traditions will be reflected in three basic parts. The first, perhaps the most attractive, will be played out on an area known as the Kamplin, where tales from days past will be related in a picturesque fashion. Local trades people, outfitted in traditional garb will demonstrate some of the old trades like weaving wool, pottery and the production of ceramic vessels, woodworking, smithing and the production of metal ornaments, ceramics painting and the like.

The "most jovial" part of the fair should be located alongside the big park that is situated near the very town core, and will have merchant's stands with a diverse offer of indigenous products and souvenirs of the Krk region, while the third, culinary part of the fair, can be experienced at practically all of the local catering facilities. All of these facilities will during these days have the possibility of expanding their terraces into public areas free of charge, but under the condition that the personnel of restaurants and cafés be dressed in traditional garb – wide white shirts and black trousers with a red cummerbund, and that they include in their offer something of Krk's typical cuisine and local Krk drinks – wine, brandy (rakija) or sherry (prošek).



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## Dobrinj – Island of Krk

### Secrets Of Cultural Heritage



Just as every place, island and region... is home to some secret, so it is in the interior of the island of Krk where the town of Dobrinj is hidden. Now that the value of tradition and original tourist attractions are receiving all the more deserved attention, Dobrinj too has become an interesting destination for lovers of cultural points of interest and the works of art and history hidden in them.

The Dobrinj ethnographic collection, situated in the very centre of the town, is an endless source of information about the rich history of Krk, especially related to the former daily life of Krk fishermen, farmers and farm hands.

With its over 1250 exhibits the ethnological collection depicts various objects that were once used in households and in everyday work. They have all been collected from the wider Dobrinj area during the past decades.

There is an original brick fireplace in the ground floor of the museum together with numerous tools used in and around the hearth. Various objects are exhibited on the first floor related to the daily work and trades of the islanders such as agricultural, olive growing and viticultural tools and numerous fishing implements.

Also on display besides tools there is a diverse collection of ceramics, wool-working tools, spinning wheels, sheep-shearing scissors, spindles and an abundance of other household objects.

Beside the ethnographic collection, visitors can tour a valuable sacral collection that has for decades now been kept in the fraternal hall of the Dobrinj parish house complex.

The museum's collection is divided into 4 groups. Among the silverware there are numerous crosses, reliquaries and censers, while among the woodwork there are numerous statues of saints and valuable sections of altars. Hidden among the collection of linen are numerous antependium, "albas" or white shirts, chasubles and much more, while the collection of books is made up of a rich set of handwritten canonical books, missals, books of rites and others, the most significant of which is the "Prva knjiga" (First Book) of the Dobrinj cathedral chapter in which there is a copy of a donation from the year 1100 written in the Glagolitic script.



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## Vienna

### The Cravat - Global Croatian Symbol



"The Challenge of the Cravat – The Cravat as Croatia's Contribution to Global Culture" exhibition closed July 28 in the Vienna's famous Porcia baroque period palace. This is an international Croatian multimedia project in its third year that is promoting the Cravat, also known as the necktie, in European and world capitals as a symbol both of Croatia and of modern civilisation. This year's global tour of the "Challenge of the Cravat" exhibition, organised by Academia Cravatica, a non-profit institution, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, kicked off in Poland where it was held in the ancient university city of Krakow before moving on the Gdansk.

The exhibition leads visitors through the history of the emergence of one of the basic symbols of modern civilisation, offering them a fascinating account of Croatia as the Homeland of the Cravat. Croatian Ambassador to Austria Zoran Jašić addressed the many leading figures of Vienna's and Austria's political, economic and cultural life, and the many diplomats from the countries of central and eastern Europe that gathered at the opening of the exhibition, saying that the "Challenge of the Cravat" promotes the cultural characteristics and identity of Croatia, always a part of the western European cultural milieu, on its path to European Union membership. It is just as hard to imagine a Viennese ball without cravats as it is to imagine the male part of the world without them. They are a symbol of Croatia and of modern civilisation says Marijan Bušić, the Director of Academia Cravatica and the initiator of the "Challenge of the Cravat" project.

Along with an abundance of exhibits presented in a bilingual German-Croatian catalogue, edited by Academy-educated painter Igor Gustini, about sixty selected works by authors from many countries were exhibited, inspired by the cravat, giving the exhibition an international character, and the latest video installation only further enhance its multimedia aspect. A collection of cravats, scarves and shawls of the Croata brand bearing motifs from Croatian culture – the medieval Croatian braid and the Glagolitic script – was presented at the exhibition that, as it did in Poland, attracted the attention of the Austrian press.

After the closing of the Vienna exhibition it is scheduled to be held in Bulgaria in September before moving on the Russia in December.



