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## National Geographic Adventure

### Croatia, the most desirable destination in the World



The well known American magazine National Geographic Adventure announced that Croatia is the most desirable destination in the world for next year.

This is a result of a poll that National Geographic Adventure carried out for the first time among their journalists and staff, who from among all destinations in the world had to choose one which would be a must to visit next year.

Croatia took first place and in a large article published in the same issue of the National Geographic Adventure, author John Bowermaster mainly focused on the beauty of the Kornati

islands which because of their beauty were made a National Park.

The author of the article explored and experienced Croatia by kayaking from Zadar to Dubrovnik. He was most impressed by the Kornati islands but he didn't pass up the other islands and in his article gave each island an epithet like untouched and harsh, cultivated but not tamed.

In the ten page article on Croatia, the author also made note of the rich, centuries old cities like Hvar, Dubrovnik and Korčula which because of their attractiveness, but also because of the numerous visits by famous individuals, have been titled the new fashionable rivieras.

The author also points out that Croatia does not only offer sun and sea, because since its return to the tourist map, a whole series of new tourist options have appeared, from cultural and culinary tours to rock climbing on sea cliffs and naturist excursions.

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## HTZ

### High acknowledgements for promotional film and brochure

At the 8<sup>th</sup> International festival of tourist film Tourfilm 2005 in Poznan, the Croatian tourist film Dream (Croatian dream), authored by Ivo Pervan and Matej Meštrović, received the award for best artistic film in all categories. This is already the third exceptionally important acknowledgement that the Croatian National Tourist Board (HTZ) has received in the Polish market. The award for best tourist film promoting a country "Sunny dream", authored by Baldo Čupić, was awarded to the HTZ in 2003, while in 2004 it received this title for the spot "Balun", authored by Bruno Krajcar.

This year's film Croatian Dream was nominated by the representative office of the HTZ in Poland and was judged by Polish tourist photographers, cameramen and directors who gave top marks to the Croatian film.

The official presentation of the award was held at the end of October in Poznan and was received by Ivo Pervan in the presence of the director of the representative office of the HTZ in Poland, Bojana Baketa.

Other than for tourist films, individual promotional brochures of the HTZ have also received awards.

At the recently ended tourist manifestation Interstas 2005 in Split, at the 12<sup>th</sup> European club of those responsible for tourism and according to the evaluation of an expert international jury, designer Mario Brzić received the award for graphic design for a series of promotional brochures published by the HTZ.

These were a series of thematic brochures on Naturism, Camping and Caravanning, Private accommodation and Diving, whose quality was also recognised by those in his field. Due to great interest and specific requests in the markets in which the HTZ has promotional presentations, it has been announced that in 2006 there will also be a re-printing of these thematic brochures with which the HTZ is attracting great numbers of tourists into our country.

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## Rijeka

### A city of culture and fun becomes increasingly interesting to tourists

Those who have not visited the City of Rijeka in the northern Adriatic (Kvarner) in some time, are in for a big surprise – the picture of a transit city has now been replaced by a picture of a city tourist centre which has lots to show its guests and is constantly discovering great new ways of doing so. Museums and exhibitions, theatre shows as well as traditional manifestations are only a few of the things attracting great numbers of tourists from at home and abroad and in this way the number of guests has been steadily growing from year to year, we are told in the Tourist board of the City of Rijeka. There are still many plans which will continue to change the tourist picture of Rijeka, for example the construction of a Museum of modern and contemporary art, the reconstruction of the city section Trsat, construction of a new pool, etc. The Rijeka skyline will also definitely be changed by the announced construction of a new bus terminal as well as a passenger ship terminal which will enable the docking of even large cruise ships. Admittedly there were cruise ships last year but already four cruise ships have been announced for next year for whom Rijeka will be their home port. Similarly parks and infrastructure in the city are being continuously improved.

Maybe that which is the greatest tourist news is the fact that Rijeka is no longer a transit city. Namely, the end of this year will already see the opening of the newly renovated Hotel Jadran, as well as the hostel which will attract younger people. Next year the Adriatic luxury hotels will be opening a hotel with a SPA centre in the region of Costabela. Also next year, Rijeka will be the first Croatian city to introduce tourist buses hop-in hop out which will travel between the sights in Rijeka and Opatija.

