

AMADRIA PARK'S HERITAGE HOTEL CAPITAL IN ZAGREB

— taking the concept of city hotel to a whole new level —



DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Renowned for its seaside hotels in the stunning locations of Opatija and Šibenik, Amadria Park more recently opened its first city hotel in the Zagreb city centre; the heritage Amadria Park hotel Capital. Its location is prime, placing guests in the very heart of the city, only 450 metres from Zagreb's famous main square, Ban Jelačić. A long-awaited addition to Zagreb's hotel scene, the elegant and lux original art deco and secessionist-era architecture and interior accents have been retained and spruced up to feature in the hotel's overall design.

The glamorous art deco styling permeates through the entire entrance and ground floor space, from the hotel reception, to the Capital Exclusive store with its premium, locally-designed-and-produced products, Caffe Capital with its Zagreb coffee experience accompanied by housemade cakes in grand Viennese tradition to the deluxe, nouveau bar and restaurant. Our Capital Bar offers the Capital Cocktail – hand crafted by our barmen in tribute to the decadent art deco era.

The *belle etage* second floor of the hotel also pays homage to the times with its ornate decor, with the former bank manager's and assistant manger's offices now serving as generous, luxurious suites, sporting original details such as a fireplace, chandeliers and other ornate lighting fixtures. Rooms provide wonderful cityscape views over Zagreb for an authentic Zagreb city experience. Meanwhile, on the lower ground floor, guests can take a workout with the Life Fitness compatible gym facilitated through the LFConnect™ app.

Built in 1923 as a branch of Austrian Wiener Bank-Verein, and later becoming the main office building of Zagrebačka Banka, hotel Capital holds a number of interesting period details. For instance, the conservative former treasury has been converted into the Capital Private Club – a bar available for hire for exclusive and private events. The impressive, original treasury vault doors have been carefully restored and now safeguard a premium selection of wines, sparklings, gins and whiskey.

Inside

This season's *Time Out* Zagreb in no time at all



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STREET ART

“It feels as though there’s a story here that you’re able to take part in”

– Cody Brown



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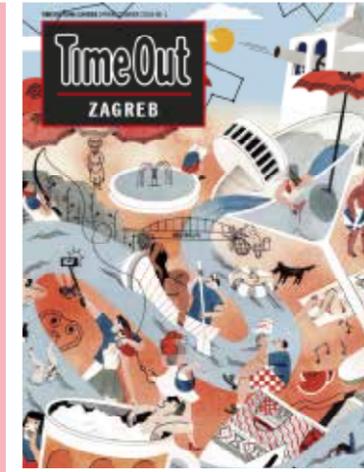
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Hello, Zagreb

Justin McDonnell Editor-in-chief
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Time Out

ZAGREB

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Welcome



Martina Bienenfeld
 Director of Zagreb
 Tourist Board

WHEN CROATIA JOINED the European Union in 2013, Zagreb effectively became Europe's newest capital. Whilst the country was being mainly recognized as a sea and sun destination, Zagreb Tourist Board took up the challenge to take advantage of the city's unique combination of Austro-Hungarian architectural influence mixed with the Mediterranean lifestyle and turned Zagreb into one of the hottest city break destinations in Europe. Lonely Planet ranked Zagreb as the number one place to visit in 2017, and the city was nationally recognized as 'Best Destination' during the Days of Croatian Tourism 2018.

Zagreb becomes a hive of activity throughout the year. The spring and the summer months offer a plethora of activities, events and festivals to suit all tastes. Taking place every March since 2017, the Festival of Lights is the star event of spring in Zagreb. Summer is rhythmized with musical events such as Croatia's very own version of Glastonbury with the INmusic Festival in June, or the refreshing daily outdoor concerts offered by the Zagreb Classic Festival in July, in collaboration with Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra. Autumn is reserved for various gastro festivals and some hip indoor events, and winter is marked by Zagreb's Advent, which has been awarded Best Christmas Market in Europe three times in a row. The Croatian capital is now seen as one of the best value cities in Europe, offering visitors a wonderful selection of things to do – from leisurely sightseeing strolls taking in the architecture, historical arts and lush

green parks throughout the city centre, to street music, local cafés, bars and restaurants. The city is rich in culture, boasting museums, theatres, galleries, authentic markets and a surprisingly buzzing nightlife. Add to that a great gourmet scene from quirky bistros to fine dining, exciting events, a wide range of accommodation choices, easy access to Croatia's famous coast, plus some excellent shopping. Among the top sightseeing attractions in the city is the historic Upper town - where Zagreb was created, between Kaptol and Gradec hills. Then there is downtown, with the famous Lenuci's Horseshoe walk – an original U-shaped system of nine parks connected to each other, a great example of Central Europe park architecture. The Mirogoj cemetery is one of the most noteworthy landmarks of the city and reunites the graves of the most iconic Croatia architects, artists, scientists, politicians and other notables of the country's history. Food lovers can head to Dolac, a farmers' market that has been the city's trading area since 1926 and is open daily. But that's not all - the city is also diversifying its offer in terms of business and MICE tourism, and is expanding as a health and medical tourism destination. Sometimes serious, sometimes fun, sometimes unusual, this perfect size metropolis provides a real choice of things to do and see. The journey through Zagreb is always captivating, but the biggest value of this city is its atmosphere and the people who never allow you to feel alone. Zagreb has a story to tell and it has a heart, a big one!



Milan Bandić
 Mayor of Zagreb

I CAME TO ZAGREB 45 years ago, in 1974., as a student. I fell in love with Zagreb even before I came here, but when I actually got here, it completely blew me away. But that wasn't the only thing that blew me away, there was a beautiful local lady that swept me of my feet. She is the reason I stayed in Zagreb.

A person who comes to Zagreb once falls in love with the city and wishes to return again and again. Our greatest achievement in 19 years is that today Zagreb is a multicultural, multiethnic and multiconfessional city.

People will always be coming to Zagreb. It is also necessary to build more infrastructure and all in all Zagreb should be changed daily, but at the same time, it has to remain the same. Its unique beauty, architecture and history must not be neglected.

What can be done to make Zagreb a year-round destination for medical, health and wellness tourism? If we make a spa and a modern centre of health excellence in the area of Blato, then it is a possibility.

Zagreb is a transit destination. 80 percent of people stay here between three and five days and then move on to see the rest of Croatia. They go to Plitvice Lakes, the Krka Falls and to the coast. Every year, each month, the numbers are increasing.

Last year Zagreb was chosen as the best tourist destination of the continent. For three years in a row, it received the title of the best Advent festival in Europe. And this year we will defend this title, we will raise the bar and acquire attractions. While safety is written with the capital S, Zagreb has the advantage over any European capital. And it is our citizens we have to thank for this safety. Nobody can build and protect the city as its citizens can.

Zagreb Today



Zagreb Classic

Zagreb is fast becoming the outdoor capital of Central Europe. Just don't forget to pack a picnic blanket, says Jonathan Bousfield

ZAGREB IS a Central European city with a Mediterranean sense of the good life; especially when it comes to spending as much time as possible outdoors. Summers are long and dry, and the emergence of a whole new breed of alfresco festivals and pop-up events have filled the calendar with things to do. For the visitor, the Croatian capital has become one of Europe's best destinations for picnicking in parks, strolling through vibrant streets, and drifting from one social hub to the next.

The move to bring culture out of doors and into the streets began

five years ago and has been picking up speed ever since. Festivals have been reimagined as boutique pop-ups or niche garden parties rather than institutional events aimed at a traditional concert- or gallery-going audience.

The regular, high-prestige diet of film and performing arts festivals is still on offer, but has now been joined by a more informal, inclusive menu of events like Museums Outside the Museums, with its interactive outdoor displays in May; Design District, which turns the Martićeva area into a cluster of pop-up galleries

in June, or The Courtyards, which opens up some of the Upper Town's most beautiful backyards in July. Paced throughout the summer are outdoor food festivals covering everything from cake-baking to burgers; while Little Picnic spreads deli stalls across a small garden square in the Upper Town.

Hitherto under-used spaces have been transformed into unlikely venues for summer-long street parties. A patch of waste ground behind the main shopping street has become the Art Park, an impromptu hillside garden café

backed by mural-covered walls. A rectangular stretch of lawn in the Upper Town hosts the Gradec Summer Cinema, with cult classics screened to the picnic-blanket set on summer evenings. The Upper Town's scenic promenade, the pedestrianized Strossmayerovo Šetalište, becomes "Strossmartre", with arts-and-craft stalls and a nightly selection of live music.

The festival wave is spreading out to colonize more and more areas of the city, Early July's Plac-Mljac brings gastronomy and street entertainment to Trešnjevka, site of one of Zagreb's

'Alfresco festivals and pop-up events have filled the calendar with things to do.'



Ban Jelačić Square

work among the fountains and flowerbeds just as well as a street-food festival or a pop-up cocktail party.

The sudden boom in outdoor festivals has had a profound impact on a city which, not so many years ago, was considered a rather dull destination for high-summer travellers. Cultural life in Zagreb has traditionally taken a breather at this time of year; theatre and concert seasons wind up in June and don't start again until October, while blockbuster art exhibitions are habitually reserved for the autumn and the spring. Popular wisdom always maintained that the city's inhabitants deserted the city en masse for the delights of the Adriatic coast. When events like The Courtyards kicked off 5 years ago, taking the very risky step of organizing an event in the supposed dead period of July, organizers were surprised to discover that it actually brought local people out of hiding. Zagrebians who were assumed to be sunning themselves on some Adriatic rock were actually mooching around at home, waiting for an excuse to go out and socialize.

With so many summer events now running concurrently at

different locations, the whole city exudes a celebratory mood, as if the Riviera-town vivacity so familiar to visitors to the Adriatic coast has been imported lock stock and barrel to the landlocked capital city.

Zagreb's success in reinventing itself as parklife central has an awful lot to do with its emergence as a winter destination, with the city's quirky, boutique-style Advent season suddenly becoming a major European attraction. The Advent approach,

with its gourmet street food, outdoor stages and general air of merriment, has been repurposed as an all-year-round phenomenon.

And even when there isn't an al-fresco festival going on, Zagreb folk are much more likely to treat public space as a summer chill-out zone than they ever used to be, flopping down on the lawns of Zrinjevac, or heading to Maksimir Park with its grassy open spaces and woodland trails.



Dvorišta/The Courtyards



The do's and don't's of visiting Zagreb

While Zagreb is a modern European capital, it has its own rules and regulations, many of them unwritten and part of the social fabric. Here are a few you may pick up on if you're here for the first time.

DO Take an hour over coffee

If you haven't taken an hour over something before, unless it was a flight, think again. Zagreb is a busy capital but everyone makes time for coffee. This shouldn't be rushed – and will allow for the server to make a little heart shape in the foam of your cappuccino. A local will, somehow, stretch a thimbleful of espresso over the course of 60 minutes, although this includes time to shake and open several sachets of sugar, all while holding conversations on their mobile and with their drinking partner across the café table.

15 minutes. Any distance further than this may involve a swift, frequent and cheap tram ride of, absolute maximum, ten minutes. For anyone more used to London or Paris, Zagreb is so easy and quick to negotiate they may be worried they might fall off the edge of the map beyond Črnomerec. And yet... everyone drives. No-one can find a parking spot – in fact, they spend half the time of their proposed rendezvous looking for one – but drive they do. Why? True, many live in residential areas such as Dugave or Dubrava and wouldn't dream of leaving their fate in the hands of a bus timetable. Many just like the freedom to crank up the music and have a handy excuse when coming in late for work for the fifth time that week. Go figure.

DON'T Drive everywhere

Zagreb is a compact capital whose centre can be traversed on foot in

DO Get a dog

Dubrovnik is ruled by cats. Mljet – mongooses. Zagreb? Dogs. Yup, every other Purger has a pooch. Any first-time visitor can tell this straight away, the tin dishes brimming with water by café doorways, the signs and stickers welcoming guests of the four- and two-legged variety. There's not only a dog bakery, Capa Pet Bistro, but this same canine-focused establishment even opened a dog restaurant as part of Zagreb's Christmas market. Dogs are allowed on trams and buses, can take advantage of the many green urban squares, and most of all, are indulged at almost every establishment with that 'I've got one too!' look from the waiter or server.

DO Accept Croatian hospitality

Any first-time visitor from northern Europe fears that it's a ruse. They turn up at, say, a local football match in Croatia and the next thing, they're being bestowed with scarves, souvenirs and beers, as if they were visiting royalty. What gives? What's the catch? There isn't one. Croats are simply pleased to accommodate respectful guests. Therefore – accept it, gracefully, and show interest and respect in return. And if you're invited to a Croatian family for a meal – do not, under any circumstances, eat for a twelve-month beforehand, because you'll be inundated with food, home-cooked, delicious and plenty of it. Dobar tek!

Advantages of ZagrebCard: — Unlimited access to public transportation — Free admission to city attractions

It also includes discounts at more than 55 locations such as museums, galleries, restaurants, shops, and others. From now on, Zagreb Card can be purchased online within Tourist Information Centre on the Zagreb's main square.

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*Free admission to the Museum of the City of Zagreb, the Museum of Arts and Crafts, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Broken Relationships, Zagreb 360° – Zagreb Eye observation deck, and the Zagreb ZOO. For more information, visit our website at www.zagrebcard.com

Zagreb CROATIA
Full of life

Zagreb in three hours

Whizz around the capital in three hours.



Funicular

ZAGREB IS one of the easiest European capitals to zip through in three hours – and not because there's so little to see, the opposite in fact. But with a compact, easily walkable centre and superb tram network, you can nip between sights and bites in no time. The ideal starting place is the main square, Trg bana Josipa Jelačića, centrepiece by a statue of the Habsburg-era leader on horseback. From here, many attractions are a short walk away, other destinations a quick hop by tram – most routes cross the square.

Your lightning visit may start with a stroll – through the Dolac market immediately behind.

City centre

Up a flight of steps from Jelačić, the Dolac market is the heart of Zagreb, a raised square of stalls and chatter, ringed by little bars and affordable eateries. Towering above are the twin towers of Zagreb Cathedral, a Neo-Gothic landmark containing a relief by Croatia's greatest sculptor Ivan Meštrović.

A quick hop back to the main square, and then along the narrow street of Ilica, and you come to the Grič Tunnel. This wartime shelter is now a renovated attraction, with regular exhibitions. It leads to the foot of the Upper Town. Alternatively, a little further along Ilica is the funicular that leads to the Lotrščak Tower, gateway to the Upper Town. If you're here at noon, you can see the Grič cannon signal midday over the city.

Upper Town

The Upper Town brims with sights, starting with a contemporary one, the popular Museum

of Broken Relationships, showing the bitter souvenirs after break-ups. Climbing higher up Čirilometodska, you pass the Croatian Museum of Naïve Art before you reach St Mark's Square and the church of the same name with the signature roof bearing the historic coats of arms of the Kingdom of Croatia. Across the square flies the modern-day flag of independent Croatia on the Sabor, the national parliament.

Heading back down, to Kamenita ulica, you come to Kamenita vrata, the Stone Gate dating back to the 1200s. This passage between the Upper and Lower Towns is also a place of pilgrimage, hence the candles and icons.

Lower Town

Walk over to Tkalčićeva, an atmospheric street lined with bars and restaurants, for a bite – say, at Pivnica Medvedgrad, with its own craft beers, before exploring the Lower Town the other side of the main square.

Here, at the top of Zrinjevac, a pretty, leafy urban square, part of the Green Horseshoe that characterises this elegant part of town, stands the Archaeological Museum. Key exhibit here is the Vučedol Dove, a ritual artefact dating back 4,500 years.



Zrinjevac



Zrinjevac

On the other side of Zrinjevac, the Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters shows works by El Greco and his Flemish and German contemporaries. Close by, on Teslina and Gajeva, are many international restaurants but to dine Croatian, Vinodol (Teslina 10) offers classic domestic dishes such as zagrebački odrezak, stuffed meat in breadcrumbs, lamb and bread.

Don't forget to...

If you're in Upper Town and have a little more time, the Meštrović Atelier is set in the former studio of Croatia's most notable sculptor, and contains a permanent display of his works.

Zagreb in 24 hours

Your one-day itinerary to Zagreb.



Art Pavilion

9AM

Start the day off with coffee or breakfast surrounded by the old-style grandeur of either of Zagreb's oldest hotels, the Esplanade or the Palace Hotel, both of which have welcomed world famous guests over the years. If it's a sunny morning, you can linger over a coffee on the terrace overlooking the classic façade of the main train station, Glavni kolodvor. From there, it's a short walk to Tomislav trg - note the statue of Croatia's medieval king of the same name and the Art Pavilion. Even if the current exhibition isn't to your liking, the building, which was shipped from Budapest in 1896, is definitely worth a gander.

10AM

The next stop is Strossmayer's Gallery of Old Masters, an excellent collection of Flemish and Italian works displayed in a neo-Renaissance palace. Afterwards, carry on walking away from the station. You're not only heading towards the main square, you're passing along the prettiest part of the Green Horseshoe of landscaped spaces created by urban planner Lenuci in the 1800s.

11.30AM

The Archaeological Museum is worth a look, with its Egyptian sarcophagi, Roman artefacts and the 4,000-year-old ceramic Vučedol



The Archaeological Museum

Dove found near Vukovar. If you're out by noon, you should hear the daily cannon boom from the nearby Lotrščak Tower.



Dolac

12.30PM

It's about time to start thinking about lunch. Although fewer and fewer downtown places now serve cheap late-morning meals, many do daily specials. After a stroll around the main square, Trg bana Josipa Jelačića, and a browse of the fresh produce at the main market, Dolac, behind, check the board at nearby Kerempuh for what fresh meat or vegetable dishes they've sourced at the stalls that morning. Behind you is the Cathedral - worth a quick look inside before you sit down to lunch.

1.30PM

Walk off lunch with a stroll up one of Zagreb's most atmospheric streets, Tkalčićeva, perhaps stopping for a coffee at Kavana Procaffè.

2PM

It's time to take in the Upper Town, reached by crossing historic Krvavi Most and scaling the steep cobbled streets to admire St Mark's Church, the Croatian Parliament and the Ban's Palace. After all that history, it's time for some fun with a visit to the wonderfully quirky Museum of Broken Relationships, which is devoted to what gets lost and what gets kept when couples go their separate ways.

If you are more of a late lunch person, the nearby Brokenships Bistro, or specialists of Dalmatian hinterland cuisine Didov san, are both great options.

3.30PM

Nearby, past leafy Strossmayerovo šetalište, take the funicular down to focal Ilica, before the short stroll to the Croatian National Theatre on Republic of Croatia Square and its signature fountain outside, The Source of Life, by Ivan Meštrović. You should still have enough energy to take in one last museum, the Mimara, which is home to the city's premier collection of fine art, with Rembrandt, Rubens and Manet all on show under one roof.

6PM

With the Mimara closing at 7pm in summer and 5pm in winter, you should have enough time afterwards to head to the pedestrianised bar quarter around nearby Petar Preradović Square (known as Cvjetni trg, the Flower Square) for an early-evening aperitif before dinner. There are plenty of options here: Vinyl has a rambling and bohemian vibe.



Vinyl

8PM

It's time for dinner. Sample the best of Zagreb's new bistro culture at Pod Zidom, Apetit or the more modestly priced Beštija.



Pod Zidom Bistro & Wine Bar



Tkalčićeva Street

9.30PM

For a post-meal drink, you're bound to find plenty going on in the city's busy bar strip of Tkalčićeva. One choice might be the rocky Booze and Blues. Just down the road, Funk is a tiny club with a great buzz.



KSET

10.30PM

Up to you from here on in. You could either hit the hay or sample one of Zagreb's many mid-sized live-music venues like The Culture Factory or KSET.

Hardier party-folk might want to check out the pillars of Zagreb's alternative nightlife scene. First, Medika, a former pharmaceutical factory turned concert venue-cum-club space. A cab-ride away, Masters is located next to the clay courts of the Maksimir Tennis Centre in a loft bedecked with wooden floors and a tree-house-style bar, offering music from deep house to dub, techno to reggae.

Zagreb in three days

Discover everything Zagreb has to offer.



DAY 1

To get your bearings, start where all locals meet: by the equine statue in the middle of the main square. Atop his horse, Ban Josip Jelačić points the way towards the Lower Town, to be explored later in the day. For now, you might browse the traditional Dolac market immediately behind, then, beyond that, Neo-Gothic Zagreb Cathedral.

From here, the No.106 bus runs every 20 minutes from Kaptol to Mirogoj, Zagreb's own Père Lachaise, where Croatia's great and good lie buried. It's also an

architectural delight. Getting the bus back, if you alight at Medveščak, you're a short walk from Tkalčićeva, a twisting street dotted with terrace eateries. Here at the top end, Pivnica Mali Medo is a handy option, with its own craft beers.

From here, it's a pleasant stroll down ever-bustling Tkalčićeva, past the statue of revered author Marija Jurić Zagorka, to the pathway known as Krvavi Most, 'Bloody Bridge', its name harking back to the medieval conflict between church and state.

Here you can stop off at the nearby Tortureum, a museum

of torture filled with macabre instruments.

Head down and cross the main square to reach Zrinjevac, the top of the so-called Green Horseshoe embellishing the Lower Town with green urban spaces. This one is lined with stately institutions – take your pick between the Archaeological Museum and its ancient Vučedol Dove or the Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters and its works by El Greco and Flemish contemporaries.

For those who would like to squeeze in another cultural attraction, a ten-minute walk down Hebrangova brings you to the

Mimara Museum, and its priceless collection of works by Goya, Manet and Canaletto, among many others.

Bars and eateries are clustered in the mainly pedestrianised streets around the Flower Square, Cvjetni trg. A classic Zagreb dish at the Vinodol on Teslina might be followed by a late night at Alcatraz on Preradovićeveva.

DAY 2

Set aside day 2 to explore Ilica and the Upper Town. If it's a Sunday, you may wish to take the tram a couple of stops to Britanski trg and the weekly bric-à-brac street market here.

Otherwise stroll from the main square along Ilica to the Grič Tunnel, a wartime shelter now an exhibition venue. It leads to the foot of the Upper Town. You can also walk a little further along to reach the funicular that climbs to the Lotrščak Tower, gateway to the Upper Town. At noon here, the Grič cannon booms out across the city.

With so many sights to see in Zagreb's elevated, historic hub, you may as well start with the most unusual: the Museum of Broken Relationships, showing the items left behind once couples split.

Nearby, those interested in the genre can nip into the Croatian Museum of Naïve Art, showing works of the pre-war Hlebine School.



for your next move. A convivial option would be to jump on the frequent No.4 to go direct to the Botanical Gardens just over 15 minutes away, its arboretum, rock gardens and greenhouses open to the public from March to October.

Two more stops from here on the No.4, by the Studentski centar, the Technical Museum Nikola Tesla is a cornucopia of vintage vehicles, a mock of the workshop where famed scientist Nikola Tesla created his inventions, and a planetarium.

Here in the student quarter, there are many choices for a bite and a drink, including Sheridan's Irish Pub, the Pivnica Zlatni Medo and the Café Godot.

DON'T FORGETTO...

If you prefer outdoor relaxation to ticking off sightseeing boxes, then tram No.17 can whisk you from the main square to Jarun in 25 minutes. At this man-made laek and parkland, picnics and pedalos are the order of the day, with key nightspots such as Aquarius alongside.



Museum of Contemporary Art

The Upper Town is centrepiece by St Mark's Square, where the church of the same name is topped by historic coats of arms of Croatia on its signature gingerbread roof. Facing it across the square is the Sabor, Croatia's parliament. The Banski dvori palace, home of the Croatian government, occupies the western side.

After a quick look at the Meštrović Atelier a collection of pieces by Croatia's most notable sculptor in his former studio, you're ready for a classic Croatian lunch alongside at the Konoba Didov San.

Here, you're almost at the top of the Upper Town – which is why Zagreb Observatory is nearby. After a visit to the Zagreb City Museum, with its extensive permanent display tracing centuries of urban development, you can hop on bus No.150 to take you directly to Kamenita vrata, the medieval Stone Gate, brightened by candles and icons left for loved ones by locals.

Here you can finish your day's sightseeing at the Galerija Klovičevi dvori, a huge gallery space in a former Jesuit monastery – Picasso, Van Gogh and Degas have all been featured in recent years.

In summer, you can take advantage of the open-air attractions lining panoramic Strossmayerovo šetalište, the so-called Strossmayer programme of open-air performances and stalls. Year-round, Pod gričkim topom offers fine fare and stunning views.

DAY 3

Your exploration further afield may start with a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art, located south of the Sava near the Sopot stop on tramline Nos.6 and 7. The most important cultural attraction to open in Zagreb this century, the MCA has both a permanent collection and regular agenda of cutting-edge temporary shows.

Nearby stretches the riverside park of Bundek or you may wish to hop back on trams 7 to Maksimirska, and Maksimir Park. These rolling grounds were created back in the 1790s and today house Zagreb Zoo, home to meerkats, red pandas and leopards.

For lunch, the traditional terrace restaurant Maksimir by the park gates dates back to 1860.

Half-a-dozen trams serve Maksimirska, offering plenty of scope

Advertisement feature

The only travel companion you need



For serious sightseeing, invest in a one- or three-day Zagreb Card (24hr 98kn; 72hr 135kn) buy online or from one of the shop locations listed on the website (zagrebcard.com/shop-locations). The card includes free transport and entrance to six of Zagreb's biggest attractions (Zagreb Zoo, 360

Observation Deck, Museum of Broken Relationships, Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb City Museum and Museum of Arts and Crafts.) As a Zagreb card holder, you'll also enjoy big discounts from city museums, restaurants, shops and a variety of services. See the full list at: zagrebcard.com/discounts-with-zagreb-card.

→ For more information, visit: zagrebcard.com



MY ZAGREB STORY

In 1992, Damir Cuculić, a catalyst of Croatia's electronic music scene, organised Zagreb's first rave in the city centre's Grič Tunnel.

MY NAME IS Damir Cuculić. I was born in Zagreb. In the 80s I was a DJ, I have been in love with music since I was 10 years old. Disco music was my first big love and after that hip hop. I first encountered electronic dance music at the end of the 80s. I had a connection in London and he told me about what was happening there, the first rave parties. At this time there was no Youtube, no Facebook, nothing. The only way you could find out was by travelling there or, like me, in a phone call from a friend.

The first rave-style party I did was in 1992 in KSET. It was small. The first big one I did was here, in Grič Tunnel. This was the time of war in Croatia. Yugoslavia was falling apart. A dangerous time. Why did we decide this was a good time to start having raves? I don't know. Today, I cannot explain it. We were young and crazy.

Two of my friends were artists and they built installations. The idea was to have a multimedia event, an art exhibition combined with a rave party. Back then, I didn't know anything about Grič Tunnel, only that it existed. Only later I found out its interesting history. It was built as a bomb shelter in the times of war and it goes all

the way to the other side of the city centre.

When we held the party, everyone complained. The police, the neighbours, everyone. Nobody had any experience of setting up something like this, or how to deal with it. We thought there would be 500-700 people maximum. 5000 people came. From here at the tunnel entrance on Mesnička, right the way down to Ilica, was just packed full of people, waiting to get in. We'd printed our own tickets rather primitively, so people took them home and just photocopied them for their friends. After a while, we simply could not tell which ones were real and which ones were fake.

After about 2500 people came in, you just couldn't fit any more. Inside, you could not even light a Zippo lighter because the air was so humid. The ventilation was awful. All we could do was leave the tunnel open at both ends and hope it would create a draft. The moisture in the air condensed as the night went on and it began to rain from the ceiling of the tunnel. It fell on all the people, on the DJs, the record players and mixer, everything. We had to quickly make a tent from nylon to protect the records and equipment. The tunnel itself was dry and dusty when

we arrived. But all the condensation mixed with the dust and when we left everyone was covered in mud. The party went on until about 6am.

People at that time were afraid because of the war, frustrated and bored with all the fighting. They came to the party to let off some steam. It was good for that.

Since I did the rave here, I worked on TV until 2002, then I worked on radio shows. I did lots more raves, including the first at Zagreb Velesajam. Now I do Croatia's first homegrown electronic music festival, Future Sound of Zagreb. This year we will celebrate 20 years. I also have a studio at home and we film Top DJ Room there, with live-streamed sets from the best DJs in Croatia. It is my hobby, but also my love. Music was my first love and it is still like that today.

Zagreb changed a lot since we did that first rave. It changes every year. It's becoming more urban and these days there are all kinds of music festivals here. More and more people from around the world are now coming to visit Zagreb. For me, I have the feeling that when it was Yugoslavia, we were living in the Balkans for a hundred years. Now we are living in Europe.



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A Love Letter to Zagreb

Cody Brown

Cody Brown was a student in his mid '20s when he met his wife-to-be while studying at university in America. The girl who captured his heart was Croatian and his efforts to first woo and eventually marry her required visiting her home town of Split where the couple moved. In more recent years, Cody, his wife and daughter relocated to Zagreb, where he has documented his collision with Croatia in a much-read blog and two books, 'Chasing A Croatian Girl' and 'Croatia Strikes Back'. We asked him just what it is he loves about Zagreb.

WHEN I met my wife, she was like this link to another place. Even if we had just ended up being friends, here was someone I could talk to about other places, other things. I'd been a punk, with ambitions to become a writer and live in Europe. I didn't think any of that would happen.

I was absolutely floored by Split when we moved there. We were living in Istanbul at the time, so it wasn't like there was a shortage of history in our lives. Diocletian's Palace was incredible, but it wasn't just the architecture, the history and the ruins. It was that there seemed to be this way of life where things did not change rapidly. That, to me, was fascinating. And important, because it made me feel like I really knew my wife, for the first time.

I moved to Zagreb for work. I'm more inclined towards the Zagreb mentality. All the things that Dalmatians prioritise - the sun, the sea, wine, being relaxed - I absolutely hate. I like looking at the sea, I don't like being in it. I prefer to be out of the sun. I'd rather get up early, be indoors and work.

My first impressions of Zagreb were that it was kinda bleak. We would only see it through the train and bus windows, on our way back to Istanbul. For some reason it always looked grey and rainy. You'd see all these high rise apartment buildings that look like they have never looked new. Like, as soon as they built them, they were old looking. For some reason, that really attracted me. I wanted an

apartment in one of those buildings. I didn't necessarily think it was a beautiful city.

When we did move here I would just walk everywhere. My home town, Tulsa, is probably the least walkable city in the United States. You can walk somewhere for 20 minutes and you're still in the middle of nowhere. Walking around Zagreb and just noting the different neighbourhoods, moving from the Communist architecture of somewhere in the suburbs to the more Hapsburg-era buildings in Donji Grad, then onto the medieval parts of the city that remain in upper town, I really enjoying seeing it and becoming a part of it.

I became a father while I was here, so even though I moved to a city with so many more possibilities

for my cultural and social life, it didn't really change much in those regards. There's so much to do here, if I wanted to. But I don't, ha!

The other nice thing about Zagreb is that, even though a lot more tourists have started to come, it's still very much a city used by the locals. In the summertime in Split, the centre is just filled with foreigners.

In my neighbourhood in Zagreb, I may not know everyone's name, but I know everyone's face. So, there's this sense of community that I never had back in the States.

If I need to get my 'Zagreb fix', I like going down to the main train station. From Tomislavac, you can walk up through the park, past Strossmayerov trg and into Zrinjevac park, then across the main square, maybe up onto Tkalčićeva.

That whole area, I adore. Every time I pass through, if I'm looking, I always see something that I've never noticed before, whether it be a statue, a part of a building. It feels as though there's a story here that you're able to take part in, just by making that walk.

It's nice to go into the centre at Advent time, grab some mulled wine and fritule, but when spring arrives, that's my favourite.

Zagreb in May is just the perfect place; perfect weather, the cafes are full, everyone's outside. Summer in Zagreb is also really great because it still seems like quite a lot of the population leaves, going to spend much of the summer on the coast. From the end of June you start to see less and less local people and it'll be like that until mid-August. If you're like me and you stick around, it feels almost as though someone built this huge metropolis just for you, a fully functioning city with no queues, no traffic, no waiting. It has almost a small town feel in that period.

Where would I live if I could choose to live anywhere, including all the places I've already lived? I would choose Zagreb. Maybe people think I'm just saying that, but I've lived in New Orleans, Montreal, Cairo, Istanbul, Tulsa, Lawrence Kansas and Stillwater Oklahoma and, to me, from all those places, Zagreb is the best mix of convenience, history, culture and interesting things so that it's never boring. *Interview by Marc Rowlands*

TO DO

The best events in Zagreb this season

APRIL

HT Award for Contemporary Art

This annual exhibition showcases the best Croatian art of the past year and presents prizes to the outstanding practitioners.
→ MSU (msu.hr), April - May

Welcome Spring Festival

This free springtime music festival taking place outdoors in the area between city centre parks Zrinjevac and Tomislav, has live music from local bands plus craft beer and street food. Welcome the warm weather with the sounds of 80s Yugoslavia-era pop legends

Denis & Denis plus Hrvatska Funk Delegacija, Stampedo, Natali Dizdar and others.
→ Strossmayerov trg (facebook.com/events/2877902958901530), April 25 - 30.

1918: A Turning Point for Croatia

A wealth of artefacts and photographs illustrate the tumultuous events of 1918, when the Habsburg Empire disintegrated and Croatian politicians opted to join with Serbia in creating the new state of Yugoslavia. The Croats were to some extent forced into this new arrangement by an urgent and unique set of circumstances, a narrative convincingly told in this display.
→ Croatian History Museum (hismus.hr), until May 19

Dušan Džamonja: Transformation

Džamonja (1928-2009) was an outstanding abstract sculptor whose trademark metallic forms are visible throughout Croatia, whether in World War II Partisan memorials, public monuments, or gallery pieces in public museums. This broad-based exhibition includes early-period, figurative sculptures which might come as something of a surprise to those who know Džamonja primarily as a master of the bold geometric form.
→ Art Pavilion (umjetnički-paviljon.hr), April 5 - May 5

Mersad Berber

Bosnian painter Berber (1940-2012) was enormously popular

in the Eighties, when he was one of the highest-earning artists in then-Yugoslavia. Although popular with collectors, his dreamy mélange of lifelike portraiture and surreal background detail was overlooked by the contemporary art establishment, and it's now high time his work was given a second look.
→ Klovićevi dvori (gkd.hr), April 18 - June 30

St Mark's Festival

Chamber recitals and choral music focusing on the classical canon from Bach to Beethoven, with performances taking place in St Mark's Church or the Lisinski concert hall.
→ Various venues (fetivalsvmarka.hr), April 25 - May 7

MAY

Belgian National Orchestra

The Belgian National Orchestra provides the power behind what is very much an international evening, with esteemed American conductor Hugh Wolff brandishing the baton, and Croatian pianist Ivan Krpan taking care of the ivory-tinkling duties on Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor. Also on the repertoire are works by Berlioz and Franck.
→ Lisinski Concert Hall (lisinski.hr), May 4

International Dance Open

Massive event with a host of competitors facing off across the dancefloor, with Ballroom, Latin and Jive among the styles represented.
→ Arena Zagreb, May 6 - 12



Dušan Džamonja: Transformation

Zagreb Design Week

Great opportunity to catch up with what's going on in the Croatian design world, with exhibitions, talks, and a market selling artisan clothes, accessories and domestic utensils.
→ Nikola Tesla Technical Museum (zagrebdesignweek.com), May 7 - 13

Auto(r)

Conference on contemporary car design that has a strong public element, with displays, showcases and open-to-all lectures.
→ Nikola Tesla Technical Museum (automotivedesignconference.com), May 10 - 12

Museums Outside Museums

To mark the International Museum Day, this innovative springtime festival takes place in the open-air on Zagreb's main square. The goal is to raise awareness about the cultural heritage of museums, presenting the city's institutions in a fun and unconventional way.
→ Trg bana Josipa Jelačića (infozagreb.hr), May 10 - 17

International Comics Festival

Comic strips and graphic novels galore, with a plethora of

stands representing publishers, bookshops and second-hand dealers. Among the international guests signing books this year will be Italian illustrator Ivo Milazzo, famous for working on Tarzan, Diabolik and Sylvester strips.
→ HDLU (zagrebcomiccon.com), May 10 - 12

Floraart

Zagreb's annual flower show brings spring blooms to the Bundeck park, with riotously colourful flowerbed arrangements, a display of garden design and plenty of potted seedlings for you to take home.
→ Lake Bundeck (floraart.hr), May 13 - 19

Museums Outside the Museums

This innovative springtime festival sees history exhibits and history-related events organized in the city's squares and parks. Involving bit of retro music and plenty of dressing up, it's a great way to bring cultural heritage to public spaces.
→ Various venues (hpm.hr), May 13 - 17

Jazz.hr Festival

International guests and local stars in a season of concerts organized by the country's leading jazz portal.
→ Various venues (jazz.hr), May 15 - 18

Art Zagreb

This four-day art fair gives dealers, artists and the art-appreciating public a chance to mingle and chew the cultural cud. With plenty of inexpensive artworks and prints on offer, it's a great opportunity for collectors of modest means to add to their portfolio.
→ Nikola Tesla Technical Museum (artzagreb.com), May 16 - 19

Zagreb Beer Fest

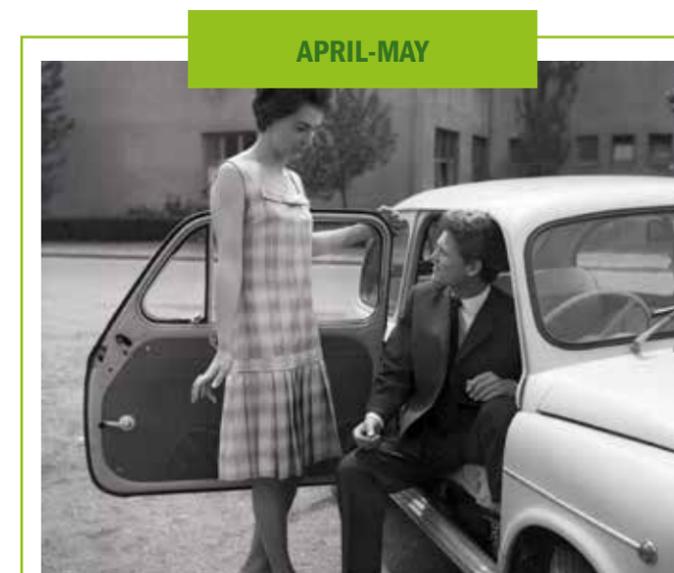
Not so much a beer fest as a major music festival (and a free festival at that), this event has takes over one of Zagreb's biggest green spaces, sticks a big concert stage at one end, and rings it with beer tents. The festival provides a platform for Croatia's growing army of craft practitioners as well as the big commercial breweries, so when it comes to liquid refreshment there's an awful lot to choose from. British trip-funksters Morcheeba together with Croatian indie attractions Urban & 4 and Psihomodo Pop are this year's headliners.
→ Trg dr. Franje Tuđmana (facebook.com/zagrebbeerfest), May 16 - 19

Outlook Festival 2019 Official Zagreb Launch Party

An evening of UK bass music and grime at the regional launch party for the popular Pula festival. UK headliners are young MC Razor who is accompanied by turntablist DJ IndexOnDecks, with top rate local support including Inka, Babilonska and Rofellos with Ynez, Nina Davis and Simonok in the second space.
→ Klub Močvara (facebook.com/events/380298619365867) May 17

The Legend of Ennio Morricone by Ensemble Symphonic Orchestra

Something of a guaranteed crowd-pleaser this: top tunes from the undisputed master of the film soundtrack, from an international orchestra that has been touring this material all over Europe.
→ Lisinski Concert Hall (lisinski.hr), May 19



Fashion and Clothing in Zagreb in the Sixties

Bursting with style, couture and social context, Fashion and Clothing in Zagreb in the Sixties is an object lesson in how to "do" cultural history and keep it entertaining at the same time.

The close relationship between high politics and hem-lines is stitched subtly together in the exhibition's accompanying notes. A wave of political liberalization in Sixties Yugoslavia led to rising living standards, a shorter working week and a consumer boom. Croatian capital Zagreb stood at the centre of this new focus on lifestyle: pictures on display here reveal how department stores, clothes boutiques, textile factories and fashion shows played important roles in a complex culture of work and leisure.

The stars of the show are of course the clothes. The ravishing array of hats,

footwear and frocks makes essential viewing for anyone interested in the history of design - or indeed looking for inspiration for retro stylings of their own. A display of lifestyle magazines documents the emergence of modern media culture, with leading weekly Svijet shrewdly combining iconic, aspirational front-cover shoots with pragmatic advice on what kind of look could be thrown together without blowing an entire month's wages in the process.

Indeed one of the show's most telling exhibits is a Singer knitting machine. With haute couture in the western sense still out of reach to most Croatian consumers, fashion was frequently a question of what you could knock up at home.

→ Zagreb City Museum (mgz.hr), until May 19



Art Zagreb

DISCOVER!

timeout.com/croatia/things-to-do

Things to Do

Let Them Eat Cake: Food in Art

Images of food (and the lack of it) in painting, sculpture and multi-media art from the nineteenth century to the present, focusing on the politics of nutrition as well as the aesthetics of a good feed.

→ Art Pavilion (umjetnicki-paviljon.hr), May 21 - July 7

Built To Spill

Built To Spill are one of America's longest serving indie guitar bands, formed in Boise, Idaho in 1992. They combine a heavy rock guitar sound, similar to Neil Young's Crazy Horse outfit, with the more sensitive voice and lyrics of chief songwriter Doug Martsch, their sole constant member. After a couple of indie albums, the band produced the career-defining 'Perfect From Now On' and 'Keep It Like A Secret'. This tour sees them visit in a slimmed down trio format.

→ Močvara (facebook.com/events/252136692172972), May 23

Summer on Stross

This summer-long series of outdoor events offers an outstandingly varied programme of concerts, art-and-craft stalls and downright unusual happenings (the best mongrel dog show, finest wine-and-soda spritzer competition) in the lovely, leafy



setting of the Upper Town's Strossmayer Promenade. There's usually a local band playing every night, and a couple of al-fresco bars at the scene make this a great place to hang out on balmy evenings.

→ Strossmayerovo šetaliste (facebook.com/ljetonastrossu), May 24 - Sept 22

Cest is d'Best

Founded by street musicians who gained notoriety for their performances on Croatian TV,

Cest is d'Best is a celebration of international street entertainment: the title is a play on words based on the Croatian word for the street: cesta. Expect tons of entertaining sideshows, great music and weird sports competitions, all on open-air stages set up throughout the city centre. The kids' events in Zrinjevac park are particularly entertaining.

→ Various venues (cestisdbest.com), May 29 - June 2

and drink stalls are set out on the access path to the Tuškanac open-air cinema, where there is also a summer programme of films. The Summer Garden is open every night except Monday from 5pm.

→ Tuškanac (popupgarden.org), June - Sept

Goran Bare & Majke

Arguably the most important alt-guitar group of the Nineties, Majke and their leader Goran Bare kept Croatia's rock-and-roll flame burning at a time when the music scene was hit by the combined effects of war and economic dislocation. Bare's mixture of edgy Slavonian blues and exhilarating rockabogie has in the meantime made him into a national treasure: this gig is a suitable opening to the summer season of open-air gigs at Šalata stadium.

→ Šalata (ticketshop.hr), June 1

Animafest

When it comes to the world of animated film, Zagreb's long-running Animafest is very much in the international big league; second only to Annecy in terms of global prestige, and does indeed attract the global cream.

→ Various venues (animafest.hr), June 3 - 6

Jesse Davis with the Croatian TV Jazz Orchestra

American saxophonist Davis teams up with Croatia's leading jazz orchestra in this much anticipated clash of musical titans.

→ MSU (jazz.hr), June 5

JUNE

Secrets of Grič

This cabaret-style tour storms through the city's streets, reenacting grizzly scenes from Croatian history that visitors can get involved with. This interactive, theatrical tour is based on Zagreb's historical past, with plenty of mysteries and urban legends lurking around the corner.

→ Various venues (tajnegrica.hr) June

We Love Sound Festival

Zagreb's premier outdoor rave alldayer (see music festivals feature).

→ Lake Jarun (facebook.com/events/2196667973916350), June 1.

Pop Up Summer Garden

The wooded hillside suburb of Tuškanac, just north of central Zagreb, is perfectly suited to this fresh new take on the idea of the al-fresco summer party. Food



Zagreb Pride

Annual LGBTIQ celebration with a march through the city centre, and ending up as a party-cum-picnic on the lawns of one of the main parks.

→ City Centre (zagreb-pride.net), June 8

Fanfare Ciocărlia

If you're visiting Croatia and are looking for the authentic sounds of the Balkans, you may have to look quite hard to find it in Zagreb. A visit to see Fanfare Ciocărlia, one of the world's greatest Romani brass bands, will truly put you in touch with an exemplary example of unique regional culture.

→ Vintage Industrial Bar (facebook.com/events/727214934341324), June 11.

Tamara Obrovac and the Trans-Adriatic Quartet

Obrovac is one of the pivotal names in Croatian jazz, a multi-faceted vocalist and songwriter who delves deep into the traditions of her native Istria to create a uniquely lyrical, organic take on the folk-jazz gene. She is joined by the legendary octopus-like limbs of Croatian drummer Kruno Levačić, and Italian musicians Stefano Battaglia (piano) and Salvatore Maiore (bass).

