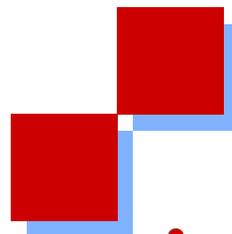


- ▶ FOREIGN MINISTER VESNA PUSIĆ IN WASHINGTON AND BOSTON
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Croatia Quarterly

NEWSLETTER OF THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Foreign Minister Pusić in Washington and Boston

During her visit to United States, Minister Pusić met with Deputy Secretary of State William Burns, gave a lecture at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and attended Harvard University's "Europe 2014 - Re-generation" conference



Pusić and Burns discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, upcoming NATO summit and bilateral cooperation between Croatia and U.S. The transatlantic partnership is needed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but it is largely a European issue and the EU must play the key role in it, said Minister Pusić who informed DS Burns of Croatia's initiative on Bosnia and Herzegovina. She said that the initiative consisted of a specific approach towards Bosnia and Herzegovina, which should be defined by the European Commission and which would make the settlement of the "difficult and unstable situation" a part of the negotiating process rather than a condition for its opening. The initiative

would mean "much more certain and tangible EU membership prospects and would build into the negotiating process the solution of problems which are on the agenda today and which destabilize the entire region," Minister Pusić said.

Speaking about the possibility of visa-free travel for Croatian nationals travelling to the U.S., Pusić said that "there are several proposals, including one on information campaigns, to inform the public of what is necessary for obtaining a US entry visa so that people not meeting the criteria do not apply," adding that she hoped the issue would be resolved bilaterally, but that there was a possibility that it would be resolved at EU level.

After the meeting at the State Department, Minister Pusić delivered a talk at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies on "EU and Western Balkans – What Next - the Croatian Perspective". Croatia took the opportunity that the Southeast European countries have, and that is a fast lane for building state institutions, approaching the EU and benefiting from the structured experiences of other European countries, said the minister.

"Croatia is the first post-conflict country to become an EU member state", Minister Pusić said, and the enlargement to Eastern Europe in 2004 or 2007 is completely different from the process today because back then the EU was enthusiastic and optimistic about new member states, while today there is "enlargement fatigue" and economic crisis. Apart from the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the audience was interested in the state of affairs in the EU, its competitiveness in relation to other markets, as well as the growing Euroscepticism.

Minister Pusić also attended a conference titled "Europe 2014 - Re-generation", held at Harvard University on 1 March. Pusić spoke of "European values from the perspective of the European Union's newest member state", saying that Croatia's 12-year-long path to EU membership had helped it build its institutional capacity. Minister Pusić stressed that this was important because in the last 150 years none of the countries in the Western Balkans region had lasted longer than an average human life, "which means that there was no predictability and security." And that is why the negotiation process is just as important as the membership itself, the Minister concluded.



Welcome Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the new edition of "Croatia Quarterly"!

As evident from our changed title, the concept of the newsletter has shifted from a monthly to a seasonal edition. For more day to day activities, we invite you to follow the Embassy's Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/croembdc.

Since the start of the year, we have been engaged in an intense and productive bilateral dialogue with the U.S. in many fields, from regular political consultations to economic and tourist cooperation. Croatian Foreign Minister Pusić's visit to D.C. in February in particular provided an opportunity for high level dialogue on pressing regional and global issues.

In the meantime, Croatia featured on numerous hot spot lists of American online portals and in other media, announcing what seems to be yet another great tourist season on Croatian coast. To help you with planning of your trip, we bring you the ultimate guide of Croatian Summer Festivals to choose from.

Also, find out about the Croatian cheese pronounced to be the best in the world, learn about magnificent Đakovo Lipizzans or just indulge in beauty of Croatia's scenery.

Joško Paro
Ambassador

Croatia Joins Global Equality Fund as a Partner

The Global Equality Fund was launched in December 2011 to support programs that advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons around the world

The Fund is a collaborative effort led by the U.S. Department of State, bridging government, companies and NGOs with the objective of empowering LGBT persons to live freely and without discrimination.