Rijeka has been, especially lately, increasingly affirming itself as a city of cultural events. The attention of guests has been captured for example by the Festival Rijeka summer evenings, a rich cultural-entertainment program that takes place throughout the summer, the Croatian festival Mali Scena (small scenes) and the of course the one that stands out the most – Rijeka's carnival manifestations which are attracting great interest from visitors. Announced for next year is the initiating of a so called Rijeka card which will give tourists access to a whole package of cultural and tourist services at a favourable price.

Even though it dates back to the very beginning of the last century, in the form it is now, the Rijeka carnival has been taking place for the last 23 years and it is – there is lots of evidence confirming this fact – apparently better known outside the borders of Croatia than here at home. In the period of little more than a month – which is the duration of the Carnival – in the city there are, along with carnival parades of adults and children, many, many theatre shows, exhibitions and other events. The Rijeka carnival begins with the crowing of the Queen of the carnival and the handing over of the keys to the City on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006, then a parade of traditional bell ringers and feštara (traditionally masqueraded men) expected on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, the Children's carnival parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February and then the International carnival parade – the central event of the Carnival – on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February next year.

It is in this event that the hoteliers and tourist agencies recognised their opportunity to bring guests and so the Tourist board of the Primorje-Goranska County, as well as the tourist board of Rijeka, Opatija and Novi Vinodolski together issued the brochure Carnivals in Kvarner which is already available at tourist fairs.

Otherwise, Rijeka is, according to the Main marketing plan for the development of tourism, positioned as the tourist centre of the region, as the city with events and traditions in which many entertainment

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centres will be opening up. Rijeka and the famous tourist destinations Opatija compliment each other very, very well. Evidence of this is that today Rijeka, thanks to its modern clubs, is the centre for gatherings and entertainment for the young people of this entire region as well as their guests.

For tourists coming to Rijeka, recently a new and functional information centre in the central city street Korzo has been opened and not far from this is an internet-kiosk at which tourists can directly or using a wireless network wherever they are get information about events and the tourist offer in the city. Along with this, the same information can be accessed by phone, WAP services on mobile phones and on info signs and info kiosks.

For guests who are just passing through Rijeka a Tourist highway has been set up. Namely, the main tourist points are described in a booklet in four languages and enable tourists to visit and get to know the described tourist localities on their own which will also be presented on illuminated city sign (city light).

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## Croatia Airlines

### Croatian tourist destinations even closer

The Croatian airline company Croatia Airlines at the beginning of November reverted to its winter flight schedule which is valid until the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2006. Its introduction also brings with it a whole series of new surprises thanks to which Croatian tourist destinations will be even better connected with European cities than they were at the same time in previous years.

New on the German market is the introduction of new additional flights from Dubrovnik to Frankfurt on Thursdays so that the two cities will be connected by four flights weekly – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, a day more than last year.

Croatia Airlines is also introducing flights on Saturdays from Zagreb to Munich and from Split to Munich so that travellers will be offered the possibility of everyday direct flights between these cities. Also new are flights from Split to Paris on Thursdays and Dubrovnik to Paris on Sundays.

Due to changes to the passenger terminal at Paris airport, that is transfer to the Star Alliance terminal, the flight from Zagreb will be leaving 45 minutes earlier.

On the route Zagreb – Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina) additional flights are being introduced on Saturday and Sunday afternoons so that travellers will have on offer two flights a day, every day of the week. On the route Zagreb – Skopje (Macedonia) additional flights are being introduced on Friday evenings, so that these two cities will from now on be connected by six flights a week – every day except Saturdays.

In the winter flight schedule the flight from Split to London on Saturdays is again being introduced, while the afternoon flight Dubrovnik – London – Zagreb on Sundays is a new addition to the schedule. Also being added is a sixth evening flight to Austria on the route Zagreb – Vienna on Saturdays, along with the every day morning flights.

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Other than evening flights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, travellers will have at their disposal, along with morning flights, Sunday evening flights on the route Zagreb - Zurich.