→ MUO (jazz.hr), June 13

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

The leather-clad San Franciscan outfit amp up the crowd with their mix of darkly whacked-out, fuzzed-up garage rock and porch-strummed dirty Americana blues.

→ Tvornica kulture (facebook.com/events/2234013676866573), June 13.

Design District

The area around Martićeva is transformed into a three-day street party involving pop-up exhibitions, craft displays and live music.

→ Martićeva and surrounding streets (designdistrict.hr), June 14 - 17

Laibach

After almost four decades of existence, controversial Slovenian industrial provocateurs Laibach stand as one of the most unique and successful bands from the former Yugoslavia. They have been subverting musical ideas and political clichés ever since they were formed, as attested to recently when they became the first western musical group invited to perform in North Korea. In a genius move, they decided there to offer music their audience would likely be familiar with and so performed a subverted version of The Sound of Music soundtrack in full, which they will revisit at this performance in Zagreb.

→ MSU (facebook.com/events/336715530289931), June 15

Flyaway Festival

One day dance music festival held in a castle a few kilometres outside Zagreb (see music festivals feature in this issue).

→ Castle Erdödy in Kerestinec (facebook.com/events/239938140243390), June 15.

Fireworks Festival

Bundek Lake lights up with a kaleidoscopic display of fireworks and pyrotechnic treats, accompanied by live concerts, beer and street food stalls.

→ Bundek Park (mirnovac.hr) June 15 - 17

Jonathan Bree

Cool, retro indie with a mildly melancholic tinge from New Zealander Bree. The dark intimate interior of the Močvara provides the requisite alt-club feel.

→ Močvara (mochvara.hr), June 6

Gradec Summer Cinema

Open-air screenings of cinema classics, and a chance to spread your blanket on the lawn, on the plateau just off Katarinin trg in the Upper Town. There is, of course, a bar. Check internet for schedule.

→ Gradec Plateau (facebook.com/LjetnoKinoGradec), late June - end Aug

INmusic Festival

This three-day shindig on the shores of Zagreb's Lake Jarun continues to be one of Europe's best



Things to Do

tips when it comes to the right mixture of pumped-up-but-chilled-out vibes. The bill always has the look of a carefully curated lesson in alt-rock culture, and with the Cure, Foals, Suede, Garbage and Johnny Marr already confirmed, 2019 may well turn out to be a vintage year. As an urban festival that kicks off at around 5pm (and lasts until well into the early hours) on each of its three days, it's the kind of event that can be combined with city sightseeing or lakeside lolling around. The leafy waterside campground has good facilities, making canvas a good option.

→ Lake Jarun (inmusicfestival.com), June 24 - 26

Fantastic Zagreb Film Festival

A fascinating, old-and-new selection of sci-fi and fantasy films with a dash of noir and trash. Al-fresco projections take place in the atmospheric, forest-shrouded Tuškanac bowl.

→ Tuškanac Open Air Cinema (facebook.com/FantasticZagreb), June 27 - July 7

More knjiga

Zrinjevac park turns into a tropical beach for this sun, sand and literary festival, where you'll find a handsome spread of 500 books (in Croatian and English) to pick from and read in the open-air.

→ Zrinjevac Park (infozagreb.hr), June 30

Plač Mijac: Summer at Trešnjevka Market

Right opposite the Trešnjevka tram stop is one of Zagreb's biggest neighbourhood markets, and one of the most rewarding if you're looking for local deli, fruit and vegetable produce. It's also a daily place to prowl

Things to Do

and socialize for locals, something given full expression in this festival of food, music and kids' entertainment. Check the website for daily news of what's on.

→ Trešnjevka (placmijac.com), June 28 - July 7

JULY

Summer with Matoš

One of the most popular sights on Zagreb's Upper-Town promenade is the silvery metal statue of poet, journalist and travel writer Antun Gustav Matoš (1873-1914), whose seated effigy has played a co-starring role in any number of selfies. In summer the statue serves as centerpiece for this cluster of open air bars with retro furnishings, retro music, and a fantastic panorama of the Lower Town.

→ Strossmayerovo šetalište (facebook.com/ljetokodmatosa), July - Sept

Zagreb Classic

This outdoor season of (free) classical concerts is really quite a treat, with top-class opera and orchestral concerts performed in a quite gorgeous park setting. The plastic

chairs are soon snapped up; bring a blanket and picnic on the grass.

→ Tomislavov trg (facebook.com/ZagrebClassic), July

Flogging Molly

Celebrating ten years since their first visit to Zagreb, Flogging Molly return with their punk rock meets traditional Irish folk music sound. Always a raucous occasion in the live arena, the band will be drawing music from a lengthy career in which they've produced six studio albums and several live albums.

→ Tvornica kulture (facebook.com/events/1058128587727253), July 1

Whitesnake

Blues-inspired, heavy rock titans visit to play hits from their '1987' album and much more, with former Deep Purple singer David Coverdale still at the helm.

→ Šalata (facebook.com/events/333670367425400), July 3.

Crossover

A rolling, almost English-style park of grassy open spaces, mixed tree cover and weeping willows, Ribnjak is one of Zagreb's prettiest parks. It seems tailor-made for summertime events like the



Combichrist

APRIL - OCTOBER



Zagreb Time Machine

An apt title for a season of events that almost literally sends you spinning back through the centuries, Zagreb Time Machine is the umbrella term covering a series of happenings that take place every weekend from late-April until the first week in October. Period costumes and traditional music are the main ingredients in a sequence of street performances that take over various parts of the city. Key events include the Upper Town in History (Saturdays 5-8pm) when actors dressed in 19th century garb will act out scenes from the daily life of the capital in times of yore; the Upper Town Musical Panorama (Saturday and Sunday 10am-noon), when similarly clad musicians well belt out traditional tunes; Promenade Concerts in Zrinjevac park (Saturdays 11am-1pm, Sundays 11am-noon), when waltzes and polkas will waft down from the old-school bandstand; and a Folklore Stage at various

locations in the city centre (Saturdays 10am-noon, Sundays 11am-1pm) when singers in authentic folk costume will treat you to a performance of traditional songs. Also included under the Time Machine banner is the impressive pageantry of the Changing of the Guard of the Cravat Regiment (Saturdays and Sundays just before noon). The cravat was invented in Croatia and popularized by Croatian soldiers during the Thirty Years War in the 17th century. It is still a symbol of national pride, hence the modern-day recreation of a ceremonial regiment complete with appropriately seventeenth-century uniform. The impressive Changing of the Guards ceremony begins at around 11.40am with the regiment forming up on St Mark's Square in the Upper Town. They then parade down the hill towards the main square.

→ Various locations (infozagreb.hr), April 27 - October 6

Crossover festival, which features everything from jazz to indie rock, with eclectic night-time DJ sessions.

→ Ribnjak Park (crossoverzagreb.hr), July 4 - 7

The Courtyards

Some of the Upper Town's most beautiful backyards, many of which are not normally open to the public, are opened up for a ten-day festival of music, food and wine. Concerts and

DJ events will liven up proceedings on most nights, although the main attraction is the opportunity to mingle and enjoy the ambience of some of Zagreb's most magical places.

→ Upper Town (dvorista.in), July 12 - 21

Combichrist

Metal-industrial mayhem from the bone-crunching Combichrist, in a suitably sweaty rock-club setting.

→ Močvara (mochvara.hr), July 13

ZAGREBDOX

Međunarodni festival dokumentarnog filma

International Documentary Film Festival

WWW.ZAGREBDOX.NET

Things to Do

International Folklore Festival

Annual event with a 53-year tradition featuring parades, concerts and dances by local and international folklore societies. This year's theme will be the age-old transport route between Zagreb and the Kvarner Gulf, taking in the traditional music and costumes of the communities along the route. Performances take place on the main square and elsewhere around town.
→ Various venues (msf.hr), July 17 - 21

Skunk Anansie

Female-fronted, British heavy rock band Skunk Anansie were an ever-present fixture during the 1990s, releasing three albums, achieving several hit singles both in Europe and the UK and touring huge arenas either solo or in support to the likes of U2, Aerosmith, Lenny Kravitz, Rammstein and others. The band celebrate their 25th anniversary this year with this European tour.
→ Šalata (facebook.com/events/2131970773562844), July 27.

AUGUST

Little Picnic

Mini food market and deli-snack stalls in a grassy corner of the Upper Town, designed to bring organic shoppers and picnic-munchers together. Taking place every Thursday in August from 8am til 11pm, it's a great opportunity to take the kids out in the daytime and meet up with friends in the evening.
→ Vranyczanyeva poljana (facebook.com/malipiknik/), Aug; Thurs only

SEPTEMBER

World Literature Festival

Big names from Croatia, the Balkans and beyond take part in readings and round-table discussions. Events featuring English-language writers will be in the English language.
→ Kino Europa (literaturamundi.com), September

Extravagant Bodies: Extravagant Love

The triennial Extravagant Bodies festival is one of those events that



Skunk Anansie

marks out the Zagreb art scene as something rather offbeat and extraordinary. Focusing on the relationship between art, technology and human tissue, it invites artists from Croatia and elsewhere to show their work, conduct interactive experiments, or create site-specific installations. It's a big show that draws big audiences; this year's focus on love looks set to catch the public imagination.
→ MSU (kontejner.org), September

The Line of Beauty: The Trail of Inspiration

A century of Croatian graphic art, from the vaults of the National Library's Graphic Collection.
→ Klovićevi dvori (gkd.hr), Sept - Nov

Hanžeković Memorial Meeting

Event of the year for athletics fans, this major track and field meeting is part of the IAAF calendar and brings the top international stars to Zagreb.
→ Mladost Sports Centre (zagreb-meeting.com), Sept 3

Organ Vida

All-embracing festival of photography that serves as a superb showcase of work from around the globe – as well as offering a state-of-the-art snapshot of photography in Croatia.
→ Various venues (ovfestival.org), Sept 5 - 30

PIF (International Puppet Festival)

Founded in 1968, the festival is a celebration of the history of puppetry and its role in Croatian

culture. There will be exhibitions and puppet-making workshops as well as performances.
→ Travno Cultural Centre (pif.hr), Sept 13 - 20

World Theatre Festival

Leading theatre companies from around the world perform at this showcase for recent works.
→ Croatian National Theatre (HNK: hnk.hr), Sept 15 - 30

Alexander Calder

American sculptor Calder (1898-1976) is one of the great names of modernism, known above all for mobile sculptures and the boldly abstract public monuments for squares and plazas across North



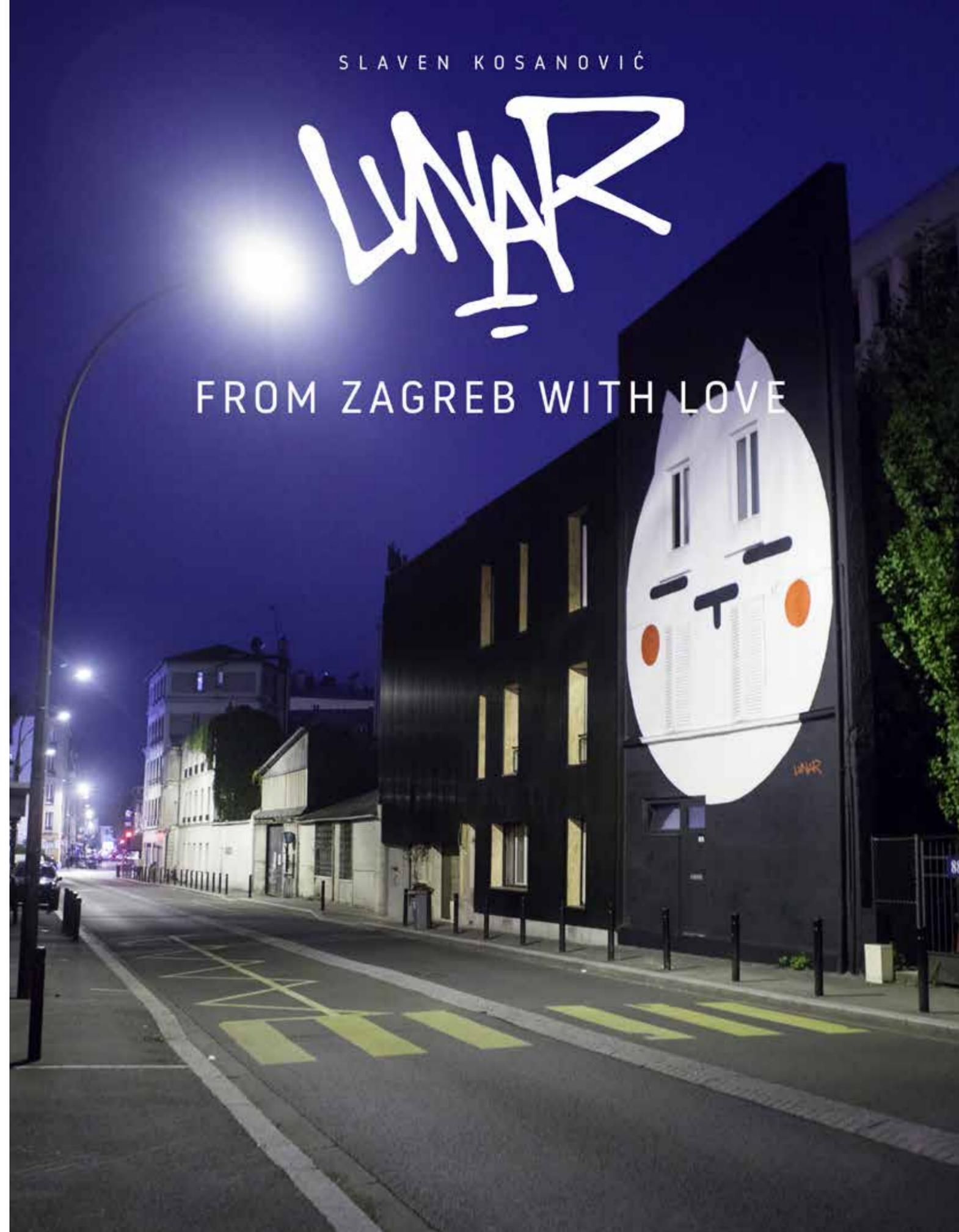
Little Picnic

America. This broad-based exhibition covers all aspects of his work, with mobiles, graphics, and photographs of many of his public works.
→ Art Pavilion (umjetnicki-paviljon.hr), Sept 25 - Jan 1 2020

OCTOBER

Zagreb Kom

Leading international chamber music festival with soloists from home and abroad and a wide-ranging classical repertoire.
→ Venue TBA (zagreb-festival.org), Oct 9 - 19



DISCOVER!

[timeout.com/croatia/things-to-do](https://www.timeout.com/croatia/things-to-do)

Things to Do



measured frequently. Fishermen also gather to spend the day in quiet relaxation. The smaller lake is given over to nature, plants, birdlife and other animals.

More unusual features include a chapel and a music studio and rehearsal rooms, the Glazbena Kuća, also responsible for a free outdoor festival every year. Overlooking the water, this stage has a spectator area accommodating some 2,500 visitors, who gather for all kinds of events such as the annual Fireworks Festival, Floraart for flowers and gardens, September's RujanFest for gastronomy and live music,

The rest of the park is criss-crossed by hiking and cycling trails, and dotted children's playgrounds (one adapted for those with special needs) and, in one dedicated area, ten public barbecues with concrete grills. At the far end of the park, closer to Youth Bridge and the tram link with town, are volleyball and handball courts.

Jarun

Jarun is Zagreb's great getaway, a lake centrepiece by a string of verdant islands, ideal for all kinds of outdoor activities and setting for June's INmusic festival. Accessed by two main tramlines, one directly linked to the main square, this man-made attraction was created to stage the World Student Games in 1987.

Today it beckons with sports clubs, nightspots and fine shingle beaches. Two kilometres long and surrounded by six kilometres of cycle paths, Lake Jarun is a place for pedal boats and waterside picnics. Here and there are recliners and tropical-looking

communal parasols, while a skate park draws young teens to Jarun.

A wide stretch of shingle provides the perfect setting for Zagreb's main beach volleyball club. Just by the pedestrian bridge that leads onto the two main traffic-free islands, is Zagreb's main windsurfing club, set by a horse-riding centre, where local youngsters are trained by national champion riders. A pair of canoeists may glide past under the bridge – their own club is further round by the biggest of the islands, Otok hrvatske mladeži, named after Croatian Youth.

Coupled with these healthy pastimes, hugging Jarun's north-east corner, a half-moon of exotically named beach bars and discos has long since fringed this section of shore. Overlooking the Otok Ljubavi, the Island of Love, the smallest of the five dotting the lake, these mainly summer-only spots took their lead from nearby Aquarius, the pioneer of Croatia's great dance clubs, which set up here way back in 1992. In summer, it moves out to the Adriatic, and Pag island.

Facing it across the Island of Love, the Gallery Club makes best use of its lakeside location, its terrace lapped by the water, its interior individual with that exclusive touch.

This is also the setting for INmusic, June's high-profile, three-day festival, this year featuring The Cure, Johnny Marr and Garbage. First staged in 2006 and moved here a year later, INmusic is the best of both worlds, an event that's close to the centre yet rural. CampIN' tent sites and outdoor sports and workshops occupy two of the islands, the main stage set up one hop over onto Otok hrvatske mladeži.

Waterworld

Water, water everywhere...
Zagreb is packed with
waterside destinations a short
trip away from the city centre.

FOR THE FIRST-TIME VISITOR, Zagreb seems distinctly urban, the historic thoroughfares of the Upper Town and grid-patterned streets of the Lower Town far removed from the narrow river Sava to the south. Yet waterside recreational attractions are within easy reach of the centre, whether it's windsurfing on Jarun, swimming in BundeK, bird watching at Savica or even golf the other side of the Sava.

BundeK

Just south of the Sava, the other side of Freedom Bridge, BundeK is only a couple of bus stops from Zagreb's main train station yet feels a world away. An urban parkland that stretches out parallel to the river, it was significantly renovated in 2005 and set up for family-friendly recreation and outdoor events.

Of its two lakes, the larger one is surrounded by fine shingle and waterside terrace cafés. Both are ideal for picnics but in summer the Big Lake is set up for swimmers, with the life-guards on hand and the quality of the water



Jarun



Jarun



Maksimir

Maksimir

Laid out for public recreation more than 200 years ago, the Maksimir east of the city centre is Zagreb's largest park. Rolling hills and majestic oak trees remind any UK visitor of a classic English park, which is exactly what Bishop Maksimiljan Vrhovac had in mind when he commissioned this attraction, rather than copy the more formal French style fashionable at the time.

Of its five lakes, numbered one to five, one is set within the confines of Zagreb Zoo, while the other four are ranged around the park, some overlooked by original features. Of the many architects who worked on landscaping Maksimir over the decades, it was Franz Schütz who created the Swiss House, Fisherman's Cottage and Vidikovac for fine views over the water in the mid-1800s.

Unlike the contemporary attractions and communal sports activities of Jarun and Bundek, the Maksimir is mainly left for serene contemplation, as Bishop Vrhovac would have wished. Park benches abound.

Rather than interrupt the landscape with cafés and eateries, planners agreed to the opening of a

restaurant, the Maksimir, in 1860, near the main entrance, where it stands to this day.

Riverside Golf

Few sports fans visiting Zagreb might realise that it has a golf resort within the city borders – and one close to the Arena Center mall and events hall. Across the Sava from Lake Jarun, Riverside Golf is an 18-hole championship course dotted with 11 lakes and completely surrounded by water. Alongside, the nine-hole Executive Course gives golfers the challenge of sand and grass bunkers, and natural water hazards.

While the championship course has been designed to match strict PGA standards, beginners are welcome to try their hand at the Golf Academy, where individuals or groups can practise their swings and putting at 40 bays and a chipping green. Twelve bays are also illuminated for evening activity.

A barbecue restaurant, the Batak Grill, operates by the course every day of the week.

Savica

A little-known corner of the city that only locals know, Savica is a series of lakes south-east of the centre, tucked in from the river. There are 12 lakes in all, some up to eight metres in depth, and are mainly the domain of the Peščenica fishing fraternity.

But it's not all about rods and reels. In 1991, Savica was declared a Significant Area with a Special Zoological Reserve, meaning that protecting the wildlife here is enshrined in law. The ornithological station here is the only one in Zagreb, and attracts group of schoolchildren who come here for study workshops.

Ring and migration patterns are showcased but the lay visitor can enjoy the simple pleasures of watching the swans and various wading birds go about their business with little disturbance.

Bus No.218 runs to Savica every 50 minutes from the main train station.



Savica

The break-up museum

SICK OF BEING BOMBARDED with the fake smiles and ridiculous pouts captured in rehearsed selfies on social media? Zagreb's Museum of Broken Relationships is the reality check you need.

A collection of mementoes and texts which mark the end of love affairs, its intriguing artillery of objects will fascinate you and bring forth a variety of all-too-recognisable emotions.

Created as a temporary exhibition in 2006 by former couple, artist Dražen Grubišić and festival producer Olinka Vištica, souvenirs of their own failed relationship helped make up the first exhibit. It proved such a hit that eventually a permanent home was found for their souvenirs of stunted love and the museum opened in Zagreb's Upper Town in 2010.

Since then, the museum has become one of Zagreb's most popular and unique attractions. It has toured the world, everywhere from Tokyo to London and Mexico City, and found a permanent second home in Los Angeles, picking

up tokens of failed relationships everywhere it travels. Inundated by donations, the love letters, objects and photographs on show are just a fraction of the fascinating tragedies the museum now possesses. Accompanied by bitter-sweet explanatory texts, the exhibits depict the surreal but understandable narratives formed from fraught, post-breakup emotional states.

If you're recently heartbroken, you can cheer yourself up at its appetising new restaurant, which features playfully experimental takes on Croatian cuisine. Situated just around the corner from the museum, the Brokenships Bistro is a recent addition to the family and has drawn plaudits for its revolutionary approach to classic Croatian gastronomy. Portions come in half and full sizes, so there's no need to visit with the partner that may suddenly have left the scene. It will certainly leave you feeling a lot better about life than spending time browsing old Facebook photos.



SEE! BREAK-UP MOMENTOS

A divorce day mad dwarf

20 year relationship
Ljubljana, Slovenia
The divorce day garden dwarf. He arrived in a new car. Arrogant and heartless. The dwarf was closing the gate that he himself had destroyed some time ago. At that moment it flew over to the windscreen of the new car, rebounded and landed on the asphalt surface. It was a long loop, drawing an arc of time – and this short long arc defined the end of love.



Art & Culture

ŠEMATIZIRANJE I
DODATI LAMPU



Zagreb now

From the kitchen to the stage, art, writing and all points in between, Zagreb continues to erupt with talent, names to watch and faces to remember. We salute the innovators, visionaries and pioneers behind what's now and what's next.

IGOR HOFBAUER

If Zagreb can be said to have a recognizable look, then the art of Igor Hofbauer is one of its key ingredients. Hofbauer's instantly identifiable posters, flyers and programmes for alternative rock club Močvara have become ubiquitous elements of the city's street-level identity. As well as his poster work, Hofbauer has published comic strips, designed book jackets, and painted highly arresting murals inside both the Močvara club and the SPUNK

music bar. Hofbauer's style mixes film noir, fifties' Sci-Fi, Russian constructivism and the gritty cityscapes of suburban Zagreb to create a seductive urban aesthetic.

However it's the Mediterranean holiday landscape that comes to the fore in Hofbauer's latest work *Grimizna Laguna* ("Crimson Quays", published by URK/Močvara; močvara.), the dark tale of a dystopian holiday resort co-scripted by British travel writer Jonathan Bousfield. Combining elements of science fiction, political thriller and grotesque nightmare, it is a fitting visual companion to Hofbauer's earlier collection of dark, self-penned stories, *Mister Morgen* (available in

English from Canada's Conundrum press; conundrumpress.com). His earlier *Prison Stories*, a collection of comic-book tales set in a disturbing world of suffocation and paranoia, has become a cult title among Europe's alternative comic-reading set. Hofbauer's graphic narratives display both a strong sense of place and ambiguous psychological depths; and pretty everything he produces works beautifully as an illustrated artefact whether you can follow the story or not. He is currently working on *Doberman*, a book crammed with visually sumptuous one-page narratives that looks set to be his most ambitious work so far.



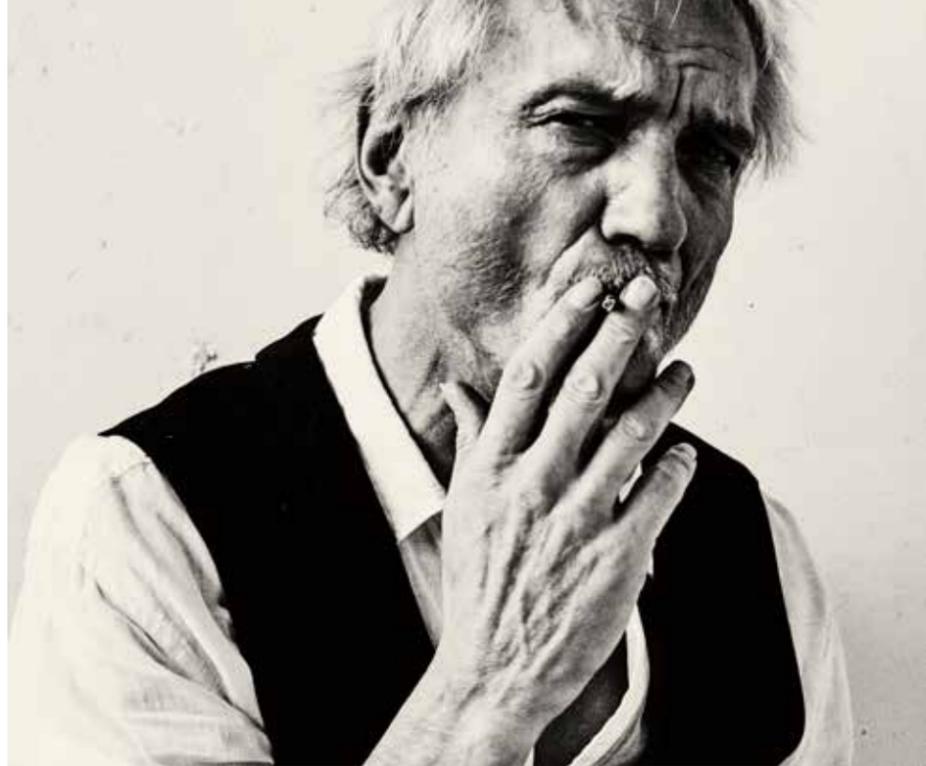
IVANA BODROŽIĆ

Thanks to a flurry of recent English-language translations it finally looks as if contemporary Croatian literature is getting the international attention it deserves. One of the most welcome recent additions to Anglo-Saxon bookshelves is Ivana Bodrožić's *The Hotel Tito* (Penguin; translated by Ellen Elias-Bursać), which under its original title of *Hotel Zagorje* is one of the most widely-read Croatian novels of the last few years. A largely autobiographical tale, it follows the fate of a girl from the southeastern Croatian town of Vukovar, forced into exile during the Serbian-Yugoslav siege of autumn 1991. She spends her formative years as a refugee living in a cramped hotel room in the rustic north-Croatian region of Zagorje, before moving on to high school and student life in Zagreb. The passing years are marked by the ongoing search for news about the girl's missing father, who chose to stay in Vukovar to the bitter end. As well as taking a relatively unsentimentalized look at the trauma of wartime displacement, *The Hotel Tito* is also a touching coming-of-age novel and an extraordinarily well-handled piece of first-person family history. An accomplished poet and forthright newspaper columnist, Bodrožić is also celebrated for her 2016 novel *Rupa* ("The Hole"; a worthwhile candidate for future translation), a Vukovar-set political thriller that is unsparing in its criticism of post-war Croatia's elites.



KONTEJNER

Confronting audiences with the kind of unusual, offbeat and in-your-face art they wouldn't normally see in gallery-land, the group exhibitions coordinated by Zagreb-based curatorial team Kontejner are among the best attended cultural events in the city. Kontejner's programme revolves around three triennial festivals, each of which invites Croatian and international artists to comment on the way we live now: Touch Me (which has taken place every three years since 2002) explores the impact of technologies on modern life; Device Art (established in 2004) juxtaposes frontiers-of-science gadgets with obsolete machines; while Extravagant Bodies (first held in 2007) deals with questions of art and the human body. It is the latter festival that gets a run-out in September 2019, with Extravagant Bodies: Extravagant Love featuring works inspired by "love outside the norm". Exhibitions will be held in the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Nikola Tesla Technical Museum. Like all Kontejner events, Extravagant Love will be a hands-on affair, inviting audiences to poke around with the exhibits rather than simply look and admire. Doing contemporary art in a non-elite environment is central to the Kontejner philosophy. "There has to be a little bit of emotion and strangeness about the exhibition" says Kontejner member Olga Majcen Linn. "It's not just an institutional show, it also has to access an audience that might not go to art exhibitions usually but which might be persuaded to go to more." Co-curator Klara Petrović concurs: "you have to work at building an audience, because if there is no audience you may as well hold the exhibition in your own living room".



DARKO RUNDEK

Arguably the most versatile singer-songwriter Croatia has ever produced, Darko Rundek (born 1956) began his career as one of the pivotal figures in the Post-Punk/New-Wave scene that took Croatia by storm in the 1980s. Rundek's band Haustor produced a sophisticated mix of post-punk, reggae and intelligent pop. Moving to Paris in 1991, Rundek returned to the Croatian scene with in 1997 with the album Apokalypso, an infectious blend of world music, jazz, chanson and thinking-person's rock-and-roll. Rundek and his touring band metamorphosed into the Cargo Orchestra, a multi-national unit whose albums Ruke/Hands (2004) and Mhm A-Ha Oh Yeah Da-Da (2006), Plavi Avion (2010) and Mostovi (2015) included some of the most eclectic and deftly crafted songs around.

Rundek has recently emerged as an environmental activist, leading a campaign to save the Črnomerec stream in western Zagreb from creeping urbanization.

Rundek's main project for 2019 is Mura Mura, an album of 12 folk ballads sung by Andrea Kurelec-Kosavić and backed by Rundek and the Ftičekci ("The Birds"), a loose group of musical collaborators, many of whom toured with Rundek last year. All of the songs on the album come from Međimurje, a region of eastern Croatia famous for its haunting narrative songs sung by women, a unique form of Pannonian blues. Ranging from jazz-swing to meditative avant-garde, Rundek's arrangements give the songs a whole new breadth – and help to make the Croatian take on World Music worth listening to again.



TVRTKO ŠAKOTA

If there is such a thing as New Croatian Cuisine then chef Tvrtko Šakota is one of its leading exponents. Now in charge of recently-opened NAV in central Zagreb, Šakota has pioneered the application of global fusion techniques to the traditional Croatian table, nurturing a new respect for healthy local ingredients in the process.

Raised in the rural Zagorje just north of Zagreb, Šakota grew up with the hearty, meaty fare of northern Croatia, although his mum was an enthusiastic follower of Far Eastern cuisine. Šakota worked long shifts in London kitchens before returning to take over the reins in a string of ground-breaking Zagreb restaurants, including the famously macrobiotic and vegan MakroNova, and gastro-bistro pioneers RougeMarin, Mundoaka and Xató. Inbetween times, he studied sushi-making in Los Angeles and did cooking stints in restaurants all over the world. He helped design the menu at Brokenships Bistro – attached to the Museum of Broken Relationships in the Upper Town – before branching out on his own with NAV, which opened its doors in early 2019. Ecstatically reviewed by the gastro-journo community, NAV mixes forgotten farmhouse recipes with familiar cuts of meat and fish, subtly borrowing contemporary tricks of preparation and presentation from modern European and Far Eastern cuisine. Šakota tries to give vegans a decent crack of the whip with an excitingly green and healthy side menu, while throughout relying as much as possible on certified Croatian farmhouse produce. Šakota is one of the people who gave shape and purpose to the city's bistro revolution, and Zagreb is a lot better off for it.



Zagreb brut

Brutalism is back in fashion but for all the wrong reasons. Jonathan Bousfield suggests ten impressive examples of Croatian modernism that deserve a closer look.



The Mammoth (Mamutica), ul. Božidara Magovca

South of the river Sava, Novi Zagreb or “New Zagreb” began to take shape in the late Fifties, and is nowadays something of a modernist showcase thanks to its planned neighbourhoods of residential blocks, large parks and long straight roads. One of the later additions to Novi Zagreb’s architectural portfolio, the Mammoth is a 250-metre-long residential block built in 1974 as the centerpiece of the Travno district. Containing 1169 individual flats and an estimated population of 5000, it’s almost a town in its own right. As such it seem like the megalomaniacal conclusion of the modernist epoch, echoing not so much Le Corbusier as the fantasies of Futurist Antonio Sant’Elia.

Apartment block at Vukovarska 52

Pick of the buildings along Vukovarska is Stanko Fabris’s residential block at Nr.52 (1954-1960), its surface jazzed up by the horizontal lines formed by balconies and stairwell windows. The building’s jolly lego-effect was accentuated by the fact that it used to be light blue; sadly the colour has faded to the uniform grey-brown that characterizes the rest of the street.

BORN OUT OF THE UBIQUITY of concrete and a love for functional shapes, the architecture of Brutalism is frequently misunderstood. The very term seems to attract us for all the wrong reasons, inviting us to admire buildings for their roughness, or their obstinate refusal to be pretty. Recent years have seen the word Brutalism fall victim to a warped social media aesthetic in which it is exoticized as something east European, communist, falling to bits – an object of nostalgia or pity that is shorn of its social context.

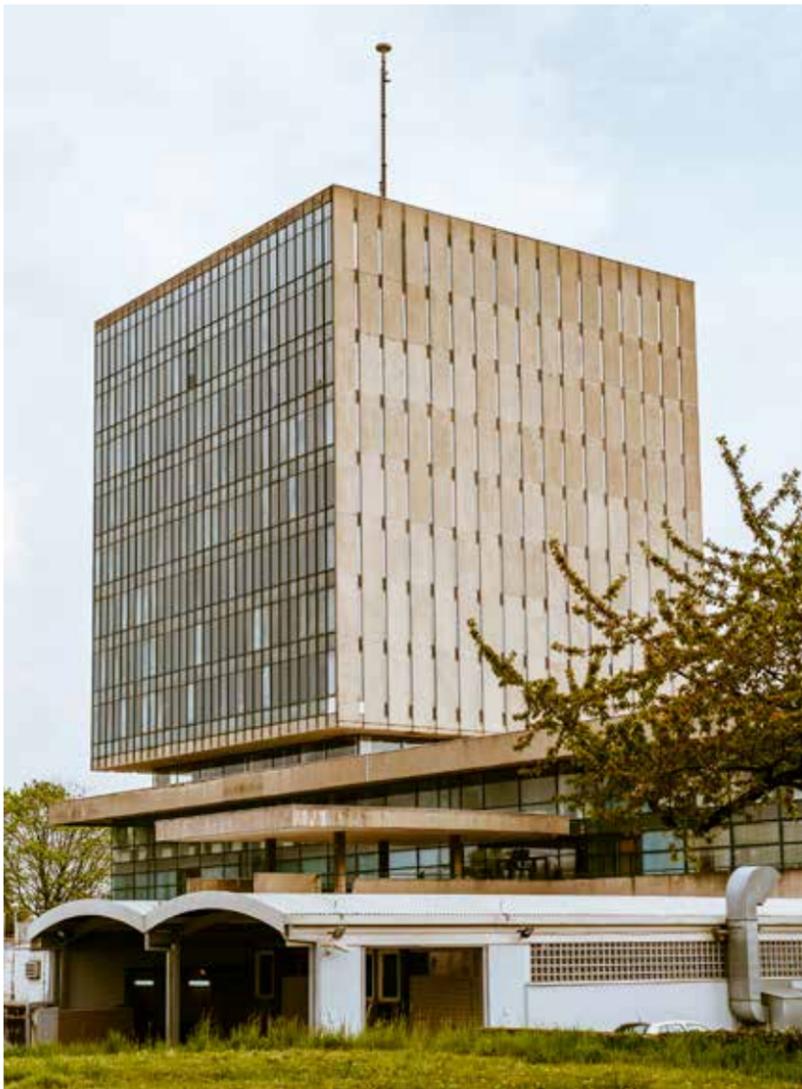
Touring the modernist neighbourhoods of Zagreb is something of an antidote to this – Croatian Brutalism is restrained and sympathetic to its surroundings in a way rather different to the application of the same style in, say, Sheffield or South London. Not all of it is pretty – Brutalism was above all a functional style designed to provide social planners with cheap solutions to big problems. However there is plenty here of compelling interest – enough to justify Zagreb’s growing reputation as an unsung treasure-trove of Central-European modernism.



Open University Building (Pučko otvoreno učilište), Vukovarska 68

A beautifully proportioned combination of concrete, marble and glass, the Open University Building was built in 1961 to serve as the “Workers’ University”, a clear statement of socialism’s intent to do away with academic elitism and bring education to the masses. With an interior designed by Bernardo Bernardi (famous for his groovy black armchairs), it was envisaged as an urban cultural hub that all local residents could use. Yugoslav President Tito, Croatian party leader Bakarić and Zagreb mayor Većeslav Holjevac were all present at the opening, providing some idea of the building’s symbolic, the-future-starts-here importance.





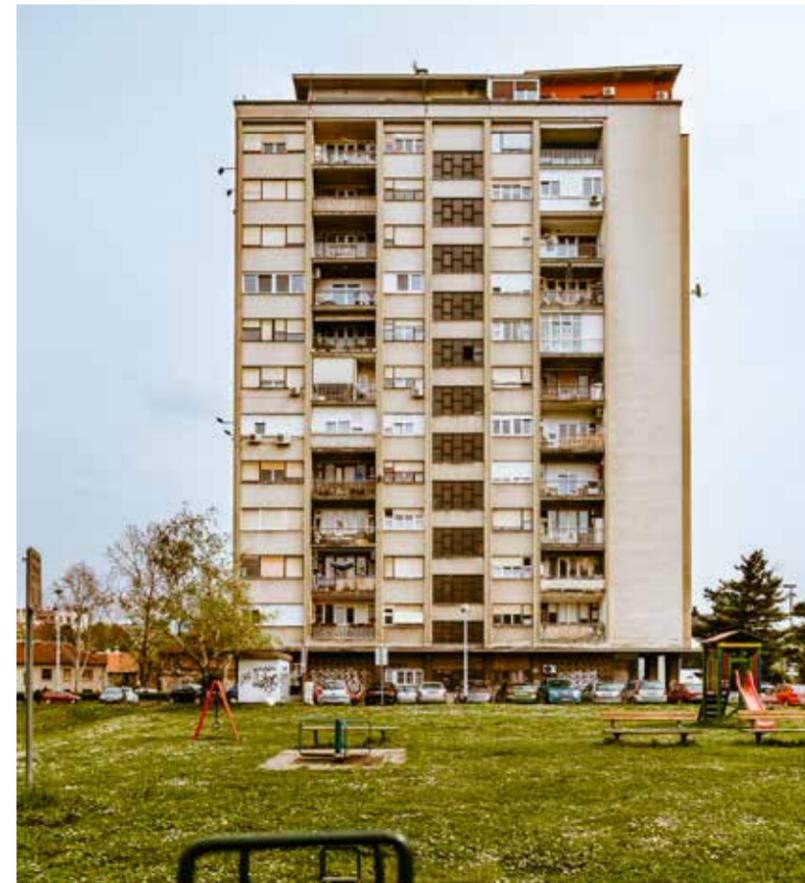
Kockica, Prislavlje 14

Looming over the Sava riverfront, Kockica or “The Cube” was built in 1968 to serve as Croatian communist party headquarters. The architect was Ivan Vitić, a man famous for taking the clean geometries of modernism and turning them into something altogether graceful and pleasing to the eye. Kockica is more of a brute than a beauty, however, a silvery-grey lump that was built to project power rather than prettiness. Now housing the ministries of transport and tourism, it preserves some extravagantly groovy period interiors – sadly off-limits to the general public.



The Zagreb Rockets (Rakete), ul. Lavoslava Ružičke

Of all Zagreb’s modernist buildings these three residential blocks are the most iconic, thanks to the earthquake buttresses that taper away from the main body of each tower. The addition of these buttresses was a consequence of the Skopje earthquake of 1963, which impressed architects with the need to include more safety features. Completed in 1968 they were designed by a team led by dexterous architect and painter Vjenceslav Richter, whose house-museum in northern Zagreb ([facebook.com/zbirka.richter](https://www.facebook.com/zbirka.richter)) is something of a temple to the modernist epoch. The fact that the Rockets are approached along a street named after Yuri Gagarin only adds to their space-age appeal.



Apartment block at Držićeva 10

One of the earliest fans of Zagreb Brutalism was Orson Welles, who came to here to film Kafka’s The Trial in 1962 precisely because the city offered a typically Central-European mixture of gritty history and even grittier contemporary concrete. He filmed exterior shots along Vukovarska, the first of the modernist, Le Corbusier-inspired neighbourhoods to take shape. One of Welles’s favourites was this structure at the corner of Vukovarska and Držićeva, an imposing 12-storey tower built by Milan Žerjavić in 1957. It looks a bit like an upended shoebox at first sight, although the vertical lines of the window frames provide bags of sculptural charm.



SuperAndrija, Siget

Can anything top the Mammoth? Well in the beauty stakes it is certainly outdone by Super Andrija, built just to the west and around the same time. With monumental concrete columns breaking up the façade and minor projecting buttresses at ground level, it’s a perfect example of how sculptural the Brutalist style could be, and is a fitting place to bring our Brutalist tour to an end.



New shows to see

This year, the Modernists come to town with two big-name shows. Plus, there are huge international festivals and the chance to get to know some of Croatia's best-loved artists. Here's what you won't want to miss.

ART LOVERS will find plenty to pore over in Zagreb. In recent years, the city's art scene has come into its own, with a network of off-beat international galleries rubbing shoulders with established institutions and a programme of increasingly high-profile exhibitions. This year, Modernism fans will want to catch The Museum of Contemporary Art's huge retrospective on Josef and Anni Albers, while The Art Pavilion hosts a fascinating show on Croatian sculptor Dušan Džamonja. Whatever your tastes, time your trip to catch festivals Organ Vida and Art Zagreb, and you'll be spoiled for choice.



Josef and Anni Albers: Voyage inside a Blind Experience

It's been one hundred years since the Bauhaus, the radical school that changed the course of 20th century Modernism, first opened its doors. To celebrate, Zagreb's Museum of Contemporary Art is hosting this multi-sensory exhibition on Bauhaus power couple Josef and Anni Albers. Both were pioneers, he with his geometric paintings and study of colour, and she with her abstract textile pieces. 62 of their works are shown here, and each is accompanied by a tactile or an audio reproduction – so you can get hands-on with their remarkable work.

→ Until April 21, (Museum of Contemporary Art, msu.hr)

Dušan Džamonja: Transformation

Anyone intrigued by Spomeniks, those curious concrete monuments that dot the landscapes of ex-Yugoslavia, should make a beeline for this retrospective on Dušan Džamonja. Croatia's best-known sculptor, Džamonja created extraordinary structures by rendering organic forms in inorganic materials, such as concrete and metal. He is most admired for the enormous sculptures he made later in his career, but this exhibition of early works will give you a fascinating insight into a unique mind.

→ April 5 - May 5, (Art Pavilion, umjetnicki-paviljon.hr)



Mersad Berber

If you've yet to discover 20th century artist Mersad Berber, you might find yourself in this exhibition for hours. It's tricky not to be mesmerised by his ornate paintings and prints, which tend to take historical figures and events as their subjects. Though Berber spent much of his life in Croatia, he was Bosnian at heart, and his work is rooted in the dark recent history of his homeland. If historical paintings aren't your thing, fear not – there is nothing stuffy about these strange, shimmering images.

→ April 18 - June 30, (Gallery Klovičevi Dvori, gkd.hr)



Art Zagreb

Art Zagreb returns for its second edition. This is the place to be if you're looking to snap up a future Mona Lisa, but even if your bank balance isn't up to investing, it's worth stopping by this four-day fair to see what's going on in contemporary Croatian art. Not that it's restricted to Croatia – last year's edition saw exhibitors from Austria, Italy and South Korea, and this year looks set to be just as international. Get cerebral with lectures and panel discussions, or just enjoy the merry-go-round of crazy, colourful art.

→ May 16 - 19, (Nikola Tesla Technical Museum, artzagreb.com)



Alexander Calder: The Magic of a Sculptural Movement

A treat for your inner child (or your actual child), this exhibition focuses on the work of American Modernist Alexander Calder – also known as the man who invented the hanging mobile. Calder was the most playful of the great 20th century sculptors, obsessed with movement and theatricality. His mobiles seem to have a life of their own, and watching them as they spin and cast shadows on the walls is joy incarnate.

→ Sept 25 - Jan 5 2020, (Art Pavilion, umjetnicki-paviljon.hr)



Visions of the city: Iconography of the City II (1950 - 2000+)

Cities are breeding grounds of creativity, places where artists flock to watch, be watched, and skulk around in long coats. This multi-media exhibition explores art's love affair with urban life, specifically in the Post-Modern second half of the 20th Century. As you'd expect, there's plenty of material on global metropolis New York, but we also see how Zagreb has been home and muse to artists from Croatia and further afield.