In its statement, the U.S. Department of State welcomed Croatia as a new partner of the initiative, stating that "Croatia joins nine other like-minded governments (including the United States), three private foundations and two corporations in a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to protect the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons globally. Since its launch, the Fund has allocated more than \$7.5 million to civil society organizations in more than 50 countries to bolster their efforts to increase human rights protections for LGBT persons."



Croatia took part at the Second Pledging Conference for Syria

As of 2012, Croatia has sent more than USD 680,000 for the affected population in Syria, neighboring countries and Bulgaria, which has in the recent months seen a growing number of Syrian refugees



The second UN-organized International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria was held on 15 January, in Kuwait. It is estimated that by end-2014 the number of Syrian refugees will reach 4.1 million, of which 2.7 million will seek refuge in the neighboring countries, making Syrians the largest refugee group in the world and their exodus the largest population displacement since the Second World War. Taking into account the internally displaced persons, the humanitarian crisis is estimated to have affected 9.3 million Syrians.

Apart from the USD 450,000 worth of humanitarian aid from the last conference, Croatia is prepared to donate an additional USD 245,000 in 2014. A part of it (USD 200,000) will be allocated for a program of educating local population about the danger of mines and other devices as well as for a program of psychosocial support, while the remaining USD 45,000 is slated for develop-

ment cooperation, i.e. projects of disarmament, demilitarization and reintegration of former soldiers or a reconciliation and trust building project.

As of 2012, Croatia has sent more than USD 680,000 for the endangered Syrian population in Syria, neighboring countries and Bulgaria, which has in the recent months seen a growing number of Syrian refugees. The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria has had a direct impact on the neighboring countries and the EU member states.

Croatian EU Parliament Members visited D.C.



Two Croatian Members of the European Parliament visited Washington DC for meetings December 2-5 to talk about Croatia's role as the newest member of the European Union and what this means for the region.

Mr. Tonino Picula MEP (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) and Mr. Davor Stier MEP (Group of the European People's Party), both members of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, started their visit with a public event organized by Johns Hopkins SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations: "Croatia and its Neighbors: What role can the EU's newest

member play?". Another public event took place at the European Institute: "EU Accession & Enlargement: A Croatian Perspective".



In addition to events with SAIS, the European Institute, Heritage Foundation, the NDI and the IRI, Picula and Stier had discussions with Members of the Croatian Caucus in the House of Representatives and representatives from the Departments of State and Defense.

National Federation of Croatian Americans Announces the New Co-Chairs for the Congressional Croatian Caucus

Representatives Janice Hahn (D-CA) of San Pedro and David Joyce (R-OH) of NE Ohio have agreed to serve as leaders of the Croatian Caucus in the 113th Congress.



The National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA) Cultural Foundation is pleased to announce the two new Co-Chairs for the Congressional Croatian Caucus. After much discussion and input from many Croatian Americans and Members of Congress, NFCA President Paul Tonsetic-Kunder announced that Representatives Janice Hahn (D-CA) of San Pedro and David Joyce (R-OH) of NE Ohio have agreed to serve as leaders of the Croatian Caucus in the 113th Congress.

President Tonsetic-Kunder noted that: "Our talented and well-traveled Ambassador from Croatia, H.E. Josko Paro, has already attended a spirited event at the San Pedro Croatian American Club with Congresswoman Hahn. San Pedro has a sig-

nificant number of Croatian Americans, and they are very active. It will be great to have input from Rep. Hahn and her constituents on matters important to all Croatian Americans."



Representative Janice Hahn (D-CA) and Croatian Ambassador Joško Paro



Representative David Joyce (R-OH), Croatian Ambassador Paro and NFCA's Joe Foley

Mr. Tonsetic-Kunder also underlined that: "Congressman Joyce's district near Cleveland is known to be in the top three jurisdictions for Croatian American citizens. We really look forward to working with Rep. Joyce as we move forward on Croatian American issues in Washington."