Croatia Airlines has also introduced special autumn sales so that for example a flight to New York instead of the present 450 Euros will now cost 389 Euros or for Singapore instead of the current 740 Euros will be 599 Euros. Special sale prices have also been introduced which are valid from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November until the 15<sup>th</sup> of December in which the price of a return ticket from Zagreb to any other European city costs 99 Euros. Flights from London to Split or Dubrovnik start at 59 pounds, while London to Zagreb for 68 pounds.

The autumn sale also includes flights to Geneva or Krakow from 139 Euros and to Athens for 189 Euros. Flights to Peking will be 559 Euros, while to Sydney will cost 969 Euros.

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## Opatija

### Renovations modelled after old postcards



The Opatija Ugo hotels which encompass the hotels Milenij and Grand hotels Four Opatija flowers, in spring of next year will be joined by a new member - the renovated Hotel Agava.

The building was originally constructed in 1896 and bore the name Villa Habsburg. Throughout the years the facility has changed purposes and has been renovated a number of times. Now its owners want to return it to its original appearance, a appearance that today can only be seen on old postcards of the City of Opatija. Certainly it will shine with a new glory and although new materials will be used, it will be built to mirror the image of times gone by.

As mentioned throughout the years the building has changed names - from the Villa Habsburg, Hotel August, Hotel Avala and finally it was given the name it bears today - Agava.

It is also interesting to point out that during the reconstruction in the hotel a brochure for the Pansion Lederer from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was found. This pansion was actually opened in what was then called Villa Habsburg and it shows the luxury of the villa at that time, as well as the style of relaxation of the Austro-Hungarian aristocracy of the time. The company Ugo hotels, with the look of the

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hotel and quality of service, would like to bring back memories of a time when Opatija was the romping ground of the central European aristocracy.

When finished the hotel will have about seventy rooms in accordance with its four star category. The exterior look of the hotel as well as the surroundings will be in a style that is in line with the original historical context; with greenery, a fence, outside stairs and historical terrace.

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## Dubrovnik

### Complete renovation of the Hotel Bellevue

The Adriatic luxury hotels group has begun with the renovation of the well known Dubrovnik Hotel Bellevue.

By the beginning of summer, the hotel will have a completely new appearance because on the western side of the hotel a new pool will be constructed with a moveable rock face and in a section of the pool there will be visible natural rock on which the land is "lying on". This should contribute to the future interesting appearance of the hotel complex which, as a five star rating boutique hotel, aspires to be one of the best quality hotels in Dubrovnik. Along with the information that the rock will be cut to a depth of 12 metres, it is interesting that in the immediate vicinity of the pool, also on the western side, there will be an underground garage with about ten or so new parking places, so that with the existing 28 parking places the accommodation and security of guests' cars will be greatly improved.

A section of the building in which the reception is located will be elevated one floor, while the eastern part of the hotel complex is earmarked for demolition. Here a new facility will be constructed, which like the other new sections of the Bellevue, will be in accordance with the highest standards in its category. Instead of the present 49, the hotel will have 80 rooms and 14 suites, of which one will be a presidential suite.

Of the present complex Bellevue the Villa Miramare will also remain. It is a building protected as cultural heritage and will be renovated in accordance with the requirements of conservators.

Along with a congress hall and smaller multipurpose hall the hotel will also have two restaurants, of which one will be on the beach, an aperitif bar, two saunas, fitness centre, jacuzzi and massage area.

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There will also be two new lifts and one lift for vehicles, while a special attraction will be a large, six metre high aquarium which will be in the reception and restaurant areas.

The interior design of the hotel, which will be dominated by organic materials, Mediterranean ambience, ambient and art conceptions are the creation of Mrs. Renata Štrok. The design and décor of the hotel, along with carefully planned details, will be completely different from all other hotels in the group and the exceptional location of the hotel will be used to its best advantage. Namely, from the urban city street from which one enters, with the opening of the doors the reception offers a unique view, characteristic for islands. With unique positioning on the market and the creation of a truly special experience, great service and style, the Hotel Bellevue will create the comparative advantages of a boutique hotel on the international tourist scene.

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## Dubrovnik

### A replica of the original Dubrovnik galleon has set sail

Marking the millennial maritime tradition of the City of Dubrovnik, recently in its historical city harbour, a festive reception was held on the motorised sailing ship Tirena on its maiden voyage into its home port. It is actually a replica of one of the most well known wooden ships from the time of the Dubrovnik Republic which sailed under a flag with an image of St. Blasius throughout the seas of the world.