→ Dec 2019 - March 2020, (Modern Gallery, moderna-galerija.hr)

Organ Vida: 11th International Photography Festival

See what's happening at the cutting-edge of contemporary photography at this city-wide festival. Organ Vida, Croatia's foremost photography event, sees the international glitterati of the industry descend on Zagreb's galleries, parks and museums for a month. With panel discussions and workshops, as well as exhibitions, the festival takes a political stance on the art form – proving there's more to photography than Instagram selfies.

→ Sept 5 - 30 (Various city locations, ovfestival.org)

Summer of street art

Local and international artists transform the city streets this season.



Art Park

As much as the grand undertakings of the City of Zagreb have transformed the Croatian capital over the last decade and a half, regeneration and eventual gentrification of any area occur as much thanks to inhabitants and independent will. Though hardly in need of gentrification, between the impressive Austro-Hungarian buildings that line Zagreb's streets, some areas still remain undeveloped, forgotten places or former industrial locations, that in the minds of imaginative young people, look like a blank canvas.

Located in the city centre, between the Strossmayer Promenade and Tomičeva street,

one such area is the sloping forgotten green that since 2016 has been known as Art Park. Art Park has quickly become one of the coolest hangouts for the city's young people and visiting backpacker-types. Serviced by pop up bars holding great craft beers and street food outlets that are way better than basic, people congregate there nightly to play table football, sit on the floor of the terraced seating, meet up with friends and even enjoy the odd concert, movie screening or DJ session.

Every year, Art Park invites street artists from around Croatia and neighbouring countries to leave their mark at the site. You can go take a look in the afternoons and

watch these artists at work. In previous years, Serbian artists like Artez, Nikola Mihajlović, Hope, Junk, Wuper and Linnch have come, with Croatian street artist Lunar a resident homegrown contributor. From Argentina; Alan Myers and Guido Palmadessa have visited, as have art crews like Pero Zloba, Tinuninu, Mane Mei, and Ivan Oštarčević. The face of the park changes throughout the summer, with sculptures, installations and other innovations vying for your attention, but the vibe at Art Park remains the same; low key, relaxed, hip and slightly eccentric, it's a must visit for any visitor that shares or appreciates independent culture.

Around

Though it only started in 2018, few residents and visitors to Zagreb last summer could have missed the new Around project. Art installations and urban interventions occurred on the city streets, often by famous landmarks, adding or changing perspectives about the areas where they were located. So stunning were the pieces that it was not unusual to open newspapers the morning after to see blanket coverage of the works, so beloved that their temporary lifespan was the sole negative they drew from a city-wide audience.

Some interventions invited people into forgotten spaces, while others brought a humour or hyper-reality. The best, while they may have come from one of the international artists

undertaking the work, cleverly pinpointed the traditional use of such spaces and highlighted their significance.

Last year, well known French street artists Oak Oak and Levalet visited and installations were made by French duo Scenocosme, Botanike, Ana Elizabet and Filip Borelli. Croatian street artist Boris Bare painted a unique red carpet in the passage of Zakmardi's stairs while local painter Mislav Lešić left his mark on the stairs of the main Dolac market.

This year's edition, which takes place between August 17 - September 1, will continue to dazzle with a combination of media and art forms. Confirmed international names so far include famous French street art duo Ella & Pitir, from

Saint Etienne, whose works are often found taking up the whole facades of large buildings (indeed, some are so vast they can only fully be appreciated by aerial photography). From Spain, land art installation maker Javier Riera creates surreal and perspective-changing interventions by projecting lights onto natural backdrops such as trees or mountains. Australian artist Michael Pederson, who also goes by the name Miguel Marquez, makes pieces that never fail to raise a smile or laugh. He ventures into random or dull areas of a city and turns them into humorous scenes, leaving official looking signs or by elevating bland, natural and/or pre-existing features to centre stage attractions. Croatian artists will also be making their mark within this year's programme.



Lumiere Zagreb Festival of Lights

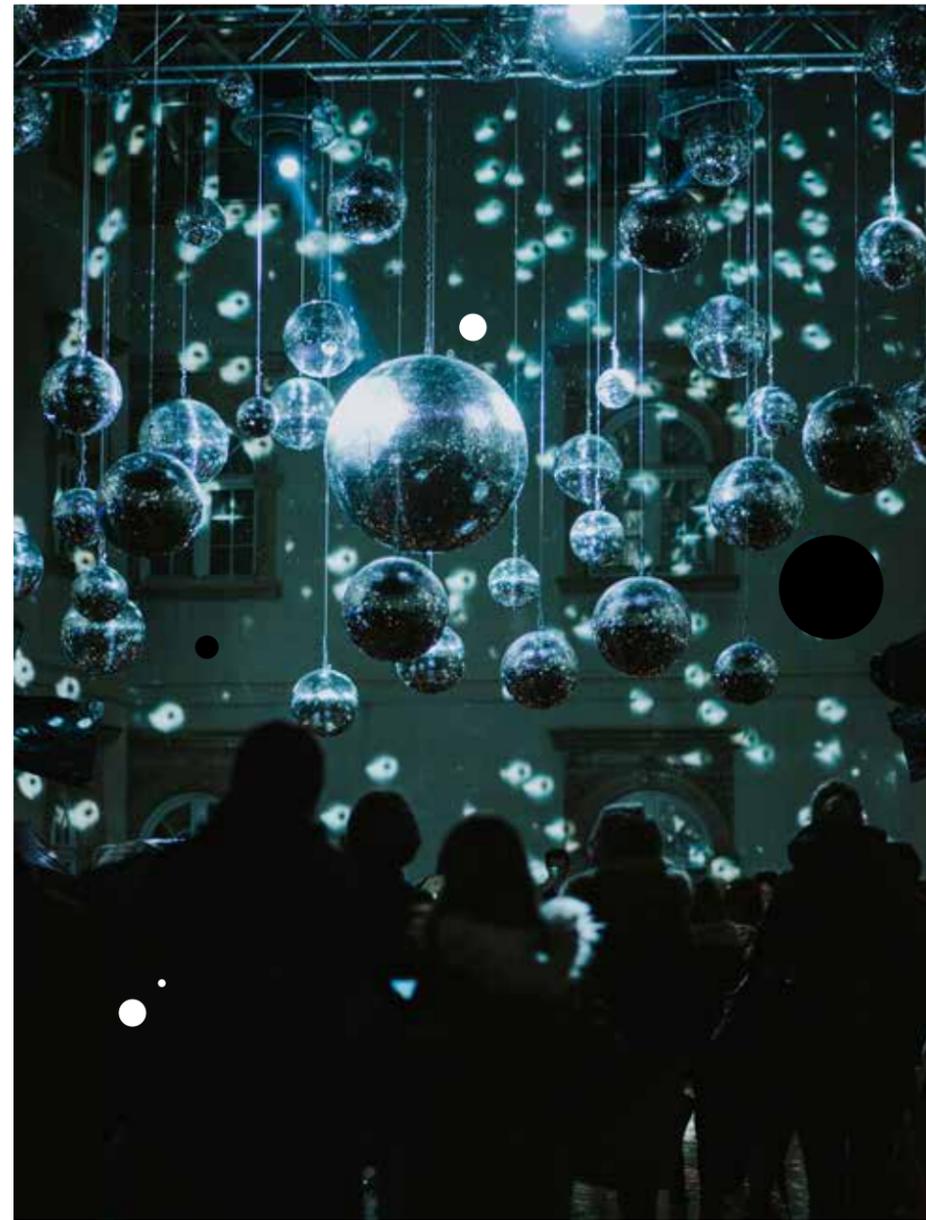
Every spring, artists reimagine the capital's architecture with dazzling displays of light, as Marc Rowlands discovers.

WINTER IN ZAGREB is not a season without uplift and celebration. Despite the sometimes bitter cold, thousands are drawn onto the streets to take advantage of the city's award-winning Advent. But, once into January, most of the city's culture and events draw us back inside, at least until the sunshine once again begins to warm the concrete paving.

Luckily, this year spring arrived early in Zagreb, the terraces of its cafes coming to life by day and at night, quilted, winter jackets began to be replaced by lighter fashion wear by the at times immaculately-dressed populace of the city. They could be seen congregating alongside visitors at every installation on the route of this year's Festival Of Lights.

A celebration of rebirth, marking the arrival of spring, the Festival Of Lights sees the upper town of the Zagreb's centre explode in colour at the same time as flowers and fresh shoots are emerging to do the same in the city's many parks. Light-led art installations and projections are placed at prominent points of interest, transforming how residents and visitors see such places in daylight hours.

Growing bigger and bolder every year, Zagreb Festival Of Lights is the perfect time for a weekend break to the city and it heralds the start of the arrival of new visitors. Available to enjoy from whichever starting point you choose, this year it was suggested that walkers commence the trail at Grič Tunnel, the cold stone walls of



the long, pedestrianised passage brought to life with projections of flora and fauna. The city's Art Park, which brims with a youthful energy throughout summer, held a contrasting calm this spring, its grass decorated with luminous bulbs like oversized dew drops.

Huge streams of white light accompanied the walk upstairs to the upper town proper, where long beams from the lighthouse heralded the festival's arrival to the whole city. Along the whole of the Strossmayer promenade, different installations intrigued, particularly the mass of pink, orange and white Haitian lanterns, before jaw dropping oceanic scenes of 3D and holographic fish appeared alongside fish lanterns at Grič park.

Moving into one of the most architecturally impressive areas of the upper town, even neighbours of Croatia's government buildings and palaces got in on the act. Lights inside St Catherine's Church reversed the sun's effect on the stained glass windows; for once, outside spectators and not the congregation were



able to appreciate their beauty. On the Gradec plateau, near where you'll find an occasional outdoor cinema in summer, lay two of this year's biggest and boldest installations; huge coloured flower petals were suspended above spectators on the plateau itself and probably the most child-friendly section of the show came in the form of a panda family scene, its Chinese origins unmistakable within the brilliant design.

Beyond the popular participation of Gallery Klovičevi Dvori and the 3D mapping with dance performances on Jezuitski trg, the trail could be picked up again on Opatička, the street completely bathed in a shimmering blue light. You felt as though you could have been diving on the ocean floor. The whole façade and courtyard of the Croatian Institute of History was drenched in floral pinks, yellows and reds, contrasting to the blue of the street.

The spectacle was rounded off at the site of Zagreb's great all-summer outdoor cinema, Tuškanac Summer Stage, where dancers interacted with a laser show.

Theatre & Dance

Shaking things up

HNK Zagreb's diverse programming and the ever-decreasing age of its audience make it one of Europe's most vital national theatres.

STANDING RESPLENDENT in the Republic of Croatia Square, its startling golden walls contrasting against brilliant white columns and oxidised-green copper roofing, the Croatian National Theatre (HNK) in Zagreb is a visual highlight in Zagreb that simply must be seen. Its solitude in the middle of the city centre square only adds to the sense of importance it seems to hold.

The home of Croatia's highest performance arts - theatre, opera and ballet - since Austro-Hungarian emperor Franz Joseph I unveiled it in 1895, like every other national theatre in Europe, its stage is reserved for the most famous guest contributors and the very best dancers, actors and singers it is possible to assemble. As its name suggests, the performances occurring on its stage represent the very best the country has to offer.

'It was a beautiful building with a lot of tourists outside taking pictures and a lot of old people inside, but not a full audience.'



But, a closer look at the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb enables you to see how this establishment differs from most of its European peers. For, over the course of the last half decade, HNK Zagreb has initiated several innovative moves that has helped position the theatre as one of the most accessible and popular of its kind on the continent.

'When I first came here the theatre was quite closed,' says Dubravka Vrgoč who, after a successful decade as director of the Zagreb Youth Theatre and co-founder of a world theatre festival, assumed the position of HNK Zagreb's general manager in 2014. 'It was a beautiful building with a lot of tourists outside taking pictures and a lot of old people inside, but not a full audience.'

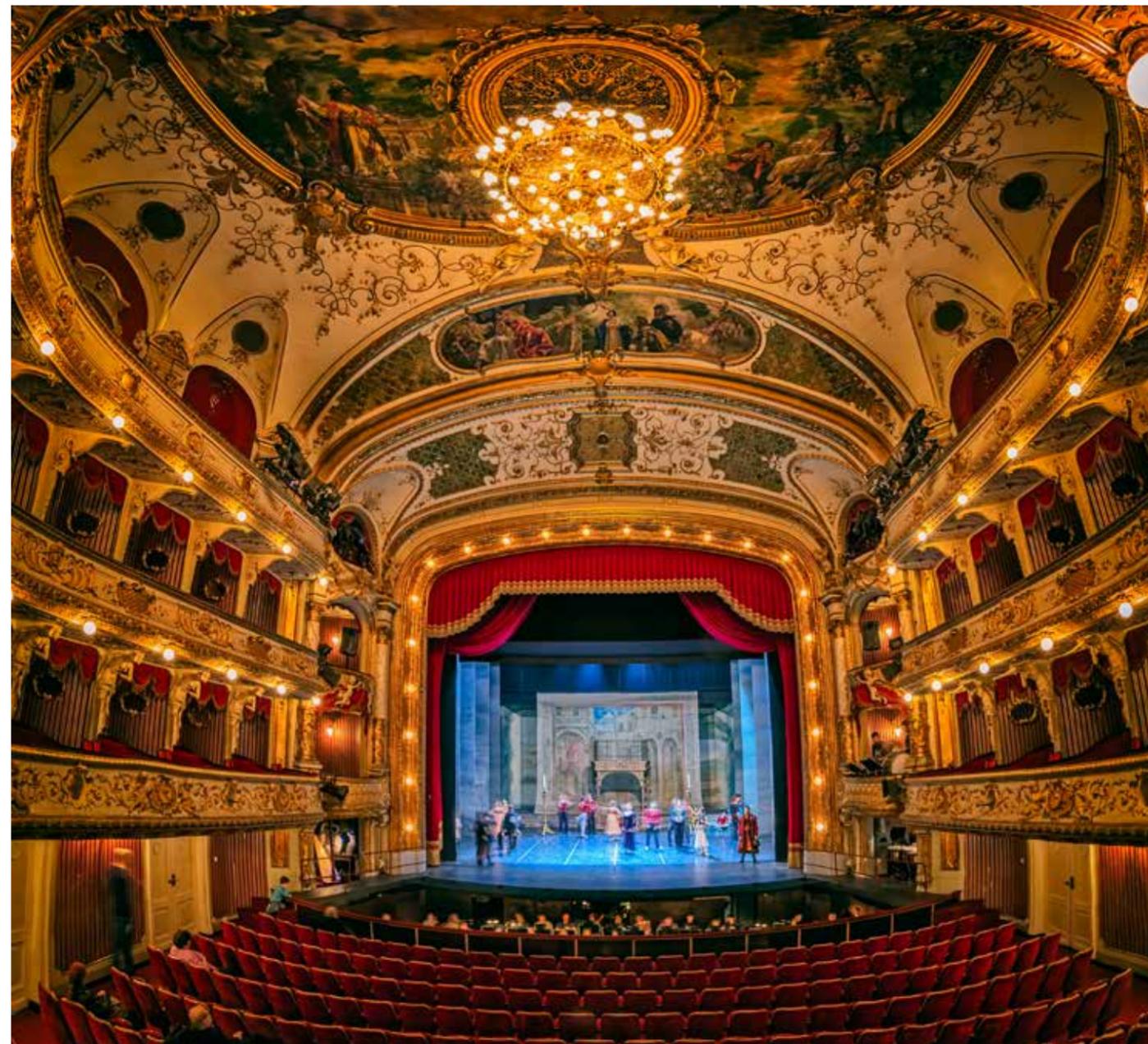
'In the operas, the audiences were aged 60+, in ballet also 60+

but with also a few grandchildren and in the drama performances, almost nobody,' laments Vrgoč. 'It was really important for us to get a new audience. Before, if you asked people what they thought an evening at HNK would be like, they would say 'Expensive ticket, you have to wear a really nice outfit, the performances are probably boring. We needed to change that prejudice. And we did.'

The Day of the Open Square was one of the first initiatives the new regime at HNK Zagreb undertook, the event collaborating with neighbouring institutions like the Academy of Dramatic Arts, Museum of Art & Crafts and the new Academy of Music to bring the arts out onto the open streets.

'We had a small ballet stage on the grass where we performed some of Swan Lake,' remembers Vrgoč, 'we also had the orchestra outside and singers serenading the crowds from the windows.'

Over the course of subsequent years, HNK Zagreb has continued to rewrite the rulebook



in order to dispel assumptions and attract new audiences. School programmes have brought the city's youth into the theatre, guided tours have opened up parts of the building only previously seen by those working there. The theatre's drama repertoire now focuses on more contemporary Croatian plays, in turn attracting a more contemporary audience. Of more interest to non-Croatian speaking visitors, because of the lack of a language barrier, are HNK Zagreb's opera and ballet programmes, which now feature performances and guest collaborators of international repute. For example, in its last season HNK Zagreb offered the ballet 'Death In Venice' with renowned choreographer Valentina Turcu directing, which was nominated as one of the five best ballet performances of the year in the European Dance magazine. This season they feature world-famous French director Angelin Preljocaj and two of his works, 'The Annunciation' and 'La Stravaganza'.

Despite some of the country's best performers vying for stage time (HNK Zagreb unusually housing three separate ensembles for each of its main disciplines), via events like the regular Philosopher's Theatre, the venue has also opened its doors to audiences of students and young people that previously never stepped through its doors, attracted by famous guests like M.I.A., Vanessa Redgrave, Slavoj Žižek, Yanis Varoufakis and Tariq Ali. And, despite punching way above the weight of a 700 capacity venue in regards to the stellar guests it invites, the theatre has continued to keep ticket prices extremely low. There are few national theatres in Europe where you could go and see the highest standard of ballet or opera for a 12 Euro ticket price.

The innovations and efforts towards increased accessibility have paid off. In 2018 a report was made for the theatre board which showed its new regime had filled 95 percent

of seats for drama productions, 93 percent for ballet and 90 percent for opera.

'By European standards this is very good,' says Vrgoč with a smile. 'I was in Milan last month and even La Scala only had 61 percent.'

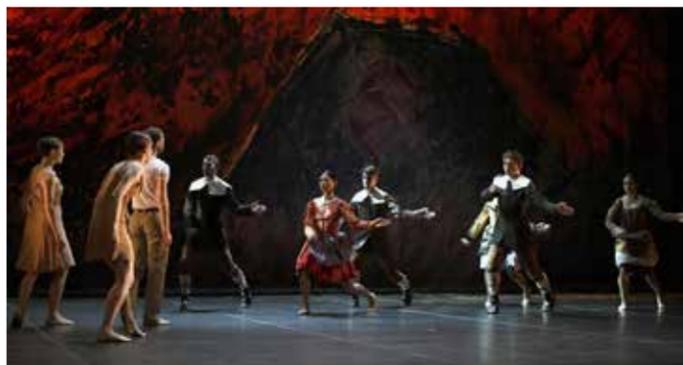
If you're visiting Zagreb and have never previously attended the opera or ballet before, HNK Zagreb offers you the perfect opportunity to do so. Zagreb itself is a city on a serious mission to make the arts accessible to all and they're very good at it. Nowhere is this more true than at the city's Croatian National Theatre, its fresh perspective and world-class performances helping to make it one of Europe's most popular.

'I think that our theatre must have a dialogue with its audience, whether that be visitors or the residents of Zagreb,' says Dubravka Vrgoč. 'In our own time, we all need to ask a question of the theatre. At HNK Zagreb we are trying to make sure that there will be an answer.'

Marc Rowlands

Eight essential shows to see at HNK

See affordable opera, ballet and cutting-edge performances this spring and summer at one of Europe's most accessible national theatres.



Marius Mihalache: Balkan Fest (Săftița)

Romanian musician and composer Marius Mihalache is one of the world's pre-eminent players of the dulcimer and cimbalon. Stringed instruments that are struck with sticks, like percussion, these instruments are a pre-cursor to the piano and can be found in both European classical and folk musics, the latter particularly in Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, some regions of the former Yugoslavia, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Greece, Belarus and Poland, often as part of gypsy folk troupes. In this globally-touring show, Marius Mihalache combines Romanian music with traditional Balkan musics and improvisation/jazz techniques to explore musics of the region in a fresh and exciting new way. With three decades of an illustrious career already behind him, Mihalache has composed several movie scores and collaborated with some of the greatest names in American music, including many jazz greats, such as Chick Corea, Gloria Gaynor, Nina Simone, Kitaro, Steve Vai, Mike Stern, Billy Cobham, Sergio Mendez, Larry Coryell.

→ May 5.

Philosopher's Theatre: Slavoj Žižek

Croatia's leading philosophical event returns. This edition's guest speaker is Slovenian Slavoj Žižek. One of the world's most easily recognisable philosopher's, Žižek's idiosyncratic style and widespread appearances in popular media have earned him an international fame rarely experienced by such academics. Courting controversy, criticism and an attentive and amused audience, Žižek is an outspoken critic of capitalism, neoliberalism and political correctness. He's funny with it, too.

→ May 4.

Peter Pan

A classic fairytale from the United Kingdom, the story of reluctant adolescent Peter Pan is here interpreted in ballet form to a score by one of Croatia's most famous composers of the 20th century, Bruno Bjelinski. Constructed as a ballet for children, this much-loved version is nevertheless a joy for those of any age and continues HNK Zagreb's dynamic programming which aims to make the national theatre accessible to all.

→ May 3.



Swan Lake

Croatian National Theatre performs ballet's most famous story, 'Swan Lake'. Revisiting this theatre's past performances of the ballet, the HNK troupe operate under the guidance of Croatian choreographer Vladimir Malakhov. A brilliant introduction to ballet and to Tchaikovsky's incredibly famous score.

→ May 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18.



The Magic Flute

One of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's most admired works, The Magic Flute is a fairytale opera in two parts and was written and then premiered within just a year of the composer's death. The story tells of Prince Tamino who, alongside his eventual companion Papageno, is sent by the Queen of the Night to rescue her daughter Pamina from captivity under the high priest Sarastro.

→ May 9, June 4, 6.

Ero the Joker

'Ero the Joker' is a comic opera in three acts by composer Jakov Gotovac and writer Milan Begović and is based on a traditional folk tale which takes place in the countryside of the Dalmatian hinterland. It is the most famous opera ever made in Croatia and the only one to have travelled substantially to theatres outside the country.

→ May 13, June 1.



Angelin Preljočaj: The Annunciation / La Stravaganza

World famous choreographer Angelin Preljočaj returns to Zagreb, this time to introduce two of his works into the permanent repertoire of the Croatian National Theatre. Born and raised in France, though of Balkan heritage, Angelin Preljočaj was educated in classical ballet and draws from this medium greatly in his resolutely contemporary work. His spectacular pieces have been performed the world over, including 'La Stravaganza' (pictured) which uses immigration, time and America as its key themes. The other piece, 'The Annunciation', takes inspiration from one of the most significant moments within the Abrahamic religions, a source of inspiration to artists for many centuries.

→ June 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15.



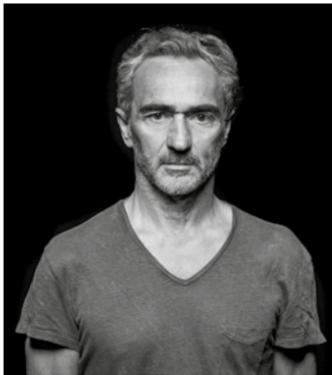
Don Carlos (Don Carlo)

As befitting one of the world's most popular operas, Giuseppe Verdi's 'Don Carlos' has been performed in multiple versions and famously in both French and Italian. In the tale, love is both the key and the complication to the cessation of fighting between the kingdoms of France and Spain.

→ June 14, 19, 27, 29.

Universal language

World-renowned choreographer and director Angelin Preljočaj returns to Zagreb with *La Stravaganza* and *The Annunciation*.



'THE MAIN INSTRUMENT of dance is obviously the human body. And we are lucky because most people have a body, ha. This is good news for us!' Angelin Preljočaj is in a jovial mood when *Time Out* asks how contemporary dance can widen its dialogue and connect with people outside existing ballet and dance audiences. 'That is why I think that dance is something that everyone can understand, beyond different cultures, beyond different nationalities, beyond even different civilisations. What we all have in common is to have a human body, this physical form. I think when a dancer is moving on stage, everyone is capable of feeling what is motivating the dancer, what they are trying to express. It is almost as though there is a strange communication between the body on stage and the body which looks at it.'

Although being high-spirited and gushing with youthful enthusiasm, Preljočaj's reply is quite general. Modesty perhaps motivates him to answer for his art without drawing on examples from his own repertoire and achievements. But, certainly, Angelin Preljočaj is the right man to ask this question of.

Startling audiences with vivid and original works, challenging prejudices by referencing pertinent stories du jour and transcending the stage altogether with his craft, Angelin Preljočaj is at the forefront of pioneering new routes of dialogue for contemporary dance.

1990's *Romeo and Juliet* - the show which first established Preljočaj's name - depicted Shakespeare's

Verona as an Orwellian totalitarian state, his more recent telling of *Snow White* framed the stepmother as a jealous and fading sexual predator, her dominatrix-style dress, like all the show's other key costumes, designed by Jean Paul Gaultier. At every turn, he has confounded expectation and tradition with an imagination steeped in street nous, allowing him to transcend the usual confines of his art. Outside of his medium, he has collaborated in music with the likes of Air, Laurent Garnier and Karlheinz Stockhausen, in visual arts with Claude Lévêque, Goran Vejvoda, Subodh Gupta and Adel Abdessemed and with Azzedine Alaïa and the aforementioned Gaultier in haute couture. On the screen, he

has made several short and feature-length

films and directed ridiculously big-budget advertising campaign works for some of the biggest brands on the planet. His productions are now part of the repertoire of the world's leading ballet houses including La Scala in Milan, the New York City Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet, some of which have earned him awards like the Grand Prix National de la Danse in 1992, the Benois de la danse in 1995, Les Victoires de la musique in 1997, the Globe de Cristal in 2009 and the Samuel H. Scripps/ American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014.

That Preljočaj is returning once again to Zagreb is something of a coup for his hosts, the Croatian National Theatre, although this trip differs from previous visits as this time he is here to introduce two of his works into their permanent repertoire.

La Stravaganza has immigration, time and America as its key themes. The other piece, *The Annunciation*, won him a Bessie Award in 1997 and deals with one of the most significant moments within the Abrahamic religions, a source of inspiration to artists for many centuries. Both pieces use the music of Antonio Vivaldi within their scores.

'I think Vivaldi is so energetic, so inventive, that it is very inspiring music to work with in dance,' says Preljočaj, who has also previously returned to the music of Gustav Mahler several times for his soundtracks. 'The idea for *La Stravaganza* was to alternate the music of

Vivaldi with very contemporary music throughout the performance. I was trying to have these two very different musics communicate with each other, just as on the stage there are two different groups of dancers who are trying to communicate with each other.'

'The story of *La Stravaganza* is based on an encounter between two civilisations,' he says, his theme perhaps even more prescient now, in the shadow of rising populist politics fueled by anti-immigration rhetoric, than when it was first written.

'I originally did this piece with the New York City Ballet and when I arrived in New York it really made me remember my own family,' recalls Preljočaj (although born and raised in the

suburbs of Paris his parents were working class migrants, his mother from Montenegro and his father from northern Albania). 'It's a kind of tribute to migrants, because I think that the United States was built by immigrants. It's a story of sharing a culture, values and moments of emotion.'

Though classically trained in ballet, like much of the culture of his Balkan heritage, Angelin Preljočaj's resolutely contemporary works are made all the more exciting by existing as amalgams of multiple inspirations and his own unique imagination. If you're not already part of contemporary dance's existing audience, Preljočaj's return to Zagreb is the perfect opportunity to sample masterful work within art that truly we can all appreciate.

Marc Rowlands

'It's a kind of tribute to migrants because I think that the United States was built by immigrants'

Shopping & Style

Made in Zagreb

Add these beautiful Zagreb products to your shopping list.



Baggiz
Of minimalist design and effortlessly cool, these eco-friendly leather hands bags double up as backpacks and are one of the most stylish ways to carry your laptops and books to work.



Memorize Croatia
This fun memory game is the perfect mix of sleek modern design married with educational content. This memento will remind you of Pag lace, Dalmatian Prosciutto, Nikola Tesla, Goran Ivanišević, the bura and everything else depicted on its 24 illustrated cardboard discs.

Mini-me

This bold and minimal table lamp by designer Filip Gordon Frank is based on a paperclip and comes in a variety of colours, with halogen bulbs included.



Visibaba Pivo John Lemon

Many fantastic beers vye for your attention on Croatia's now thriving craft beer scene, but the award for the most eye-catching goes to the funky bottles named after '60s/'70s music icons. Three varieties - John Lemon, Janis Hplin and Bob Barley - make a punny gift.



Eating

Al-fresco

Zagreb is bursting with outdoor food festivals this summer. Marc Rowlands picks the best.



Zagreb Beer Fest

Zagreb Beer Fest

Although the title suggests a massive session on the ale, Zagreb Beer Fest is about so much more than beer. Sure, you can taste some of the best brews from the Croatian craft beer scene, but to locals, the music programme is even more appealing. But, visitors especially should take advantage of the great street food vendors that take part in the event they're a cut above what you'd find at most music festivals. Some 50,000 visitors pass through the site over the course of four days, guzzling down the street food on offer.

→ Franjo Tuđman Park ([facebook.com/zagrebbeerfest](#)), May 16 - 19



Zagreb Piknik

Zagreb Piknik

Maksimir Park, located to the east of the city centre, really comes alive in summer, its tree-lined avenues becoming a bolthole of fresh air from the city streets. Every Saturday in May and June you'll find the park filled with families and activities for all ages. Open-air games, lounge music, and children's games are just some of what you'll find here, with plenty of local food vendors on hand.

→ Maksimir Park ([facebook.com/ZagrebPiknik](#)), May - June



Plac Mljac

Summer on Stross - Strossmartre

A promenade located in the upper town of Zagreb, just before the government buildings and palaces, Stross holds just about the best views of the city that you can get without walking to the top of nearby mountain Sljeme. For the whole summer this area buzzes with crowds of families, handlocked couples and groups of friends enjoying a rich programme of music and entertainment. Bars and street food outlets nestle between trees, as do quirky art installations, one-off theatre performances, street artists and more surprises. A great place to meet friends, grab a bite to eat and enjoy the ambience before moving off into the centre of town.

→ Strossmayerovo šetalište ([facebook.com/ljetonastrossu](#)), May 24 - Sept 22



Summer on Stross - Strossmartre



The Little Picnic

Plac Mljac

After the centrally-located Dolac, Trešnjevka Market is one of Zagreb's oldest and most famous markets, rich in seasonal colours of fruit and vegetables that travel here from every corner of Croatia. This month-long event celebrates the market and its produce, with fabulous street food and fresh produce available to buy before a backdrop of live performances, creative flower decorations and hanging green gardens.

→ Trešnjevka Market ([placmljac.com](#)), June 28 - July 7

The Little Picnic

Taking place in a small park hidden in the upper part of the city centre, The Little Picnic is a producers' market that inhabits every Thursday evening throughout August, between 6 and 11 pm. Here you can meet the producers of traditional and specialist food, quiz them on their ingredients and practices while you sample their goods. Looking for a unique homemade and traditional Croatian accompaniment to take home? This is one of the best places to find it.

→ Bela IV Park, Vranjczyaneva poljana ([facebook.com/malipiknik](#)), throughout summer

NEW PLATES

Let's go for a Croatian!

Modern Croatian gastronomy is becoming a force to be reckoned with, as Jonathan Bousfield discovers.

THE ZAGREB CULINARY SCENE

has gone through something of a revolution in recent years, with a new generation of chefs ripping up the recipe books and bringing a new spirit of experimentation to the city's kitchens. This hasn't just led to a new taste for global fusion; it has also led to a reinvention of local cooking. There's a renewed reverence for traditional dishes, but an increasing amount of creativity in the way they're prepared.

The decline of the classic restaurant and the rise of the bistro have in any case changed the way Zagreb people eat. Quality cuisine and quick snacks share space on the same menus; informal décor and jazzy music drive home the message that a restaurant is an open social space, not simply the venue for expense-account lunches and family banquets. There is a new-found appreciation of fresh ingredients, with chefs offering short, seasonally-changing menus of locally-sourced fare, rather than exhaustive lists of everything their grandmother ever made. The portions might be a bit smaller too; meals are conceived as well-paced gastronomic entertainments in several acts, rather than a gut-packing platter of meat and fries.

While an increasingly global range of ideas is brought to bear on preparation and presentation, the cult of local produce is if anything stronger than ever. Top cook Tvrtko Šakota at NAV sources ingredients from the Zagreb area as much as possible: Jurica Jantolek at Pod Zidom makes up daily menus based on what he's found on Dolac market that day. New bistro O'brok sources a lot of its meats from farms rearing the Slavonian Black Pig. Favourite farmhouse cuts like lung or tongue have made a comeback, although they are nowadays more likely to be served with cherry sauce or kumquats than a standard choice of veg.

Contemporary Croatian cuisine is taking over the capital, and here are eight of the best places to find it.



NAV

Latest project of gastro guru Tvrtko Šakota, who is passionate about bringing local ingredients and traditional recipes to the creative-cuisine table. This classy but not-too-pricy restaurant is a rare treat for the taste buds.



Pod Zidom Bistro & Wine Bar

Daily menus based on the early-morning trip to the local market, fabulous new twists on farmhouse recipes, and a welcomingly wine-bar-bistro environment mark out Pod Zidom as a must-visit.



Haustor Haus

Whether you're on the lookout for a multi-course feast or a mid-day bite, this intimate courtyard restaurant serves up local-sourced fare with panache and imagination.



Savica Casual Urban Eatery

The daily specials down Savica way are given just enough of a mercurial twist to make you feel as if you're eating in a place that has ambitions. Also known for its good desserts and legendary tomato soup.



Lari i Penati

One of the first of Zagreb's jazzy bistro mash-ups and still going strong, this cult 12-seater is a grand place to seek out inexpensive lunches with a creative twist.



Mali Bar

A cubby-hole of bistro heaven just up the steps from Vlaška street, Ana Ugarković's Mali Bar offers a deft mix of fine food and glass-clinking informality.

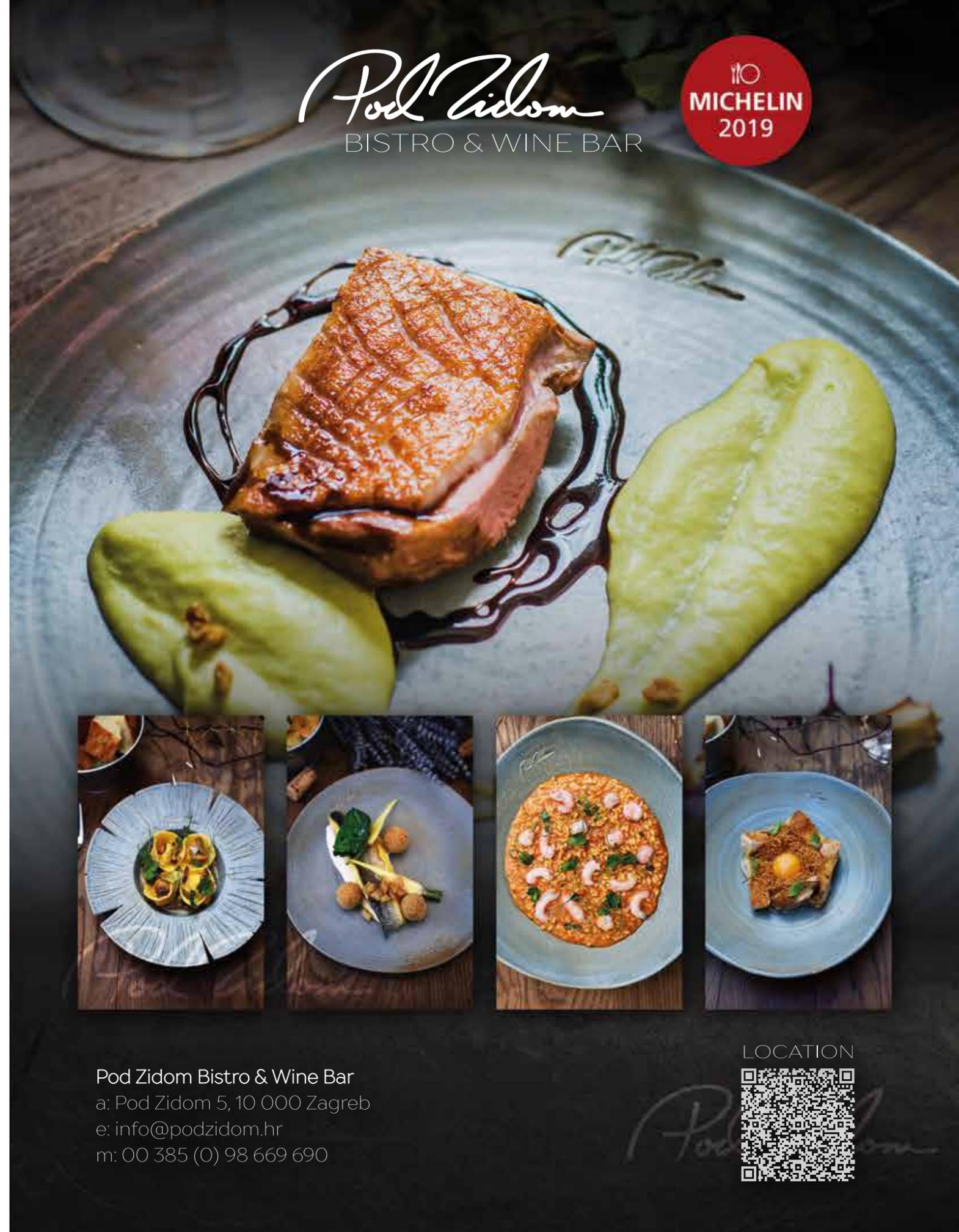


O'brok

Domaće i točka ("Local and nothing but!") is the motto of O'brok, who pride themselves on daily menus featuring Slavonian black pig and other locally sourced treats. Style and presentation are unashamedly international.



Pod Zidom
BISTRO & WINE BAR



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LOCATION



Zagreb in ten dishes

Eat your way around the capital with these ten essential Zagreb dishes.



Ajngemahtec

Another dish of Austrian origin, ajngemahtec is a chicken stew which usually relies on using the meat of the bird's wings and its liver. It's an all-in-one-pot stew, creating a delicate but flavoursome sauce which contains vegetables – commonly peas, carrots, celery – parsley and little pieces of pasta dumpling, to which the chicken livers are often added.

Štrukli

Sometimes called Zagorski Štrukli, this dish is the leading light of local cuisine, recommended by restaurateurs to visitors searching for the best authentic regional dish. Served either boiled or baked, štrukli is thin layers of pastry interspersed with a filling, the most popular of which is a mixture of cream and fresh, soft cheese. Simple fare of which the locals are extremely proud.



Turkey with mlinci

Croatia has loads of pasta dishes, many borrowed from neighbouring Italy. But, this is one is much more common here than in Italy. Mlinci are thin squares of pasta which are baked, usually in meat fats and juices and served with roasted poultry. Unlike the American Christmas turkey supplanted into European cuisine, turkey is actually very traditional in Croatia, with smoked turkey leg a reoccurring favourite. It's also the least greasy of the birds with which to serve mlinci.



Kotlovina

Aside from the ubiquitous barbecue, kotlovina is probably the alfresco meat dish you're most likely to see being cooked outdoors. A favourite of village fairs and outdoor get-togethers, it's a feast for the eyes as well as the palette, cooked meats and sausages surround the outer rim of a large, circular cooking dish with vegetables and a spicy sauce.



Krvavice and češnjovke sausages

Each region of Croatia has its own pork-based sausages that vary according to family tastes and traditions. Krvavice is a pig's blood sausage, similar to those found across Europe, like black pudding in the UK, although the ingredients, spicing and texture is quite different and it is only ever baked here, never boiled or fried. Češnjovke is a garlic and pork sausage found with varying amounts of paprika. The Croatian word for garlic is češnjak.



Zagreb steak (zagrebački)

There is an equivalent of this dish to be found across much of Europe, with codon bleu and wiener schnitzel both close cousins. When made correctly, the Zagreb version is arguably the best, depending on whether high-quality cheese and ham are used for the filling and the expertise of the chef responsible for flattening the outer layer of veal, it's coating and frying.

Knedle sa šljivama

A dish that's difficult to love if you're introduced to it by a family recipe insisting on these dumplings being made with gut-busting amounts of dough. But, when made delicately and well, the appeal is clear. Fillings can be savoury or sweet, they can be cooked in different ways and served with a variety of accompaniments. The most common is the sweet version which has a filling of šljivice (plums).



Štrudla

Štrudla is much-loved all over the former Austro-Hungarian empire. As with the dishes of Turkish origin that exist here like kebab, burek and moussaka, Croatians have evolved their own way of doing things and so you'll find varieties of štrudle containing cheese, plums, cherries and nuts.



Krpice sa zeljem

This dish is essentially pasta with cabbage. It might sound unappealing it and certainly isn't the most colourful dish you'll ever see, but seasoned with white pepper it's surprisingly tasty and you'll be able to understand its appeal better if served as a side to a spicy sausage.



Buncek

Buncek is a partial pig's leg, cooked on the bone and in the skin. Usually, you will find this dish first boiled and then finished in the oven to make the skin crispy, then served with mashed potatoes and shredded strips of fermented cabbage (sauerkraut), known locally as kiseli kupus.

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Zagreb's best breakfasts

Nothing illustrates Zagreb's gastronomic revolution more than breakfast. In a city driven by coffee, you can find all kinds of morning boosters, from carnivorous feasts to delicate snacks.

Chipotle barbecue sandwich at Dežman

Bagels with salmon gravlax, cream cheese and capers. For classy yet affordable, Dežman is the place. Open from 8am (closed Sundays), the café branch of this stylish drinkerie-cum-diner offers a full range of imaginative sandwiches, including the classic salmon and cream cheese bagel. Coffee is provided by renowned local roasters Cogito, or there's matcha tea, as well as fresh grapefruit juice and smoothies. All takes place in a cool interior of easy-on-the-eye white space and light wood.

→ Dežmanova 3 (dezman.hr)



Eggs Royal at the Esplanade

If you're going to do breakfast in style, perhaps before or after a long journey by train, Le Bistro at the elegant Orient-Express era Esplanade pulls out all the stops to create poached eggs fit for a film star. Other egg-based breakfasts – fried, poached, boiled or scrambled – come with smoked and fried bacon, veal sausages and baked ham but the Eggs Royal are complemented with regal accompaniments of rösti potatoes, smoked salmon and Hollandaise sauce. All to the tune of 70kn but you won't regret it. If you are nipping over the road for a train, they can serve it to go. If you've got more time, relax – breakfast is served between 9am and 10.30am, in warmer months on the terrace. A selection of the world's press is laid out before you and service is fit for a queen – such as the current one who stayed here in 1972.

→ Mihanovićeve 1 (esplanade.hr)



Pljeskavica at Plac

It's one of those wonderful mornings in Zagreb. The sun's shining, you're enjoying a browse around the Dolac market in the fresh air when suddenly it hits you – that gorgeous smell of breakfast. On a terrace overlooking the stalls, locals are devouring delicious Balkan grilled meat and you want in. Find a table, head to the friendly ladies at the serving counter and order up a thick, juicy, honest pljeskavica, loosely translated as a meat patty but in truth a doorstep of 100% ground beef sourced from trusted local producers. Served in the classic way (45kn), with diced onions, a side of ajvar tomato-and-pepper condiment and a blanket of flatbread, it may also come with spicy meat (45kn) or stuffed with cheese (49kn). The other grilled classics here – ćevapčići, shish ćevapi – may come in small portions but not the hulking great pljeskavica, no sir. To complete the experience, beers include Sarajevsko, Velebitsko and Zlatni Medo.

→ Dolac 2 (plac-zagreb.com)

Zagreb breakfast at Otto & Frank

Right amid the bustle of café-lined Tkalčićeva, behind the main square and Dolac market, Otto & Frank serves signature breakfasts all day long so you needn't worry about having to disturb your weekend lie-in to make it happen. You can always opt for one of the phenomenal burgers here, the gourmet version with truffles, say, but when in Zagreb, one should have a Zagreb breakfast. Costing a very reasonable 43kn, this consists of crispy poached eggs, grilled ham, spinach or lollo rosso lettuce depending on season, cottage cheese and sour cream, with slices of radish and spring onions for good measure and a portion of toast. If hunger or hangover demands, you can always add a bucket of homemade wedge fries (15kn). Your espresso may come with whipped cream, your latte with soya milk, there's 100% apple juice or two types of Croatia's very own pick-me-up, a Cedevida vitamin drink in orange or lemon flavours.