NFCA's current priorities include the admittance of Croatia in the future expansion of the Visa Waiver Program, which is also a top priority for the Croatian government.

“Amazing Croatia” exhibited in New Orleans

Croatian – American Society, CAS, and president of the society Mr. John Tesvich invited Croatian ambassador Joško Paro and consul general Jelena Grčić Polić for an official visit to Louisiana, from January 23rd through January 26th, 2014. Ambassador Paro met with consul general of the Republic of France, Mr. Jean-Claude Brunet, who



From left to right: Ambassador Joško Paro, Consul General Jelena Grčić Polić and Consul General of the Republic of France Jean-Claude

is also a representative for EU countries in Louisiana. This opportunity to meet was used to discuss about public diplomacy, and such activities.

That same weekend, CAS organized annual Winter Ball that was visited by many local officials, including senator Mary Landrieu (D). Senator Landrieu invited ambassador Paro to continue dialogs upon returning to Washington regarding possible liberalization of market for energy sources such as natural gas and oil, for which Louisiana is known. It was mentioned that the specific hearing may be arranged for the Senate on that subject. Ambassador Paro recognized valuable work and activities of Croatian immigrants in Louisiana,

and their influence in local community, especially investments in local business such as oysters farming.

Honorary consul Mr. James Coleman, and Consulate General of Republic of Croatia in Chicago, have staged an exhibit of contemporary artist – photographer Marko Vrdoljak, called 'Amazing Croatia'. The exhibit was staged at the historical Gallier House Museum Complex at the French Quarter in New Orleans.



Celebrating Sv. Vlaho (St. Blaise) in New York



The first part of celebration of St. Vlaho, patron saint of Dubrovnik, was held on February 1, 2014 in Appetito Restaurant in New York, with a lot of fun and beautiful stories of maritime captains Mato Stanovic and Maro Barisic. Guests were able to hear the Hymn of St. Vlaho, and see old pictures from previous annual celebrations.

The second part of celebration was held on March 1, 2014 as annual gala fundraiser event in New York Athletic Club.

Croatia issues tender for oil and gas exploration in Adriatic

Croatia's Economy Ministry published an international tender for oil and gas exploration in the Adriatic Sea, and the tender will run until 3 November, while the first contracts with interested companies are expected to be concluded in March 2015

Economy Minister Ivan Vrdoljak officially presented the tender on April 4 entitled "1st Offshore Licensing Round for Licences for the Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons" at a conference in Zagreb which brought together executives of dozens of petroleum companies such as Exxon, Gazprom, Lukoil, Total, Ina, RWE, Edison, Turkish Petroleum, Hellenic Petroleum, Petroceltic, Hunt Oil, JP Nippon and others.

The tender defines 29 exploration blocks, eight of which are in the north Adriatic and 21 in the central and southern Adriatic regions. The size of the blocks ranges between 1,000 and 1,600 square kilometres.

With the adoption of a set of laws on energy, the collection of new seismic data in the Croatian Adriatic area, and the establishment of the state-run Croatian Hydrocarbons Agency in the last year, Croatia had created conditions for becoming a regional energy hub. Norwegian company Spectrum conducted 2D seismic surveys of Croatian Adriatic last



September. Its discovery of oil and gas reserves has attracted the interest of major global oil companies. A data room has since then been set up for the purposes of oil companies that provides seismic data possessed by Croatia and those gathered by Spectrum. The exact quantities of oil and gas found will be determined through further data analysis and exploration.

During his April visit to Houston, Texas Minister Vrdoljak took the opportunity to present Croatia's first public tender for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea and Croatia's geological potential. Vrdoljak had a series of meetings with interested investors on legislative and other conditions for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. He presented the locations of the exploration blocks in the Croatian part of the Adriatic. Among the topics discussed was construction of an LNG terminal.