The ship worth one million Euros was constructed in Omiš, according to old plans from the Dubrovnik Maritime museum.

The galleon Tirena, which is intended for excursions in the Dubrovnik aquatorium, is just over 30 metres long and 7,7 metres wide. It has three masts with five sails and two motor engines which allow it to reach speeds of nine nautical miles.

The total capacity of the galleon is 203 seats distributed in salons and decks, while passengers on the excursions will also be able to use the services of the bar and ship kitchen.

The co-owner of the galleon Tirena is the Dubrovnik agency Elite Travel which on the maiden voyage of the ship in the historical Dubrovnik harbour announced a number of excursions for special groups of

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guests. In this way the renaissance ship which along with the Croatian flag is also adorned by a large flag with St. Blasius will be able to be seen in the Dubrovnik aquatorium. After this, the galleon will have a "short rest" before the start of the new season which is set to begin in March of 2006.

Until then some new details will be added to the ship and as announced, with the beginning of the new season, guests will be offered a rich excursion program according to which every excursion will have its own story. The excursion program will be created by an expert team who will base their offer on the stories about legends and history from each corner of the Dubrovnik region. There will be interesting stories like that of Richard the Lionheart, about each of the Elafita islands and a series of other places from the rich Dubrovnik history. Special care will be given to scenography and even Dubrovnik actors, musicians and costumed extras will also be participating in the organised excursions - anything that would more precisely portray the time in which the Dubrovnik galleons used to sail the seas of the world and carried with them news of the Dubrovnik Republic.

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## Split

### Hotel Lav part of the Le Meridien chain

The Hotel Lav, located in the immediate vicinity of the Dalmatian city of Split, from August next year will operate renovated as a member of the world chain of hotels Le Meridien.

Leaders of this world consortium recently signed a 15 year agreement on the management of the Hotel Lav, which shall, judging by advance information, be one of the best hotels on the Adriatic. At the press conference which was organised on the large building site of the former and future Hotel Lav it was said that this was, let us point out, currently the largest investment in the hotel sector in Dalmatia.

The value of the entire investment amounts to 55 million Euros and with it the Hotel Lav will be transformed into the first hotel in central Dalmatia which will have a luxury five stars. The spectacular opening has been announced for the 1<sup>st</sup> of August next year and the owners are already now pointing out how there is already great interest for the organisation of congresses and stays in this once exceptionally popular hotel.

Namely, up to 1991 and before the destruction caused by war, the Hotel Law was one of the most representative facilities on the Adriatic, therefore the new owners decided to give it back its old glow but according to today's standards. With this in mind each of the 382 rooms, which will not be smaller than 30 square metres in size, will have a view of the sea. Special care will be given to each detail within the interior which will be designed by well known world experts who usually work with Le Meridien.

Along with the suites and rooms, the hotel will extend over 2,500 square metres and will have a large congress centre and in the position of the large old pool a large wellness and spa centre will be constructed.

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The hotel will also have a large night club and casino of which the investors believe will be easily comparable to the best on the French Riviera so, as they point out, it will definitely be in the sights of numerous world jet setters who will be able to tie their yachts a stones throw away from the hotel. Namely, the Hotel Lav, other than everything mentioned, will also have a marina with 40 berths for yachts up to 15 metres in length, a number of restaurants, bars and boutiques.

The head manager of the Hotel Lav, Welshman John G.C. Wood, who has been working for Le Meridien for ten years points out that the Split Grand Hotel Lav, as it will be called, will probably within three years become one of the best hotels in the Le Meridien chain. This chain has 130 hotels around the world and is in partnership with the Japanese chain Nikko hotels which has 200 hotels.

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## Mali Lošinj

### Hotel Apoksiomen among the ten top hotels in Europe



In the tourist supplement of the English paper The Sunday Mirror, the Lošinj Hotel Apoksiomen is among the ten top boutique hotels in Europe.

This result is due to the exceptional satisfaction which the four member BBC crew experienced during their stay in the hotel while filming a piece on the Kvarner island Mali Lošinj. However, inspired by the satisfaction with the service in the hotel, along with the piece they were filming which will be shown in spring of next year, they also filmed a report on the Hotel Apoksiomen and they retold their experience in the Sunday Mirror which published a ranking of the ten top

boutique hotels in Europe.