→ Tkalčićeva 20 (otto-frank.com)



Johann Franck Breakfast at Johann Franck

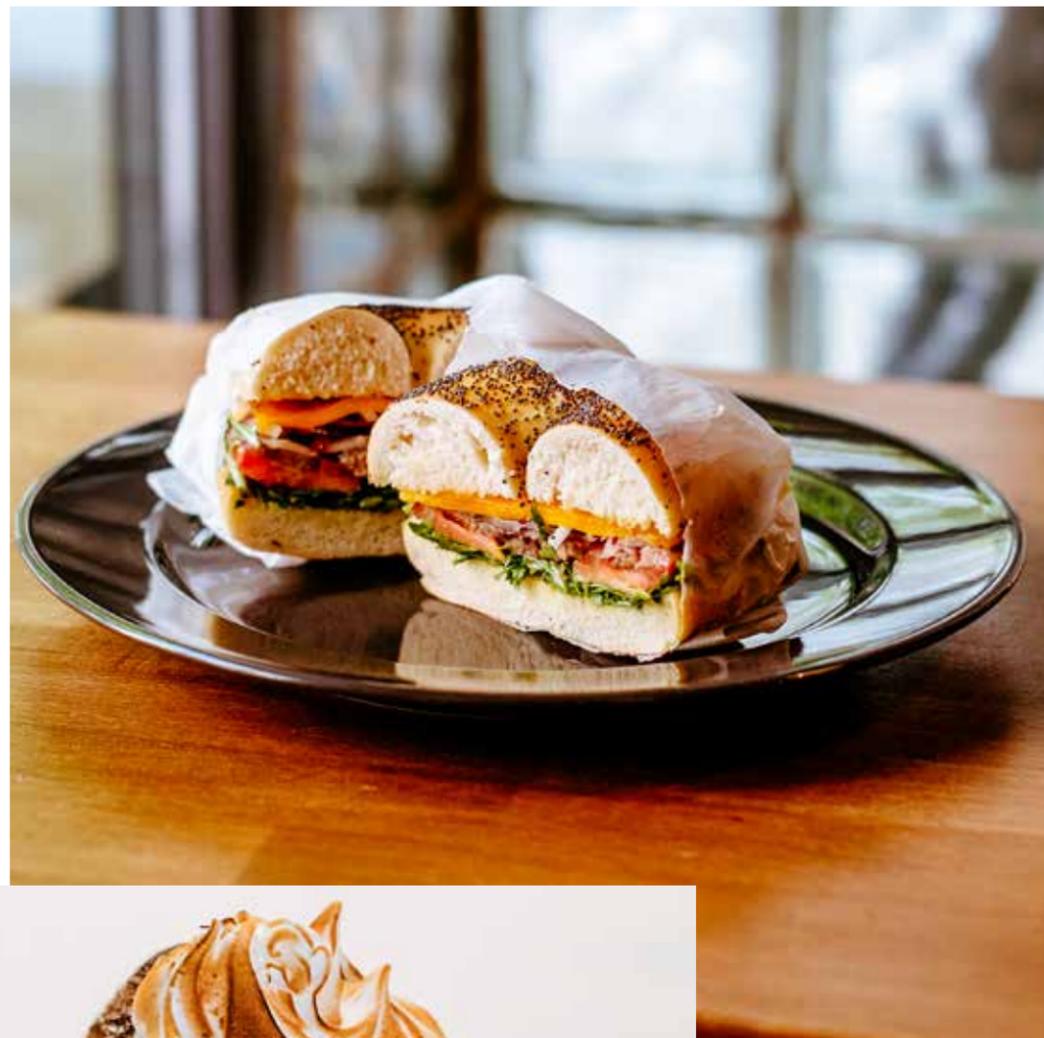
If you're going to have a Zagreb breakfast, what could be more Zagreb than its main square, Trg bana Josipa Jelačića, Jelačić plac to all, with its centrepiece statue of the major-general in full charging mode. Sitting on the expansive terrace of the Johann Franck café, bistro and club, the sleek, contemporary version of the Gradska Kavana that stood here for generations, you can order up a Zagreb breakfast (90kn) of fried eggs with home-made bacon, grilled sausages, home-made cottage cheese and sour cream, grilled mushrooms, accompanied by a croissant and a freshly squeezed juice. All kinds of omelettes also come in the 35kn range, toasts around 30kn. Coffee is by Johann Franck, of course, a trusted name throughout Central Europe.

→ Trg bana Josipa Jelačića 9 (johannfranck.hr)

Grilled roast beef bagel sandwich at Bagel and Lobster Barr

'Against the rules' runs the motto of the Bagel and Lobster Barr and when God gave us lobsters he didn't think that we would be trying to cram the damn things into a bagel. Bagel and Lobster Barr does, indeed, break a few rules, but the lobster here is really a red herring. It's also 95kn and no bagel. What B&LR does is offer inventive bagels in the 40kn range, the most substantial one of which comes with grilled roast beef, Cheddar cheese, rocket, red onions, cherry tomatoes, and a soupcon of Dijon mustard and black pepper – all for 38kn. Other choices run from a humble bagel with Parmesan and butter (6.50kn) to a salmon & crème fraîche combination (56kn) of gravlax, cream cheese and capers.

→ Jurišićeva 2a (bagellobsterbarr.eatbu.hr)



Croissants at La Marquise

Breakfast at La Marquise is a light affair, as light as the authentic French cakes and pastries spread out irresistibly before you. Tartines, meringues, brioches and macarons line up in rows so delicately balanced it seems a shame to actually have one removed for you. But that's why Céline from France and French-trained Sebastien from Croatia get up and bake well before the crack of dawn every morning, for their creations catch the eye of passers-by along Petrinjska. These are then plucked from the display case, carefully presented before being enjoyed, like Proust and his madeines, in silent ecstasy. This moment can best be savoured in nearby Zrinjevac Park – La Marquise eschews tables and chairs.

→ Petrinjska 31



Crêpes Suzette at Le Mika

Being a bistro and crêperie run by an authentic Parisian chef, Mika Alix, it stands to reason that Le Mika should offer the best pancakes in town. Sure enough, from a selection of buckwheat galettes and crêpes nearly four-dozen strong, his signature tangy, caramelised marvels are a treat, indeed. Although Le Mika doesn't open until noon, it's worth the wait, as a plate of crêpes Suzette on one of the terrace tables here is the perfect way to start a long lazy day, or interrupt a relaxed morning of shopping and sightseeing. If orange zest doesn't float your boat, then salmon, apple or ham just might.

→ Teslina 14 (lemika.hr)

Eggs Benedict at Eggspress

Croatia's first and so far only omeletterie is the obvious place to head for should you be in urgent need of eggs in the morning. Exquisitely presented on fine white plates of distinct shapes and sizes, the fried, scrambled and poached varieties here wouldn't look out of place in a five-star hotel – which would charge something in the same price range for the privilege. But, if you're splashing out, then you may as well breakfast as if you were in Manhattan – Eggs Benedict (59kn) it is, here done with divine hollandaise sauce atop three poached eggs and grilled home-made boiled ham. A fresh orange juice may accompany – hell, why not go the whole hog and make it a mimosa? A cosmopolitan urban interior of bare brick complements the whole experience.

→ Boškovićeve 11 (facebook.com/EggspressZg)



Cruffin at Korica

It may sound like something out of a Dickens novel but a cruffin is not only a real thing, but a Croatian invention – and one that attracts queues outside the door here at this prominent location on Preradovićeve near Zagreb's ever bustling Flower Market. A cross between a croissant and a muffin, the cruffin is the signature cake dreamed up by economics graduate Ivana Urem Marohnić, who conceived of this contemporary, artisanal bakery whose stock in trade is additive-free bread baked by traditional methods. The brioches and banana bread also fly off the shelves. A modest scattering of tables allows you to devour your cruffin in relative comfort during the week – on Saturdays, find a suitable spot outside on pedestrianised Preradovićeve.

→ Preradovićeve 39 (korica.hr)

Lunchtime!

Cheap, traditional and filling: here's where to find Zagreb's best gableci lunches.

SIMPLY PUT, gableci were cheap lunches for workers who started the day early with a coffee and a cigarette and were craving something warm, familiar and filling by 11am latest. 'Elevenses' of Winnie-the-Pooh lore doesn't begin to capture this concept – condensed milk and honey would get you laughed out of Zagreb – while 'brunch' is a Western invention perfected by upscale hotels.

As working practices changed, so did eating habits. More and more salaried locals started their working days later and only had time for a quick sandwich eaten on the hoof, usually from noon. But the gableci tradition stuck – you could still see blackboards outside honest eateries with the day's specials chalked up and a price tag of, say, 35kn for two courses. Bean stew (grah), pasta squares and cabbage (krautflekerli), goulash and meat in breadcrumbs stuffed with ham and cheese (zagrebački odrezak) would be common dishes.

Today the concept remains but has been stretched to include contemporary, even international, dining destinations simply offering cheap lunches. These may be included in November's annual Gablec Week established by a leading Croatian daily newspaper to keep the tradition alive – although, in truth, it has never gone away.



Stari Fijaker

Serving diners since 1848, the Stari Fijaker sits in an old tollhouse on Mesnička, where Habsburg-era novelist August Šenoa lived and died. All is still reassuringly traditional and the daily stew is still 35kn. Although you'll pay more these days for a classic purica s mlincima, turkey and dried flatbread, you're getting the authentic taste of Zagreb and Zagorje.

→ Stari Fijaker, Mesnička 6 (starifijaker.hr)



Restoran Šarm

Where the main avenues of Heinzelova and Vukovarska meet, near the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, the Restoran Šarm specialises in Slavonian cuisine, so expect plenty of čobanac meat stew and sausage in your bean stew. This homely eatery understands the concept of gableci, offering free soup and dessert with your weekday lunch special, priced around 45kn, invariably a choice of five dishes.

→ Restoran Šarm, Heinzelova 78A (restoran-sarm.com)

Tip-Top

One of the classic Zagreb locales, Tip-Top on Gundulićeva is known to its many regulars as Blato as it was once run by Korčulans. These regulars once included legendary poet from the mid-1900s, Tin Ujević, whose figure in a trademark hat is etched into the front window. Within, upon equally signature red-and-white checked tablecloths, classic gableci are served five days a week, with breaded pork zagrebački odrezak on Saturdays. The weekdays selections seldom waver – if it's Thursday, you can count on an exquisite octopus goulash – and prices hover around the 45kn mark. As of March 2019, Tip-Top has decided to move with times and now offers home deliveries within a 2km range of this classic street corner near the National Theatre.

→ Tip-Top, Gundulićeva 18 (gostionica-tiptop.hr)



Pri zvoncu

Halfway between the Botanical Gardens and the Sava, Pri zvoncu is a world away from the gleaming office fronts of nearby Slavoniska avenija, its rustic terrace open in the warmer months, its interior equally cosy. Like the Tip-Top, it offers cheap specific dishes on certain lunchtimes, cod on Fridays, čobanac meat stew on Wednesdays and grah sausage stew on Mondays. Depending on the season, you can also opt for pork knuckle (buncek) or stuffed peppers.

→ Pri zvoncu, ulica Vrbik XII 1 (prizvoncu.com)



Pivnica Mlinarica

Finally, on the way to the slopes of Sljeme on the city's northern outskirts, where hillside chalets all serve the turkey dish of purica s mlincima, the Pivnica Mlinarica not only offers great gableci with mlinci, strips of dried flatbread usually soaked in poultry fat, but also its top-quality namesake beer brewed on-site. It's close-ish to Mirogoj cemetery if you fancy combining some sightseeing in the same area, or hop on a No.8 tram to Jandrićeva from the bus station or the Sheraton Hotel, or the No.14 from the main square.

→ Mlinarica, Matije Jandrića 35 (facebook.com/pivnica.mlinarica)

Amfora

Back in the very heart of town, at the city's Dolac market behind the main square, the Amfora fries up or grills anything it can find from the fishmongers, squid, sardines and anchovies, and serves them with potato salad and a glass of wine for 35kn. There are daily fish options as well, plus seafood favourites such as crni rižot, risotto in squid ink. This is all strictly no-frills but all the better for it – locals wouldn't eat here otherwise.

→ Amfora, Dolac 2 (facebook.com/pages/Bistro-Amfora/479660312452663)

Dessert 2.0

Classic desserts are getting an upgrade in Zagreb, as Morana Zibar from Taste of Croatia discovers.

THERE ARE LOADS of patisseries and pastry shops vying for the attention of sweet tooths, and many claim a long tradition in Zagreb. You can find all sorts of cookies, biscuits and cakes from old-school bakers like Jakšić, reliable crowd-pleasers like Vincek or fancy patisseries like Amelie. Some, such as Princess, stick to the classics but there are also traditionalists who are not afraid to experiment – Orijent is particularly boundary-challenging.

In Zagreb, pastry chefs don't wander off into flamboyant and exotic directions and tend to stick to what their customers like. There's nothing wrong with that. If you want creativity when it comes to desserts, you can get bags of it at fine-dining restaurants, where pastry chefs at Dubravkin put or Noel work wonders. But the average patisserie (slastičarna) was long due a shake-up.

The first really modern pastry shop in Zagreb was called Mak na konac, run by Petra Jelenić, one of Croatia's most famous pastry chefs. Uncompromising in her style, using only first-class ingredients and French-school techniques, she often re-interpreted the tastes of her childhood. This innovative patisserie eventually closed down, the concept was perhaps too



Meet Mia



Amelie

progressive for such a small market. But Petra's work was ground-breaking, inspiring a new wave of pastry magicians. Now, Meet Mia on Vlaška Street is raising the bar, offering freshly creative desserts, but on a smaller scale. Alongside the classics of macrons, cupcakes and croissants, some of the cakes are little works of modern art, with unexpected combinations of flavours.

In 2017, a new patisserie changed everything. A spin-off of Time restaurant in downtown Zagreb, the young mastermind behind it was Robert Hromalić who learnt his trade from the famous French pastry chef Yann Couvreur. Perhaps a bit too adventurous and prohibitively expensive for a classic Zagreb slastičarnica, the shop sadly closed last year. But enter Zagreb's newest contender, Le Kolač. Robert Hromalić is the resident pastry chef; the cakes are just as chic but priced more reasonably at 26 kuna (€2.50). There's never been a sweeter time to eat in Zagreb.

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Soul food

There's a renaissance happening in Croatian cooking, and R'n'B festival is here to prove it.

CROATIAN GASTRONOMY is having a moment. A new wave of chefs are bringing classic Croatian dishes to the fore, mixing them with European experimentation to create an entirely new breed of Mediterranean cuisine. It hasn't gone unnoticed, either. The world's food bible, Michelin, gave five stars to the country last year. In 2016, there wasn't a single Michelin-starred restaurant in Croatia. Now, the guide recommends 63 restaurants, with five proud recipients of their elusive award.

'This selection shows the potential of the Croatian gastronomic scene, enriched by multiple influences; from the Mediterranean tastes in Dalmatia, Italian influences in Istria and Slavic tastes from Zagreb to Slavonia, which together creates

'A new wave of chefs are bringing classic Croatian dishes to the fore, mixing them with European experimentation'

a unique culinary identity,' said Gwendal Poullennec, the international director of Michelin guides, when handing out shiny new stars to Croatia this year.

The folks behind Rovinj's Weekend Media festival have taken note. The regional showcase for all things media, the festival celebrates its twelfth year in business this summer. They've now turned their sights to Croatia's flourishing food scene. With categories covering every cuisine imaginable, the first ever R'n'B Weekend festival brings together restauranters, mixologists and sommeliers to reward talent in this ever-evolving industry. It's also an excuse to sample some of the best booze and culinary treats Zagreb has to offer.

Hrvoje Petrić is a food writer, consultant and leading light in the

world of Croatian gastronomy. As an organiser of the R'n'B Weekend festival in Zagreb, he's got a few theories on why Croatian cuisine is beginning to get the recognition it deserves: 'One of the greatest things happening in Croatian gastronomy right now is that more than ever, young chefs are highly educated. They are doing internships and cooking abroad in the best kitchens, and under the biggest culinary names – and then returning to Croatia. That is what's important.'

Enviously talented young chefs like Robert Hromalić, who worked under the famous French pâtisserie artist Yann Couvreur, are wending their way back to Croatia. Robert now heads up the fabulous Le Kolac in Zagreb, producing masterful creations almost too good to eat. It's things like this that make Hrvoje hopeful about the industry, despite the haemorrhaging of many young Croatians to Germany or Ireland: 'Some of them are opening



RESTAURANTS & BARS WEEKEND

MAY 23-26 2019 | HAZU GLIPTOTEKA, ZAGREB



Cogito Coffee

their own restaurants or bistros in Croatia and some of them are entering the gastro scene as sous chefs in well-renowned restaurants. It is the same with young pastry chefs. This is what is bringing life to the gastro-scene, a sort of a renaissance.'

R'n'B celebrates this 'renaissance' with local produce and ingredients at the heart of the event. 'More than ever, we are recognised for outstanding produce – our world famous olive oil, our tradition with the best sea salt. All these producers are of exceptional quality and have the potential to grow because of it.' Sea salt and olive oil are two major festival themes.

Although mostly industry-led, punters can pop along to workshops on everything from Croatia's craft beer revolution, baking sourdough bread and cocktail pairing - with some talks in English. Coffee, a sacrosanct



Noel

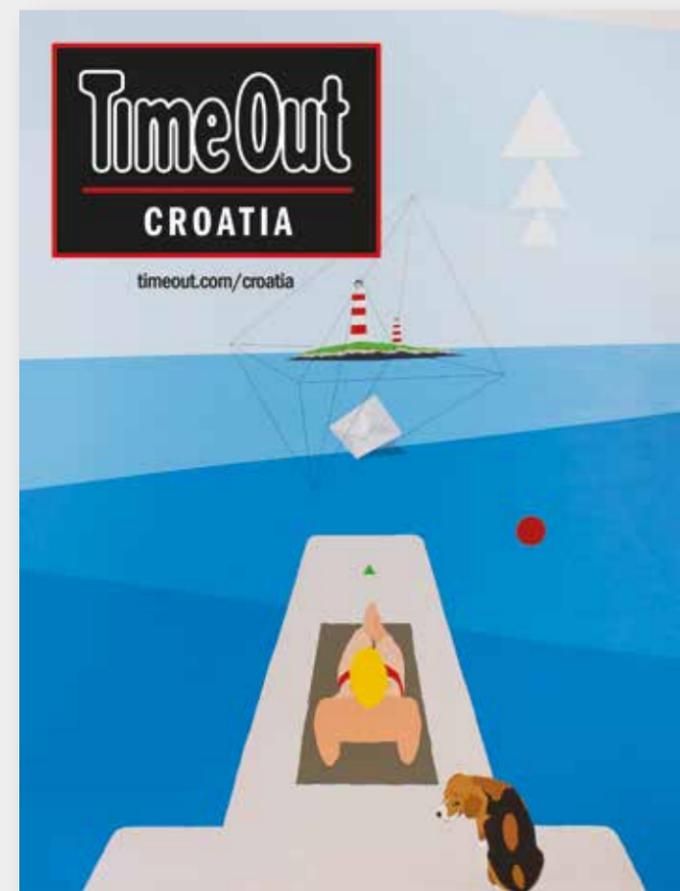
part of Croatian life, gets its own programme called Zagreb Coffee Weekend. Run by Matija Hrkać of Cogito, Zagreb's first specialty coffee store, the franchise went global this year with the opening of their first shop in Chicago. The weekend celebrates third-wave coffee, with talks by Saša Šestić and coffee writer Scott Rao - plus highly-caffeinated coffee tastings, of course. Once you've come down from the coffee buzz, there's plenty going on in the bar and restaurant areas, with tastings in the day and parties throughout the night.

For its first edition, R'n'B festival has a special surprise up its sleeve. To honour the event, Michelin will be issuing a brand new star to one of the country's best restaurants, generating plenty of buzz in the Croatian media. Time Out will also be toasting the best restaurants and bars with our own series of awards, acknowledging the most daring, cool and original venues in Croatia. This, according to Hrvoje, nicely summarises the spirit of the event: 'This was our idea with the R'n'B Weekend festival. To gather the very best from all these fields. Those who are now at the peak of their creativity, to have those who are now at the top of their game, to gather them all in one place to see where this revolution of Croatian gastronomy can go.'

→ R'n'B Festival (mbweekend.hr) HAZU Gliptoteka, Medvedgradska 2. May 23-26

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Drinking

Sup Zagreb?

The best craft beer in the city.

ALMOST non-existent a decade ago, Croatia's craft beer scene is buzzing and shows no signs of letting up. Zagreb is the epicentre of this taste revolution and you should definitely look out for craft beer brands like Pulfer, PriMarius, Križevačko, Beckers and Mlinarica while you are in the city. Here are some of the best craft beers to sample in Zagreb.

Medvedgrad

Pre-dating Croatia's ten-year-old craft beer revolution, Medvedgrad is a Zagreb-based brewer as known for its great pubs as it is for great beer. Their Mali Medo pub on Tkalčićeva has long offered visitors their first taste of decent Croatian beer, their similarly spacious venue off Ilica has a great courtyard area out back. Stand-out brews are the strong in flavour (and alcohol) Fakin IPA, dark, reddish lager Grička Vještica, a newer, fruity, bitter lager called Baltazar, a wheat beer, their great standard lager Zlatni Medo plus special seasonal options. Celebrations for Medvedgrad brewery's special 25th year include the opening of their new brewery on Huzjanova ulica 36, west Zagreb, on May 11 (with Jimi Hendrix, and

Azra tribute bands), their Fakin Craft Fest, taking place on June 7-8 in front of and around Fakin Craft bar (25 guest international breweries will attend). In September, Medvedgrad will also be hosting a special birthday concert at their new brewery.



5th Element

5th Element make a range of craft beers at Croatia's second oldest brewery (and the oldest to still remain on its original site), the pivovara in Daruvar. Some are unfiltered, like the Bonner Bohemian Pilsner, which rivals their standard Lela lager as one of the best of its kind in Croatia. The range can contain up to nine different beers and you won't find a bad one among them. Highlights include the flavoursome American Blonde Ale and their delicious wheat beer.

Nova Runda

Like some of the country's oldest beers, the story of Nova Runda can be traced back to the Croatian city of Daruvar, where this brand began life as a home brewing unit. These days, it's a fully fledged brewery, located in Jastrebarsko, southwest of Zagreb. Their range of beer should be top of the list of ones for visitors to try, not least because its draught status means it is only available in Croatia and a few neighbouring countries. Although early award-winning successes came from their development of porters, these guys are absolutely nuts about the pale ale family. They can have as many as nine beers available and last year eight of them were pale ales, including their lip-smackingly good American Pale Ale and the knockout C4 IPA.

The Garden Brewery

Founded by the team of British entrepreneurs behind the Garden festival, the Garden Brewery doubles up as a great music venue (see nightlife). The first craft brewery to produce beer in cans in Croatia, they're also the most successfully exported craft beers made in the country. Using all-natural ingredients, including fresh hops from America, Japan, Germany and Slovenia, their pale ales and pilsner are of particular note. Keep an eye out for short-run seasonal beers like the Christmas Vanilla and Chocolate Porter, one of the best you'll ever try.

Zmajska

One of Zagreb's earliest craft breweries, when Zmajska arrived on the scene, some were slightly dubious about their small 33ml bottles (prior to their arrival, bland

lager beers usually came only in 50ml). A barrier-breaking brewery, Zmajska's orange labelled IPA was Croatia's first, a sharp and fruity beer that arrived like a taste explosion in a landscape of abysmal chemical lagers. Some say their stronger Pozoj IPA is better, but make sure you try their wheat beer, seasonal specials and porter too, the latter was also Croatia's first. Having opened their taproom to the public, guided tours of this craft brewery, located in the west of Zagreb, are now available. 2019 will see them organise the second Zmajjevo festival of craft beer and music which takes place at the brewery on June 29. Eight guest breweries will be in attendance, as will local bands like Šank.

Varionica

Matija Mrazek and Davor Simičić and their unerring passion for

beer turned a homebrewing set-up into a fully functional brewery. One of craft beer's underdogs, they've reached terrific heights with high-quality beer and word-of-mouth buzz. Current varieties include Siesta Session, a light India Pale Ale and Neon Stout, a divine treat of chocolate and oats. Their mainstay Pale Ale is perhaps more easily acquired and arguably their best.

You can try these beers in Zagreb at venues like the Medvedgrad pubs, Garden Brewery, Pločnik, Summit Club, Pivnica Bobi&Rudi, Pub na kraju svijeta, Čvenk, Valhalla, Krčma Horvati, Kvazar, Tolkien's House, Harats Pub, Beertija 2, Veliki Tolc, Carpe Diem, Melin, Taban, Tomato bar, 22000 Milja, Vespa, Quahwa, Swanky Hostel, Buzz, Bastion 19, Pin Up, Bacchus, Stross bar, Domus and Zmajska pivovara Taproom.



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Raise a glass

Pacta Connect's Judith Burns toasts her favourite wine bars in the city.

DUBRAVKIN PUT

WHY GO? Modernist, innovative, fine dining degustation menus and a list of over 500 Croatian wines pair well together. For some suitably modern-style superbly mineral wines try Geržinić's new Rosé or Malvazija for the perfumed scent of summer in a glass.

DRINK THIS: Marko Geržinić has made a superbly mineral new Rosé from his Teran grapes; it's reminiscent of the scents of summer. → Dubravkin Put (gerzinic.com)

KORČULA

WHY GO? The Korčula is a timeless traditional fish and seafood restaurant, so try and choose a tippie local to that region. Wines by the glass here, Čara Pošip with a seafood carpaccio, and Korta Katarina's Rose with the squid or fish baked in a salt crust should help transport you to the Adriatic.

DRINK THIS: Čara Pošip to match the seafood carpaccio or baked fish. → restoran-korcula.hr

CHEESE BAR

WHY GO? Sharing platters of Croatian cheese with olives, bread, Kulen and pršut, drizzled with regional olive oils and accompanied by lots of wine by the glass (predominantly Istrian), but try Krauthaker's fragrant whites from Krndija or local Zagreb producers Vina Jakob's gently peppery syrah.

DRINK THIS: Vina Jakob's gently peppery syrah, local Zagreb winery to match cheese and kulen platters. → [The Cheese Bar \(\[vinajakob.hr\]\(http://vinajakob.hr\)\)](http://TheCheeseBar(vinajakob.hr)

VINOTEKA BORNSTEIN

WHY GO? With its large vaulted ceilinged cellar, it's a wine shop and bar and offers an introduction to Croatian wines by regional tastings. Head for the Zagreb Hills for something local accompanied by olive oil and breads. Josić Graševina is a must, and Šember's wines feature on the list, try their Riesling (Rajnski Rizling) or their heady amphorae version of the same, Qvevri (2011) if they have any left.

DRINK THIS: Josić Graševina as an aperitif, or to pair with the sharing platters and your friends at Vinoteka Bornstein. (josic.hr) → bornstein.hr

ZINFANDEL'S AT REGENT ESPLANADE

WHY GO? Spoil for choice at the top end, their extensive wine list is split into Croatian regions. To prove that Croatia can make decent sparkling wine, try Tomac's Millennium (Brut) or richer and more textured Amfora Brut Nature (50 percent Chardonnay and 50 percent Plešivica). Try Kutjevo's wine legend Enjingi's 2009 pinot noir barrique. And they still have some of Frano Miloš's extraordinary Stagnum, a plavac mali from Ston on the Pelješac peninsula.

DRINK THIS: Frano Miloš extraordinary 'Stagnum', barrel-aged plavac mali from Ston. → milos.hr

BISTRO APETIT

WHY GO? This long-standing well-known Michelin guide restaurant overseen by Marin Rendić has some good regional producers.

DRINK THIS: Korak's Chardonnay (2013) or Sauvignon (2016) are both cracking whites from the local area (from Jastrebarsko). Or look further east to Baranja and the Danube for Josić Graševina Superior, one of our absolute favourites. → bistroapetit.com

Hvar in a bottle

300 days of sunshine, 50 days of island rain and hand-foraged juniper berries packed with essential oils go into every bottle of Hvar22 gin.



EVERY YEAR visitors flock to Croatia's famous shores, spending their holiday swimming in crystal clear seas and basking under the guaranteed summer sun. Blessed with more sunny days than anywhere else in the country, island Hvar's almost 3000 hours of annual sunshine help produce the all natural ingredients that go into the unique Hvar22 gins. Like your

holiday in Croatia, Hvar22 gins have a taste not easily forgotten. At a small distillery on Hvar, Carić has for many years been taking advantage of the bounty produced on the natural paradise. After discovering his small distillery by accident, business partners Križan Pavić and Juraj Bartolić were astounded by the quality of Carić's gin and

have invested heavily in order to introduce the new range of Hvar22 gins to the world. Collecting rainwater in the time honoured island tradition, they blend some of the hundreds of natural herbs that grow on Hvar with orange and lemon peel from nearby island Vis to make the five distinct gins of Hvar22. Unusually using wine distillate which is

produced from four native Hvar grapes, after passing six times through a secret, all natural filtration process, Hvar22 gins are a sip so smooth they are as capable of winning over new admirers as they are the ultimate pleasure for gin connoisseurs. Hvar's golden juniper berries, which contain three times more essential oils than the kinds

regularly used in gin production, are balanced with herbs like coriander and rosemary, each handpicked, giving Hvar22's owners, Križan Pavić and Juraj Bartolić with their distiller Carić, the confidence to sign off each of their distinctive bottles by hand. The vivid aroma, taste and colour of Hvar22 gins are demanded by Croatia's very best

cocktail makers, their unmissable bottles on view behind the bar at some of the country's most exclusive hotels. Using only natural, locally grown ingredients, be sure to take a bottle of Hvar22 gin home with you. Hvar22 gins make the perfect gift for your friends or even just for yourself, a wholly unique drink from an unforgettable holiday.

Music



Get out!

Marc Rowlands previews the cream of the city's outdoor music festival scene.



Zagreb Beer Fest

A wonderful weekend in the park, Zagreb Beer Festival gives you the opportunity to taste new craft beer from Croatia and beyond. You'll find all the major craft breweries here and a variety of tasty street food vendors. Being a free festival, most of the bands and musicians are homegrown talent, but they are usually from the top flight of current acts in the country. The event, which is held in the city centre park of Doctor Franjo Tuđman, is very popular with locals, but visitors would also be well advised to check it out. Music this year comes from regional acts like Psihomodo Pop, Svemirko, Haiku Garden, ESC Life, Punčke, Urban & 4, Detour, Boris Štok, Luce, Rolo and Electric Octopus. This year promises to be the best yet and, showing a marked increase in ambition, international visitors are finally being appealed to with the addition of international headliners Morcheeba.

→ Park Doctor Franjo Tuđman, Thur May 16 - Sun May 19

We Love Sound Festival

Zagreb's premier one-day outdoor rave takes place near Lake Jarun, to the west of the city centre. Having previously hosted internationally-recognised names from the genres of house, tech house and techno, expectations are high for this 2019 event. Headlining DJs this year are Ibiza regular



Seth Troxler, Swiss tech house favourite Sonja Moonear and local lad Andrea Ljekaj, who has released on Get Physical.

→ Lake Jarun, Sat Jun 1 - Sun Jun 2

Flyaway Festival

Flyaway Festival is an electronic dance music festival held within the unique location of Castle Erdödy in Kerestinec, just a few kilometres to the south-west of Zagreb. The event attracts a friendly local audience but is also very welcoming to visitors. You'll find as many as three areas of music, covering house, techno and tech house, with a few international DJs accompanying a decent line-up of homegrown talent. Productions values here are highly impressive and compliment the impressive architectural backdrop well. The sound quality, visuals and theatrics on display here are more than adequate and provide for a truly memorable session. This year's guest DJs include French DJ Julian Jeweil and Juliet Fox, who has released on Drumcode, Relief Records, Toolroom Trax and Cajual Records.

→ Castle Erdödy in Kerestinec, Sat Jun 15 - Sun Jun 16

INmusic Festival

The Cure, Foals, Suede, Garbage, LP, The Hives, Kurt Vile & The Violators, Johnny Marr, The Hives, Frank Turner & Sleeping Souls, Santigold, Sofi Tukker, Peter Bjorn & John, Skindred, Zeal & Ardor and many more will appear at this year's INmusic Festival, Croatia's leading alternative rock music festival. Offering three days of rock and indie fun in a peaceful setting, just next to the man-made lake in Jarun park, west of Zagreb's city centre, it's an event of lazy, sunshine filled days, sat on the grass or beneath trees and nights filled with rock anthems and legendary performances (just ask anyone who caught The Stooges or David Byrne here in recent years!). INmusic has doubtless put Zagreb on the international music festival map, coaxing some of the best modern rock and indie bands, cult heroes and world musicians to the city, along with

many international attendees. There's a great modern campsite open for eight days during the festival. And there are plenty of afterparties and activities happening in and around the city at the same time.

→ Lake Jarun, Jun 24 - Jun 26

Zagreb Classic

In time honoured fashion, Zagreb has the ability to astonish visitors who arrive by train. Stepping from the central station, Glavni Kolodvor, the view which greets you is breathtaking. Beyond the imposing statue of King Tomislav, the tree-lined park named after him stretches out before you, its flowers in bloom, its fountains sparkling, until it reaches the brilliant yellow of the Art Pavilion, south east Europe's oldest art gallery.

But, arrive in Zagreb at the end of June or beginning of July (or in December, for Advent) and this vista holds one more impressive surprise.

Zagreb Classic is a two-week period of free classical music concerts held in King Tomislav park. A grand stage, befitting the country's best and visiting guest orchestras, is positioned just in front of the Art Pavilion and with no understated sense of ceremony, entertains allcomers with early evening and nighttime concerts under the stars.

There are very few European cities where you would find such a continued commitment to providing the very best of classical music, free of charge, sustained over such a lengthy period. Truly, one of the most magical evenings you can have in this city is to sit before such a collection of lifelong musicians, within the glorious surroundings of the park, sharing the grass on a warm summer evening with locals of every generation and visitors from all over the world. One night you might witness the Zagreb Philharmonic in full flight, another you may be treated to visiting stars from the world of opera, Guest international soloists always appear within the programme and you'll often find the region's folk music present in proceedings, whether that be a world-recognised gypsy violinist or someone like leading Balkan composer, Goran Bregović, who presented his 'Three Letters From Sarajevo' score here just a couple of years ago. Aiming to make high art accessible to all, you may also find the odd pop star or familiar song within the programme; previous years have seen Croatian duo 2Cellos perform here, as well as the songs of musical theatre, performed with as much attention to detail as the opera. Live orchestrated soundtracks of silent movies have also featured in recent years.

→ Late June/July.



Music

Crossover Festival

One of the standout highlights of last summer, Crossover Festival feels like no other music event held in the city centre. Its location at Ribnjak park, just a few minutes walk from Zagreb's bustling main square, lends Crossover the same vibe as you might find when visiting a festival way out in the countryside, its main stage surrounded by trees which are decorated by lanterns. The audience, a mixture of visitors and locals of all ages, although mainly young, lay on picnic blankets, snacked on street food and took advantage of the great craft beer on offer, while funk, soul, jazz, brass, folk and alternative bands entertained, two per day, over the course of four days. Being a free entry festival, there were no queues to come and go and passers-by were drawn in to mingle with the music lovers, creating a wonderfully welcoming and inclusive event. It's a great place to meet and hang out with locals and friends, away from the intrusive excess of loud music and alcohol that you might find in a busy nightclub. Zagreb's warm summer nights lend themselves so well to such an event. And, so successful was this pitch-perfect combination of music, setting, atmosphere, food and drink, that the city is perhaps missing a trick in not utilising more this wonderful oasis of green in its heart. This year, Techno Vikings return with their saxophones-and-drums take on '90s rave classics, the angular punk funk of excellent Zagreb trio Sfumato features and the popular Jeboton Ensemble bring a largely acoustic sense of rowdiness to proceedings with their multi-vocalist lineup. Also appearing are playful and fun Russian ska outfit Karl Hlamkin, who add a Balkan-esque brass sound to their rowdy songs in order to bring audiences to their feet, Argentinian duo Helado Infinito who combine pop, folk and electronics, leading Zagreb alternative combo Porto Morto and innovative Israeli double bass player Adam Ben Ezra.

→ Ribnjak park, July 3-7



International Folklore Festival

Throughout the year, Zagreb's streets are sporadically brought to life with the sound of musical entertainment. While this creates a wonderful atmosphere, it can't always be said that the sounds are as wonderful upon their arrival in the ears of visitors. Quite often, musical events display ignorance of Zagreb visitors that at best could be described as ambivalence or merely a lack of ambition. The same old Croatian rock bands are frequently wheeled out, airing what to foreign visitors sounds like third rate versions of 20-year-old rock also-rans, but with impenetrable lyrics. Absolutely nothing about such bland bands displays the uniqueness of Croatian culture, which is why Zagreb's International Folklore Festival is such a tremendous treat. Here, costumed dancers and well-practised musicians offer you a taste of historic Croatian traditions in music and dance which you simply could not see elsewhere. And it is charming throughout. Festival contributors practise for months on end before their appearances and are bussed to Zagreb from every corner of Croatia (or further still), arriving to showcase the unique aspect on folklore from their particular region. The festival features parades, concerts and dances by dedicated local and international

folklore societies and this year's theme is the old transport route between Zagreb and Rijeka, in honour of the latter's 2020 European Capital of Culture status. A family-friendly event that is not easily forgotten, performances take place on Zagreb's main square and elsewhere around the city.

→ Various venues (msf.hr), July 17 - 21

OUT OF TOWN FESTIVALS

Hoomstock

There are usually few international bands visiting Zagreb throughout July, but this nearby music festival will cure the cravings of music crazed consumers. Taking place in Hum na Sutli, about an hour's drive north of Zagreb, next to the Slovenian border, this two-day festival costs a bargain 40 kunas and features great names from the region's music scene. This year, headliners include Rijeka's ever-entertaining arch provocateurs Let 3, Split hip hop veteran Vojko Vručina, Them Moose Rush, Paul The Walrus and Kawasaki 3P. The festival cooperates with nearby spa Terme Tuhelj and offers a free bus service between the festival site and pools. There's free camping too.

→ Hum na Sutli, Fri Jul 5 - Sat Jul 6

River Festival

Located one and a half hours drive (or one hour 45 minutes by train - the best and easiest option for tourists) to the south-west of Zagreb, River Festival is easily within reach of Croatia's capital and is certainly worth the trip. For the last few years, it has been one of the best annual events at which to experience Croatia's homegrown underground electronic music talent. Sadly this will be the final edition, occurring over a 12 hour period from 5pm on Saturday until 5pm on Sunday. The event is held in a secluded and beautiful location at the side of the river Mrežnica. Deep house and underground techno come from what is genuinely the best of Croatia's homegrown DJ talent. Take a tent or, like many, just rest beneath the shade of the trees, choosing between swimming in the river or playing games by day, and raving at night. River Festival is noted for being welcoming and friendly. Almost everyone will speak English and by the time you leave, you'll know half of the couple hundred strong crowd, including some of Zagreb's best party people.

→ Generalski Stol, Sat Jul 20 - Sun Jul 21



NOVEMBER 2019

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Synthesizer Dreams

The time is ripe to rediscover Croatia's electronic avant-garde, argues Jonathan Bousfield.



transform the Zagreb of the Sixties into a fulcrum of the global avant-garde. Or at least that's how it was enshrined in local mythology. Like most avant-garde events, the Biennale had an electrifying effect on a small number of enthusiasts and critics, and was largely misunderstood or ignored by everyone else.

Legend has it that Biennale founder Milko Kelemen exploited Cold War rivalries to get the festival off the ground. Having sweet-talked Moscow into sending him the Bolshoi Ballet, he then persuaded the Americans into letting him have the avant-garde musicians he really wanted.

In its Sixties and Seventies heyday the Biennale attracted composers of the caliber of Igor Stravinsky, Olivier Messiaen, Witold Lutosławski, Krzysztof Penderecki, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Luigi Nono, many of whom premiered works specifically commissioned by the festival. The first edition of the Biennale prompted an article in the New York Times entitled "Revolution in Zagreb", generating the kind of cultural soft power that nowadays only comes from the Adriatic tourist industry or location shoots for Game of Thrones.

Recent interest in the art and architecture of the Cold War period has enhanced our

appreciation of Zagreb's cutting-edge role. The Croatian capital was one of the most culturally active cities in the socialist, non-aligned federal state of Yugoslavia, and arguably benefited from the creative possibilities this between-the-blocs status engendered. Indeed the ambiguities of culture in this period have become a major intellectual preoccupation, with historians riffling through the art, architecture and music of the epoch like DJs searching for rare grooves.

Fitting therefore that one of the keepers of Croatia's avant-garde musical flame should himself be a former DJ of some distinction. Sound engineer and composer Višeslav Laboš was a cutting-edge knob-twiddler in Zagreb clubs when he began to explore electronic music's experimental roots. "I remember reading Wire magazine in the early 2000s" he says, "and being intrigued to see front covers where the names of contemporary DJs appeared alongside the likes of Karlheinz Stockhausen and John Cage."

This launched Laboš on an obsessive quest to piece together the history of electronic music in Croatia, from the earliest exercises in experimental music to the commercial synthi-beat bands of the 1980s. Together with cultural historian Željko Luketić, he put together the compilation Electronic Jugoton: Synthetic Music From Yugoslavia 1964-1989, a 2-CD set which placed the electro-pop acts

of the Eighties side-by-side with the avant-garde composers of the Sixties and Seventies. The tracks were culled from the archives of Jugoton, the Zagreb-based record label (still operating, but now under the name of Croatia Records) that signed acts from all over the former Yugoslavia. Electronic Jugoton doesn't therefore just include chart-topping Croatian synthesizer duo Denis i Denis, but also acts like Belgrade pop conceptualists U Škripcu and Ljubljana's disco-Goth pioneers Borghesia. However it was Laboš's inclusion of previously-unreleased experimental work from 'serious' composers like Igor Kuljerić and Silvio Foretić that took people by surprise – people knew that they were well-respected figures in contemporary music, but had little idea how far-out their electronic works actually were.

Laboš's next CD project, U potrazi za novim zvukom ("In Search of New Sound"), dug deeper into the archives, presenting 21 electronic works by 14 composers. Laboriously pieced together from old tapes, it was a pioneering exercise in cultural reconstruction that made the forgotten world of Croatian experimental music look much richer and intriguing than anyone had previously supposed. Laboš went on to release further CDs dedicated to two of the key composers, Silvio Foretić (born 1940), who studied under Stockhausen and has always been associated with the avant-garde, and Igor Kuljerić (1938-2006), who was a conductor and orchestral composer as well as an enthusiastic dabbler in new technology.

Igor Kuljerić served as artistic director of the Biennale in the early Eighties, widening its appeal by introducing an alternative rock strand to the proceedings. Gang of Four famously played here in 1981 and went on to exert a significant influence on the Zagreb post-punk scene. It was Slovene group Laibach's turn in 1983 – their blend of industrial cacophony and totalitarian imagery touched too many nerves, and the performance was shut down by the police.

The guest who had most impact over the years was American composer John Cage, whose works formed an important part of the first Biennale, and who performed here himself in 1963. Cage returned as composer in residence in 1985, when his piece A Collection of Rocks was performed by over 150 high-school children spread throughout the foyer of the Lisinski Concert hall.

In a sense, however, the Biennale existed as a platform for the international A-list rather than a showcase for home-grown talent. This was particularly true of the electronic side of things, which didn't feature in the Biennale until 1969. As Silvio Foretić once joked to Višeslav Laboš, the Biennale existed in order to show what was going on in the world but also what Croatian composers themselves were not allowed to do.

In this sense the Biennale was a typically ambiguous expression of Cold-War culture, demonstrating that non-aligned Yugoslavia was cool enough to host the likes of Cage, but stopping short of fully legitimizing the freedom of its own artists. Indeed foreign participation in

the Biennale has tended to dominate the way the in which the festival is written about. Far more attention has been paid by historians to what Cage did in Zagreb than to the Zagreb scene itself.

Frequently denied access to the Biennale, local composers were able to perform new works at the Musical Forum (Muzička Tribina), an event held every other autumn in Opatija. It was here that audiences could hear the far-out tape and electronic pieces that are nowadays considered emblematic of the era, but which at the time were rarely heard.

The Biennale itself is still going strong, although it has lost much of the cutting edge that initially made it world famous. The cause of experimental music has been taken up by ZEZ (Zavod za eksperimentalni zvuk or "Institute of Experimental Sound"), a festival which this year took place in the decidedly non-concert hall environs of the KSET student cub.

The fact that Croatia's electronic avant-garde never played a major role in the Biennale in the past and is still not on the repertoire today is an inexplicable omission that Višeslav Laboš has spent years trying to correct. The otherworldly music on the Laboš-curated Igor Kuljerić compilation is as haunting and beautiful as anything ever recorded by a Croatian composer.

For Laboš, the uniqueness of Foretić, Kuljerić and others of their generation has much to do with the fact that they had to be quite determined and resourceful to get anything down on tape. "Croatian composers rarely had the luxury of being allowed to use studios for a long periods; Kuljerić was able to record in Milan due to his friendship with the studio engineer, and there was a certain guerilla quality to Croatian works of this period. This is what gives them a certain emotional feel – they were not part of the regular programme of these studios, and had an immediacy and warmth that other electronic works lacked."

→ Electronic Jugoton: Synthetic Music From Yugoslavia 1964-1989 is available from Croatia Records



Five sonic pioneers

1 Silvio Foretić
The enfant terrible of Croatian music in the Sixties, Foretić was the first to compose music for tape, and headed the Ensemble for Contemporary Music, an experimental performance group much influenced by John Cage.

2 Igor Kuljerić
Electronic music was just one aspect of Kuljerić's career as composer, conductor and all-round organizer; his genre-busting experimental compositions possess a rare beauty.

3 Igor Savin
Prime exponent of early moog synthesizers, Moroder-style electro-disco and dreamy instrumentals, Savin's 1982 album Childhood is Croatia's answer to Tangerine Dream.

4 Denis i Denis
The Rijeka-based duo took the keyboards-and-vocalist template from the UK synthi-pop scene of the early Eighties, and turned it into a pan-Balkan hit machine.