Vrdoljak said that Croatia had created conditions for major investment in hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation, and that large energy companies were showing their interest in coming to Croatia. He said that with the good preparation of the tender Croatia showed that it could be a serious partner and guarantee investment security to the biggest global investors.

More than twenty global oil companies had shown interest and some of them had already bought the documents on the seismic surveys

Huffington Post placed Croatia first in the World's Greatest Traveler's Go List for 2014



Rovinj, Croatia

The Huffington Post cited Croatia as ideal destination for serious travelers who are seeking an authentic, challenging and participatory adventures.

"It is Italy without the hype (and costs). 21st century travelers are in search for new utopias—think Paris in the 20s, Bali in the 70s, and Prague circa 1990. Amazing Croatia may be that next happening generational destination" the online portal concluded.

Croatia to Open World Cup Against Brazil



Croatian national football team has the honor of playing the opening match of the World Cup, on June 12th, 2014, against the host nation and the five-time champions, Brazil.

In Group A, Croatia will also play Cameroon (June 18th) and Mexico (June 23rd).

Croatian Cheese Claims Title at World Cheese Championship in the U.S.



A Croatian cheese from the island of Pag has won a best cheese title at the 2014 World Championship Cheese in Wisconsin, USA

Sirana Gligora Paški sir with pressed olives collected 99.90 points to claim the title as the best cheese in the world in the hard sheep's milk cheeses category. Together with two other cheeses, it scored the highest

points of the entire competition, which featured more than 2,500 cheeses from 22 countries from around the world in 22 categories.

It is not the first award the cheese has won. Last year it beat over 4,200 cheeses to be voted the best sheep milk cheese in the world at the International Cheese Awards held in Nantwich, England.



**HRVATSKI
NOGOMETNI
SAVEZ**

CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

CALENDAR OF SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS IN CROATIA

Umagination – Poreč, 23 – 25 May 2014

The Festival season opener for Central Europe and Adriatic Coast

Web: lighthousefestival.tv

Underwall – Zadar, 06-08 June 2014

An international open air metal festival, placed on the seashore of the 3000 years old touristic paradise Zadar

Web: underwallfestival.com

FOR festival – Hvar, 19 – 23 June 2014

A unique and intimate 4 day music experience that takes place on the idyllic island of Hvar, with a limited capacity of just 2,500 people.

Web: for-festival.com

Summer Sensual Days - Rovinj, 20 – 22 June 2014

Situated in the picturesque and romantic coastal town of Rovinj, this international festival will offer you the whole new joy of dancing sensual Caribbean and Latin dances

Web: summersensual.com

INmusic Festival – Zagreb 23 – 25 June 2014

A must-visit stop on the festival map, this highly acclaimed gathering this year includes The Black Keys, Pixies, the electro glam-pop duo GMT, Foals, The Fratellis, Flogging Molly, Wolfmother, Digitalism, Crystal Fighters and more

Web: inmusicfestival.com

Croatian Salsa Festival – Rovinj, 23 – 30 June 2014

Event activities take place not only in workshop halls and hotels but also throughout the entire town of Rovinj, where places like the main town square, MMC hall, narrow coastal alleys and hotel pools turn into colorful and vibrant dance locations

Web: crosalsafestival.com

Hideout Festival – Zrće / Pag, 30 June – 4 July 2014

Entering into its fourth sell out year, Hideout is one of the leading electronic music festivals in the summer calendar. Set in the intimate surroundings of Zrće beach on the Island of Pag, the festival site is sandwiched between mountains, trees and the Adriatic sea

Web: hideoutfestival.com/

Spring Break – Zrće / Pag, 05 – 07 June 2014

Throughout the Springbreak Croatia Festival, party with those DJ's for hours, and then get the chance to experience the after parties with games, fun, pool parties, beach contests, water sports, beach volleyball, and outdoor partying until the morning hours