The Hotel Apoksiomen has a four star rating and is located in the centre of the city of Mali Lošinj on the island of Lošinj.

The hotel has 25 rooms and one suite, a coffee-house and terrace where home-style sweets and cocktails are served. It also has a hall equipped for holding of lectures and seminars with a seating capacity of forty people. There are internet connections in every room, the rooms are air-conditioned, with a mini bar, safe

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and television. The hotel also has a lift and one room completely adapted for handicapped persons. The stairways and bathrooms are tiled in high quality marble and the walls of the hotel are adorned with pictures of well known Croatian artists.

The hotel was opened in June 2004 and even though it only works throughout the season it has already achieved excellent tourist results and given the prestigious acknowledgment they have received, next year they expect even more tourists.

The name Apoksiomen actually comes from a bronze sculpture from antiquity which represents a young athlete who after competition cleans himself from oil and dust. A preserved specimen of the statue was found in 1999 in the Lošinj aquatorium, not far from the small island of Vele Orjula.

The bronze statue which stands 192 cm high is the work of the famous sculptor Lizip who was a famous artist in 4 A.D. Based on research and analysis it is presumed that the statue was thrown from the deck to lighten a ship in a storm. Even though ship remains were not found in the locality where the statue, which has been completely preserved but for a little damage, was found. Apoksiomen was in Zagreb for quite a long while in the Croatian restoration institute where he was afforded the highest standards in regards to exhibition and archiving of such a valuable sculpture. A faithful copy of him is displayed in the museum-gallery area of the Venetian tower in Veli Lošinj and it is expected that he will soon be exhibited in Mali Lošinj too.

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## Bol on the Island of Brač

### A new face for the Hotel Elaphusa

In the middle of October, the locality of Bol on the Island of Brač officially celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee anniversary in tourism. The Hotel Elaphusa, in Bol, has as of recently been turned into a large building site on which, along with the complete reconstruction of the existing facility with 300 rooms, a new hotel building with as many rooms will be built.

With an investment worth about 15 million Euros, the Hotel Elaphusa will raise its category from the current three to a future four star category.

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The opening of the new Grand Elaphusa Hotel, which will operate as part of the company Zlatni rat from Bol, has been announced for May of next year and sale of future capacities have already been advertised in catalogues of European tour operators.

After complete reconstruction and new construction, the Hotel Grand Elaphusa will have, after 35 years since it first opened, a totally new look and new tourist content.

The hotel will extend over about 8,5 thousand square metres, given that only 27 % of the land will actually be used by which it will fully abide by the Regulation on protection of the coastal belt. Namely, the hotel is located in a pine forest very close to the renowned Bol beach Zlatni rat and it is an easy ten minute stroll from the centre of the locality.

Other than the new or newly constructed four star category rooms and six new luxury suites, the hotel will also have one of the largest wellness centres on the Adriatic extending over an area of about 1,5 thousand square metres. It will have a congress hall with a capacity of 800 seats, a six lane bowling alley, restaurants, night club, indoor and outdoor pool, fitness hall, outside terrace and stage for evening programs.

Guests will have at their disposal a nearby tennis centre with 21 courts and all the above mentioned, except treatments in the beauty salons and special treatments, will be offered to guests completely free of charge.

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## Croatia on the internet

### The first electronic book on Croatia

On the other side of the world, in the Indian city of New Delhi, the first electronic book on Croatia was recently presented. The title of the book is "Croatia – land of opportunity" and this publication came into being through the cooperation between the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in India and the Indian company Jupiter Consultants. Let us point out also that this edition of the electronic book about one country is actually the first edition of its kind in the world. The book is written in the English language

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and on 160 pages if offers a multitude of useful information about Croatia.

In the book, Croatia is presented through three basic chapters. The first chapter has a short overview of Croatian history from 1991 to today. The second chapter deals with the most important geographical matters regarding the location of Croatia which are explained to readers but there are also details about natural and cultural sights in the country. The third chapter deals with questions about business in Croatia which will of most interest to business people. Namely, located in this chapter is information on possibilities of doing business in Croatia, among which are detailed explanations about investment opportunities and how to start up your own business.