5 Dorian Gray
There's something distinctly Roxy-Bowie-Simple Minds about Dorian Gray, Croatia's slickest Eighties outfit. Their second album Samo za tvoje oči (For Your Eyes Only) represents the peak of local synthi-rock-pop production.

Sounds of the summer



THE CROATIAN MUSIC SCENE is in a very healthy place, with singular veterans such as Let3, Josipa Lisac and Darko Rundek still at the peak of their powers in the live arena. There are some exciting younger names to look out for on your visit too, such as Harvo Jay, a quite brilliant alternative rock band from Osijek and Valentino Bošković, a melody-rich seaside duo whose electronic pop will first be performed live at their debut concert on Wednesday 14 February in the year 2046 (half of the duo also releases equally brilliant electronica under the name Fog Frog Dog). But, if you can't wait until 20146 for some live music, here are three hot bands based in Zagreb you should go out of your way to see this summer.

MIMIKA ORCHESTRA

Although first formed in the same all-night jam circles that produced most of the exciting names from the contemporary London jazz scene, the now nine-year-old Mimika Orchestra is firmly at home here in Zagreb. Though happy to be mixing in circles of top class musicians, Mimika's Croatian bandleader Mak Murtić had a calling to return to his home city in order to pursue the project; London's jazz scene at the time felt like a real movement, motivated not just musically but politically too. Murtić's ambition has been to try and recreate something similar in Zagreb, an immediate reaction to the popularity growth of far right politics in eastern and south eastern Europe.

He has done so over the last three years with a whirlwind of ambitious activity, including work with the Croatian Radiotelevision Jazz Orchestra, legendary Yugoslav era musician Darko Rundek, with various band projects such as Truth ≠ Tribe and by acting as a general catalyst for a not small section of the city's live

music scene. You can often see him joining local acts on stage, his saxophone hanging from around his neck. Though, such is the extensive and complicated nature of Mimika, that his saxophone takes the night off when he leads the orchestra from the frontal position of a bandleader and conductor. anything between 12 and 20 members can make up Mimika in performance, including two singers in traditional costume, an extensive brass section, strings, electronics, guitars and percussion. Their music lies somewhere between Sun Ra and Balkan folklore, a snapshot of which was captured well on 2018's highly lauded 'Divinities Of The Earth And The Waters' album. Never one to rest on past achievements, Murt has already constructed the next suite of neo-classical, free jazz and Balkan folklore which will form the basis of Mimika's next studio recordings. It will be premiered at the Kontessa venue in Zagreb on 29 May, but you should be able to see Mimika Orchestra several times over summer, including the Veliki Tabor Film Festival and the Zagreb Music Biennale.

PORTO MORTO

The last surviving group from those which first formed music collective Jeboton, Porto Morto are a Zagreb-based combo who combine art rock, electronica and elements of traditional Balkan musics into their sound. Their self-titled debut album scored highly regionally in end-of-year charts when it emerged in 2017. Having been active on the live scene for several years before then, the arrival of this accomplished debut seemed to take forever. Thankfully, the release of their second album 'Portofon' came with a much shorter wait. Released in late March 2019, the album was preceded by the

single 'Kuća', meaning house or home, their most accessible single to date, which was also accompanied by their best video to date (with views so far approaching 20K). The debut contained more electronic sounds than their live audiences were perhaps expecting and this second continues the trend. But, there's still a rock band identifiable underneath the studio experimentation, at times backed by the brass players that form part of their performance. In concert, the electronics are replaced by an extensive line-up who present their take on the songs, not simply airings of the recordings and with this new material, you're likely to see more dancing at this year's shows, as the band have

deliberately tried to move in the direction of making music that they like to hear and enjoy, rather than merely the music they like to make. They've played headline dates in Belgrade and Novi Sad in support of this new release and hold a hometown album launch at Tvornica Kulture on April 26. They will also appear at Art Zagreb (May 16), Radio na cesti in Split (June 1), Indirekt Festival, north of Umag, Istria (June 8), Pine Fest in Samobor (June 15), Hoomstock Festival in Hum na Sutli (July 5), Velvet Festival on island Krk (July 6) and Ferragosto Jam in Slavonia (August 3), but look out for more dates this summer as news of their great new album spreads.



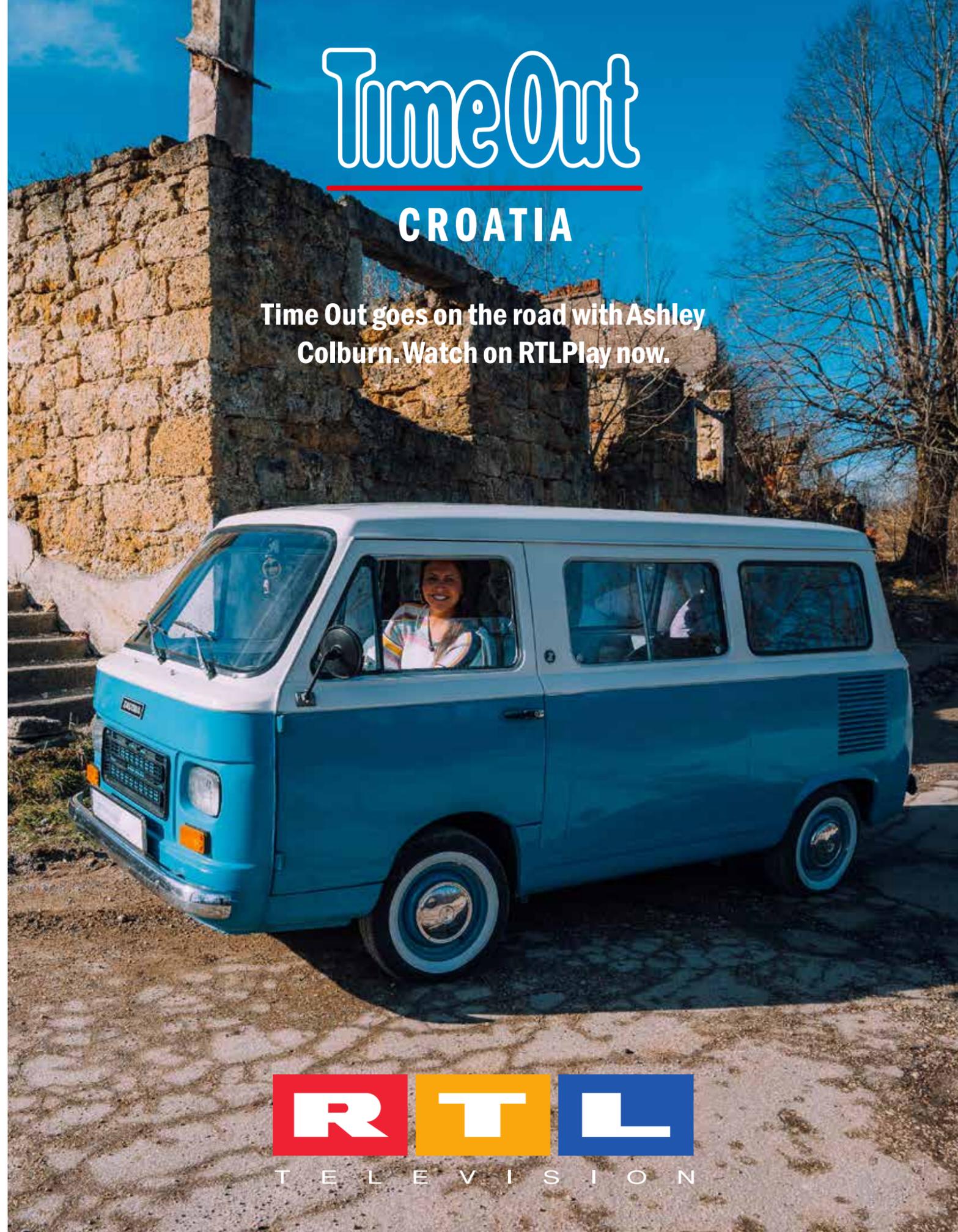


NIPPLEPEOPLE

Rock festival attendees in leather jackets, crop topped students at gay clubs and ravers savouring the end-of-night anthem, tired arms held aloft; across almost all the former Yugoslavia, people are getting down to Nipplepeople. Croatia's most enigmatic pop personae, Nipplepeople formed as a duo around a decade ago and have released roughly one single every year since. With each release, they've built momentum, captured more imaginations, refined their sound, and revealed much about themselves

whilst seemingly revealing absolutely nothing. In videos and at concerts and official engagements they always wear masks, their identities hidden as well as other personal details such as where they come from, how old they are, the status of their relationship outside music or even their sexualities. Is theirs a post-rave soundtrack for the afterparty, a new take on hit-courting synth duos of the 80s or sublime yet quirky pop in classic outsider traditions? Perhaps it's all three, but with their greatest song 'Frka', best video 'Nikada' and a string of sold-out shows coming in

the last four years, the Zagreb-based Nipplepeople look like the Croatian pop act most likely to transcend the language barrier and bother outside charts. They are currently booked to play the Craft Beer and Gin Festival in Pula (April 27), Fortica Festival on island Pag (June 29), OKFest in south-east Bosnia (July 13), Ferragosto Jam in Orahovica, Slavonia, eastern Croatia (August 4) and the Zdravo Mladi Festival in Skopje, Macedonia (August 31), but these are just the so far confirmed dates on what is expected to be a summer of more than 15 dates.



Time Out

CROATIA

Time Out goes on the road with Ashley Colburn. Watch on RTLPlay now.



T E L E V I S I O N



The Garden Brewery

IN THE PAST Zagreb was something of a ghost town in summer, as businesses closed and residents fled the baking hot summer streets for holidays by the sea. But, in recent years Zagreb has experienced huge growth in visitor numbers during the summer. These days, the city and the wisest of businesses not only stay open but put an extra effort into their summer programmes in order to entertain the visiting masses. Nowadays Zagreb feels as thriving mid-summer as it

does in spring when the city's sizeable student population helps to ensure the dancefloor is packed. Here are our tips for nighttime entertainment throughout the period.

Funk Club

Time was when visitors were at a loss for what to do after all the bars on Tkalčićeva closed at midnight, but in recent years many of them have extended their weekend opening hours to

1am. There's even a new Alcatraz/Confusion bar on the strip now that stays open until 4am every night, but prior to its introduction, Funk Club was the best late-night den of iniquity on the street. Still the only credible nightclub on Tkalčićeva, this three-floored favourite holds a dingy and atmospheric basement club which holds a couple of hundred dancers and a DJ on at least Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays every week, with the music ranging

from deep and tech house to breakbeat, electro, disco and worldbeat grooves. The ground floor has more of a pub vibe and the upper floor is a bit more plush, with plenty of high chair seating.

Masters

Located ten minutes to the east of Zagreb city centre by tram, not far from Maksimir park, Masters is a medium-sized rave pit with a more than adequate soundsystem, DJs who know

what they're doing and a loyal cabal of techno and house fans who dance until sunlight or sprawl outside in thick clouds of smoke on the balcony. Zagreb's best underground DJs play here and such is its reputation that many of them would rather hold nights here than anywhere else in the city. It also gets a fair few internationally recognized names passing through its doors and is as dependable a place for an all-night dance music session as anywhere in

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tanzen: Get Physical

Founded by M.A.N.D.Y. DJt and Booka Shade, the era-defining Get Physical label has released music from the likes of Francesca Lombardo, Hot Since 82, Heidi, Francesco Tristano, DJ Pierre and Phuture over a lifespan of a decade and a half. Zagreb crew Tanzen have been bringing some of the best names on the German house music scene to Zagreb for the last six months and this date is no exception. Representing the label at this party are Norwegian producer/DJ Djuma Soundsystem, Frankfurt DJ Roland Leesker of 'My Warehouse' fame and Zagreb's own Get Physical representative Andrea Ljekaj. Although born in Belgrade, Ljekaj was brought up living in Pula, where the city's famous Outlook and Dimensions festivals had a huge impact on his youth. His journey from DJ to producer and house music enthusiast were directly inspired by the festivals and he has been releasing music ever since he moved to Zagreb three years ago. Ljekaj can be found playing at several high profile dates locally this summer and is also currently working on the first Croatia Gets Physical release, which will showcase exclusive tracks made by Croatian artists such as Insolate, Marina Karamarko and Ljekaj himself. The compilation will come mixed by curator Ljekaj, but also as stand-alone EPs, the first of which arrives on May 10th, a week before the party.

The Garden Brewery

Highlights already confirmed for the brewery's spring and summer late night calendar include Chicago house maverick Derrick Carter (Fri 19 April), X-Press 2 and Junior Boys Own veteran Ashley Beedle playing alongside local disco DJ Ilija Rudman (Fri 26 April) and the unpredictable Amsterdam-based selector Young Marco playing at the Love International Festival launch (Sat 11 May). London's disco divas Horse Meat Disco also visit (Fri 24 May), as do Norwegian midtempo master Prins Thomas (Sat 15 June) and wonderful German selector Gerd Janson (Mon 7 October).

Zagreb. One highlight not to miss will be the Strop party (Fri June 21) at which Brighton, one of Zagreb's must-see deep electronic DJs, will play alongside special guest Ron Wilson.

Sound Factory

If you're really not in the mood to sleep on a weekend night, the sizeable SoundFactory venue is often the most dependable option for allnighters. Usually, open only on Fridays and Saturdays, it sometimes covers deep house and techno, but in the main, you're

likely to be hearing tech house here until the sun comes up, shuttered away from the intruding sunlight alongside a few hundred similarly lively peers. Dark and atmospheric, in just the way a club like this needs to be, it sometimes hosts visiting international DJs. Otherwise, seasoned tech house spinners from Croatia will most likely be at the helm. Sound Factory is located in a former industrial area, immediately behind the main train station, where luckily it bothers few neighbours.



The Garden Brewery



Boogaloo

Boogaloo

If you're spending any decent length of time in Zagreb, Boogaloo, which lies a few minutes walk south-west of the main train station, is pretty much unavoidable. That's because this multi-purpose, multi-roomed club is a dab hand at whatever kind of event it takes on. Its live music theatre has a great stage and on any given night could hold visiting cult metal bands or legendary Romani brass orchestras from neighbouring countries. At weekends, it regularly hosts techno parties, often with big international names like Jeff Mills, who just played in early 2019. On such nights, the audience inside is made up of many incredibly thin, Adidas-clad teenagers dancing, wide-eyed and with a near incomprehensible energy and enthusiasm. Rave on!

The Garden Brewery

Located in an industrial estate quite far to the east of Zagreb city centre, the Garden Brewery is the site where they make one of Croatia's most famous craft beers and also a bar that regularly hosts music events with internationally recognised guests. As it's a bit of a trek to get to, it's either a destination venue, where you've planned to stay all night, or it's a car journey with a friend. It is frequently worth the trip though, as the breweries ties to Croatia's festival scene ensure that some of the hottest names visiting Zagreb play here.

Aquarius Club

Aquarius Club is a well-run, sharp-looking, large and popular nightclub located out of the city centre, by lake Jarun, to the west of the city centre. Like The Garden Brewery, it's a destination venue. It's also a clubbing



Funk Club

option to which you could wear a nice shirt and take a date, unlike some of the other rave pits mentioned here which you'd be better off visiting with a gang of mates. Some of its nights hold more mainstream music, electronic and

otherwise, but one notable exception is the Tanzen nights, which have become over the last half year one of the best curated parties in the city for lovers of contemporary Germanic tech and deep house. Roman Flügel and

Tiefschwarz played recently and they have a party with Get Physical, one of Germany's most important and defining labels of the last 15 years (Friday 17 May).



Masters

Zagreb's other film festivals: five of the best

1 Zagreb Film Festival

→ (zff.hr)

The biggest film fest in town, celebrating (mostly independent) cinema from around the world. With different strands in different venues it's a city-wide affair with an enthusiastic public

2 Zagrebdox

→ (zagrebdox.net)

International festival of documentary films attracting big-name guests and some heavyweight premieres.

3 Fantastic Zagreb

→ (fantastic-zagreb.com)

Fantasy, sci-fi, horror and other genre films screened in ambient locations such as the Tuškanac open-air cinema.

4 Human Rights Film Festival

→ (humanrightsfestival.org)

It sounds like a niche event but it's actually very broad based, attracting a range of documentaries and features with a wide spectrum of social concerns.

5 25FPS

→ (25fps.hr)

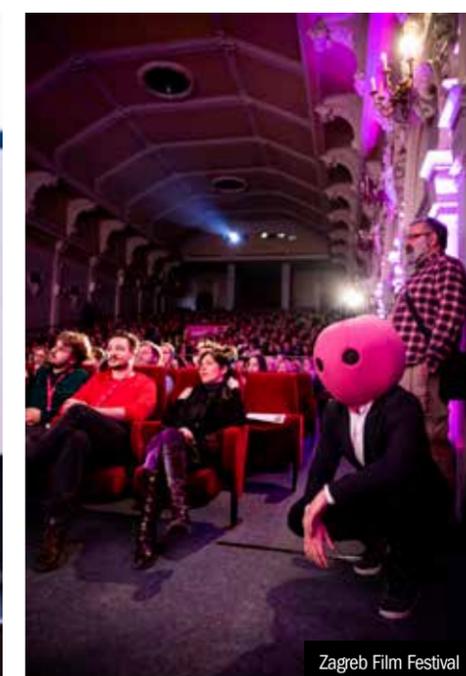
Unmissable showcase of independent and experimental films, gradually growing in scope and reputation since its first edition in 2005.



Fantastic Zagreb



Animafest



Zagreb Film Festival

Film



Animated life

World-spanning animation fest brings Zagreb to life in spring.

OF ALL ZAGREB'S flagship festivals, it is arguably Animafest that enjoys the biggest global reputation. The annual celebration of animated film is not just a platform for local production but an important showcase for the international A-list as well; second only to French cartoon extravaganza Annecy in terms of both longevity and reputation.

'We may not be one of the top-four richest festivals in the world, but we are definitely in the top four when it comes to influence' says Animafest's director Daniel Šuljić. 'You should see how disappointed film-makers are when they're not selected for Zagreb or don't win a prize.'

Animafest was first held in 1972, a time when Zagreb enjoyed international renown as a world centre of animation. Dušan Vukotić had won

an Oscar for his short film *Surrogate* in 1961, a quirky, jazzy piece of work that still looks edgily avant-garde. The swirling psychedelic colours of children's cartoon *Professor Balthazar*, made in Zagreb from 1967 onwards, enchanted television audiences across Europe.

Forty-seven years on, Animafest continues to deliver a deftly-curated selection of films, from children's animation to adult drama and head-scratching experimentation. What you won't get are the big-budget cartoon films made by the major Hollywood studios. This focus on art and innovation helps

'Animafest was first held in 1972, a time when Zagreb enjoyed international renown as a world-centre of animation'

explain why the gongs doled out at Animafest are so coveted within the film-making profession. Success in Zagreb frequently means an Oscar nomination for award-winning directors.

Despite today's runaway inflation in the sheer number of film festivals (there are thought to be as many as fifty such events in Croatia alone), Animafest has retained its position as one of the key events in Zagreb's cultural calendar. Most of the festival screenings take place in the city's independent cinemas, although there's also a free outdoor programme aimed at picnicking families, when a





Animafest



Animafest

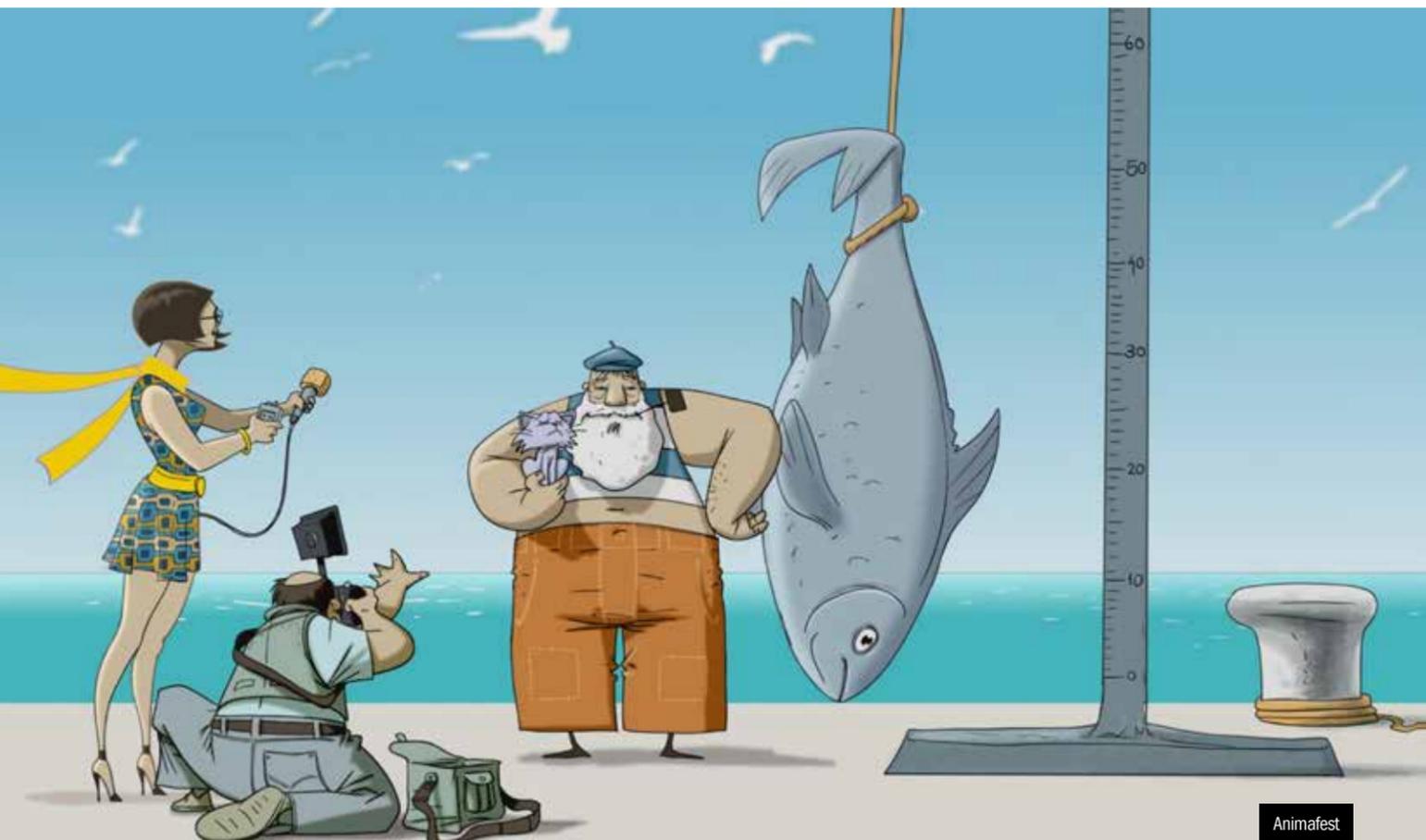
huge screen is erected in one of the city's bigger parks.

The main theme of this year's festival will be the relationship between animation and fine art. As Šuljić explains, the world of animated film often involves a coming together of different disciplines, attracting people from comic strips, experimental film and puppetry – and particularly those of a fine arts background.

By serving as a meeting-place for Croatian talent and the best international animators, the

festival has always been an important catalyst in developing the local animation scene. 'This year there was a record number of entries in the Croatian section' says Šuljić. 'We had far more good films than could ever be included in the festival programme.' In 2017 the festival's Grand Prix (the main prize for international entries) was won by a Croatian-produced film - Nighthawk by Slovene director Špela Čadež, a product of small but versatile Zagreb production outfit Bonobo.

Studios like Bonobo have proved vital in nurturing a new generation of Croatia-based animators, producing the haunting hand-drawn animation of Petra Zlonoga, and the ambiguous stop-motion puppet dramas of Ivana Bošnjak and Thomas Johnson. Names like these are making an increasing impact on foreign festivals. 'Annecy is the biggest in the world and there are four Croatian entries in the international competition this year' says Šuljić, 'which is a lot for a small country.'



Animafest

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Films below the stars

Tuškanac Summer Stage brings cinema to the great outdoors.



THERE ARE FEW BETTER THINGS to do on a star-filled summer evening than watch films in the great outdoors. During mid-summer, Zagreb is hot from day to night. But there is an easy escape from the stifling heat.

Walking off central thoroughfare Ilica, first onto Dežmanova, which becomes Tuškanac, then hanging a quick right onto Dubravkin put when the road forks, will take you to a secret oasis of cooler climes.

Just off Dubravkin put you'll see the Pop Up Summer Garden, a series of huts selling cocktails, street food and craft beer, backdropped by art installations and resident DJs. Located

in a tree-lined park, the whole area is several degrees cooler than the rest of the city centre.

At the end of the summer garden, after walking some short stairs, the man-made amphitheatre of Tuškanac Summer Stage is revealed, its wooden bench seating sloping down in an arc, far below you to where a cinema screen and stage sit completely surrounded by trees.

The Tuškanac Summer Stage was first opened on July 6, 1954. Designed by Kazimir Ostrogović, an architect responsible for many significant works in Croatia, including Zagreb City Hall, the Ruder Bošković Institute building and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and

Naval Architecture in Zagreb, the amphitheatre was a hit attraction in its first few years.

Its popularity dwindled after a decade or so and it ceased to function as a cinema in 1970 and was forgotten for 42 years. Thankfully, a team of enthusiasts came to the rescue of this city centre jewel, first raising awareness, then capital, until they were able to refurbish the site and re-open it on June 27, 2012.

Now able to seat some 700 theatre-goers, the summer cinema plays host to several film festivals and runs a programme throughout the summer season that is as welcoming to visitors as it is beloved by locals.



LJETNA

POZORNICA TUŠKANAC

TUŠKANAC SUMMER STAGE

RASPORED / SCHEDULE 8.6.—8.9.2019.

Animafest - World Animation Festival

8.6. — 9.6.

Motovun Film Festival Review

10.6. — 13.6.

Tuškanac Summer Stage presents...

14.6. — 26.6.

Fantastic Zagreb Film Festival

27.6. — 7.7.

European Film Review

8.7. — 14.7.

Zagreb Film Festival - Best of...

16.7. — 25.7.

Time Out Croatia & Tuškanac Summer Stage presents a week of British music biopic films.

20.8. — 25.8.

Tuškanac Summer Stage presents...

26.7. — 8.9.



Google Maps



Dubravkin put bb, 10000 Zagreb
www.ljepotu.hr
 ljetnapozornicatuskanac
 CentarCesarec

Zagreb with kids



Maksimir Park & Zoo

Defy gravity and see infinity

Close to the main square, the Museum of Illusions bewilders everyone young and old. More than 70 exhibits amaze with tricks of the eye, adjusting the viewer's perception as they see water flow uphill, their friends shrink and the world rotate. You can also feel yourself sinking into a bottomless pit, literally, face five of yourself across a table and disappear into the realm of holograms. A tour round can take an hour or a whole afternoon, it's up to you. The museum opens every day until 10pm and it can also host birthday parties.

→ Ilica 72 (muzejiluzija.com)

WITH TWO BIG PARKS and a recreational lake a tram ride away from the city centre, plus a zoo, a huge model railway and museum full of hands-on wonder to explore, Zagreb has plenty of activities if you're coming here as a family.

Marvel at a huge model railway

A boyhood dream brought to real life, the Backo Mini Express comprises more than a kilometre of track, 150 trains and 1,000 wagons running on eight levels around a converted room just off Ilica. Around the track are bridges, tunnels, lights and numerous small figurines and outdoor features. Once filling the attic of where this boy, Anton Urbić, aka Backo, once lived, the network was adapted to run by computer, which now operates the 15 or so trains that zoom past at any one time. Look out for special ones such as the Orient Express and Santa Fe express.

→ Gundulićeva 4 (backo.hr)



Backo Mini Express

Meet a meerkat

Close to the main entrance of Maksimir Park a ten-minute tram hop from town, Zagreb Zoo is home to more than 2,000 animals representing nearly 300 species, including rarities such as the snow leopard, red panda and scimitar onyx. Dating back nearly a century, it is currently undergoing major renovation, partly completed in 2016. It's always a good idea to time your visit around feeding times – pelicans and sea lions are always fun to watch as they gobble up their offerings, monitor lizards, too. Don't forget to visit the free-flight aviary and explore lemur island. And in case you were wondering, yes, there are meerkats.

→ Maksimirski perivoj 1 (zoo.hr)

Ride a mini train

A treat for the little ones, every weekend a little tourist train runs from the main square through the main streets of the city centre and back again. Done out in Zagreb's signature blue, the train sets off every 40 minutes from 10am to 7.20pm, past the Croatian National Theatre, all the way to the Meštrović Pavilion, the last stop. Not only one of the most stress-free attractions in Zagreb – climb on board and relax – but it's also completely free of charge, a promotion organised by the city transport company ZET. Get to the main square a little ahead of time on busy weekends – it's a popular feature.

→ Trg bana Josipa Jelačića (zet.hr)

Discover a whole new world

Breaking the news that you're taking the kids to technical museum might be a hard sell, but once you tell them about spaceships, submarines and old locomotives they can explore, then they'll be on straight on the tram bound for Savska. As well as displaying vintage transport – trams, hydroplanes and fire engines – the Technical Museum doubles up as a planetarium and an exhibition centre dedicated to pioneering scientist Nikola Tesla, whose study and laboratory are mocked up here. The kids can also experience what it was like to work down a mine, with a life-like model and daily tours.

→ Savska 18 (tehnicki-muzej.hr)

Skateboard around a lake

Jarun is Zagreb's green getaway, a man-made lake surrounded by all kinds of outdoor activity. Here you can bring the family for a day out, perhaps renting out one of the pedal boats, playing a game of beach volleyball or going for a swim. Windsurfing and horse-riding are also available. There's a skate park especially designed for smooth moves, and plenty of places to grab a drink and an ice cream. Many also come with a picnic blanket and supplies – it's an easy, direct journey here from the main square by tram.



Mini Train



Nikola Tesla Technical Museum



Museum of Illusions



Brainy Center

UNLOCK YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL AT BRAINY CENTER

Brainy Center, in central Zagreb, is a forward-thinking play and education facility that stimulates children in order to reveal their full potential. Far more than just daycare for working parents, Brainy Center will educate your child through play and activities in order that they develop their motor functions, social and emotional skills and their intellectual abilities to the best possible level.

Through stimulating play and tasks, Brainy Center's highly trained staff will create a world of fun for your children, often without the little ones ever realizing they are being taught. Brainy Center specializes in developing potential, encouraging your child's self-confidence and positive self-image and in preparing children for their next stage of schooling, making sure kids are at, or beyond, the level they need to be to make the most of the next step in their education.

Brainy Center's workshops take place in the mornings and afternoons and are run by staff who each have significant backgrounds in childcare at school and pre-school age. In addition, their staff also hold qualifications and experience in physiotherapy and psychology, ensuring that they provide a holistic approach to your child's stimulation and can meet the specific needs of every child they take care of.

Every month, Brainy Center educates, entertains, and hosts over 150 children, though group sizes are restricted to a maximum number of eight,

allowing each child to be afforded the expert attention they deserve. Children are placed within groups comprised of similarly aged peers, allowing them to make friends, socialise, play and learn at an appropriate level for their abilities. Most of our children come from Zagreb, but we also regularly welcome children from the UK, America, Germany, Austria, African nations, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia. Our staff and educators, as well as all of our programs, are bilingual, meaning that they are held in both Croatian and English.

Alongside their daily programs, Brainy Center also offer specially designed birthday parties, tailor-made for each child and their guests, plus overnight stays for children with busy parents who are perhaps travelling out of the city.

If you think your child is potentially gifted in any specific area, come to Brainy Center to talk about the ways your child's gifts can be developed. If you think your child should be progressing more quickly in certain areas of their development, Brainy Center have the team who can help and reassure.

Brainy Center's specially designed play and education centre offers a fun and safe environment for your child, a place where they will never get bored, a place where learning can be fun and a place where their potential can be unlocked.

JINGLE ALL THE WAY

Stay elf-y this Christmas at Zagreb Advent Run

ZAGREB LOOKS resplendent in the summer sun, but it's just as beautiful in winter. The city's award-winning Advent season is famous across Europe. It sees Zagreb's parks and streets decorated beyond recognition, illuminated by fairy lights and filled with hundreds of kućice, wooden-roofed houses selling regional streets food, seasonal drinks and handcrafted Christmas gifts. For the past three years, more and more international visitors have been combining a Christmas holiday with taking part in an organised run.

Not only is the Zagreb Advent Run a great excuse to visit Zagreb in winter, coaxing runners onto the streets in cooler conditions, but it's also a great Christmas fundraiser. In previous years, huge amounts have been raised for diabetes and for children with long term illnesses. Taking part is a great way to feel good about yourself, physically and spiritually, at this traditional time of giving.

Santa himself and his elf minions are some of the most popular costumes to be seen on this fun run, which has both 5 and 10-kilometre versions, welcoming participants of every ability. Both courses run a similarly scenic route, starting off at the Westin Hotel, before taking in the major Advent sites, including city centre parks shimmering with lights and cobbled Old Town streets. More than 2,500 runners from 29 countries around the world participated in 2018, an increase of 40 percent compared to the year before. With such a beautiful backdrop, it's little wonder that Zagreb Advent Run now attracts even more participants than similar runs in Vienna, London and Dublin.

Use Zagreb Advent Run as your perfect excuse to visit the Croatian capital this Christmas. Applications are now open and can be sourced, alongside all news relating to this year's event, from the Facebook pages of Zagreb Advent Run and of its organisers Run Croatia and Millenium promocija.

→ Zagreb Advent Run ([facebook.com/ZagrebAdventRun](https://www.facebook.com/ZagrebAdventRun))



LGBT+



THE RAINBOW FLAG doesn't flutter quite as brilliantly in Zagreb as in nearby European capitals, but that's not to say Croatia's capital hasn't got a characterful queer scene of its own. Although compact, a range of organisations and queer-friendly venues work hard to make sure the city's LGBT+ scene is as inclusive and buzzing as possible. Read on for the best gay events, bars and queer spaces in Zagreb.



Queer Zagreb

A delightfully surreal parade of queer performance, dance, drag and comedy, Queer Zagreb unpacks the struggles and pleasures of what it means to be here and queer. Last year's stand out event was Croatian drag queen team House of Flamingo's reading from the country's first picture book about same-sex families, which caused an uproar the religiously conservative heartlands. Expect plenty more queer antics and cultural hijinx at this year's event.

→ Date TBC. Various venues in Zagreb. (thisisadominoproject.org)



Pride

This good-natured pride march starts from the House of Croatian Artists and ends up on the lawns of Zrinjevac park, where attendees can drink and let their hair down. Numerous post-pride parties take place across the city - check Facebook for more events.



Hotpot

As the only dedicatedly queer venue in the city centre, Hotpot is a major meeting point for the city's gay and lesbian communities. This compact-sized club receives a flurry of mostly male visitors after midnight on Friday and Saturdays. Set in the smoky basement of a discreet building on Petrinjska, the entrance fee costs 20kn (€2.50) and drinks are modestly-priced: special deals on cocktails are chalked up on the boards. Musically, it's a commercial clubby vibe where EDM, RnB and camp Croatian pop set the theme.

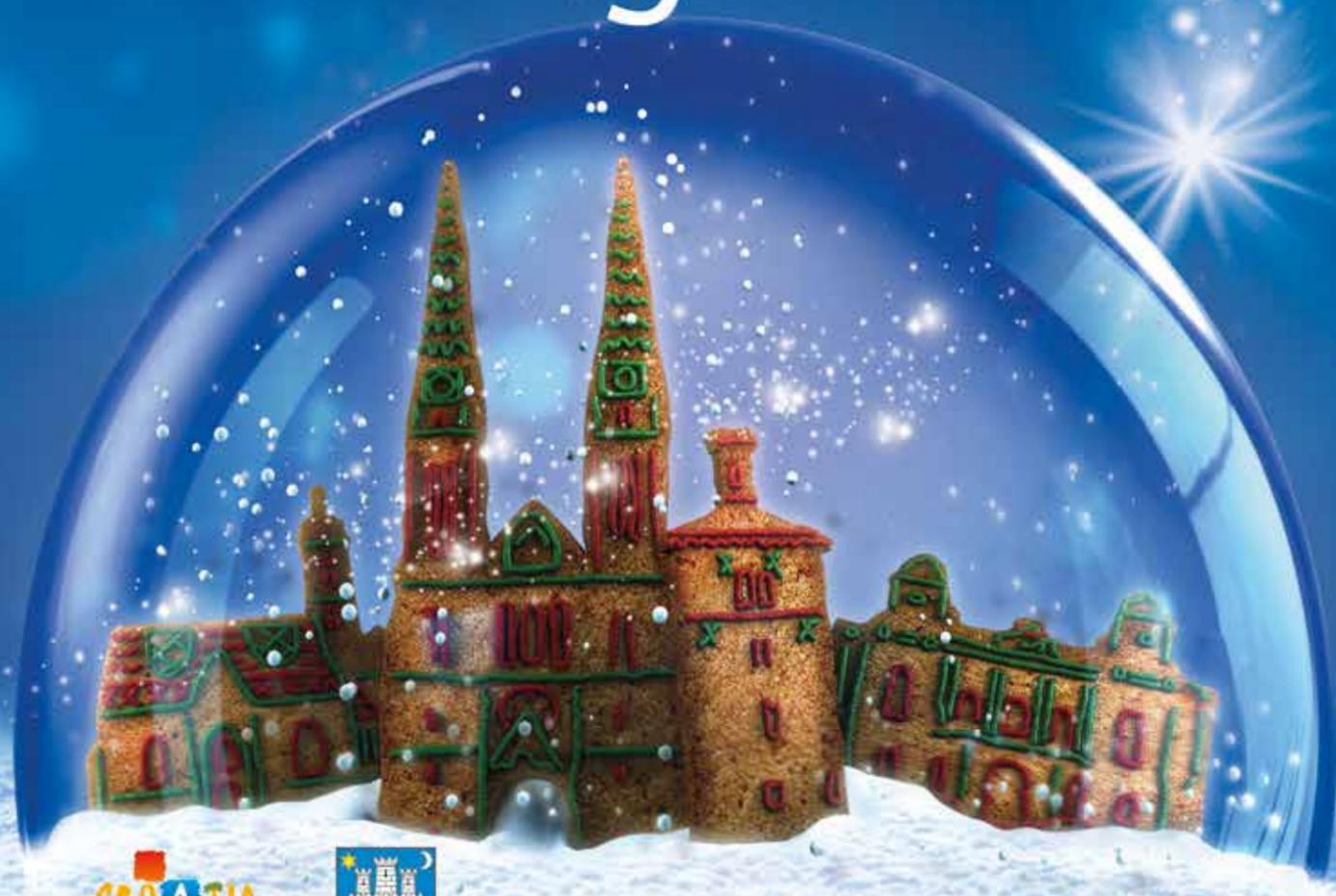




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Healthcare and wellness





Destination healthcare



CROATIA IS one of today's hippest holiday destinations. However, the country offers more than a temperate climate, sandy beaches and historic cities. With top-quality health services, affordable care and one of the oldest public healthcare systems in the world, Croatia and its capital Zagreb are set to become leading destinations for health tourism.

Travelling for treatment

Long waiting lists and high domestic prices are driving the demand for health tourism. It is one of the quickest growing sectors in the travel industry and is predicted to make up an incredible 22 percent of world's GDP by 2030.

Croatia takes healthcare seriously, both for residents and international travellers. The authorities are committed to developing and promoting Croatia as a reliable destination for high-quality healthcare. The country is steadily becoming a leading location for health tourism and the range and standard of specialist

services continue to grow. Minister Gari Capelli has pledged to invest more than 50 million Euro into the care coffers, to boost services for patients from across the globe.

A history of health tourism

Although the high-tech treatments available in Croatia today are at the cutting-edge, wellness tourism is not a new innovation. As far back as 1868, the history of European organised health tourism began in Croatia, on the beautiful Kvarner area.

The island's clean air, clear seas, mild weather and stunning natural environment attracted travellers from across Europe. Hvar Town established the Hvar Health Society, the first professional tourist organisation in Europe. The island gained a reputation as a wellness retreat within the elite circles of central Europe. They flocked to Hvar to benefit from the environment, climate, delicious food and healthy pursuits.

Hvar remains a popular travel destination. Today, the sun, sea and cities of Croatia attract record numbers of holidaymakers seeking fun, relaxation and culture. However, increasingly tourists are coming to Croatia for the same reason that drew them 150 years ago, to focus on their health and wellbeing.

Healthy cities

The history of healthy cities in Croatia dates back more than thirty years. Zagreb was one of the first places to become part of the World Health Organisation's healthy cities project. Today it is part of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network, an association of cities committed to improving the health and quality of life of people who live there.

The mission is to improve the environment, facilitate healthy lifestyles and improve access to services. Over the coming years, Zagreb and surroundings are striving for an even higher level of excellence. The 'health-plan for it'

has been created to assess health needs, set priorities and plan for health. This ultimately aims to ensure the provision of responsive, high-quality services.

First-class medical education

The School of Medicine in Zagreb is an internationally renowned academic institution. It has been educating doctors in Croatia for more than a century and is the oldest centre for medical training and research in South-Eastern Europe. Since its inception it has provided generations of Croatians with rich medical knowledge, experience and skills. It has a long tradition in educating doctors, developing talents in scientific exploration and improving clinical practice. It is recognised internationally as an excellent institution for training and research.

Zagreb's School of Medicine has trained medical professionals who have gone on to achieve global success. Innovative Croatian surgeon Tomislav Mihaljevic has been named CEO and president

of the Cleveland Clinic and Professor Ivan Dikić, chairman of the Institute of Biochemistry at Goethe University, was the winner of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology's prestigious William C. Rose Award. The school has provided the centre from which other medical faculties and treatment facilities have evolved and developed, making Zagreb a leader in state-of-the-art healthcare.

Health and wellness in Zagreb

In the Croatian capital, healthcare services are modern, first-class and competitively priced. The majority of specialist doctors, nurses and support staff speak impeccable English, so that communication is clear. The expert professionals and hospitals match the quality you'd expect in top clinics in Europe and across the world.

The system is patient-centred and designed to respond to each person's needs. Clinics target the care to the individual and many offer reasonable packages, with no hidden fees, making financial planning easier. Private doctors and laboratory staff can visit patients in their hotel or home, whenever necessary.

Zagreb has many world-class hospitals and private clinics offering specialist care. A number of these centres are regional centres of excellence, carrying out research, advanced treatments and complex surgical procedures.

Croatia is acknowledged as a global leader in cancer screening and diagnosis. It is a destination for organ transplantation and statistically is world number one for the number of transplants performed per member of the population.

Zagreb's top hospitals provide innovative fertility investigations and treatment. Expert ophthalmology surgery, dedicated bone and joint care, and the latest aesthetic procedures and reconstructive dental treatments are also

driving Zagreb's reputation as a hub of medical expertise with a reasonable price tag.

Thermal spa therapy

As well as clinical care, Zagreb and its surroundings boasts a lengthy heritage of wellness and spa therapies. There are ten mineral spring spas surrounding the city. Treatments using the hyperthermal water and therapeutic mud have been administered for more than a century to raise and restore the energy of life.

The thermal water hot springs in the municipality of Krapinske Toplice were named in the top ten for quality in Europe. They have been used in the treatment and rehabilitation of the nerves, muscles and joints and Krapinske Toplice is also known for excellence in cardiovascular care and rehabilitation.

For spa staff, client care is a vocation not a job. The skills and wisdom have often been handed, down generation to generation, since 1859.

Healthcare and holidays

The cool and cultural capital of Zagreb makes the perfect location for a health holiday. It was chosen by Lonely Planet as the best place to visit in Europe in 2017 and its bars, galleries and climate mean that it's ideal for combining treatment with a short break for relaxation and recovery.

Zagreb's airport has recently been expanded and is connected with most major European cities and well served by low-cost airlines. The city centre is just a 20 minute drive away from the airport, making transfers speedy and cheap. It takes around an hour to get from your hotel to the flight departure gate.

Zagreb offers top-notch, reliable, medical care and a beautiful environment in which to recuperate.

20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOUR EYES



350.000 PATIENTS

125.000 SURGERIES

45 OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

The future of health tourism

Industry experts Irving Stockpole and Elizabeth Ziemba assess the state of health tourism in Croatia



IT'S EARLY SPRING in Zagreb and the room is filled with a warm slanting light. Irving Stockpole and Elizabeth Ziemba should be exhausted from their all-day workshop but remain as eloquent as ever. You wouldn't expect anything less from these two industry leaders. Boasting over forty years' experience in healthcare, Irving Stockpole is the co-host of The Medical Travel Show podcast and a regular pundit at The Financial Times and Forbes, where he's sought out for his sound-bite-ready wisdom. With a background rooted in public health, law and business, Elizabeth Ziemba, President of Medical Tourism Training, is a popular industry panellist, thanks to her specialised knowledge of government and NGOs. They're in town to host a one-day workshop on how to develop a health tourism cluster at Zagreb's Bagatin Clinic.