Web: croatiaspringbreak.com

The Garden Festival – Tisno, 02 – 09 July 2014

The Garden Festival is Croatia's founding and iconic electronic event. Blessed with crystal clear Adriatic waters, sizzling sunshine and star-lit night skies, the idyllic and intimate setting welcomes a global audience to a true slice of paradise, sound-tracked by some of the world's best live acts and DJs

Web: thegardenfestival.eu

Electric Elephant – Tisno, 10 – 14 July 2014

Electric Elephant is a holiday, an escape, a getaway an adventure in the land of music with like minded souls that invokes the original spirit of Ibiza of the seventies and early eighties

Web: electricelephant.co.uk

Ultra Europe – Split / Hvar, 11 – 14 July 2014

Following a historic, sold out debut edition in 2013, in which over 103,000 sun seekers flocked to Croatia's idyllic Dalmatian coast from more than 75 countries worldwide, ULTRA EUROPE now gears up for its second annual installment

Web: ultraeurope.com

HTC Day & Night – Zrće / Pag, 14 – 18 July 2014

Croatia's most famous beach Zrće has become the place where beautiful people flock in search of hedonistic parties with the world's biggest DJs

Web: papaya.com.hr

Momento Demento – Primislje, 15 – 21 July 2014

The response received by the previous edition has singled MO:DEM out for having one of the most exceptional line-ups on the festival circuit, delivering a finely-researched music program designed to communicate sounds that are: fresh, high-grade, organic and underground

Web: modernfestival.com

Soundwave – Tisno, 17 – 21 July 2014

Organized by a small team of music lovers, Soundwave provides 5 full days and nights of music spread across a boat, a beach, a live stage by the seafront and an open air nightclub for dancing beneath the stars

Web: soundwavecroatia.com

Seasplash Festival – Pula, 17 – 21 July 2014

Seasplash festival is taking place at Fort Punta Christo near Štinjan, fortress surrounded with beautiful beaches and pine forests, located between the Bay of Pula and Brijuni National Park

Web: seasplash-festival.com/hr

Lost Theory – Gračac / Deringaj, 22 – 28 July 2014

Presenting the finest installation art, visuals and decor — a global team of artists will cultivate the geometric vision of sound — elevating the sonic experience brought by a fusion of hi-tech genres and alternative electronic music

Web: losttheoryfestival.com

Fresh Island – Zrće / Pag, 23 – 25 July 2014

Launched in 2012, New Yorker Fresh Island Festival immediately established itself as one of Europe's top summer getaways for those who want to enjoy a fusion of both warm weather activities and exclusive hip-hop and r&b concerts

Web: fresh-island.org

Suncebeat – Tisno, 23 – 30 July 2014

In its fifth year, Suncebeat will again showcase the line up of international stars like Lonnie Liston Smith, Kerri Chandler and many more

Web: suncebeat.com

Loveweek Festival – Zrće / Pag, 26 July – 02 August 2014

Festival program offers various activities, from Party & Clubbing in famous clubs and many leisure time activities to relaxing on the beach or cruising on a boat

Web: loveweekfestival.com

Stop Making Sense – Tisno, 31 July – 03 August 2014

Stop Making Sense is a music and dance festival, but more than that it's a summer haven, holiday and getaway. The music program will run 12 noon until 2am the late night action continuing at the local Barbarella's open air club

Web: stopmakingsense.eu

Bačvice Beach Festival – Split, 01 – 02 August 2014

The most famous beach in Split sets a perfect stage for this electronic and techno festival

Web: bacvicebeachfestival.com

Electrobeach Croatia – Zrće / Pag, 04 – 07 August 2014

After becoming one of the most popular summer events in Europe with 40000 visitors each year, Electrobeach decided to head out to Croatia and host their first ever event outside France.