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## Lonjsko polje Nature Park

### Life On The Edge Of The Marsh



Even though tourists started coming in larger numbers to the Lonjsko polje Nature Park, situated in central Croatia, only four years ago, there is already a massive interest among them for this marshland. Lonjsko polje is not, however, a typical marshland habitat. It also attracts attention because of its preserved traditional heritage that can be felt in many areas – from architecture, agriculture, cattle husbandry to the traditional coexistence of man and nature.

The story of Lonjsko polje almost always begins with its two most popular settlements – Čigoč, the European village of storks, and Krapje, a village of architectural heritage, but anyone coming to the area will discover countless new surprises given that almost every part of the marsh hides a wealth of unique characteristics, and they are all brilliantly fit into the educational and recreational tourist program that is offered as part of a visit to the Nature Park.

One of the most interesting is the White Stork program in Čigoč that presents a complete account of the storks, their habitat and the way in which they make their nests on the typical Posavina region wooden houses. The lojn's share of these traditional houses, dating from the 18th century, are located in Krapje, and some have already been adapted as accommodation facilities. It is precisely these wooden houses and the storks that have become the mascots of Lonjsko polje, but they are not the only ones. Among the other mascots are the Posavina breed of horse, amphibians, spoonbill birds... and the floodplain forests of oak that cover two thirds of the entire protected area.

The latest project is to kick off soon – a Frontiersman Route that will relate the historic significance of the region given that the southern part of Lonjsko polje was once the border of the former Military Region and a sort of European ramparts against the Turkish Empire. A walking path is to be set up in the area and several čardak – former sentry towers, are to be constructed for tourists.

Besides these programs, every tourist who visits Lonjsko polje will be able to enjoy the abundance of additional traditional attractions like folklore, local customs, traditional crafts production, numerous events, an ethnological collection, tasty regional cuisine and outdoors recreation programs.



#### Sisak-Moslavina County Tourist Board

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## Cruise Idea Number 5

### Heading Out From Murter

Žut, Telašćica, Piškera, Žirje, Primošten, Kaprije



**Alternatively:** Vrgada; a large choice of places to berth and anchor in the Kornati islands; Primošten (Kremik), Krapanj, Zlarin, Prvić Luka, Vodice, Tribunj.

**Special moments:** the stone labyrinth of the Kornati islands, the subdued peace of the islands of Šibenik, the harmony of Primošten.

**What to look out for:** the shallows off Murter, sea currents at Proverša; careful navigation among the reefs, rocks and islets of the Kornati islands

The Murter cruise idea largely overlaps with that of the previous cruise proposal (Kornati), but also covers some different points, the gentler and greener world of the Šibenik archipelago. We suggest that from Murter, Jezero or Betina (all have marinas) you sail first west by northwest towards Žut (15 miles). Although the best-known Žut destination is the bay of Žut harbour, the small coves along the entire northeastern, gentler, side of the island and also worth beautiful. That should be enough for day one, especially if you are sailing into a strong mistral. As far as the Kornati islands are concerned you can follow what we proposed in cruise idea number four, and we suggest that you fore-resee the second, third and fourth day of sailing for Telašćica, Vruļja, Piškera, Žakan and other corners of the Kornati islands. The Kornati are worth exploring for several days and only then will a true love between yourself and these stone pearls be born.

For the afternoon of day four make your way through the few miles of the Samogradska vrata and dock at Žirje. Muna is the chief port, located in the northern side of the island. The breakwater is reserved for a regular boat line and you can find your spot somewhat deeper along the western shores of the harbour. In the evening take a stroll to the centre of the settlement, up on the edge of a small field, where people have lived since prehistoric times. The southwestern side of the island is prettier, and if you decide to visit it definitely stay the night in Vela Stupica or Mala Stupica on the island's southeastern promontory.

On the next day tour the northern side of the island of Kakan and weigh anchor in a small lagoon created by this island and the islands of Veli Brnjak and Mali Brnjak – this is a good spot for an afternoon swim.

The mistral probably picked up while you were swimming and by the evening it will fill your sails for the 13 miles to Primošten. In Primošten is a long breakwater behind which there is room for some dozen boats, and berths are organised just as in marinas with water, electricity and moorings. There are any restaurants, taverns and cafés along the headland of this colourful town. We recommend the excellent restaurant Dalmacija. In Kremik (port of Peleš), the first bay south of Primošten, there is a large, well-equipped marina with a gas station on the meandering shoreline on which there are terraces where grapes ripen for the famous Babić wine.

There are two days remaining for the return journey to Murter, just enough to divide the distance of 30 miles by a stoop on the evening of day six in one of the small ports of the Šibenik archipelago: green Zlarin (corals!), unique Krapanj (sea sponges!), the small stone port of Prvić Luka, picturesque Šepurine, solitary Tijašćica or quiet and sandy Kaprije. Spend the last night in Murter in on of the best restaurants on the Adriatic, Slobodan Pleslić's Tic Tac.

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