So, what exactly is a health cluster? What even is health tourism, for that matter? 'Health tourism is a market focused on the need and wants of consumers in one location being fulfilled in another location,' Irving says. 'Consumers have been travelling for purposes of health for many years. Clusters, through collaboration and cooperation, generate higher levels of innovation in the provision of medical services'

'From the public sector side, governments are looking at what's going on in this world of health travel and are very interested in developing it for a variety of reasons.' Says Elizabeth, 'Part of it is to generate revenues to build healthcare and other infrastructure within the country. And part of it is national pride. At the workshop we did today we looked at some countries that are very engaged in health travel and we see that the role of government is really essential to the success of the sector.'

So, how can Croatia pool together its resources to propel this lucrative industry? Branding is

important, according to Irving: 'I thought of Elon Musk and Tesla, and for a small country like Croatia to have so much - excuse the play on words - electric energy. My immediate thought was that's the essence. That could be the essence of a terrific national and international brand.'

Croatia is the birthplace of inventor Nikola Tesla, now an internet folk hero and lionised in Elon Musk's electric empire. Croatia is also the home of Rimac, the car manufacturer that produces electric hypercars. So how can Croatia harness its 'electric' credentials to create a more visible brand on the international stage?

'We spent a lot of time in the workshop talking about factors of differentiation. What makes a place unique? What Croatia has that's unique, it's differentiator, is the individuals who came out of this little country that are just extraordinary in terms of innovation. And if you look at what is changing the world, it's centres of innovation, if you think about Silicon Valley, that's what's exciting people. It's drawing people. And it creates curiosity.'

It's about more than just a brand, though. 'Hungary has done a very good job in developing itself as a dental destination in particular to the Italian and the UK source markets. They've done this through private enterprise and the government helping with logistics' says Elizabeth. 'Governments are responsible for infrastructure like good roads and airports here in Zagreb. The airport is really nice to travel to. If we think about someone coming for an orthopaedic procedure and they're in a wheelchair, what obstacles are they going to face? Both psychological as well as physical.' The secret to market success, according to these

experts, is understanding the journey from a patient's perspective. That starts with the taxi from the airport to the service of the hotel on arrival; everything shapes a patient's idea of a country and its reliability as a healthcare destination.

Irving suggests it's possible for Croatia to replicate the success of Hungary, or the flourishing healthcare hub of Costa Rica, as long as infrastructure, government and health clusters catch up. 'It's unlikely that any destination including Croatia can open up its doors and be flooded with demanding consumers of medical care. But from 20 million visitors, there will be individuals who experience quality care and return and recommend others to do the same. That was the case in Costa Rica.'

'Costa Rica is a fantastic success story. It was underdeveloped. The ride from the airport to the hotel was terrible. The hospitality sector was hearing feedback and people weren't paying attention. But then, the hotels demanded change. And the taxi drivers in Costa Rica starting to behave in a better way.'

Every country experiences its own set of challenges. In Croatia, staff retention is a problem. Irving cites 'the need to stem the flow of the

departure of educated professionals from Croatia' as one of the country's main obstacles. But the outlook, on the whole, is a cheery one: 'People are looking for unique experiences. Croatia has the potential to develop its assets from what's already here: the history, the culture, the people, the food, the wine; all of those things are factors that create something really unique and a special experience for people that will bring them here for health and medical purposes.'

'People are looking for unique experiences. Croatia has the potential to develop its assets from what's already here.'



Croatia's pioneer of 20th century public health



ANDRIJA ŠTAMPAR

FOR A SMALL COUNTRY, Croatia has had a disproportionately large impact on global advancement, an influence that includes much more than Nikola Tesla's genius, the invention of the parachute, fingerprinting technique and the development of the torpedo.

One of the highly prized strings Croatia holds to its bow is its healthcare industry, boasting some of Europe's leading physicians and facilities. But this is no new development. Because of people like Andrija Štampar, Croatia has been setting standards and world initiatives for 100 years.

Born in 1888 in Brodski Drenovac, Andrija Štampar's career saw him travel from this small village in Slavonia, Eastern Croatia, to become one of the most important and defining figures of world healthcare and illness prevention.

In 1906, Štampar finished high school in Vinkovci. A brilliant student from the off, he left Slavonia to study medicine, graduating from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1911. His first position was at Karlovac city hospital but within a year he had been called back to Slavonia to act as district

health officer of Nova Gradiška in 1913. Some of his earliest published works were produced in the city; not only did he write for his peers in the journal of the Croatian Medical Association, but he also produced pamphlets for the people called 'Public Health Library' informing them about health and illness prevention.

This dialogue with the general public would continue throughout his career with Štampar displaying skill and desire to organise public health. In 1918 he was appointed as health adviser to the Croatian Commission for Social Welfare, and in 1919, became the Head of the Department of Public Health in Belgrade where he began building a network of more than 250 hygienic institutions.

A conflict with the Serbian royal regime led to his departure from the Yugoslavian Ministry of Public Health in 1930, but such was his international reputation that he walked straight into a position at the Health Organisation of the League of Nations. There, he contributed to writing a constitution that would be adopted by its successor, the World Health

Organisation (WHO) and he began lecturing on public health across the world, visiting China, many European countries and was invited to speak at America's premier universities like Yale and Harvard where he also became a professor.

Having already founded the School of Public Health in Zagreb in 1927 (using his connections at the Rockefeller Foundation to acquire the funds for the school's brand new building), Štampar was elected as the Dean of the Medical School in Zagreb for the first time in 1940 where he set about reforming the training of physicians.

His work was cut short by the fascist Ustaša regime who arrested him. Štampar was imprisoned until the end of World War II but after his liberation by the Russian army, he began his work afresh. He returned to his position as a professor at Zagreb's Medical School and became Rector of Zagreb University in 1945. Just one year later, at the International Health

Conference in New York, proposals for the formation of the WHO were finally accepted based on the constitution Štampar contributed to. Štampar was unanimously elected as the first President of the Assembly.

Štampar's proposals changed the face of public healthcare, his principles defining the work of the WHO, namely, that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. He also believed that a physician should not be financially dependent on a patient, that healthcare should be equally available to all regardless of their ability to pay for

it, that a physician's place should be both educational and in the heart of a community, and that their responsibilities to public health outweigh their responsibility to obey the law of the land. For his work, Andrija Štampar is commemorated across the globe to this day.

'Because of people like Andrija Štampar, Croatia has been setting standards and world initiatives for hundred years.'



Welcome to

University of Zagreb School of Medicine.

The oldest and the biggest school of medicine

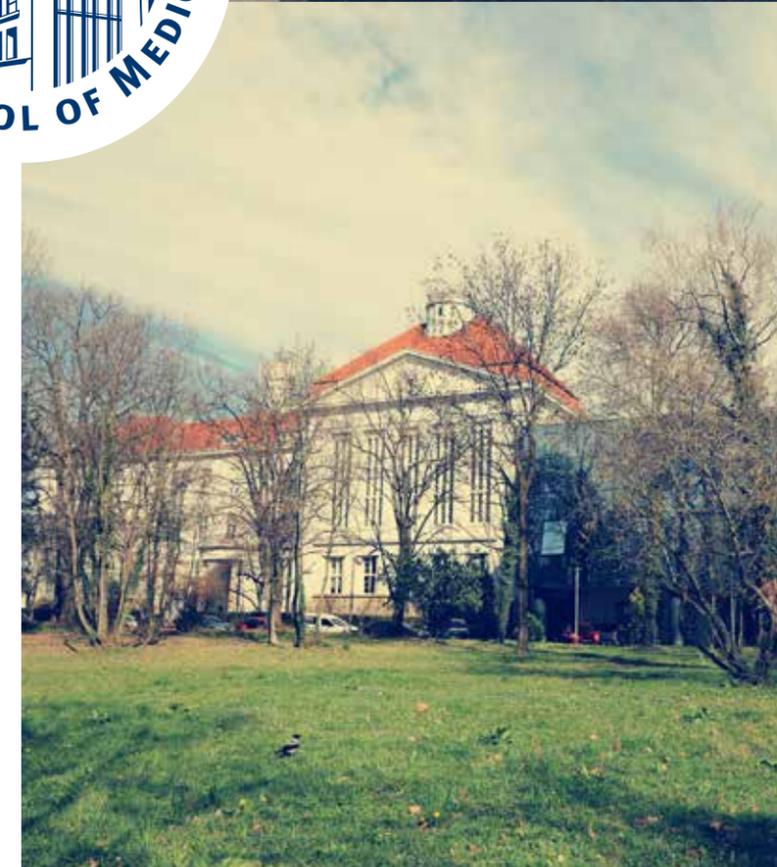
in Croatia with more than 100 years of

tradition and teaching. Small classes, limited

number of intake students and pleasant

international studying environment.

Choose your education in Zagreb.





Pioneers of potential

University of Zagreb School of Medicine is the oldest and largest institution of its kind in Croatia.

THERE HAS BEEN a surge in students choosing to study medicine abroad. Cost and competition for places at home can be a challenge for aspiring doctors. Typically, only one in ten applicants manage to secure a place. Studying medicine at a top European university can provide an excellent education, a professional qualification and an international perspective.

The University of Zagreb School of Medicine (UZMS) is the oldest, largest and most respected institution for medical education in Croatia. The national program of medical studies has been running for more than a century and currently has 1,700 full-time students. It is part

of the historic University of Zagreb which was founded in 1669. The university now educates more than 70,000 students in a vibrant hub with 29 faculties and three arts academies.

Study of medicine in English

The University of Zagreb School of Medicine offers an accredited course in medicine, run in the English for international students. The six-year course is fully in line with EU standards and widely accepted across the world. It features integrated undergraduate and graduate studies. On graduation, students achieve the

academic title of Doctor of Medicine.

The international programme has been running for 15 years. Since its induction, 224 students from 28 countries including the USA, Canada, France, Sweden, Germany and Israel have graduated. The majority of these new doctors have returned to their home countries, gained top positions and successfully embarked on medical careers.

An international education

In today's world, education is a global market. Studying abroad offers benefits beyond the

content of the teaching programme. Students gain experience of different cultures, learn from international experts and meet people from around the world.

Schools like Harvard, Cambridge University and Imperial College London have led the way as global centres of learning. The University of Zagreb also has a rich international history. It offers Erasmus programmes for staff and students, PhD studies in English and a number of international exchanges. Currently, at the medical school, there are students from 29 different nations, living and learning together.

A very modern medical school

The integrated program of medical studies in English (MSE) isn't a replica of the national Croatian program. The course has been updated in-line with the content, approach and practises of leading medical schools, both in Europe and across the world.

The MSE curriculum offers more than 5500 hours of teaching. The education is innovative and student-orientated, supported by the use of technology and English textbooks that have been published exclusively for the programme. Teaching is predominantly carried out in small groups and focused on problem-based learning. The OSCE format, widely used in international medical education, has been introduced as a method of assessment.

To provide the best preparation for a medical career, the university integration of factual learning with the development of practical and communication skills. In the final year, during clinical rotations, the student can spend time working at institutions in Croatia, travel abroad to learn about other health systems or return home to gain experience and develop contacts. Joint electives are organised with the University of Kent, University of Pompeu Fabra Barcelona, Imperial College London, University of McGill and many others.

The course corresponds to 360 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

Living in Zagreb

Student life involves more than lectures and tutorials. Medical undergraduates can enjoy the characterful bars, clubs and cafés of Zagreb. The Croatian capital has a picture-perfect historic centre, but there's also plenty of music venues and cool bars in which to enjoy a beer after a hard day on the wards.

The city is only a little more than an hour's drive from the Adriatic. In the summer, students can do what purgers (Zagrebeans) do and head for the coast.

Assessment and entrance requirements

International interest in the course is growing. Annually there are 50 places available.

Students who have completed secondary education and passed their national final examinations are eligible to apply. Applicants are required to have a strong understanding of

high-school biology, chemistry and physics as well as proficiency in the English language.

Entrance is by evaluation of high school qualifications and an admissions test. Applicants are spread across the world; to meet this need, the entrance exam is held not only in Zagreb but in Sweden, Germany, Spain and India.

The admissions tests examine knowledge and skills in biology, chemistry and physics. Candidates who already have recognised international exams, such as the MCAT, SAT or BMAT or those with degrees in natural sciences may be exempted from the exam.

Application process

Application is made by completing an international application form and submitting it together with a CV, certified copies of any certificates, photographs and a 200 Euro processing fee.

The admissions tests are held between January and July each year. Applications should be submitted at least 15 days before the entrance exams taking place. There are international agents coordinating the admissions. Details of the test and the exam schedule are available at mse.mef.unizg.hr/admission/admission-requirements

International accreditation

Professional medical qualifications from the University of Zagreb School of Medicine are accepted worldwide. There is mutual recognition of professional qualifications across the European Union. Graduates from the EU will automatically have their medical qualification recognised and will be able to work freely across the European Union.

The University is a United States Medical Licensing Examination liaison office for steps I and II of the USA state exam.

The General Medical Council in the UK is introducing a Medical Licensing Agreement in 2022. All doctors qualifying in the UK and outside the European Economic Area will have to pass this test. Whether EU graduates will also need to comply will depend on the negotiations around Britain leaving the European Union. The medical school will update this information when the result of Brexit is clearer.

Quality course

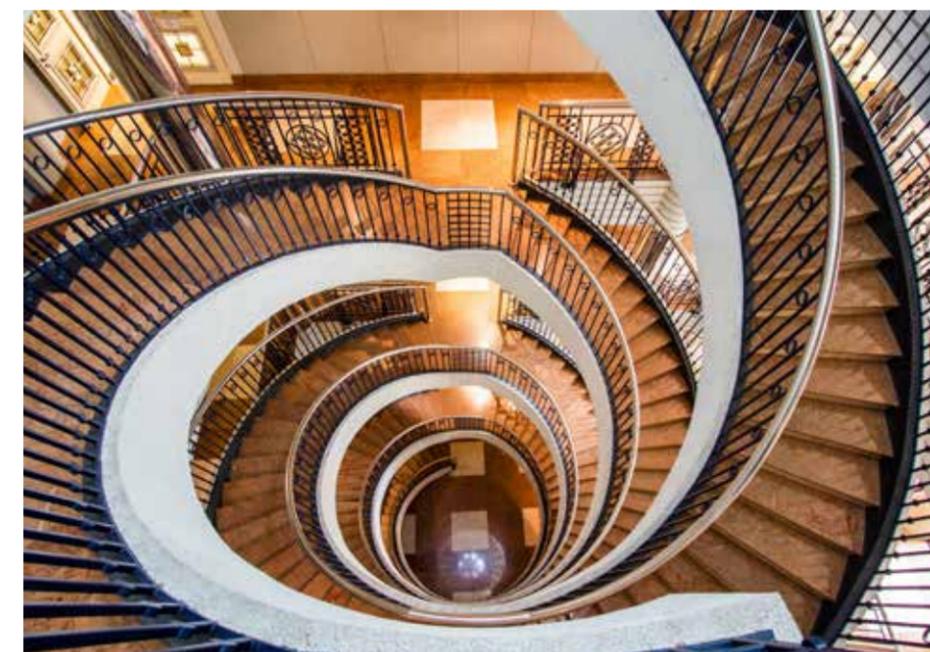
The quality of the Medical Studies in English program has been recognised by the European Consortium of Accreditation. After a rigorous evaluation and audit process, UZSM has become the first biomedical educational establishment to be awarded the CEQUINT Certificate. This prestigious certificate confirms that a programme or an institution has successfully incorporated an international and intercultural dimension into the purpose, function and delivery of its education.

Money matters

The tuition fee for admitted students is 12,000 Euro per year, or alternatively, 6,100 Euro, paid in two instalments, prior to the beginning of each semester. This compares favourably to medical schools across Europe and in the UK. The costs are estimated to be around a sixth of those required to study in Cambridge, USA.

The living costs for students in Croatia are also competitive. Depending on the standard of the accommodation chosen and the student's lifestyle choices they are assessed to be between 400 and 700 Euro.

→ University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Šalata 3, 10 000 Zagreb. +385 145 90268. <http://mse.mef.unizg.hr/medical-studies-in-english>





The light of day

Svjetlost is the leading eye clinic in Southern Europe and provides world class treatment and advice.

THE EYES ALLOW us to see the world and help us work, play and communicate. Maintaining eye health and optimising vision is an important part of looking and feeling well.

Svjetlost Eye Clinic is a world-class ophthalmology centre in Zagreb. In Croatian, the word svjetlost means light. The name reflects the goal of the Svjetlost Eye Clinic, which is to bring in light and sharp vision to patients under their care.

Excellence locally and globally

Svjetlost Eye Clinic is a leader in ophthalmology and eye care. It is a regional centre of excellence, but also attracts health tourists from across the globe. One in four of the centre's patients have travelled from abroad to access the state-of-the-art facilities, life-changing procedures and supportive care.

45 expert ophthalmologists consult and operate from Svjetlost's centres in Zagreb and Split. The consistent quality of care has been rewarded with international awards including a prestigious ophthalmology Oscar. In 2018, the clinic received the renowned International Star Diamond Award, consolidating its position as among the world's most prestigious brands.

Experience and tradition in eye care

The Svjetlost Eye Clinic was founded in 1998 by Professor Nikica Gabrić PhD MD, an expert eye surgeon and a pioneer of laser vision correction in the region. Over 20 years, Svjetlost's surgeons have performed 125,000 surgeries on 350,000 contented clients. Every day, hundreds of people trust Svjetlost with the care of their eyes.

Patients have included presidents, business people and actors. Among the famous names that have flocked to the clinic are Ivana Trump, the first wife of US President Donald Trump, and famous actors Armand Assante and Franco Nero. However, each patient, whatever their background, is treated with the same considerate care, individual attention and expert surgery.

Comprehensive eye care

Svjetlost Eye Clinic can screen for disease, diagnose eye problems, optimise vision and treat degenerative eye conditions. Svjetlost Hospital has six state-of-the-art operating theatres. Each is equipped with the latest technology to allow surgeons to perform a range of

eye operations. The clinic offers procedures ranging from laser vision correction to corneal transplantation, cataract surgery and vitrectomies for retinal detachment. Treatment for diabetic retinopathy and macular disease is also available, with an individual approach applied to all patients.

Dedicated to day care

Most of the eye surgeries at the clinic are performed in the day hospital. Patients usually stay for half an hour after the surgery, for monitoring. After this time, if they are comfortable and well they are able to go home. At this stage, health tourists are discharged to relax in their hotel.

There is also an eight-bed medical unit in the hospital, this allows people having more complex procedures or requiring intensive care to have a longer recovery time.

Cataract surgery

Cataracts can cloud vision and cut quality of life. They're a common problem, with half of all people over 65 being affected. The eye



surgeons at the Svjetlost Eye Clinic can operate to replace the faulty lens and restore vision in a matter of days.

The experts at the clinic choose the right replacement lens to match the individual's eyes and their lifestyle. Whereas some facilities only offer standard lenses, the clinic is one of the leading European centres for the insertion of specialist, premium lenses. These multifocal and intraocular lenses have an extended range of vision and are implanted for both cataract surgery and for the treatment of presbyopia or long-sightedness.

What the patients say

World-leading surgeons working with the latest technology have helped establish the Svjetlost clinic as a healthcare leader in central and southeast Europe. However, it is the customer-centred approach and emphasis on individual patient care that sets the clinic apart. Satisfied clients are the best ambassadors for the brand:

No more reading glasses

Michael, a businessman from London, was in his mid-forties when he noticed he couldn't read a contract he was about to sign. For several months he squinted and strained his eyes, but nothing improved his vision. Frustrated, he contacted the Svjetlost Eye Clinic.

Doctors immediately identified that Michael suffered from presbyopia or age-related far-sightedness. Presbyopia is part of the natural aging process of the eye. It's caused by stiffness in the lens and a reduction in the ability of the eye muscles to change its shape. Glasses can temporarily resolve the problem but an increasing number of patients, like Michael, are opting for surgical correction.

The natural lens of the eye was replaced by a premium, artificial lens that allows excellent vision at any distance. Vision can be sharp while reading, working on the laptop or driving, with no need for spectacles.

A corrective artificial lens, Symphony, was inserted into the eyes, in a procedure that lasted only ten minutes per eye. The surgery was performed using only eye drops to numb the area and Michael was able to leave the same day and get on

with life, without glasses. Within a few days, he was back on the busy streets of Canary Wharf.

An eye emergency

Junwoo wasn't planning on being a health tourist. He had recently flown in from South Korea when he noticed poor vision and the appearance of dark curtains in front of his eyes. This combination of symptoms indicates a detached retina, which without prompt and expert treatment could lead to permanent damage to the back of the eye and the potential loss of sight.

At the Svjetlost Eye Clinic, an ophthalmic surgeon quickly assessed Junwoo and diagnosed this serious condition. Within 24 hours, Junwoo

was in the operating room. He was sedated during the procedure and local anaesthetic eye drops were used to reduce discomfort. A professional team operated to perform a vitrectomy to treat detachment. The vision in Junwoo's eye was saved. A very successful story of unexpected health tourism in Croatia.

'Over in the blink of an eye'

Before undergoing laser eye surgery, Bernadette researched and investigated the procedure and the skills of treatment providers thoroughly. With a keen eye for detail, she spent months looking into the experience and results of many ophthalmic clinics. She chose the Svjetlost Eye Clinic for her LASIK visual correction because the surgeons had performed the procedure on more than 60,000 eyes.

Bernadette describes her short-sightedness as being 'cured' during a completely painless procedure, performed under eye drop anaesthesia. The laser visual correction lasted between five and ten minutes per eye. She was awake and comfortable during the entire surgery and was able to understand and remember everything the doctors explained.

Back home in Munich, Bernadette began enjoying moderate sporting activities just five days after surgery, and she left her glasses at home. In her patient testimonial, she said that the procedure was over in the blink of an eye and, now, every time she blinks she sees colours so clearly.

→ Svjetlost Eye Clinic, Heinzelova 39, 10 000 Zagreb.
+385 1 777 5656. svjetlost.hr/en. Parking free.
Mon-Thu 8:00-20:00; Fri 8:00 - 18:00



Peace of mind

Radiochirurgia uses the latest treatments and technologies to give patients the best possible outcome.



BEING TESTED or treated for cancer is frightening. At this time of stress, the leading oncologists and caring staff at Radiochirurgia Zagreb can offer information, expert treatment and the support you need every step of the way.

Radiochirurgia Zagreb is a private clinic that specialises in diagnosing, treating and screening for cancer. Radiochirurgia Zagreb offers expert care by a team of top Croatian and international experts using the most advanced imaging and treatment equipment. The professional staff at Radiochirurgia Zagreb have decades of experience in tumour treatment techniques.

Whether patients are worried about symptoms, looking for specialist radiosurgical management, or wanting an expert second opinion, Radiochirurgia Zagreb offers the very latest investigations, therapy, in a clinic that is calm, comfortable and efficient.

Screening and early cancer detection

The best way of curing cancer is by identifying it early and providing prompt specialist treatment. Radiochirurgia Zagreb offers tests for the early detection of the most common types of cancers including lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer.

Screening tests are recommended for people who may be at increased risk of developing disease. This may include people in certain age groups, those with a family history or genetic

vulnerability to cancer, smokers, or people with pre-existing conditions. Radiochirurgia Zagreb offers cancer screening investigations in line with official recommendations and following detailed consultation with the expert team.

The clinic offers a number of high-tech screening procedures such as virtual colonoscopy, breast MRI scanning and early lung cancer detection by CT scan using ultra-low dose of radiation. Radiochirurgia Zagreb can also provide whole body screening to exclude the presence of tumours.

Personalised care

At Radiochirurgia Zagreb, every patient has an initial personal meeting with a specialist doctor. They will be happy to share their knowledge and address any questions or concerns. Fighting cancer is challenging; the clinic provides everyone with an individual approach, expert care and support during the duration of the treatment programme.

The general manager of Radiochirurgia Zagreb is Professor Dragan Schwarz, MD PhD. He is an experienced surgeon with specialist expertise in bowel surgery and cancer treatment. Professor Schwarz works with a multidisciplinary team including leading surgeons, neurosurgeons, physicians, gynaecologists, radio-oncologists, radiologists, physicists and nurses. Together they ensure patients get the best care, whether they

are being investigated for cancer or being supported through cancer therapy.

Imaging and diagnosis

Expert investigation and imaging can diagnose cancers, identify any tumour spread and accurately stage the disease so that the best possible treatment can be given.

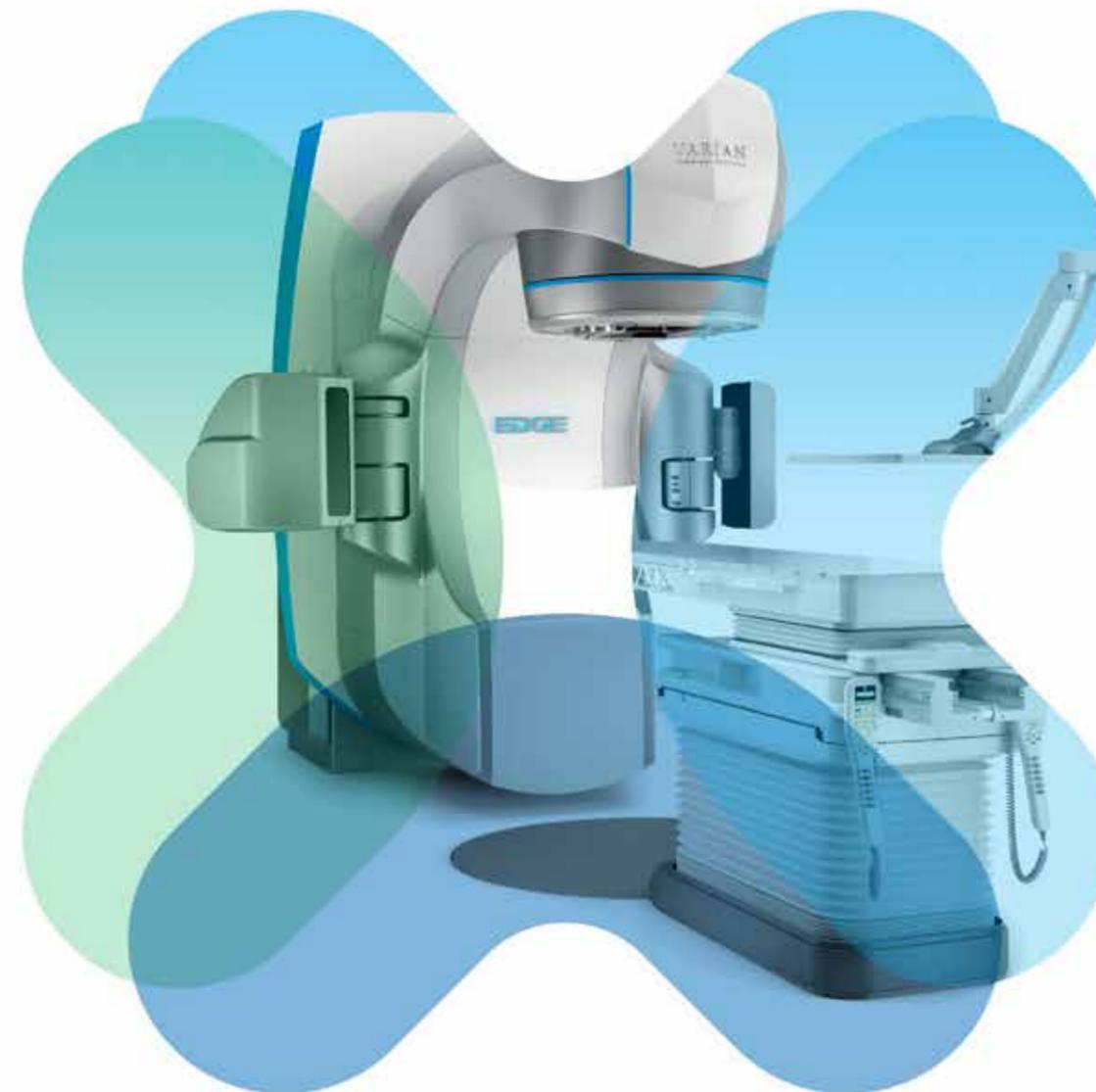
Radiochirurgia Zagreb offers the latest imaging, overseen by leading radiologists, in state-of-the-art radiology suites. Using MRI, CT and ultrasound scanning, often in combination, the clinic is able to provide the most accurate images and analysis.

State-of-the-art scanning equipment

The clinic can diagnose all stage of tumours using an MRI scanner. The clinic's specialist Siemens MR device is specifically set up for oncology investigations so that tumours can be accurately placed and any spread identified.

Radiochirurgia Zagreb's CT scanner offers an ultra-low radiation dosage and 384 reconstructive layers for advanced precision. The device allows excellent tissue evaluation, with less need for sedation and breath holding, making it particularly good for obese patients and children.

Ultrasound scanning is performed using the latest Siemens Acuson ultrasound. It generates beautiful images that provide the highest diagnostic confidence.



A Ray of Hope.



Screening for early cancer detection and the most advanced radiosurgery treatment options.

+385 01 400 8050 / 01 400 8080 / info@radiochirurgia.hr / www.radiochirurgiazagreb.com



Expert scan analysis

The clinic's radiologists are experts in the analysis of scans. As well as their own diagnostic skills, they use computers to aid detection.

Combining CT, MRI and ultrasound enables the clinic to perform advanced diagnostic procedures. Fusion topography is a high-tech technique that provides three-dimensional images of cancers so that treatment can be accurately targeted. The scanning devices are also equipped with the latest software solutions that enable very precise diagnostics of the entire body. The clinic also offers computer-assisted analysis for patients who have had scans done elsewhere.

Accurate tumour biopsies

Radiochirurgia Zagreb offers patients stereotactic navigation and guided tissue sampling for analysis. MRI imaging is used to guide biopsies, allowing expert doctors to precisely take samples from a tumour. The biopsies can then be examined under the microscope by the pathology specialists in the clinic's laboratory.

Tracking progress

Regular MRI scanning can be used to track the progress of the disease and monitor the effects of chemotherapy. Evidence that the cancer is shrinking is reassuring for patient and doctor. Monitoring can also be beneficial if there is no response, the expert team can modify the programme of therapy to improve quality and treatment results.

Radiotherapy and radiosurgery

Radiochirurgia Zagreb specialises in radiotherapy and radiosurgery. It has a cutting-edge Varian Edge radiotherapy and radiosurgery suite. Varian Edge is the latest technical device used for high-precision radiosurgery treatments, a non-invasive alternative to conventional surgery.



an hour or longer. The right course of care will depend on the individual patient and cancer that is being treated.

Radiotherapy uses targeted X-ray radiation to kill cancer cells. Radiation can also kill normal cells, but cancer cells grow and divide more quickly than normal ones and as a result, are more susceptible to the damage from radiation. When cancer cells die, the tumour shrinks or stops growing.

High-quality scanning allows the clinic's experts to precisely locate cancer so that the beams can be precisely directed. Some patients will need a custom made head mask or a holder for certain body part to increase accuracy, reduce complications and maintain comfort. Radiotherapy treatments are given five days a week over several weeks.

Treatment of advanced disease

Using the latest equipment and technology, Radiochirurgia Zagreb works hard to ensure that cancers are discovered early and treated effectively. However, some cancers can be more aggressive, others may not cause symptoms until they are already at an advanced stage.

It can be devastating when a cancer spreads. The clinic is especially experienced in dealing with the treatment of advanced and metastatic forms of cancer. A combination of radiosurgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy are used to improve survival.

Cancer is a systematic disease. Its treatment requires a multidisciplinary approach and the co-operation of a number of medical experts. At Radiochirurgia Zagreb oncologists, surgeons, radiologists and nursing staff work together to provide the best treatment and support from the first consultation and throughout the cancer journey.

→ Radiochirurgia Zagreb, Sveta Nedelja, Dr. Franjo Tudman St. 4T. +385 1 400 8050. info@radiochirurgia.hr. www.radiochirurgia.hr. Mon-Fri 8:00-20:00.



Trust the experts

Akromion is the largest private orthopaedic hospital in Croatia.

THE AKROMION HOSPITAL is a special hospital for orthopaedic surgery and the management of fractures and trauma.

Providing expert diagnosis and treatment for bone and joint problems, the Akromion hospital helps patients enjoy the freedom of movement and free from pain.

Comfortable and cutting-edge

Akromion Hospital is the largest privately owned orthopaedic hospital in the Republic of Croatia. Covering some 2000 square meters, spread over three floors, the hospital has been completely renovated and equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology. There are three operating theatres and a recovery room, all fitted-out with the very latest equipment.

The wards are a home from home. Patients can choose between a single and double

room, or opt for a larger suite. Offering hotel quality comfort, the rooms and suites are well-appointed and have en-suite bathrooms and toilets. There's a TV and WiFi in each room, allowing patients to recover whilst staying in touch with family, work and the outside world.

Expert orthopaedic care

Surgeons at Akromion perform around 1200 surgical procedures per year. The hospital provides a complete service all in one place. Examination, assessment, imaging, surgery and rehabilitation are all carried out in the hospital's extensive facilities.

Akromion provides patients with a wide range of services in both orthopaedics and trauma. Joint replacements, both primary and revision, are some of the hospital's most popular operations.

Surgery at the Akromion can swiftly ease discomfort and restore mobility. The prosthesis type is carefully chosen to suit the individual needs of the patient. The surgeon takes into account age, demand for activity and the level of joint damage to ensure the very best result.

The hospital offers management for acute trauma and fractures. From arthroscopy to arthroplasty, the orthopaedic surgeons can investigate and treat bone and joint pain and problems called by injury, arthritis or overuse.

Arthroscopy is one of the Akromion's most frequently performed procedures. It is a keyhole technique to examine or operate on a joint. A small bore camera is introduced into the ankle, knee, hip, shoulder, elbow or wrist to identify any injuries or abnormalities. Cartilage tears can be tidied up, damaged tissue can be removed and torn ligaments can be replaced.

Minimally invasive operations, like arthroscopy, reduce the patient's postoperative downtime and facilitate a quicker recovery. Many procedures can be performed on a day-case basis. The patient is admitted on the morning of surgery and is fit for discharge on the same day.

Spinal surgery, an operation for bunions, corrective surgery for fracture malunion and the release of carpal tunnel syndrome can all be performed by the Akromion's expert surgical team.

Quality care

Leading surgeons, expert anaesthetist and dedicated radiologists, nurses and physiotherapist work together to ensure patients have a successful surgery and a smooth recovery.

The Akromion Hospital has received international recognition of its quality and expertise. The accreditation organisation, Global Clinic Rating (GCR) provides information on more





than 430,000 medical institutions in more than 126 countries, making it the largest medical platform in the world.

Ratings are based on the experience and expertise of staff, the technological equipment and quality of medical units, the range and quality of medical services and patient feedback.

The Akromion Hospital received very high grades in both orthopaedics and radiology, making it the best-ranked orthopaedic institution in Croatia and one of the best orthopaedic centres in the world.

E-hospital

The hospital is entirely computerised and digitally connected with its network of outpatient clinics in Zagreb, Split, Zadar and Bizovac. With no patients charts, paperwork or letters, communication is quick and efficient. There are no long waiting lists for surgery. The date of the intervention is scheduled immediately, during the clinic consultation.

The state-of-the-art equipment and integrated operating room technology enable doctors and the multidisciplinary team to access X-rays, scans and medical data during surgery.

'Hospital without pain'

The anaesthetic service at Akromion works hard to minimise pain before, during and after surgery. A consultant anaesthetist assesses each patient before the operation. Treatment is planned based on regional anaesthetic techniques, such as a spinal or epidural anaesthetic.

These involve numbing the area of the body to be treated and maintaining pain relief during the post-operative period, as the hospital says: "These pain-relief approaches provide a stress free and virtually painless perioperative experience and have earned Akromion the nickname "hospital without pain" among our patients."

Imaging and diagnosis

High-quality imaging enables a more accurate diagnosis of problems so that the right treatment can be planned. Akromion has recently invested in the state-of-the-art Siemens 1.5 T MRI device, considered by many to be the best digital X-ray device on the market. The hospital has also launched a diagnostic radiology centre in the Zagreb Polyclinic. With the MRI scanner, MAGNETOM® Aera, digital X-ray, Multix

Fusion Max and ultrasound scanning the new department represents the highest standard for bone and joint imaging in Croatia.

Rehabilitation and physiotherapy

Akromion Hospital's care doesn't stop after surgery. Rehabilitation is a vital part of recovery. Prompt and proper implementation of an effective rehabilitation programme can significantly affect the final functional outcome of the surgery.

The recovery process is under the constant supervision of a qualified rehabilitation team.

An orthopaedic surgeon and physiotherapist will monitor progress and pain. They'll adapt the programme to the abilities and needs of each individual person.

At the hospital's newly opened Polyclinic in Zagreb, the specialist rehabilitation team carry out pre-surgical and postsurgical rehabilitation as well as outpatient physiotherapy for painful joints and spine, sports injuries and overuse injuries. Rehabilitation is a process in which progress is gradual. Success takes time. Physiotherapy, manual techniques and kinesiotherapy can help reduce pain, promote healing and improve muscle tone in weakened muscles. Treatment can also affect tissue elasticity and reduce the tension in certain muscle groups.

Rehabilitation can improve mobility, strength and endurance. Patients also acquire knowledge and skills that will help them maintain the results, prevent re-injury and slow down degeneration.

Surgery for sporting injuries

Top professional athletes, patients from Croatia, neighboring countries and across the globe contact the outstanding team of experts from Akromion Special Hospital for the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal problems.

Dozens of Olympic and World champions have been operated at Akromion Hospital.

Akromion Special Hospital for Orthopaedic Surgery, Hospital

→ Krapinske Toplice, Ljudevita Gaja 2, 49217 Krapinske Toplice. +385 49 587 487. akromion@akromion.hr. www.akromion.hr/en/.

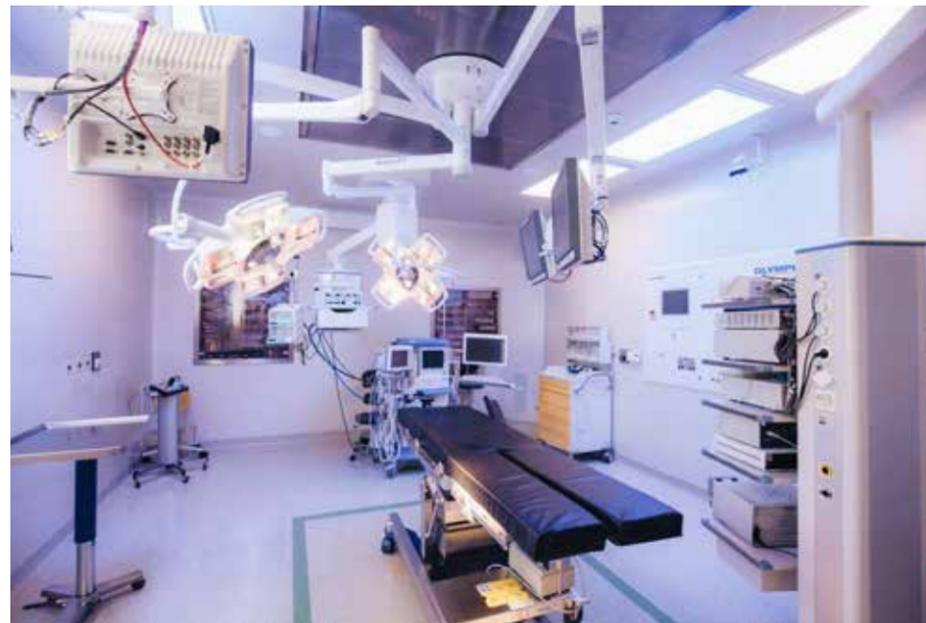
→ Polyclinic Zagreb, Frana Vrbanića 26, 10000 Zagreb. +385 1 6445 820. akromion@akromion.hr. www.akromion.hr/en/.

→ Split outpatient clinic, S. S. Kranjčevićeva 45, 21000 Split. +385 21 252 255. ambulanta-split@akromion.hr. www.akromion.hr/en/.

→ Zadar outpatient clinic, Kolovare 9A, 23000 Zadar. +385 23 231 999. info@akromion.hr. www.akromion.hr/en/.

→ Bizovac outpatient clinic, Sunčana 39, 31222

→ Bizovac. +385 31 685 182. ambulanta.bizovacke@akromion.hr. www.ljeciliste-bizovacke.hr/




Akromion



SPECIAL
HOSPITAL FOR
ORTHOPAEDIC
SURGERY

*Joy of painless
movement*

Treating the whole person

Podobnik is one of Croatia's safest hospitals, with specialised options for managing your pregnancy and birth.

PODOBNIK PRIVATE HOSPITAL a gynaecology clinic and maternity hospital in Zagreb. It provides private maternity care, gynaecological and urogynaecological treatment and specialist management of infertility.

Ten years caring for women The Podobnik Private Hospital is the first and only private health institution in Croatia offering gynaecological and obstetric hospital care alongside outpatient care. The hospital opened its doors in 2008. The main driving force was the wish to offer women a higher level of outpatient and hospital care.

The founder of the hospital was the Podobnik Polyclinic, owned by the Podobnik family. Professor Mario Podobnik PhD is a specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics and one of the first sub-specialists in fetal medicine in Croatia. A sub-specialist in human reproduction and a leading expert in ultrasound and prenatal diagnostics, the professor has over 40 years of experience in the field. Professor Slava Podobnik Šarkanji, the director of the Podobnik Special Hospital, was a long-standing president of the Croatian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology and has published more than 100 scientific and professional papers as well as several book chapters during her medical career.

Today the expert medical team consists of 19 doctors including specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology, fetal medicine, human reproduction, urogynaecology, paediatrics and anaesthetists, 28 nurses, and ten technicians.

Gynaecology services

The gynaecology department offers all types of gynaecological surgery in two modern and well-equipped operating theatres. Frequently performed procedures include vaginal and abdominal hysterectomies, surgical procedures for the treatment of incontinence, minor surgery for abnormal findings found on cervical screening and laparoscopy.



Laparoscopy at Podobnik

The expert surgeons at Podobnik use minimally invasive surgical procedures for the diagnosis and treatment of gynaecological problems, whenever possible. 'Keyhole' procedures speed-up recovery, reduce complications and enable patients to have a shorter hospital stay.

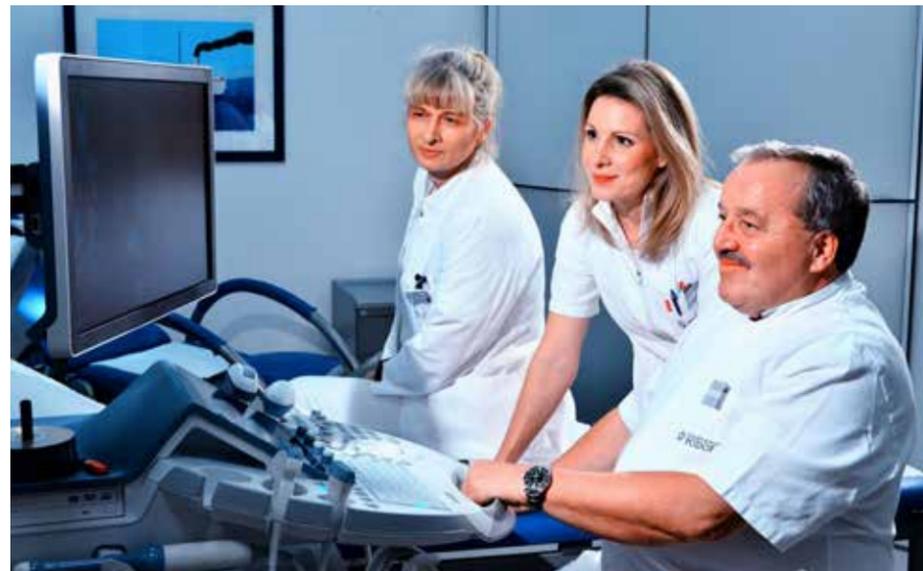
Laparoscopy is an endoscopic procedure. Under general anaesthetic, small cuts are made in the skin of the abdomen. A fine telescope attached to a camera is inserted. It relays images to a screen, allowing the doctor to check for problems with the ovaries, the womb and other structures in the pelvis.

Narrow instruments can also be introduced, allowing the surgeon to check that the tubes aren't blocked, excise endometriosis, remove

ovarian cysts, perform sterilisation and diagnose disease. Diagnostic laparoscopy is used to discover the cause of pelvic pain and in the investigation of fertility problems.

Surgery for continence problems

The impact of childbirth and the hormone changes during the menopause can lead to pelvic floor problems and urinary incontinence in women. Urinary disorders are more common in women than chronic diseases like hypertension or diabetes. They affect almost half of women over 50 and cause shame, discomfort and lower quality of life. The specialists at Podobnik can assess the problem and operate to reduce urine leakage.



State of the art technology, high quality service, continuous patient care, and adjustments to the needs and wishes of our patients are the main characteristics of our work. The number of patients in Croatia and abroad that seek our services has increasing. Our expertise and continuous improvement have the following goals: justify the gained trust, and become the first choice for women who need gynaecological treatment and mothers who want to give birth in the best possible environment for themselves and their baby.