Web: <https://papaya.com.hr/festivals/13-electrobeach-croatia>

Pannonian Challenge – Osijek, 13 – 17 August 2014

Pannonian Challenge is not only one of the most unique festivals of the year, it's a lifestyle of adrenaline and action

Web: 2013.pannonian.hr

Sonus – Zrće / Pag, 18 – 22 August 2014

5 days, 5 nights, more than 50 international artists

Web: sonus-festival.com

Dimensions Festival – Pula, 27 – 31 August 2014

2012 saw the birth of Dimensions Festival, which quickly gathered critical acclaim for having the most forward thinking underground electronic music line-up around

Web: dimensionsfestival.com

Outlook Festival – Pula, 03 – 07 September 2014

Outlook Festival is the largest Bass music and Soundsystem Culture festival in Europe, featuring the biggest names from the most vibrant and cutting edge dance scenes around

Web: outlookfestival.com

Unknown – Rovinj, 08 – 09 September 2014

Unknown is a week-long music and arts festival of concerts, forest, boat and island parties

Web: unknowncroatia.com

Interview: Tom Kuker

In search of Croatian Roots

A story of a man whose search of his family roots led him to discover a passion for Croatia - it's people, it's lands and it's wines. Meet Tom Kuker, retired FBI Special Agent (1971-2002), second generation Croatian American and a Virginia based dealer of Croatian wines. This is his Croatian story.



Q: When and how did you realize you have family connections to Croatia? Was it hard to trace your family history?

For many years I attempted to determine my father's family history. I knew very little. I knew that both of my father's parents had immigrated to the US and that they were married in Ironwood, Michigan where my grandfather worked in the iron mines. Then the hunt began. While assigned in Washington DC I was able to visit the National Archives and found my Grandfather's Ellis Island arrival document (1896) and also his Petition for Naturalization (1913 in Michigan). A few items proved interesting such as his country of origin: Austria, and his home town in Austria: Varastovac. Interesting, but dead ends! I was not able to find his home town, but came to the realization that it was somewhere within the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. His Petition for Naturalization had a statement from him renouncing absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity....to Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and Apostolic King of Hungary! That is where my research ended. There were no other clues, not from records, not from family and not from my

father who said that he had no relatives living outside of the United States.

THEN IT HAPPENED in 2004. My wife Kathleen had a business trip to Croatia. Prior to that time, in 2000, we had received a postcard from friends that had travelled to Dubrovnik and Korcula and talked about the beauty of the land. So, we decided to travel together and see for ourselves this beautiful country. The trip was first to Zagreb, then on to a vacation in Dubrovnik. Once there, I asked about the town listed by my Grandfather. No such place according to the hotel staff. I only asked because we were in a country that was once a part of the A/H Empire. The next day, I purchased a road map in the gift shop and later that evening I found the town (Vivodina/Varastovac) that I have been looking for for about 35 years. I rented a car and made my way west towards Vivodina. Along the way, I met many Croatians who were working in their family vineyards in the early spring. They assisted me in getting to my destination and then they assisted me in finding someone that could help me with the language. In that village I met Zvonimir Gustin who assisted me there beginning in 2004. We have been friends ever since. I also met Nada Car, the Vital Statistics Registry clerk in Ozalj, Croatia. She provided me then and later over the years, with official Croatian family records of my Great Grandparents, Grandparents, and siblings (Kukar and Marincic). I later validated these records with my Grandparent's Church in Ironwood, Michigan. They advised me that their records indicate that they had come from Vivodina Croatia in the villages of Hodinici and Gorniki. Church records are the key to Croatian genealogical research--here and there!

Q: When did you begin to give presentations on Croatia and the wines of Croatia?