The book also abounds with a multitude of other interesting details in which numerous important individuals in Croatia are also presented and the entire publication can be downloaded free of charge from the official web pages of this project at the address [www.landsofopportunity.com](http://www.landsofopportunity.com)



Land of opportunity  
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## Dubrovnik

### A record year for cruise tourism

For the first time in the history of the City of Dubrovnik, this year the number of tourists has exceeded half a million tourists who came to the city in floating hotels, that is large cruise ships.

Since the beginning of the year such large ships on half-day excursions have brought over exactly 508,629 tourists from 62 countries which in turn is an exceptional result that places Dubrovnik and Croatia among the elite destinations on the European and world passenger cruise ship market.

The turnover of half a million tourists of which 60 percent participated in both group and individual sightseeing and used various receptive services and offers were from more than 50 world cruise ship companies whose ships to date have had a total of 553 dockings in two Dubrovnik ports, the Port of Gruž and City port.

However, the season is still not finishes so that by the end of November, when the cruise season in Dubrovnik will be finished, it is expected that another 8,000 tourist on two large cruise ships will still sail into the Dubrovnik ports.

According to the data of the City port, Dubrovnik is soon expecting the final 26<sup>th</sup> docking of the Italian ship Costa Victoria which has brought 48,325 passengers to Dubrovnik to date which makes this ship a record holder in the number of tourists who have arrived at the Dubrovnik City port. It is followed by the ship Opera which sails under the flag of Panama and has brought a total of 45,542 passengers and the ship Armonia, also from Panama, through which a total of 43,944 passengers have visited Dubrovnik.

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## Island Drvenik Veli

### The first internet park for meditation

On the Island of Drvenik Veli, located in the Split archipelago, the first internet park for meditation is being established. This is what this unusual project has been called by Luka Pensa, the designer and entrepreneur from Crikvenica who invited tenders over the internet for sponsors for the park for meditation located on the land of his predecessors in the area called Pod Buhaj, a few hundred metres above the Veli port on Drvenik Veli.

Investors become sponsors or patrons of particular parts of the land called Tariona - after the Roman name for Drvenik Veli. It is actually an unusual project in which anyone with a share of a minimum of 25 dollars can become the sponsor of part of the land on the island and these funds will be used for maintenance of the park which has a view of the nearby island of Malta.

The park will forever remain open without entry fees, any conversion of the land for other purposes will not be possible, while patrons will also have the opportunity to go for virtual strolls through the park.

On offer is a total of 2,175 square metres of the park which have been divided into a total of 34,800 land plots for which a minimum of 25 dollars will need to be paid. Sponsoring has already begun and after all the land plots have been "sold" the initiator of this project Luka Pensa will have collected 870,000 dollars which will be invested into the landscaping and maintenance of the park and improving the technology by which sponsors can virtually enjoy the park.

Let us point out also that Drvenik Veli has up to date been quite isolated of nautical traffic and because of this has managed to preserve its historical appearance and untouched nature - factors because of which today many nature lovers are drawn and it is precisely because of this that it is ideal for this project.

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## Dubrovnik

### The Hotel "Dubrovnik Palace" two world tourist Oscars



Recently the Dubrovnik hotel Dubrovnik Palace received two prestigious awards from World Travel Awards, better known as the World tourist Oscars, which were presented to the Dubrovnik Palace as the best hotel in Croatia and best SPA resort in Croatia.

The awards were presented at a glamorous ceremony at the London Royal Opera House in the presence of numerous guests from throughout the world, while the awards were accepted by the president of the International company "GS Hotels and Resorts" and the owner of the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace Goran Štok and director of the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace Gianni Malerba.

The award World Travel Awards was founded in 1993 with the aim of acknowledging and awarding achievements in all segments of tourism and represents the best recommendation that any tourist product could have.

In this years' voting for the best in every category, more than 150,000 travel agents and tour-operators from throughout the world participated.

The Hotel Dubrovnik Palace had been totally devastated during the Homeland war. Its thorough renovation and rise to the top of the Croatian hotel industry was made possible by the company Adriatic luxury hotels which operates as part of the company GS Hotels and Resorts. The hotel has a five star category rating and has at its disposal 308 rooms and suites, an excellently equipped wellness and SPA centre, large contemporarily equipped congress hall and a number of halls for meeting which cater for a maximum of 1000 participants.