GYNAECOLOGY

- Abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy
- Surgical procedures in treating incontinence and pelvic floor defects
- Laparoscopy
- Hysteroscopy
- Cervical conisation
- LETZ (Loop Excision of Transformation Zone)
- Incision and extirpation of the Bartholin gland
- Removal of benign vulvar tumors
- Excision of the vaginal septum
- Curettage
- Electrocauterization of condyloma
- Corrective surgery

REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

- Intrauterine insemination (AIH)
- in-vitro fertilization (IVF)
- intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)
- cryopreservation of embryos, oocytes and sperm

OBSTETRICS

- All types of vaginal delivery – birthing stool, birthing table, and water birth
- Painless delivery with epidural analgesia
- Caesarean section

Laughing with confidence

Stress incontinence is characterised by the involuntary loss of urine during physical activity, coughing or laughing. At the Podobnik Polyclinic, the latest generation of slings are inserted to support the urethra and maintain urinary continence. The procedure is minimally invasive so that patients can leave the clinic the following day. The results are very satisfactory, with over eight out of ten properly-selected patients having improved continence ten years after surgery.

Making life more comfortable

Prolapse can be an uncomfortable problem, historically more than 200 operations have been used to restore the anatomy and function of the pelvic floor. At Podobnik Polyclinic the most effective traditional and contemporary approaches are used to ease symptoms.

The patient's own tissue can be used to support the pelvic floor or synthetic materials can be utilised for surgical reconstruction. The specialists always strive to apply the least invasive surgical approach to gain optimal results. Vaginal hysterectomy, vault suspension, prolapse repair, the Kelly procedure and posterior colporrhaphy can all be performed and can be combined with surgery to manage stress incontinence where needed.

The surgeons use the latest synthetic materials for the management of recurrent problems and the repair of extensive defects. The clinic currently exclusively uses the cutting-edge titanium-coated polypropylene meshes, which significantly improve recovery and quality of life. The meshes are implanted through the vagina to repair areas of prolapse. The clinic also offers a laparoscopic approach which is particularly suited for younger, sexually-active patients who want to preserve their uterus. The procedure is minimally invasive, with a short-term bladder catheterization and a minimal hospital stay.

Fertility treatment and support

Sometimes conceiving a baby takes longer than expected. At this stressful time, the Medically Assisted Reproduction Department at Podobnik has a team of experts to offer support and treatment.

Podobnik Hospital has an experienced team of gynaecologists with expertise in human reproduction and embryology. They have overseen more than 5,000 medically-assisted reproductive procedure cycles.

The day-to-day clinical work is supported by scientific research, which has received international acclaim and been published in some of the most prestigious publications including Human Reproduction, Reproductive Biomedicine Online and Endocrine. The Head of Department, Dr. sc. Alebić, was awarded the International Medis Award in 2018, also known as the Oscar of medical care.

The clinic places special emphasis on co-operation and communication with patients. A couple is at the heart of the treatment. With an individual approach they work to achieve the patient's goals and minimise psychological distress.

Investigations and treatments take place in the calm, comfortable atmosphere of the clinic. The procedures are performed quickly and efficiently, with a minimum degree of invasiveness. This can only be achieved because of the state-of-the-art medical equipment, instruments, authorised and certified laboratory equipment and expert staff. The daily work includes: the latest 3D/4D and doppler ultrasound examination, intrauterine insemination or IUI (the insertion of prepared semen into the reproductive system of the patient), in-vitro fertilisation or IVF (fertilisation of ovarian cells isolated from follicular fluid collected through the transvaginal ultrasound-guided ovarian puncture), outside the female body, cryopreservation - the freezing of semen, ovarian cells, ovarian tissues, testicles, and embryos, diagnostic laparoscopy and examination of the tubes, minimally invasive hysteroscopy, surgery to remove polyps, cysts, fibroids and uterine septum.

The anaesthetic team will collaborate with the specialists to ensure that the patient goes through the procedure without any pain.

The clinic works to find and evaluate new treatments that may improve the chances of pregnancy and birth. The specialists have been conducting a study to assess auto-transplantation of ovarian tissue. It is a technique that method that could improve the chances of patients suffering from premature menopause.

The specialist consultant gynaecologists and embryologists at the Podobnik Hospital are skilled in diagnosing any fertility issues, treating problems and supporting you through medically assisted conception, if needed.

State-of-the-art maternity care

The Podobnik maternity unit is furnished to accommodate all types of deliveries from water births to elective Caesarean sections. All patients are accommodated in one bed suites with an extra bed available for a birth partner or other family member. Every suite has a



bathroom, air-conditioning, telephone, fridge, LCD TV, DVD, radio, and wifi.

There are three delivery rooms, equipped with birthing pools, stools and tables, enabling delivery in many different positions of delivery. Painless delivery is possible with the administration of epidural anaesthesia. There is access to an up-to-date operating room for delivery by planned or emergency Caesarean section using administration spinal or general anaesthetic. The Podobnik Hospital says: 'Our state-of-the-art technology, high-quality service, continuous patient care, and adjustments to the needs and wishes of our patients are the main characteristics of our work.'

'The number of patients in Croatia and abroad that seek our services is always growing. Our expertise and continuous improvement have the following goals: to justify the gained trust and become the first choice for women who need gynaecological treatment and mothers who want to give birth in the best possible environment for mother and baby.'

→ Podobnik Maternity and Gynaecology Clinic, Sveti Duh 112, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia. 01 639 8000. podobnik@podobnik.hr. www.podobnik.hr.



Looking good

Bagatin clinic provides plastic surgery, dermatology and cosmetology all in one place.

LOOKING GOOD can boost confidence and increase self-esteem and wellbeing. Celebrities and social media have helped fuel a growth in demand for cosmetic surgery, aesthetic treatments and dermatological care. The Bagatin Clinic is an internationally accredited centre for aesthetic treatments. It is a leading clinic in Croatia and Europe and provides high-quality, cost-effective treatments to patients from across the world.

Family beauty heritage

Bagatin clinic was founded in 1995 by Professor Marijo Bagatin, a world renowned maxillofacial and plastic surgeon. In 2006, he was joined in his private practice by general and plastic surgeon Dinko Bagatin and maxillofacial surgeon Tomica Bagatin MD, together with their younger brother and the current CEO of Bagatin Clinic, Ognjen Bagatin. The family built on the heritage of beauty started by their father and developed the clinic into the international centre for dermatology and cosmetic surgery it is today.

Travelling for treatment

The Bagatin Clinic is experienced at providing quality care for international clients. The clinic



has satisfied clients from more than 35 countries, all around the world. It was named International Cosmetic Surgery Clinic of the Year 2017 at the prestigious IMTJ Medical Travel Awards.

The clinic has a dedicated medical tourism department providing a bespoke service. It offers a series of innovative treatments and packages for medical travellers and provides personal assistance from the first point of contact through therapy and aftercare.

Travel planning can be demanding and seeking treatment abroad may be stressful. That's why the Bagatin Clinic takes the strain. They seamlessly schedule the procedures, arrange international client travel, suggest accommodation options and coordinate airport pick-up and drop-off arrangements.

With a personal assistant to support the client every step of the way, the Bagatin Clinic's clients are free to travel, without a care in the world.

Clinics in Split and Zagreb

The Bagatin Clinic offers more than 250 specialist treatments and procedures in two of Croatia's largest cities, Zagreb and Split.

In early 2019, Bagatin opened a new clinic in the seaside city of Split. Using knowledge,

skills and business traditions developed over more than twenty years, the clinic in Split offers a wide range of specialist treatments and procedures.

Bagatin Split provides a premium service. The treatment suites feature cutting-edge technology and the latest medical devices. These enable the experienced, professional staff to offer up-to-date, evidence-based treatments, in cosmetology and aesthetic dermatology. They told Time Out:

'The most important indicator of the success of our work is the satisfaction of our clients. They motivate us with each arrival and encourage us to strive for the best. They are our inspiration.'

Luxury location

The Bagatin Split is located in the luxurious surroundings of the Hotel Dioklecijan and Residence. The hotel has stylish rooms, a rooftop pool and spectacular panoramic views of the city, sea and the islands.

In Split's Gripe district, it's only a 15-minute walk from the city centre, Diocletian's Palace and the gorgeous sandy beaches. This convenient location makes it easy for medical tourists to travel for treatment and then take time to recover, whilst holidaying in an unbeatable setting.

Bagatin Zagreb

There are two clinics in Zagreb. The Bagatin at the Green Gold Tower has the most modern laser centre in the region, a centre for body contouring and weight loss. The clinic also offers comprehensive dermatology and cosmetology care.

The original Bagatin clinic in downtown Zagreb has over 20 years of experience in maxillofacial, general and plastic surgery. The building is brand new and fully equipped with the latest surgical technology. There are two operating theatres, observation rooms and a suite for clients coming from abroad. This ensures that their stay at the clinic is as pleasurable and stress-free as possible.

Cosmetic surgery with care

The Bagatin Clinic offers an extensive selection of cosmetic and plastic surgical procedures. From breast augmentation and reduction to liposuction, tummytucks, face lifts, rhinoplasty and many more.

Advertorial

The success of cosmetic surgery is highly dependent on the experience and skills of the surgeon. As a business that originally developed from the practices of a family of specialist surgeons, Bagatin prides itself on the excellent training, experience and calibre of their maxillofacial, general and plastic surgeons.

Bagatin is the only clinic in the region which offers consultation with the VECTRA XT 3D, a device that simulates an image of the projected results of cosmetic operations. Seeing how the surgery will change the appearance helps patients give informed consent for the procedure.

Specialist skin care

Bagatin's medical cosmetologists and dermatologists can help clients make the very most of their complexions. The highly-qualified dermatologists are experts in solving almost all skin problems, including unwanted hairs, broken capillaries, wrinkles, skin tags, moles and scars.

The experience and expertise of staff, state-of-the-art technological equipment and a personalised approach ensure the clinic achieves the best results. In 2018 the clinic was named the best dermatological clinic in Europe by the prestigious Global Clinic Rating (GCR.)

Cosmeceutical skin care products and treatments including chemical peels, laser, micro-needling and microdermabrasion can reduce the appearance of sun damage, help erase the signs of ageing and restore a youthful glow. Since the clinic was first opened, there has been an enormous increase in the use of injectable aesthetic treatments. Bagatin are experts with injectables. Popular procedures including injecting hyaluronic acid fillers to augment lips and cheeks and fill wrinkles and botulinum toxin treatment for wrinkles or excessive sweating.



Microdermabrasion is one of the most common treatments. The Bagatin clinic offers microdermabrasion treatment with the REVIDERM Skin Peeler New Generation Ultrasound. The therapy resurfaces and regenerates the skin, freshening the appearance and helping in the treatment of acne, acne scars, wrinkles, hyperpigmentation and solar keratosis.

Top-notch experts

Bagatin is an innovative clinic that combines the professionalism, care and attention to detail of a medical institution with a focus on beauty, and customer satisfaction.

The expert team includes doctors from nine different specialties including plastic surgeons, ENT surgeons, dermatologists, maxillofacial surgeons, orthodontists. Together with Bagatin's expert team of medical cosmetologists, nurses and technicians they offer a range of services and an individualised approach.

The clinic continuously invests in the professional training of doctors and nurses, keeps abreast of the scientific research and procures the latest equipment, in order to give clients the best possible service. Bagatin Clinic is a synonym for the highest quality of service and state-of-the-art technology. They are a unique medical institution in the region.

Cost-effective care

Bagatin's priority is high-quality, safe and effective care. However, its size and location allow it to also provide a service that is cost-effective compared to much of Europe and continental America.

→ Bagatin Clinic, Green Gold Tower, Grada

Vukovara 269a/10, 10000 Zagreb.

→ Donji grad, Frana Folnegovića 1c/1, 10000 Zagreb.

→ Dioklecijan Hotel & Residence, Kranjčevićeva 45/1,

21000 Split. +385 1 46 10 225. info@bagatin.hr. www.

poliklinikabagatin.hr/eng. Mon-Fri: 08.00-20.00.



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DONJI GRAD
Frana Folnegovića 1c/1
10 000 Zagreb

DIOKLECIJAN HOTEL & RESIDENCE
Kranjčevićeva 45/1
21 000 Split



Smile bright

Identalia helps clients smile with confidence.

MODERN ADVANCES in dental technology and techniques mean that teeth can be made whiter, brighter and straighter. With over 30,000 satisfied patients from all over Europe, the Identalia Polyclinic is a leader in cosmetic and reconstructive dental care, ensuring that clients can smile with confidence.

The Identalia Polyclinic is a modern dental clinic in Zagreb. It is at the forefront of leading-edge orthodontics and offers tooth alignment with the innovative Invisalign system. The expert team specialises in large jaw reconstructions through implant placement and prosthetic procedures. The staff expertise and use of superior materials together with the latest contemporary technology ensures that the Identalia Polyclinic offers consistently high-quality dental work.

Identalia is located in a pretty residential neighborhood in the centre of Zagreb. The Polyclinic consists of fourteen high-calibre clinics, each offering excellent treatment and care. The clinics are state-of-the-art and equipped with cutting-edge technology, in-line with top global dentistry standards.

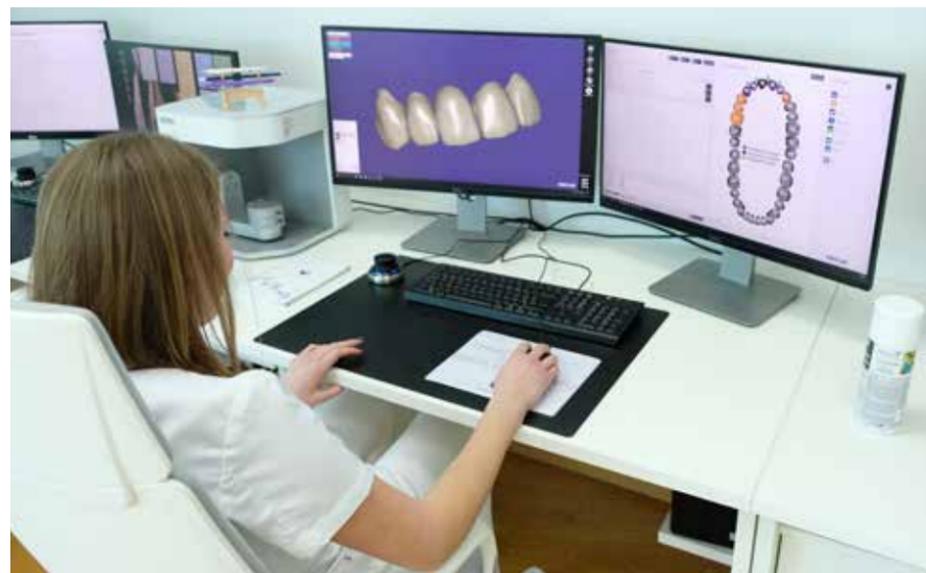
Dentistry tourism

Clients travel from across the world to access Identalia's expert treatment and care. Zagreb is only 2.5 hours away from London and daily

flights are available. Treatment pricing is transparent with no hidden charges and savings are up to 70 percent compared with costs in the UK. The clinic offers free accommodation in luxurious apartments for patients and their companions to ensure their comfort and safe recovery.

The latest digital dentistry

Computer technology is improving the quality of dental care. Identalia were the first digital orthodontic clinic, not just in Croatia, but in the entire region. Innovative technology supports the skill of the specialist staff from the first



meeting, through treatment and beyond.

The clinic has the latest generation CT scanner, enabling the creation of precise three-dimensional images. This allows for more accurate diagnosis and effective treatment planning. Instead of traditional trays, the iTero scanner creates digital dental impressions and the clinic also uses advanced software to precisely monitor each patient's progress.

By using a digital scanner and special software at the initial consultation, a patient can see what their smile will look like after therapy. Before treatment begins, every patient is given a personalised 3D animation. The easy-to-understand simulation shows the condition of their teeth, the sequence of procedures the patient will undergo and a digital image of the expected outcome. They can embark on treatment with knowledge and confidence.

Customised care

Everyone's mouth is different, so the clinic's approach to each patient is individual and tailored to their needs. Treatment planning takes into account the oral health and general wellbeing of the patient as well as their personal preferences. A careful and thorough assessment allows a precise diagnosis so that the best treatment solution is determined for the patient. The patient is thoroughly informed about each part of the procedure and the polyclinic provides all the necessary medical aids and medicines during the treatment.

At the Identalia Polyclinic all the dentists and oral surgeons are located in the same place. The specialist team includes dentists, denturists, surgeons, periodontologists, endodontists, orthodontists as well as anaesthetists and nurses. They all collaborate during the examination, treatment planning, the performance of procedures and follow-up care, ensuring a safe, satisfactory and long-lasting outcome.

Invisalign, a revolution in contemporary orthodontics

Braces are no longer just for teenagers. Today, it's possible to transform a smile without having to spend months wearing ugly train-track style braces. The Invisalign System uses aligners that are nearly invisible, to reveal a better smile in as little as three months.

The transparent devices are custom-made from SmartTrack material for a precise, comfortable fit. The aligners are easy to insert and remove, they're less painful than braces and can be taken out for important events or sporting activities. They act to gradually move the position of the teeth. Updated aligners are used every one to two weeks, to gently and accurately reshape the smile.

In the hands of an experienced Invisalign Provider, like the Identalia Polyclinic, Invisalign treatment has been clinically proven to be effective. From mild asymmetry to complex teeth straightening issues the dental experts at the clinic can make a difference to an individual's teeth, their self-esteem and their life.

Creating digital impressions with the iTero



scanner during the initial stages of Invisalign treatment enables a quicker and more precise preparation of the Invisalign devices. This allows the patient a shorter stay in the clinic and faster, more effective treatment.

The Polyclinic has been awarded Platinum Elite Provider status by the manufacturers of Invisalign, an honour that confirms the dedication and skill of the orthodontic team. The Identalia Polyclinic has the most experience in the treatment of orthodontic anomalies with transparent masks in Croatia.

Teeth in a day

All-on-4 is a dental implant procedure that replaces a whole arch of missing teeth. Patients can arrive with multiple missing or failing teeth and leave with a full smile with no need for dentures. The patented process has revolutionised dental surgery and offers a real solution for patients to whom fixed prosthetic implants could not have previously been offered. It's no surprise that the complex procedure is nicknamed 'teeth in a day.'

Any diseased or remaining teeth are removed, then a number of dental implants are inserted in both the upper and lower arches. A fixed bridge is then attached to each arch, all in one visit. For people who have felt embarrassed by their teeth or struggled with dentures, this procedure can be life-changing.

It is an intricate and demanding operation. At the Identalia clinic, all-on-4 surgery is performed by the most experienced doctors with extensive professional training.

The experts use the original protocol devised by pioneering Portuguese doctor Paulo Malo, 20 years ago. The clinic uses the approved original components for the method. Together with an expert technique, a sterile and fully-equipped surgical department and compliance with the original protocols of the procedure helps guarantee the durability of the new implants and bridges.

High-tech digital laboratory on-site

The clinic has a digital dental laboratory on-site equipped with a 3D printer, 3D CAD/CAM technology for crown design and the latest digital crown design software. This specialist facility allows the efficient and speedy creation of prosthetics, crowns, veneers and implants customised for each individual patient.

All the materials used in our clinic come from respected European suppliers and meet all European Union quality standards. They represent the globe's most famous brands including Astra Tech, Nobel, Straumann, Invisalign, Bio Oss and multilayer zircon. The clinic uses the best implants in the world, offering a lifetime warranty.

Preventing pain and anxiety

Some people are frightened about dental treatment and nervous about the pain. The professionals at the clinic are experienced in helping people with dental phobia. They will take time to ensure that each patient understands the procedure. The 3D animation helps patients visualizing the process. Being informed and properly prepared can reduce tension.

The clinic takes pain relief seriously and offers conscious sedation with an anaesthetist's supervision during many procedures. The clinic staff will provide sensitive support and a reassuring presence throughout.

Identalia and education

The polyclinic is a teaching centre for the School of Dental Medicine. It is also a centre for professional development and continuing education. Many dental surgeons and specialists attend sessions to develop skills and stay abreast of the latest research. Many world-leading lecturers in dentistry and oral surgery lecturers have travelled to Identalia to exchange knowledge and share experiences.

→ Identalia Polyclinic, Petrovaradinska 1, Zagreb, Croatia. +385 1 55 66 425. info.english@identalia.com. www.identalia.com.



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Comfortable
more convenient
& easy.



- ✓ free accomodation
- ✓ free orthodontic check-up and diagnostics
- ✓ digital scanning and treatment planning

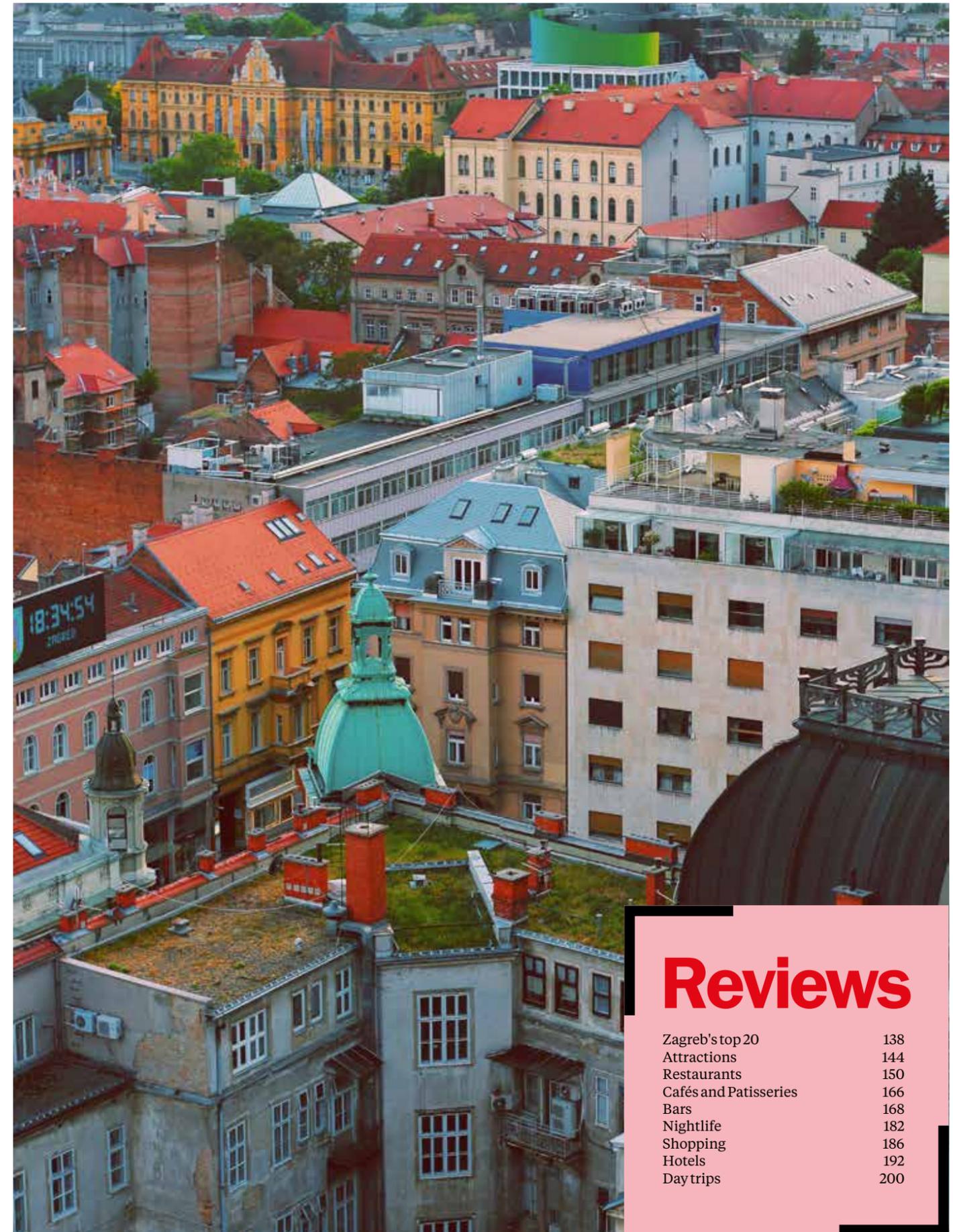
Get in touch and start the adventure of your new smile:

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Identalia Dental clinic, Invisalign® Platinum Elite Provider
www.identalia.com



IDENTALIA



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Zagreb Top 20

Compact and easy to navigate, Zagreb contains plenty of historic sights and fascinating galleries, complemented by destination restaurants, clusters of busy bars and numerous live-music venues.

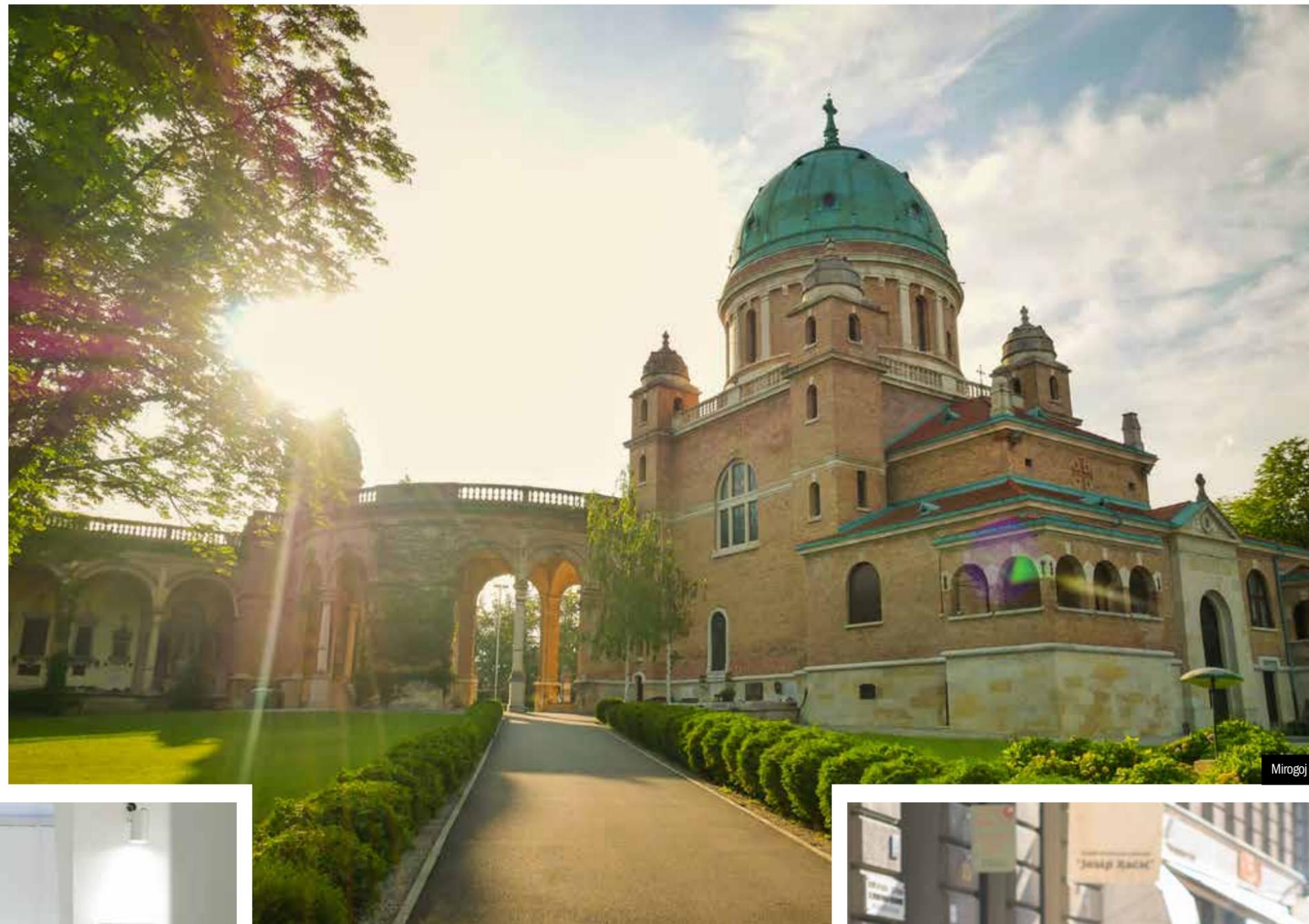
1 Take a tour of Mirogoj

The final resting place for 300,000 souls of many religious backgrounds, Mirogoj is Zagreb's Highgate, and encapsulates the city's rich patchwork history. A 15-minute journey from Kaptol on the No 106 bus, Mirogoj is also an architectural gem. Behind a series of green, onion-shaped cupolas, which cap ivy-covered brick walls, are tiled arcades, monuments to Croatia's most prominent citizens. Some you would recognise from Zagreb's street signs: Stjepan Radić, for example, who gives his name to Radićeva, was a politician shot in the Belgrade Parliament in 1928. His more recent counterpart, Franjo Tuđman, is honoured for his role in the Yugoslav War with

a modern monument of black marble. The best time to visit is on All Souls' Day, November 1, when everything is shrouded in a halo of candlelight.

2 Visit a break-up museum

The Museum of Broken Relationships is one of the world's most eccentric collections. Set in an eighteenth-century palace in Zagreb's Upper Town, this collection of objects has been donated by the public: each tells the story of a past relationship. The museum started life as a tongue-in-cheek touring exhibition nearly a decade ago; like its symbolic mementoes of failed relationships, it wasn't supposed to be a long-term thing.



Mirogoj



Museum of Broken Relationships

Now it enjoys a cult status at its permanent home in Zagreb. If you're recently heartbroken, cheer yourself up at its appetising new restaurant, which features playfully experimental takes on Croatian cuisine.

3 Hang out at the Art Park

Boundary-breaking art collective Pimp my Pump teamed up with street art studio Lapo Lapo to turn a run-down urban park into a vibrant open-air museum and green event space. An array of fun events, workshops and open-air exhibitions take place throughout the summer.

You can peruse the makeshift sculptures, watch the artists at work, or even get involved yourself. Entrance to this urban oasis and all events, talks and workshops are totally free.

4 Sample modern Croatian gastronomy

A new generation of chefs are deftly transforming traditional Croatian cuisine into exquisite food experiences. And the world is taking notice. Zagreb nabbed its first Michelin star this year at Noel, an achingly cool restaurant dedicated to the flux of trends in modern gastronomy. Chef Tvrтко



Špica

Šakota is sure to follow suit at the newly opened NAV restaurant, where classic Croatian dishes are given a contemporary makeover. For brilliantly imaginative, affordable cuisine, bistros like Beštija and Brokenships are well worth a look.

5 Get involved in špica

The local custom of špica is the Saturday-morning habit of having coffee in Zagreb's city centre. More specifically, it takes place where Gajeva meets Bogovićeveva and Preradovićeveva by the flower market on Cvjetni trg, and between 11am and 2pm, after everyone has paid a visit to the Dolac market across the main square. Literally, the word means the point of something sharp. Though nominally about drinking kava and enjoying a morning off from the hassles of the work, this ritual is more about looking sharp, of seeing and being seen. It's an impromptu stage for fashionistas, wannabe glamourites, local paparazzi and hush-toned trend mongers.

6 Eat a local lunch

Cheap and satisfying, gableci are cut-price lunches sold at outlets around town where à la carte dishes may be twice as dear. You'll see boards up, usually during the working week, suggesting the three or four gableci for that day. You will find vendors of gableci

Zagreb Top 20

around the Dolac market and Kvarternikov trg, for example, neighbourhood spots serving bean stew (grah), turkey with Zagorje pasta (purica s mlincima), and squared pasta with roasted cabbage (krautflekerli). One place to try them Gostionica Purger (Petrinjska 37), titled after the local name for someone from Zagreb.

7 Enjoy a couple of štrukli

This distant relation of Austrian Strudel and Turkish borek is made from rolled dough, delicious when filled with the traditional cottage cheese and sour cream. Whether cooked or baked, sweet or salty, in a soup or with added poppy, pumpkin or spinach, all versions deserve attention. When taken to try štrukli in a traditional local restaurant, most first-time visitors are impressed by the gentle taste of the soft dough, creamy cheese, the eggs and sour-cream sauce. Many venues pride themselves on their štrukli, although the kitchen at the landmark Palace Hotel provides some of the best – if not the best – in town.

8 Drink your way down Tkalčićeva

The fairytale street of Tkalčićeva, which snakes up from focal Jelačić trg, was once the flowing stream of Medveščak. The little sidestreets leading off it, Splavnica (from splav, raft) and

Krvavi most ('Bloody Bridge'), link to its watery origins and colourful past as the flashpoint in local disputes over the centuries. For two decades, this atmospheric thoroughfare has provided Zagreb with its prime bar crawl, a constant current of revellers moving from spot to spot. Venues move in and out of fashion, but you're pretty much guaranteed a good time at the Funk Club, a regular café by day, a lively DJ basement by night. The buzz around the horseshoe bar, as thumping beats come up from the cellar, is as sassy as anywhere on Tkalčićeva.

9 Trace Zagreb's history

This former 17th-century Convent of the Clares in the Upper Town has a permanent collection of 4,500 objects illustrating Zagreb's history from prehistoric times, laid out in themed sections. These include recent Iron Age finds, walk-through reconstructions of 19th-century Ilica shops and study rooms of famous Croatian artists. Perhaps the biggest attractions at the Zagreb City Museum are the old packaging, automatic music machines and propaganda posters from the last century, offering

a personal, human touch and a real feel for what life might have been like here in 1955. Many exhibits are interactive and it's well documented in English. The sundial in the courtyard is the city's oldest, and is still showing the right time.

10 Saunter through the MSU

The largest museum ever built in Croatia and the first to be built in Zagreb for 125 years, the Museum of Contemporary Art opened its doors in 2009. It comprises 5,000sq m of exhibition space, a library, a multi-media room, a boutique and a children's workshop. The MCA, known to Croatians as the MSU, is one of the major cultural institutions to have been located in Novi Zagreb, the little-visited area over the Sava river. With its proximity to the redesigned Bundek recreation park, it represents a new stretch to the famous urban axis of Zagreb's Green Horseshoe, created in the 19th century.

11 Go green at the Botanical Gardens

The Botanical Gardens form the east-west anchor of the 'Green Horseshoe', a U-shaped band of greenery laid out by Milan Lenuci in the 19th century. Near but removed from the bustle of the train station, it offers a wonderfully relaxing way to escape with your travelling companion amid the plots, plants, footbridges, lakes and ponds. These lovely gardens were founded in 1889. The first



Botanical Gardens



Zagreb City Museum

ZAGREB
SUMMER
TOUR
2019
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JUNE/JULY

CEST IS D'BEST

ZAGREB CLASSIC

INMUSIC FESTIVAL

SEA OF BOOKS

THE COURTYARDS

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plantings took place in 1892. Since, the 4.7 hectares (11.6 acres), dominated by an English-style arboretum, and containing rock gardens, lily-pad-covered ponds, symmetrical French-inspired flowerbeds and ten glasshouses (closed to the public) have been an island of tranquillity in the city centre. It's an idyllic spot to grab a shaded bench in summer. About 10,000 plant species come mainly from Croatia, some from as far as Asia.

12 Marvel at Mimara

Set in a neo-Renaissance former school on Rooseveltov trg, the Mimara Museum contains the most impressive art collection in town: 42 rooms house 1,700 paintings, statues and archaeological finds, set up chronologically and thematically. This huge trove was gathered by art collector and philanthropist Ante Topić Mimara, much of it during and immediately after World War II. Highlights include a collection of carpets, medieval icons, Chinese porcelain, and paintings by Raphael, Velázquez, Rubens, Rembrandt and Manet. Greek and Roman finds line the lower floors. The collection is vast – only a third is ever on display.

13 Browse Britanski trg

On Sundays the fruit and veg stalls that fill Britanski trg during the week are cleared

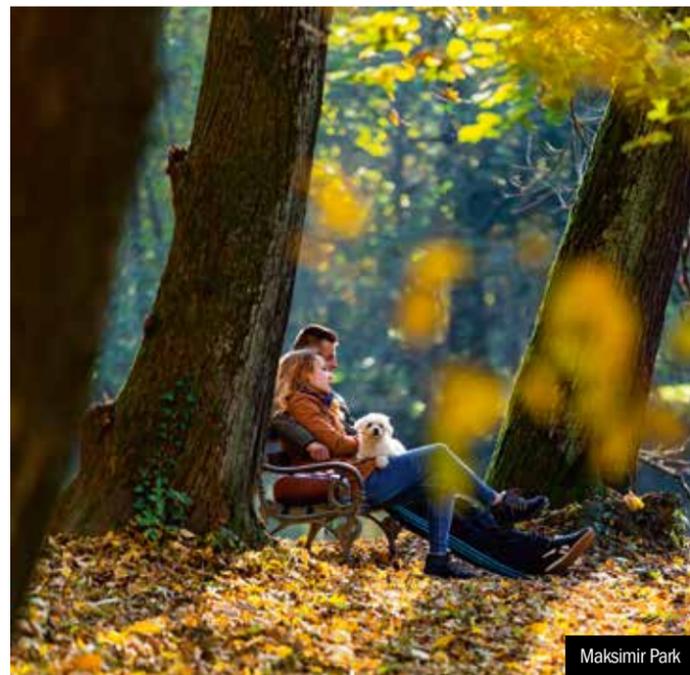
away, and an attractive bric-a-brac and antique market is laid out. In total, some 100 stallholders trade goods from first thing in the morning. Paintings, jewellery, old currency, badges, glass bottles, posters, crockery, silver, old farming tools and religious icons are all on display on wooden trestle tables. The morning is also a social occasion, locals gathering at nearby cafés.

14 Sip a rakija

A clear grappa-like fruit brandy, rakija comes in a baffling range of styles. Quality rakija is usually 40 per cent proof, but can be anything up to 80 per cent. The most typical base ingredients are plums and grapes, although you'll come across grappas made from apples, peaches, pears, cherries and figs too. Also popular are honey-based medica, orahovica from walnuts and biska from mistletoe leaves (not its poisonous berries).

15 Relax at the Maksimir

A ten-minute tram ride from the main square heading east of the centre, Maksimir Park comprises an attractive 18 hectares (45 acres) of welcome greenery opened to an appreciative public in 1794. Its many woods, meadows and lakes were landscaped in what was then considered the English style. Today rolling



Maksimir Park

hills cradle footpaths and cafés, providing ample room for jogging, romancing and relaxation. At one end you'll find the City Zoo, with the daily feeding times posted up for the seals, sea lions and otters, so that you can time a family visit around them. On the other side of the road stands Croatia's national football stadium, also called the Maksimir, base of home-town club Dinamo Zagreb.

16 Ramble and slalom at Sljeme

The highest peak of Medvednica Nature Park near

Zagreb, Sljeme is also the name used to define a series of accessible slopes that welcome hikers and ramblers all year round. They're best known for their climbing and skiing – the hills are dotted with mountain lodges and Sljeme has been developed as a major international skiing centre, a fixture on the sport's winter calendar. It provides training slopes for amateurs, night skiing, sledging and snowboarding for enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. There is snow cover on Medvednica for around 100 days a year and the slopes are given a coating of artificial snow when necessary, prolonging the season to four months.

17 Marvel at the Cathedral

If Zagreb has an iconic feature, it's the twin towers of its Cathedral, created by Hermann Bollé after an earthquake struck the city in 1880. Right in the centre of town, not five minutes' walk from the main square, the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary, to give it its full title, is Zagreb's most visible tourist attraction. Though much of the exterior has long been veiled behind construction sheathing, the neo-Gothic twin towers are visible over the city and are as close as Zagreb gets to a visual identity worthy of calling-card status. They were added by architect Hermann Bollé in the post-1880 rebuild, while the interior received neo-gothic altars,



Ella Pitr

19th-century stained glass, and a relief by Ivan Meštrović that marks the resting place of controversial Croatian Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac. An effigy of the archbishop rests on a raised platform behind the main altar.

18 Dander round the daily market

The daily market or Dolac, on a raised square a set of stairs up from the main square, has been the city's major trading place since 1926. Farmers from surrounding villages come to sell their home-made foodstuffs and some of the freshest fruit and vegetables you'll ever taste. In the covered market downstairs are butchers, fishmongers and old ladies selling the local speciality sir i vrhnje (cheese and cream). Flowers and lace are also widely available. Alongside, the renovated fish market, ribarnica, sells fresh produce every day but Monday.

19 Tour the street art of Zagreb

Bright and beautiful murals add flourishes of colour to Zagreb. Local street artists like developed distinctive styles, and the popularity of their work

has exploded internationally. Although it's in crumbling disrepair, the wall that runs parallel to Branimir is a good place to start. Etien's whale in the Upper Town is an important piece, as are works by Lunar, OKO and Lonac.

20 Sample Croatian craft beer

Craft beer has exploded in Zagreb over the last decade. There's a handful of excellent breweries scattered around the city, and you'll find at least one local pale ale on the drinks menu. Standout

contemporary breweries are The Garden, Zmajaska and Nova Runda, while early adopters Medvedgrad have been producing the stuff for nearly twenty years. Sample them at The Garden Brewery, on the winding terraces of Medvedgrad Tkalčićeva, or (probably) at the nearest bar.



Mimara



Dolac

ATTRACTIONS

Art Pavilion

Created for the Millennial exhibition in Budapest in 1896, this impressive, iron-framed building was then shipped back to Zagreb, where it centrepieces Tomislav square facing the train station. It still regularly hosts major art exhibitions.

→ Trg kralja Tomislava 22 (01 4876 487, umjetnicki-paviljon.hr)

Botanical Gardens

Just west of the train station and forming the east-west arm of the Green Horseshoe, these lovely gardens were founded in 1889. The first plantings took place in 1892. Since, the 4.7 hectares (11.6 acres), dominated by an English-style arboretum, and containing rock gardens, lily-pad-covered ponds, symmetrical French-inspired flowerbeds and ten glasshouses (closed to the public) have been an island of tranquillity in the city centre.

It's an idyllic spot to grab a shaded bench in summer. About 10,000 plant species come mainly from Croatia, some from as far as Asia.

→ Trg Marka Marulića 9A (01 4898 066, botanickivrt.biol.pmf.hr)

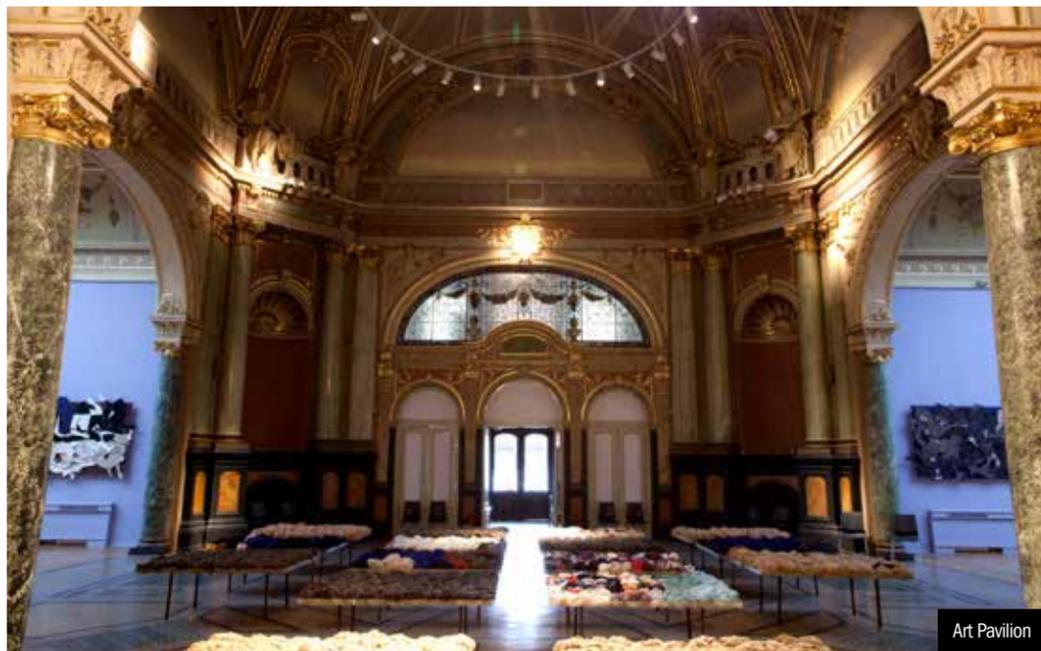
Cathedral

The Cathedral of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary (Katedrala Uznesenja Blažene Djevice Marije) is Zagreb's principal landmark. And though much of the exterior has long been veiled behind construction sheathing, its neo-Gothic twin towers, visible over the city, are worthy of calling-card status. The first church was destroyed by the Tatars in 1242 and later reconstructions were damaged by fire. After an earthquake in 1880 the city hired architect Hermann Bollé, who added a monumental pair of 105m-high bell towers. The interior remains austere: neo-Gothic altars, 19th-century stained glass, and an Ivan Meštrović relief that marks the resting place of controversial Croatian Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac. An effigy of the archbishop rests on a raised platform behind the main altar.

→ Kaptol 31

Croatian Architecture Museum

Founded in 1995, this useful resource houses thousands of items relating to Croatian



Art Pavilion

architecture from the late 1800s to the present day, though has no permanent display. It occasionally hosts temporary exhibitions, lectures and discussions.

→ Ivana Gorana Kovačića 37 (01 4834 551, info.hazu.hr/hr/o-akademiji/jedinice/hrvatski_muzej_arhitekture)

Croatian Association of Artists

Visit for the building alone, a circular pavilion standing in the middle of Victims of Fascism Square a ten-minute walk south-east of the main square. The building was designed by sculptor Ivan Meštrović just before World War II as an exhibition

space in honour of the then Yugoslav King Peter I. Inside, the circular walls contain three galleries, which span two floors and provide an outstanding venue for a dynamic program of contemporary art exhibitions and events organised by the Croatian Association of Artists (HDLU). The circular central hall features natural light through the cupola.