Prior to leaving for Dubrovnik we visited a wine shop in Zagreb named Bornstein's. The owner gave us an overview of Croatian wines and because we were traveling to Dubrovnik, he provided us with names of wine makers in Dalmatia. We credit him for beginning our wine journey in Croatia. We later visited with F. Milos and with Ivo Skaramuca both on the Peljesac. We fell in love with the wines of Dalmatia on that trip. Later that year we gave presentations on Croatian wines to a Virginia chapter of the American Wine Society and then a few years later to the annual conference of the American Wine Society. We had the wines for the first presentation, but had to struggle to get wines for the national conference. The attendees at these presentations were very lucky as they were able to taste outstanding wines from the many wine growing regions of Croatia which included 'priceless' wines grown on the lands once owned by my ancestors. On both occasions Mike Grgich, Napa Valley assisted with donations of their wines. In each presentation we compared his Zinfandel with Plavac Mali. Later in presentations we compared his wine to Crljenak and Primitivo. My wife and I love making presentations on Croatia and Croatian wines. One of the most interesting presentations was to a wine club at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. The club provided us with sign language translators. The wine spoke for itself and there was interest expressed, by attendees, about a trip to Croatia so that they could experience Croatia..the Mediterranean as it once was.



Q: When did you decide to start the wine dealership specializing in Croatian wines?

The inability to purchase Croatian wines here was the driving force for us to begin importing and distributing the wines. We were not the only ones that desired the wines here so we began our business in 2008. Our friends and owners of the Cosmopolitan Grill in Alexandria vacationed on Korcula as they were growing up. They desired Croatian wines, especially Posip from Korcula! Croatian wines, as a wine writer for the Washington Post states: "...are decidedly niche wines, but it is a niche worth exploring and expanding!" So, our first steps are to determine the demand and then attempt to fill that demand one area at a time.

Q: How often do you visit Croatia?

We have been to Croatia four times, the last being in 2013 during the month of June. We attempted to visit all of the wineries whose products we carry here. We wanted to get to know the owners and view their vineyards and processing facilities in order to tell their stories during our presentations on the wines of Croatia. We also visited once again with our friends (Vrbank & Grasa) in the Vivodina area that have small quality wineries, but do not export to the US. Maybe that will change. We have never tasted a Croatian wine that we did not enjoy and I can say that after many presentations and tastings, never has there been a less than positive reaction to the wines! Our favorite wine has to be the first wine that we ever tasted on the shore of the Adriatic Sea near the home and vineyards of Ivo Skaramuca. It was a Dingac-barrique, a wine that unfortunately is not now imported in the US. Maybe that will change!

Q: What are your favorite places in Croatia and why?

We have travelled throughout most of Croatia and continue to discover hidden treasures there. It is a beautiful country. Our latest 'finds' were the city and surrounding area of Omis, the whole of Istria, Korcula and Hvar. Almost forgot to say that the wine festival in Vivodina, every June, is not to be missed! The highlights of our Croatian experience have been: meeting Croatians both here in the Washington DC area, Croatians in communities across the United States and our friends in many cities across Croatia. Discovering family roots in Vivodina (Plesivica region) and sharing family root discoveries with our extended family. But most of all, being asked to talk about Croatia--the people, the landscape, and of course the wines! Hopefully on our next adventure to Croatia we will be with family members, and hopefully we will speak the language.

Croatian Entries on '101 Objects that Made America' list

Two people born in Croatia have made Smithsonian National Museum of American History's '101 Objects that Made America' list



Among the priceless historical objects named on the list, which were selected from more than 137 million artifacts from 19 museums, were such things as Abraham Lincoln's hat, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone and Neil Armstrong's space-suit. But, there was room on the list for two Croatian inspired 'objects'. Two bottles of the wine that gave Croatian American winemaker Mike Grgich a Judgment of Paris award have also been included on the prestigious list. Grgich's 1973 vintage Chardonnay was selected for competition in the historic Paris Wine Tasting of 1976, where it was ranked the number one white wine in the world.

Grgich has forged an impressive career in the winemaking industry in America, winning several prestigious awards and even being inducted into the Culinary Institute of America's Vintner's Hall of Fame. Grgich is also the man behind Croatia being credited for the origins of the famous Californian zinfandel grape. He noticed the similarities between the zinfandel red grape and of a grape back in his homeland Croatia when he first arrived in California. Grgich told everyone he knew about his suspicions, and finally academics listened. Through DNA testing it was proved that the parent of zinfandel is an ancient grape of Croatia called orljenak kastelanski.