On the ten floors of the hotel are located 11 bars, including a pool bar and cocktail bar on the beach, hotel restaurant Elafita with 450 seats, fine dining restaurant Lenga te Taverna Maslina which is located on the hotel beach.

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## New Year's Eve celebrations in Croatia Joyously and with great fun into 2006!

In previous years many guests have been witness to the unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration in Croatian cities, of which the one in Dubrovnik – in many polls, was declared the most beautiful or in close competition with the most beautiful cities in the world – was evaluated as the most attractive celebration destination.

This year in Dubrovnik festivities have been organised over a period of four days – from the 29<sup>th</sup> of December – which will be the introduction into the New Year's Eve celebrations, then the actual New Year's Eve and a day later when there will be an open air concert held by the Dubrovnik symphony orchestra and soloists.

The actual New Year's Eve celebrations and countdown will be held outside in the most well known street in Dubrovnik – Stradun. Other than renowned Dubrovnik and other Croatian musicians performing, there will also be organised an attractive cocktail show by barmen so that visitors to Stradun will be able to enjoy free refreshing drink combinations. A must see part of the New Year's Eve program will definitely be the big fireworks which together with a waltz and champagne will usher in the New Year.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy similar programs in Split, Zadar, Šibenik, Rijeka, Osijek, Zagreb and other cities in which there will also be organised large public New Year's Eve celebrations in the recognisable ambient of old city centres.

Split citizens and guests of the City of Split will celebrate in the old city centre of Split – at the Prokurativama where a program has been planned from Christmas all the way to the New Year. Visitors will be able to have fun along with songs and dance and a rich gastronomic offer of the restaurants in Split.

In Zadar the New Year's Eve celebration will be organised on the central Narodni trg (People's square) where for a whole series of years large numbers of people gather together to celebrate the New Year.

In Šibenik, on their largest square Poljani, there will also be tents erected extending over 1,600 square metres so that visitors will be able to enjoy the festivities titled Dalmatiska Fešta (Dalmatian celebration) even in case of bad weather. In the tent itself there will be drinks and snacks on offer, while in numerous restaurants on Poljana and wider, guests will be offered classic New Year's menus and champagne. As a warm up to the New Year on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December the traditional concert of Šibenik music will take place in the Šibenik cathedral. A special program will be prepared in the afternoon hours for children, both on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

Rijeka citizens and guests will greet the New Year on their main square – Korzo on which every year more than 30,000 visitors gather together to celebrate. Other than this, on the Rijeka Riviera visitors will be able to enjoy ice-skating and of course enjoy the fireworks which will usher in the New Year and will also be visible from here.

Osijek will greet the New Year on the newly renovated central square Ante Starčević on which

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visitors will be entertained by local musicians and tamburaši (tamburitza players), while given the rich gastronomic offer of this region – guest will, other than the enjoying the festive program, also enjoy the delicacies of the rich “ Slavonian cuisine”.

And last but not least let us mention the Croatian metropolis – Zagreb in which New Year’s Eve celebrations are traditionally organised on the central square – Trg Bana Jelačića. Even though many people celebrate in numerous Zagreb restaurants and hotels, it is traditional that the New Year’s Eve toast is downed on the central Trg (square) – because this is, given the truly large numbers of people, always the most exciting and joy filled location. Local and foreign guests will be able to, even before the New Year, enjoy in a rich program which will be organised throughout Advent and when via the British tour-operator Saga, new groups of guests will keep arriving throughout its duration. Namely, last year the Advent program and rich catering-entertainment activities in Zagreb attracted large numbers of foreign guest who together with their hosts were thrilled with the ambient and overall offer and atmosphere in the city, so that it is likely that this tradition will continue in the years to come.

Along with this it should be said that Croatian tourist destinations traditionally organise New Year’s Eve celebrations in tourist facilities, for which their host prepare interesting entertainment programs and of course creative celebratory dinners. Therefore it is not surprising that tourist centres on island, the coast but also in the continental part of the land are full of guests celebrating the New year and at the same time enjoying a couple of days of rest.

## Wishing you a happy and successful New Year 2006!

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