"When I was growing up in the little village of Desne in Croatia, I never would have dared to dream that my wine would be in the same book as America's "Declaration of Independence," or in the same museum as Nikola Tesla, the famous inventor who is also from Croatia. When I arrived in the United States, I thought I was the luckiest man alive to have my dream come true of making wine in California, but this recognition far exceeds my American Dream." said Grgich after finding out about his inclusion.

Croatian born inventor Tesla, who apart from inventing the modern AC electrical supply system, was also known for his high-voltage, high frequency power experiments in New York and Colorado Springs which included patented devices and theoretical work used in the invention of radio communication, for his X-ray experiments, and for his attempts at intercontinental wireless transmission, also featured in the list of 101 Objects that Made America.

And Croatia is...

...the land of Lipizzans



The State Stud Farm in Đakovo was founded in 1506, which makes it one of the oldest horse farms in Europe. It also represents the long tradition of horse breeding in this area. At the beginning of the 18.Ct. Lipizzan horses began to be bred at the Stud Farm in Đakovo. Throughout history, the horse, a noble animal of gracious pace and mysterious sense, has always had a great significance for Đakovo and its area. The traditional agricultural area befriended these animals and relied on them in land cultivation, but also in the defense of the country in many historical battles.



For centuries as an only Horse farm in Croatia it succeeded in preserving the horse breeding tradition and at the same time it was fostering and developing love of greater public for those noble creatures. The Arab and Nonius breed anteceded The Lipizzan breed in this area.

The Đakovo Lipizzans have spread the word about Đakovo and its area at many appearances in the world. One of many important people who recognized the value of Lipizzans is Queen Elizabeth II. Gracious and elegant appearance of Đakovo Lipizzan four-horse team at the opening of the Olympic Games impressed The British Queen so much that she insisted on visiting Đakovo and its Stud Farm together with her family in 1972. During her visit, the Queen rode through the town in a famous Đakovo Lipizzans four-horse team.



Nowadays the State Stud Farm of Lipizzans in Đakovo uses two locations for breeding and selection – The Stud farm in the centre of Đakovo and Ivandvor- a property near Đakovo. Besides breeding and selection of horses the State Stud Farm also does the training and dressage, the quality of which is confirmed by many high ranked places won in horse competitions. In 2006. the State Stud Farm of Lipizzans in Đakovo celebrated 500 years of foundation and 200 years of Lipizzan breeding. Therefore it represents the invaluable asset and importance for the town of Đakovo, Slavonija and Croatia. The State farm became unavoidable center of many tourist visits to Đakovo, Slavonija and Croatia. Among its basic activities the Stud Farm also does many activities for public and for many admirers of horses and horse sports.

The Lipizzane breeding in Đakovo area is a significant mark of Đakovo and Slavonija, and it makes it an unavoidable part of its tourist, economic and sports offer.



State Stud Farms Đakovo & Lipik

Photo Corner

In each issue we will publish a photo of Croatia taken by one of the millions of tourists that discover "The Mediterranean as it once was" every year.

For more of these, check out the official Facebook page of Croatia "[Love Croatia](#)" or visit www.croatia.hr

This issue's photo features Trakošćan Castle in region of Zagorje, Croatia.

Courtesy of Domagoj Sever.

Enjoy!



Speaking of Facts

- ◆ *Dubrovnik's Old Town Roofs are one of the most popular views of the City*
- ◆ *Traditional covering of Dubrovnik's roofs are the special tiles called 'kupe'. In the past they were made near the city in the village Kupari*
- ◆ *Over 70% of the city roofs were damaged in the bombardments by the Yugoslav Army and Serb-Montenegrin forces in the early 1990s*



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