→ Trg žrtava fašizma 16 (01 4834 551, info.hazu.hr/hr/o-akademiji/jedinice/hrvatski_muzej_arhitekture)

Croatian History Museum

Situated in the Baroque-era Oršić-Kulmer Palace, the Croatian History Museum does not have

a permanent display but hosts a seasonally changing programme of themed exhibitions, frequently touching on the salient points of Croatian history.

→ Antuna Gustava Matoša 9 (01 4851 900, hismus.hr)

Croatian Museum of Naive Art

Housed on the second floor of the 18th-century Raffay Palace, this collection is a solid introduction to Croatian Naive Art, mostly the work of self-taught peasant painters from the villages of the east. The collection is frequently rotated but there are usually plenty of representations



Croatian Association of Artists

of rural life executed by the big names of the genre: Ivan Generalić, Mirko Virius and Ivan Rabuzin. Also included are international primitives such as the self-taught Polish-Ukrainian artist Nikifor.

→ Čirilometodska 3 (01 4851 911, hmnu.hr)

Croatian National Theatre

This neo-baroque landmark, opened by Habsburg Emperor Franz Josef in 1895, played a vital role in the establishment of a Croatian national identity. What you find today is a sumptuous interior – a suitably ornate backdrop for world-class ballet, opera and promotional events.

→ Trg Republike Hrvatske 15 (01 4888 488, hmk.hr)

Croatian Natural History Museum

As important a scientific institute as it is a public attraction, this museum holds exhibits including rocks and minerals from around the globe, many on permanent display. Look out for the section on prehistoric Krapina man, one of the most significant of its kind. The zoological collection features the fauna of Croatia. There's a

botanical section and herbaria too. The museum also publishes the scientific journal 'Natura Croatica'.

→ Demetrova 1 (01 4851 700, hpm.hr)

Croatian Post & Telecommunications Museum

In the same building as the post office but entered from around the corner, this museum is an oft-overlooked little gem. You won't want to arrange your day around it but if you happen to be walking by, take a moment to check out the old stamps, antique phones, post boxes, postal uniforms and telegraph machines. The switchboards are the highlights and the staff, of course, who always seem thrilled whenever any visitor pops in.

→ Jurišićeva 13 (01 4911 589, infozagreb.hr)

Croatian State Archives

Designed by Zagreb-born architect Rudolf Lubynski in 1913 and originally serving as the national and university library, this is a masterpiece of Art Nouveau in which everything – from the outer façade to the interior table lamps – fits seamlessly into a unified design style. Tours take place three times

a day on working days. The 200-seat reading room is full of stained glass, ornate details and murals. Above the dark wooden chairs and tables hang two giant chandeliers weighing nearly 1,000kg each.

→ Marulićev trg 21 (01 4807 150, daz.hr)

Dražen Petrović Museum and Memorial Center

Located on ground floor of the Cibona Tower, this museum is dedicated to Croatia's greatest athlete, basketball player. Dražen Petrović captained Zagreb team Cibona to multiple European championships, won three Olympic medals and became the first Croat to play in the NBA. In 1993, he died in a car accident, aged 28. He was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame a decade later. The museum houses most of his trophies, medals and memorabilia, and describes his career in English and Croatian. The space itself is minimalist in a tasteful, modern way, and captures the positive energy Petrović brought to the game. It's a nice, off-the-beaten-path experience which can be combined with a visit to Nikola Tesla Technical Museum.

→ Trg Dražen Petrović 3 (01 4843 146, drazenpetrovic.net)

Ethnographic Museum

Ageing exhibition halls and bad lighting shouldn't put you off the idea of visiting this absorbing collection, which begins with a ground-floor display of items brought home by Croatian explorers, including ritual masks from the Congo, Indian textiles, tree-bark paintings from Australia and Chinese ceremonial dresses. Upstairs is an extensive display of Croatian folk costumes covering all regions of the country, together with domestic artefacts and agricultural implements. Colourful, well-staged temporary exhibitions provide additional reason to visit.

→ Trg Mažuranića 14 (01 4826 108, emz.hr)

Galerija Klovićevi dvori

This is the major venue for touring art exhibitions, mixing blockbuster international shows with exhibitions on Croatian themes. Subjects in recent seasons have included Viennese Secessionism, German Expressionism, Marc Chagall and the Russian avant-garde.

→ Jezuitski trg 4 (01 4851 926, gkd.hr)



Croatian National Theatre



Meštrović Atelier

Galerija Nova

The regular line-up of exhibitions, talks, performances, discussions, book launches and happenings here rivals the programme of any other major art institutions in town. The packed programme of events is carefully documented in the Galerija Nova newspaper, issued free at the venue. The small size of the gallery space is made

up for by the scale of the artistic ambition of the four WHW girls who have built its reputation – WHW being 'What, How and for Whom', the conceptual mantra of the curatorial collective of Sabina Sabalović, Nataša Ilić, Ana Dević and Ivet Čurlin. With their trademark questioning approach, WHW has consistently broken new ground in its exploration of divisive

social issues, suppressed local memories and politically sensitive topics. Its work at the 2009 Istanbul Biennale received considerable critical acclaim.

→ Teslina 7 (099 779 4013, whw.hr)

Galerija ULUPUH

Occupying a rather charming trio of barrel-vaulted rooms in a Baroque town house, this gallery

displays works by members of the Croatian Association of Applied Artists. Ceramics, photography and fashion design feature strongly in a varied menu of changing exhibitions.

→ Tkalčićeva 14 (01 4552 595, ulupuh.hr)

Gavella City Drama Theatre

This downtown theatre has a colourful history, having been set up by rebellious young actors and directors who broke away from the confines of the Croatian National Theatre in 1953. They were led by Dr Branko Gavella, and the Zagreb Drama Theatre they founded was later named after the great theatre director and critic. Today its repertoire is equally at ease with Shakespeare as it is with contemporary drama.

→ Frankopanska 10 (01 4864 616, gavella.hr)

Gliptoteka

Created by the Croatian Academy of Science & Arts to house plaster copies of famous sculptures, the Gliptoteka has expanded its activities to become a major venue for changing exhibitions of contemporary painting, sculpture design and new media art. There is still an extensive permanent exhibition of sculpture, featuring replicas of medieval tombstones, statues, and a handful of originals by famous Croatian sculptors.

→ Medvedgradska 2 (01 4686 050, gliptoteka.hazu.hr)



Gliptoteka

Greta Gallery

Zagreb has always lacked the kind of small-scale independent galleries that occupy the fertile spawning grounds in-between public art institutions and private dealers. Which is why Greta, a gallery in a former clothes shop that opens a new exhibition every Monday night, has proved such an instant hit. Greta doesn't follow too strict a curatorial framework, ensuring the widest possible variety of artistic approaches. The gallery's location, at the apex of a bohemian Bermuda Triangle formed by the Fine Arts Academy, the Architecture Faculty and the Sedmica bar, ensures a knowledgeable and enthusiastic public. Indeed Greta regularly receives more visitors than many of the more established galleries, with opening-night celebrants spilling out onto the pavement outside. There are performances, projections and presentations on Saturdays, too, and new exhibitions every Monday.

→ Illica 92 (091 222 0810, greta.hr)

Image of War Photography Museum

Located in the city centre, the popular Image of War Photography Museum collects some of the most vivid and often harrowing photographs taken during Croatia's War of Independence 1991 – 1995. Displaying multiple aspects of the conflict, including the effects on civilians and military alike, the work of well-known photographers hangs alongside images captured by the public.

→ Hebrangova 4 (imageofwar.hr)

KICart

Cultural and information centre near the main square, with its own bar and regular screenings of international films – a significant number of the arthouse variety.

→ Preradovićeveva 5 (01 4810 714, kic.hr)

Lauba House

Lurking mysteriously in a little-visited area 4km west of the centre is this private art gallery, occupying a century-old barrack block painted in alluring matt black by modern restorers. Displaying the collection of businessman Tomislav Kličko, Lauba includes major works by virtually everyone who is anyone in Croatian art from about 1950 onwards. If you've already visited the Museum of

Contemporary Art, then Lauba will provide you with a refreshingly alternative take on the local art establishment, concentrating on visually appealing works as well as more conceptual exercises. Figurative paintings by Lovro Artuković and disarmingly bling sculptures by Kristian Kožul are among the highlights.

→ Baruna Filipovića 23A (01 4810 714, lauba.hr)

Lisinski Concert Hall

Opened in 1973, this 2,000-seater is the main classical venue in town, located just over the Sava. Opera, ballet and music events are staged here, and the Lisinski, named after the 19th-century Croatian composer, also serves as a convention centre. There's a 300-capacity smaller hall here too. The venue saw a serious revamp before hosting the Eurovision Song Contest in 1990, and minor renovations in 2009.

→ Trg Stjepana Radića 4 (01 6121 166, lisinski.hr)

Maksimirk Park & Zoo

A ten-minute tram ride from the main square heading east of the centre, these attractive 18 hectares (45 acres) of welcome greenery were opened to an appreciative public in 1794, the many woods, meadows and lakes landscaped in what was then considered the English style. Rolling hills

cradle footpaths and cafés, providing ample room for jogging, romancing and relaxation. At one end you'll find the City Zoo, with the daily feeding times posted up for the seals, sea lions and otters, so that you can time a family visit around them. On the other side of the road stands Croatia's national football stadium, also called the Maksimir, base of home-town club Dinamo Zagreb.

→ Maksimirski perivoj 1 (01 2302 198, zoo.hr)

Meštrović Atelier

Croatia's most internationally renowned sculptor, Ivan Meštrović, lived and worked in this restored trio of adjoining 17th-century mansions in Gornji Grad between the years 1923 and 1942. The collection here is spectacular, representing major works from the artist's prolific first four decades. Prominently, the Woman by the Sea sculpture in Carrara marble greets you as you enter the actual atelier – one of six exhibit spaces. As well as marble, there are stone, wood and bronze sculptures. There are also reliefs, drawings and graphics gracing the two floors of the house, the front atrium and his atelier just off the ivy-covered courtyard. The dimly lit interiors are lined with beautiful wood panelling and exude an intimate ambience.

→ Mletačka 8 (01 4851 123, mestrovic.hr)

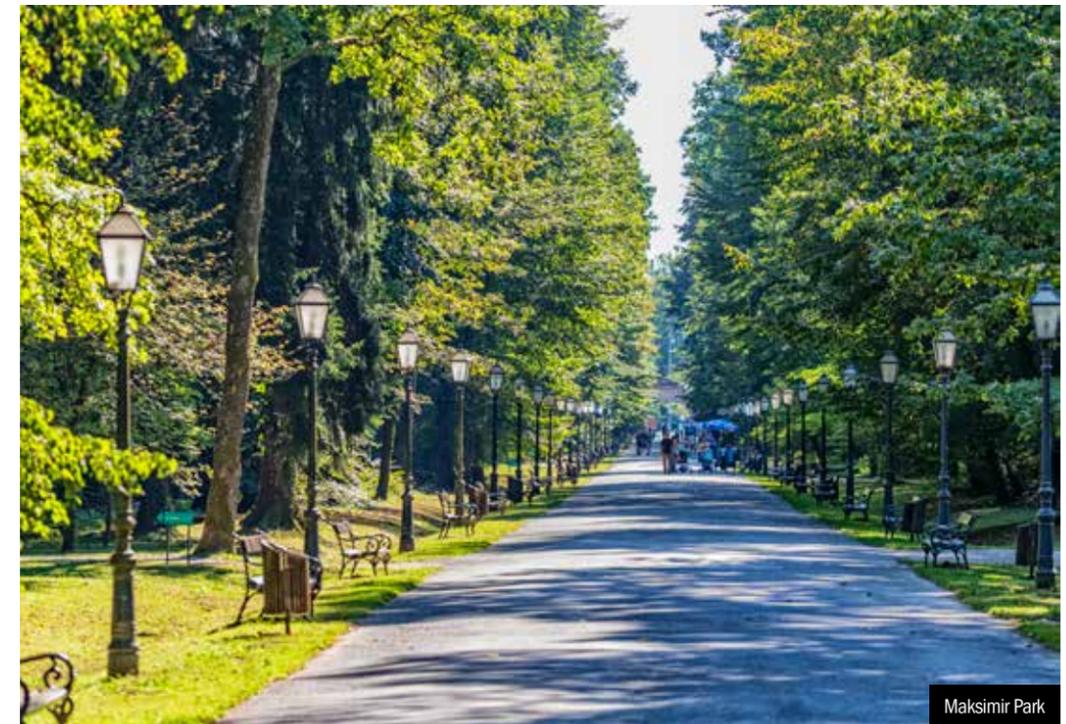
Mimara Museum

When it comes to historical art collections, the Mimara is certainly Zagreb's biggest in terms of quantity. Donated to the city by wealthy patron Ante Topić Mimara, the collection includes paintings, statues and archaeological finds, organised chronologically and thematically but with little by way of English explanation. Highlights on the ground floor include oriental carpets, south-east Asian sculpture and Chinese porcelain, while the picture galleries upstairs display works from every era from the Gothic period onwards, with artists like Velázquez, Rubens, Rembrandt and Manet each putting in an appearance. It's also an important venue for temporary exhibitions with an art or archeological theme.

→ Rooseveltov trg 5 (01 4828 100, mimara.hr)

Mirogoj

It's a pity more don't make it to this attractive cemetery. Mirogoj is widely regarded as one of the city's architectural gems. Behind a series of green, onion-shaped cupolas that cap ivy-covered brick walls, are tiled arcades, monuments to Croatia's most prominent citizens and the final resting place of 300,000 souls of various religious backgrounds. Stejepan Radić, who was shot in the Yugoslav



Maksimirk Park

Parliament in 1928, is buried here; so are Croatian literary giants Petar Preradović and Tin Ujević. Designed by Hermann Bollé of Cathedral fame, Mirogoj opened in 1876. As the rolling landscape continues to gain residents, it also gathers more museum-worthy sculptures, headstones and memorials. Renowned 20th-century Croatian sculptors Ivan Meštrović and Ivan Rendić are responsible for some of them. Of special note: Franjo Tuđman's modern, black-marble monument, worthy of an independent nation's first president. The grave of basketball legend Dražen Petrović, who died in a car accident at 28, is one of the most visited sites. Mirogoj comes into its own on All Souls' Day, November 1, when Croatian families visit loved ones equipped with thousands of flickering candles – a moving experience.

→ Hermanna Bollea 27

Moderna Galerija

Housed in the impressively renovated Vraniczany Palace on Zrinjevac, the Modern Gallery is home to the national collection of 19th- and 20th-century art. It kicks off in spectacular fashion with huge canvases by late-19th-century painters Vlaho Bukovac and Celestin Medović dominating the sublimely proportioned hexagonal entrance hall. From here the collection works its way chronologically through the history of Croatian painting, taking in Ljubo Babić's entrancing 1920s

landscapes and Edo Murtić's jazzy exercises in 1950's abstract art. Several contemporary artists are featured here too – sufficient to whet your appetite before hopping over the river to the Museum of Contemporary Art to see some more. The Moderna Galerija's most innovative feature is the tactile gallery, a room containing versions of famous paintings in relief form (together with Braille captions) for unsighted visitors to explore.

→ Hebrangova 1 (01 6041 055, moderna-galerija.hr)

Museum of Arts & Crafts

This grand Hermann Bollé-designed palace, founded in 1880, was originally based on 'a collection of samples for master craftsmen and artists who need to re-improve production of items of everyday use'. It has now grown to become the country's premier collection of applied art, with a wide-ranging gaggle of pieces from Baroque altar pieces to Biedermeier furniture, domestic ceramics, clocks and contemporary poster design. A side room full of synagogue silverware and ritual candlesticks recalls the rich heritage of Zagreb's pre-World War II Jewish community. On the top floor, a collection of 19th-20th century ball gowns and evening dresses provides a strong whiff of glamour. The museum is also a major venue for temporary exhibitions with big themes.

→ Trg Republike Hrvatske 10 (01 4882 111, muo.hr)



Museum of Contemporary Art

Museum of Broken Relationships

Starting as a playfully ironic art installation and subsequently an international touring exhibition that became something of a global cult, the Museum of Broken Relationships has become Zagreb's prime visitor attraction since opening the doors of its permanent home in late 2010. Housed in one of the Upper Town's finest Baroque mansions, the thematic display takes visitors through a series of different emotions associated with break-up, illustrated by objects donated

by members of the public. It has previously been named 'most innovative museum' at the European Museum Awards.

→ Čirilometodska 2 (01 4851 021, brokenships.com)

Museum of Contemporary Art

Costing some €60 million and covering 14,500 square metres, the MCA – MSU in Croatian – is the most significant museum to open in Zagreb for more than a century. Its collection includes pieces from the 1920s and gathered since 1954 when Zagreb's original MCA (in Upper Town) was founded. Of particular note are Carsten Höller's slides, similar to the 'Test Site' installation he built for Tate Modern's Turbine Hall but custom-made and site specific for Zagreb – pieces of art patrons can ride to the parking lot. Croatia's outstanding 1950s generation of abstract-geometric artists (Ivan Picelj, Aleksandar Srnc, Vjenceslav Richter, Vlado Kristl) play a starring role in the collection, alongside photographs and films documenting the more outlandish antics of legendary performance artists like Tom Gotovac and Vlasta Delimar. The new-media and computer-art works produced by the Zagreb-based New Tendencies movement in the late '60s and early 70s reveals just how ahead-of-its-time much of Croatian art really was.

→ Avenija Dubrovnik 17 (01 6052 700, msu.hr)



Museum of Broken Relationships

Museum of Illusions

This permanent exhibition celebrates the immersive world of illusions and spatial trickery. Accompanying the range of optical installations and holograms, it's backed up by educational info explaining the science behind how they work. The gift shop is worth checking out for some wacky toys and lighting accessories.

→ Ilica 72 (01 7999 609, muzejiluzija.com)

Nikola Tesla Technical Museum

A vast space is needed for these aircraft, vintage cars, an 80-year-old snowmobile, a World War II mini-submarine, 19th-century fire engines and a Dubrovnik tram from 1912. There's also a small planetarium, flanked by a life-size model of an unmanned Soviet moon-roving vehicle, and a similarly true-to-life copy of the American Mercury programme space capsules of the early Sixties. The section dedicated to Nikola Tesla illustrates just how advanced this turn-of-the-century pioneer of electricity generation and radio transmission actually was. Daily demonstrations in his laboratory

involve a short lecture during which some of his inventions are put through their paces.

→ Savska 18 (01 4844 050, tehnicki-muzej.hr)

St Mark's Church

Two coats of arms grace the red-white-and-blue chequered roof of this emblematic church: Zagreb's and Croatia's. Since the 1200s when the Romanesque original was built, the church has gone through many architectural styles – note the Gothic south portal and baroque, copper-covered belltower. Inside are hand-painted walls by Jozo Kljaković and a crucifix by Meštrović. The square outside, housing the Ban's Palace and the Croatian Parliament, has been the hub of political activity since the 1500s.

→ Trg Sv. Marka 5

Strossmayer's Gallery of Old Masters

This neo-Renaissance palace, built in 1884 to accommodate Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer's private collection of European paintings, is Zagreb's foremost collection of old masters. They are hung in nine intimate rooms on

the second floor. Italians fill the first six, with Fra Beato Angelico's Martyrdom of St Peter in room 1, Bellini's newly restored Saints Augustine and Benedict in room 3, and Carpaccio's Martyrdom of St Sebastian right next to it. The collection continues with Flemish (Brueghel), Dutch and German painters, with a final room devoted to the French – Portrait of Madame Récamier by Jean Antoine Gros is the stand-out picture here.

→ Zrinjevac 11 (01 4895 117, info.hazu.hr/hr/o-akademiji/jedinice/strossmayerova_galerija_starih_majstora)

Tortureum: Museum of Torture

A small museum dedicated to torture and brutal devices – plus a real-life 'Iron Maiden', a reproduction of the fabled medieval execution device. It's corny, fun and a relatively cheap way to spend a few hours browsing an unusual artillery of torture instruments and exhibits.

→ Radićeva 14 (01 6459 803, tortureum.com)

Zagreb City Museum

Occupying the 17th-century Convent of the Clares, the City Museum traces Zagreb's history

from prehistoric times until today. Themed sections include recent Iron Age finds, walk-through reconstructions of 19th-century Ilica shops and study rooms of Croatian artists. One the most riveting sections is the room-sized floor map of Zagreb's 19th-century Lower Town, complete with scale models of its main buildings mounted on pedestals. Here you can retrace your steps that day or plan your evening out. Other captivating nuggets include old packaging, watches and automatic music machines. Propaganda posters of 20th-century political and religious figures act as a finale. Many exhibits are interactive and it's all well documented in English.

→ Opatička 20 (01 4851 361, mgz.hr)

Zagreb Puppet Theatre

In operation for nearly seven decades, Croatia's oldest professional puppet theatre benefits from a 200-seater arena with the technical facilities to stage live actors and chamber orchestras along with award-winning puppetry.

→ Trg kralja Tomislava 19 (01 4878 444, zkl.hr)



St Mark's Church

RESTAURANTS

50 A Burger & Champagne Bar

Handily located behind the main square, this funky burger bar is the result of a global journey spanning New York, Hong Kong and Hvar. The menu uses local ingredients wherever possible, featuring Pag lamb, Istrian truffles and Dalmatian fig jam. There are nods to the owner's New York/Hong Kong upbringing too with pan-Asian flourishes like bao buns packed with beef, kimchi and wasabi mayo and bowls of ramen broth with silky noodles. The wine list is pleasantly varied, and there is craft beer on tap from Zagreb's Garden Brewery. The cocktails are intoxicatingly good. Compared with its competitors, 50 A Burger isn't cheap but an extra 20-30kn (€3) is a reasonable price to pay for burgers this good.

→ Vlačka 17 (099 300 4222, facebook.com/weare50ZG)

Agava

The brightest spot on the gentrifying Tkalčićeva thoroughfare, Agava offers a professional and cosmopolitan approach to dining. It comprises a cabin-like main interior and the terrace below. The menu features starters such as mushroom carpaccio at 45kn; a good choice of pastas and risottos from 70kn, and a dozen or so mains (baked octopus 90kn; roast duck breast 105kn). Before your dish arrives, a side basket of warm focaccia bread sprinkled with rosemary keeps hunger at bay. A fair selection of mainly Istrian and Slavonian wines may complement the meal; plums in red wine (30kn) provide a suitable dessert.

→ Tkalčićeva 39 (01 4829 826, restaurant-agava.hr)



50 A Burger & Champagne Bar

A Gente

Swanky new bistro on Tkalčićeva. See On Our Radar.

→ Tkalčićeva 70 (091 903 1207, facebook.com/restoranagente)

Apetit City

Bustling, busy but also moderately smart, Apetit City is intended for lunching city folk as well as more romantically inclined evening diners. The menu charts a course between modern European and traditional Croatian cuisine, including much that looks deceptively simple or old-fashioned – the fried calf livers with gorgonzola (85kn) are superb. Steaks and fillets of fish also feature on a list of mains that hover in the 90kn-160kn range.

→ Masarykova 18 (01 4811 077, apetit.hr)

AS

Opened in the 1970s in Zelengaj Park and in the woods, AS is a pillar of the seafood dining scene in

Zagreb. The interior is quite ornate, with white-linen tablecloths, oil paintings and a marble fireplace. In summer, diners clamour for the leafy terrace. The menu choices – top-class white fish from the Adriatic, lobster, octopus, squid – are always fresh. There's also an extensive wine selection with a heavy emphasis on Croatian labels.

→ Zelengaj 2 (01 4609 222, hotel-as.hr)

Bagel & Lobster Barr

Bagels and lobster is a weird concept. It's not burgers and lobster, it's not surf and turf. You can tell it's a weird combo by the fact that Bagel & Lobster Barr don't actually offer a lobster bagel. Bagels come in mozzarella, chicken, salmon, roast beef and pork options which, between 30-56 kuna, are reasonably priced, although the bagels themselves lack that authentic chewiness found in the standard Jewish bakery version. Grilled lobster is served with Hollandaise and lemon sauce, fries and salad. The lobster options are considerably more expensive than their bagel counterparts.

→ Jurišićeva 2A (091 766 4438, rougemarin.hr)

Balon

Swish seafood restaurant worth the trip out of town. See On Our Radar.

→ Prisavlje 2 (01 604 0918, www.restaurantbalon.com)

Baltazar

This rustic-style restaurant attracts an upmarket clientele to its little Kaptol courtyard with its

international offerings, traditional grills, seafood and regional meats from Zagorje and Slavonia. Duck, lamb and turkey are also featured. Service and presentation are impeccable, allowing the bill to creep up to 300kn a head with wine, but carnivores won't begrudge it in the slightest. In summer a pretty terrace comes into its own..

→ Nova Ves 4 (01 4666 999, facebook.com/restoranbaltazar)

Barbieri's

One of Zagreb's classiest new establishments. See On Our Radar.

→ Tkalčićeva 90 (01 6446 502, facebook.com/restaurantszagreb)

Beštija

Brave new bistro with an adventurous take on Mediterranean cuisine. See On Our Radar.

→ Masarykova 11/1 (091 324 0120, facebook.com/bestijazagreb)

Bistro Apetit

Bistro Apetit offers superb standards of food, wine and service – standards imposed by Croatian chef and owner Marin Rendić. One key to its success is the location, hidden in a hedged garden on a tranquil residential street, just a short walk north of the city's Gradec old quarter. The cooking mixes the best Adriatic cuisine with contemporary European. Apetit is by no means beyond the average pocket, and there are always some truly outstanding dishes on the seasonally-changing menu. And the desserts are truly heavenly.

→ Jurjevska 65A (01 4677 335, bistroapetit.com)

Bistro Fotić

Housed in an extension of the Foto Club Zagreb café, this imaginative new leap into Zagreb's growing bistro culture goes for the keep-things-simple approach, with a small menu of 5-6 mains (at least one risotto, at least one stew, at least one grilled meat dish with nothing over 60kn), all of which are prepared and presented with a bit of style. Fotić offers a slightly better choice of desserts than some other bistro places – it's worth popping in to see what's on the cake stand. There's a small street-side terrace, and the bright front dining room with theatrical birdcages and huge butterflies hanging from the ceiling provides an understated dose of cuteness.

→ Gajeva 25 (01 4810 476, bistrofotic.com)



Bistro Apetit

Bistro Mostovi

Located just a couple of minutes walk from Zagreb's main bus station and servicing the nearby business district, Bistro Mostovi caters exclusively for the daytime trade, excelling in gableci (small plates), lunchtime grills, seafood, salads and desserts. The traditional Croatian menu and cosy restaurant space is perfect for gatherings of friends, business lunches or international visitors refuelling after a long bus trip.

→ Radnička cesta 1A (mostovi.hr)

Boban

Named after the local football hero Zvonimir Boban, this popular operation is set just off Jelačić. The

kitchen turns out an enormous range of pastas. For instance, both the tagliatelle with truffles (75kn) and home-made black-squid gnocchi with salmon (71kn) are scrumptious – and the portions are staggering. You probably won't need a starter, unless a group of you is sharing a Piatto Boban (81kn) of delicious cold meats and cheeses. There are meaty mains, too, pork tenderloin (77kn), and steaks (112kn-122kn).

→ Gajeva 9 (01 4811 549, boban.hr)

Brokenships Bistro

This culinary offshoot of Zagreb's Museum of Broken Relationships is entered via a different doorway – and is often missed by visitors

who drift out of the exhibition without knowing that good food is just around the corner. You might be relieved to know that neither the menu nor the decor is themed around the subject of the museum. With low ceilings, maroon walls and rough-looking wood tables, the interior is certainly moody, but is actually quite sensual with it. The menu goes for a typically bistro-esque mixture of Central European staples and globe-trotting experimentation. In many cases there's a choice between small or big portions so you can mix and share your mains or treat them like tapas: fish stew, orzotto with beans and pork, and squid rissoles being among the choices (and with



Bagel & Lobster Barr

small/big portion prices ranging from about 55Kn to 90Kn or over). Duck with chestnuts (145Kn) or roast lamb shanks (160Kn) are the delectable standouts among the more substantial mains, although portions are small and you'll need a starter or dessert in order to feel well fed. The excellent cream soups (featuring pumpkin, cauliflower or other vegetables depending on season) are a great way to kick things off; the accompanying home-baked bread is a knockout.

→ Katarinin trg 3 (01 203 5906, brokenshipsbistro.com)

Burgeraj

A small but perfectly chosen menu has made Burgeraj one of the city centre's cult eateries. The spicy Pepper Jam Burger or the shiitake-filled Tamari Burger are worth making a pilgrimage here to try out. The interior looks a bit American diner-ish and the excellent drinks list (Fentimans Ginger Beer, Brooklyn Lager, local Pale Ale from Zmajaska Pivovara) makes this a great place to hang out – it's just a shame there's only enough room for about 16 people at a time.

→ Preradovića 13 (01 4876 791, facebook.com/burgeraj.zagreb)

Capuciner

Not only is Capuciner convenient, facing the Cathedral, and filled with locals, but it's fairly priced, most dishes in the with most dishes in the 40kn range. They specialise in big salads; excellent house pizzas with toppings like prosciutto, spinach and artichoke; and pastas, gnocchi and numerous veal dishes. This is a very good spot to grab a solid meal during a long day of sightseeing. From Kaptol, walk through the bistro to the back dining room with wooden-beamed ceilings or head out to the winter garden/summer terrace, which you can access through a back door from the building's side alley.

→ Kaptol 6 (01 4810 487, capuciner.hr)

Carpaccio

Carpaccio delivers stylish Italian-themed dining in a wonderfully convenient bang-in-the-centre location. For starters, there's a generous list of carpaccios, with marinated Adriatic fish or salmon among the most succulent choices. There are plenty of vegetarian options among the risottos and pastas, and substantial steaks and veal cutlets among the meaty mains. Leave

Restaurants

room for dessert: the house semi-freddo and tiramisu are difficult to choose between. Chic black furnishings, reproduction Art Nouveau posters, and a soundtrack of Italian pop provide the backdrop. There is a lengthy list of quality Croatian and Italian wines, a reasonable number of which are available by the glass.

→ Teslina 14 (01 4822 331, restorantecarpaccio.hr)

Dubravkin put

Located in a wooded dell between the Upper Town and the Tuškanac woods, it features a cool minimalist interior full of dark-brown furniture tones and low-key lighting. Seafood remains the kitchen's strong point, and both the baked fish (420kn/kg) and a 12-course tasting menu (465kn per person) are well worth the splash-out. Otherwise choose between exquisitely prepared and presented mains such as monkfish in black-olive paste, rack of lamb or ox tail, all in the 130kn range. It's also a stylish venue for an intimate

drink, with hundreds of wines to choose from and a tempting menu of nibble-snacks chalked up on a board beside the bar.

→ Dubravkin put 2 (01 4834 975, dubravkin-put.com)

Duksa

Located a few strides away from the northwestern end of Maksimir park, this popular pizzeria is a great place to end up after a stroll. Situated on the ground floor of a new box-shaped building it comes across quite convincingly as a cosy neighbourhood eatery, with an interior featuring pastel-coloured cushions and some charming family photographs. There's a lovely terrace at the back with large potted plants and small pots of basil on the tables. Pizzas is all they do, and the choice is large. However a close analysis of the menu suggests that more imagination has gone into the names than the toppings: a lot of pies involve a similar choice of



Duksa

ingredients deployed in slightly different juxtapositions. Ostalo mi je taj dan u frižu ("That's What Was Left In The Fridge"; 64Kn) involves mozzarella, ham, pancetta, onions and garlic, which turn up in quite a lot of other choices too. Our Ko se ljuti ("Who's Angry?"; the hot spicy one; 64Kn) owed its bite to the kind of pickled peppers you buy in jars at the supermarket, which is OK in an average pizzeria but will never be very memorable in a place that aims for high ratings on social media. That said, the pizzas are good enough to satisfy, and it's a nice place to relax and eat reasonably well.

→ Duknovičeva 4 (01 233 4556, duksa.hr)

Eggspres

Popular with Zagreb's weekend brunch crowd, Eggspres offers a world-spanning selection of egg dishes – there's perfectly poached Eggs Benedict, omelets, Shakshuka; whatever way you like yours, they have it cracked. Prices are reasonable, the service is friendly and eggs are cooked to perfection. Simple cocktails like Mimosas and Aperol Spritz are available. Inside, the bright, modern interior features exposed brickwork, acres of seating and a grand piano – slightly incongruous with its barmy eggs-only concept menu.

→ Boškovičeva 11 (no number, facebook.com/EggspresZg)

El Toro

Occupying the ground floor of one of those curvy, almost art-deco buildings on Šubičeva, this much-touted steak-and-much-more besides house cultivates an aura of design-magazine cool, with a suave blend of browns and matt blacks, and a convex window that provides a swivel-eye view of the street scene outside. A lot of people come for

the steaks (160-220Kn), which are expertly grilled to the customer's specifications and certainly count among the best that you will get east of the Adriatic. There's a pronounced Latin-American-fusion approach to the starters and snacks, and it's here that El Toro's creative side comes to the fore – the prawn ceviche (raw prawns in a lime, coriander and chili sauce; 95Kn) is a divine way to kick off a memorable meal; while the Korean beef taco (two pieces; 55Kn) hits the right sweet-and-sour spots although may not be quite as spicy as some people might like. Music is, for the most part, jazzy or loungey, service the right blend between informal and attentive.

→ Fra Filipa Grabovca 1 (099 613 2926, eltoro.hr)

Fidel Gastro

Lighting the way for Zagreb's bistro revolution. See On Our Radar.

→ Krste Pavletića 1 (091 255 2724, fidelgastro.hr)

Franko's Pizza & Bar

One of the city's youngest and best pizzerias. See On Our Radar.

→ Branimirova 71A (01653 0884, facebook.com/frankoszagreb)

Gallo

Posh but relaxed, Gallo offers seasonal and organic Mediterranean cuisine in a quiet courtyard set apart from the busy traffic of Hebrangova. Outside is a herb garden; sheets of pasta hang in the classic interior. It's dear, but in no way extortionate – starters are in the 80kn range, mains at 120kn. Truffles are sprinkled wherever possible and the risotto mare i monte with porcini mushrooms is worth a return visit. A choice of some 70 Croatian and global wines may accompany your meal.

→ Hebrangova 34 (01 4814 014, gallo.hr)

ON OUR RADAR



A Gente ★★★★★

Chandeliers, retro furnishings and fancy upholstery mark out this recent addition to the Tkalčićeva scene as one of the more refined additions to Zagreb's main nightlife strip. The stylish interior is pleasantly offset by informal, friendly service, which often includes a smile from the kitchen staff (who may well bring the food out themselves). The discreet presence of a gentle white dog reinforces the impression that this is a family restaurant and the warmth is palpable. The menu is Dalmatian-Mediterranean with a pronounced emphasis on flavoursome, sensual seafood and home-made pasta. Prices edge towards the fine-dining end of the scale but there are some good inexpensive options (lamb chops, pork steaks) if you order shrewdly. House specialities include a range of seafood ravioli (140-200Kn) that are more refined and interesting than the usual pasta-food choices in town, and a seafood risotto (110Kn) that achieves just the right balance between al-dente rice and a bottom-of-the-bowl swish of flavoursome juices. The musical background is mostly smooth and sultry blues and jazz – which goes rather well with the food.

→ Tkalčićeva 70 (091 903 1207, facebook.com/restoranganente)

Barbieri's ★★★★★

A sleek restaurant presided over by Croatian chef Mauro Renje, its legendary owner Andrej Barbieri sadly passed away this year. Inspired by French brasseries, servings are small but remarkably well-crafted, and the food plays to local strengths – there's Adriatic fish-dishes with dollops of fancy purees, novel uses of Slavonian black pig and a stellar range of starters. Inside, it's a low-light suede and dark leather affair, with a cocktail bar serving princely cocktails. One of Zagreb's pricier establishments with an opportune spot on Tkalčićeva, the location is hard to beat.

→ Tkalčićeva 90 (01 6446 502, facebook.com/restaurantszagreb)



Balon ★★★★★

There's always something of a Zagreb-in-spring-time buzz surrounding Balon: its location, set back from the Sava riverbank, gives it a slightly out-of-the-centre feel, while the relaxing leafy terrace helps to make it a destination restaurant rather than just a practical choice for lunch. The menu revolves around steaks and Mediterranean seafood. Main courses are refined but don't require too much explaining – the fish fillet still comes with traditional Croatian garnish of man-gold and boiled potato. Service is polished and attentive – we were particularly impressed by the fact that they brought two different olive oils to the table and discussed their relative merits. The chocolate mousse with crunchy, nutty casing (38Kn) is the pick of the desserts.

→ Prislavje 2 (01 604 0918, restaurantbalon.com)



Boban

Restaurants

Garden Bar & Kitchen

Having spent a couple of years establishing a unique brewery-cum-bar-cum-DJ space out in the suburbs, the ever-agile Garden Brewery now has a base in the city centre too – allowing aficionados to save serious money on all those taxi fares. First and foremost it's an excellent multi-tap, serving the Garden's five core beers, a handful of their seasonal specials, and one or two guest brews. It's also a very good place for lunch or evening munchies, with a menu artfully poised between creative fusion cuisine and grub that goes well with alcohol. It's one of the best places in town for a good inexpensive lunch, with daily menus (Mondays to Fridays till 3pm) offering two courses for 65-68Kn. Items on the main menu frequently come with a global-meets-local twist: the fish and chips feature Croatian salmon trout; rolling up the buncek (roast pork knuckle) and serving it in a hot-dog bun is a culinary joke that works rather well. The knockout Zagorska juha (soup from the Zagorje region; 30Kn) is chunky, full of flavour, and serves admirably as a quick lunch in its own right. And as you might expect from the Garden crew the place very much looks and sounds the part, with a minimalism-meets-pop-art interior and a soundtrack that runs from vintage soul to clubby electronica. → Preradovića 12 (099 476 4634, thegarden.hr)

Ginger Sushi

The Zagreb sushi scene has experienced a flurry of openings and closures in recent years leaving Ginger Sushi as one of the most reliable central bets for good-quality Japanese fare. There are stools inside if you want to eat in but this is primarily a take-away place. The long menu covers most levels of the sushi stratosphere although with bento sets starting at 30kn you might just want to take a look at what's already boxed up and ready to go. Asahi and Kirin beer in the fridge. → Masarykova 21 (01 8897 086, gingersushi.hr)

Gostionica Purger

Almost halfway between the main square and the train station, this is a classic Zagreb restaurant of once state-owned ilk. The food is sturdy and the dishes traditional. In the no-frills, three-room dining interior, you can expect classics such as sarma (sauerkraut stuffed

with minced meat), lamb, veal and seafood. Purger, by the way, is local slang for someone born and bred in Zagreb.

→ Petrinjska 33 (01 4810 713, purger.hr)

Gostionica Tip-Top

Little has changed here since Tin Ujević and his literary gang were regulars in the 1940s – except that their pictures have been mounted and an outline of Tin's iconic hat etched on to the windows. The front bar has since been converted into restaurant space but the back dining room still provides intimacy. There are inexpensive specials every day, and a seafood-dominated menu that features red mullet, sole or sea bass at 320kn a kilo. Plenty of Korčula varieties on the wine list, reflecting the venue's ownership.

→ Gundulićeva 18 (01 4830 349, facebook.com/gostionica.tiptop)

Green Point

Vegetarianism has been slow to catch on in many corners of this meat-crazed country, but progressive-minded Zagreb is beginning to buck the trend. This snack bar diagonally opposite noted hipster-hangout Kino Europa is arguably the capital's leading exponent of fast food with a healthy-living bent. Burgers made from tofu, seitan and hemp (the latter is more mind-blowing in term of taste than you might immediately think) are the big sellers, although the salads, Asian-spiced wok dishes and cups of soup (including excellent recent menu addition Russian borscht) are well worth trying. And if you can't get enough of the hemp, it also features as an ingredient in Green Point's long list of excellent shakes.

→ Varšavska 10 (01 4833 667, green-point.hr)

Gyoza

Authentic Japanese izakaya bar with friendly staff. See On Our Radar.

→ Boškovića 6 (01 5584 088, facebook.com/gyozasakebar)

Haustor Haus

Part of Zagreb's new wave of modern Mediterranean bistros. See On Our Radar.

→ Masarykova 26/1 (091 112 2215, facebook.com/haustorhaus)

Kerempuh

Kerempuh has a reputation for being an informal neighbourhood

restaurant which also cultivates foodie culture. It has served as something of a proving ground for culinary celebrities in recent years, with both TV chef Ana Ugarković and rising star Dino Galvagno (former head chef at Prasac) doing stunts in the kitchen. Ingredients are gathered round the Dolac market first thing in the morning for the daily changing menu, which is chalked up on the blackboard outside. Traditional central-Croatian dishes like *buncek* (leg of ham) and *lungić* (pork loin chop) form the backbone of the regular menu, although there are always a couple of attractive vegetarian options among the reasonably priced meaty ones.

→ Kaptol 3 (01 4819 000, facebook.com/restorankerempuh)

Kod Šime

This authentic locals' joint just across from Kvatrić outdoor market added extra dining-room space in 2012 to cope with its increasingly devoted army of followers. Simple, inexpensive Croatian food delivered with a smile is the name of the game. Order the sarma (minced meat in cabbage), the pašticada (beef stewed in plum sauce), the calamari or just about anything else on the menu and you are guaranteed several things: you will be satisfied, you'll eat something traditional and local, and you'll have more than enough money left over to buy the next

shout. The outdoor overlooks a park full of locals walking dogs or watching kids play. → Martićeva 62 (01 4610 643, facebook.com/pages/Kod-Sime)

Konoba Didov San

This might be one of the cosiest locales in Zagreb – on a narrow passage among the cobbled streets behind St Mark's Church and the Croatian Parliament in the Upper Town. But even as quaint as this is, the food matches it. This is Dalmatian food with a Neretva Valley twist. Frogs' legs with prosciutto and eels speak of the owner's heritage and may not be for everyone but other choices such as pasta with snails (75kn), the veal (70kn) and baked lamb for two (170kn) are also well-prepared. The interior is faux Neretva village, with stone walls, red-checked tablecloths and dried tobacco leaves hanging from sturdy wooden beams. A meal for two with a litre of good house wine will run between 200kn and 250kn.

→ Miletka 11 (01 4851 154, konoba-didovsan.com)

Korčula

Korčula is as traditional as it gets. This fish restaurant on the corner of Teslina and Preradovića was here long before the trendy bars set up around it. The kitchen turns out high-quality versions of seafood standards, tuna fillets or grilled squid with blitva, as well



NAV

as a few specialities worth trying, in particular a succulent baked octopus with potatoes (125kn). There are scallops, breaded frogs' legs and grouper or John Dory priced by the kilo. The black risotto (crni rižot) is as good as you'll get anywhere in town. Decent, well priced bottled of Dingač and Pošip (180kn-220kn) highlight an excellent wine selection (literally dozens of reds and whites) of similarly Dalmatian provenance. → Teslina 17 (01 4811 331, restoran-korcula.hr)

Lari i Penati

If you enjoy high-quality food served briskly in informal surroundings, then Lari i Penati (named after a pair of Roman household gods) will be the kind of place you'll find it difficult to stay away from. The only problem is its small size, with 12 high stools pressed against small tables and a street-facing window ledge. Succeed in grabbing a place and you'll be treated to a delectable and dizzyingly cheap range of sandwiches, soups-of-the-day (20kn), light main courses (a tasty fillet of fish can set you back as little as 70kn), and ribs and wings for around 40-45kn. There's also in-house cakes and muffins. What's on offer depends on the season and what the chefs feel like cooking that day – the menus are changed daily. → Petrinjska 42A (01 4655 776, lariipenati.hr)

La Štruk

The doughy parcels known as štrukli constitute one of the

trademarks of north-Croatian cuisine, and it was only a matter of time before they got their own dedicated restaurant. Štrukli come either boiled or baked; cheese štrukli are usually eaten as a savoury dish, although sweet versions with jam are also popular. At La Štruk you get a choice between several varieties: although the classic cheese edition occupies centre stage, they also conduct regular experiments (cheese and nettle štrukli; cheese and paprika štrukli) to demonstrate just how much potential the basic štrukli concept actually has. La Štruk's sweet štrukli with walnuts and honey, or apple and cinnamon, are quite simply divine. → Skalinska 5 (01 4837 701, facebook.com/LaStrukZagreb)

Le Mika

Sweet and savoury galettes prepared by a French chef. See On Our Radar. → Teslina 14 (098 984 3395, lemika.hr)

L'oro di Napoli

Zagreb is so full of it's-quite-good-I-suppose pizzerias that it's often quite difficult to pull out a place that's really special. Located in a basement just north of Zagreb Cathedral, the Italian-run L'oro di Napoli might just fit the bill. The pies that are spaded out of its dome-topped oven are almost impossible to find fault with, sporting gorgeously leopard-spotted crusts and a just-the-right-side-of-sloppy range of traditional toppings. Italian-sourced

ingredients are used throughout: their Pizza Bufalina, generously spread with mozzarella from Campania water buffalo, serves as a reminder of just how exciting – both in texture and in flavour – real Italian mozzarella actually is. There's a floor-to-ceiling picture of Napoli on one wall and the rocky coast of Capri on another, but decor is otherwise on the functional side and not quite suited to a candlelit dinner. There will be an outdoor terrace in the courtyard come the spring. → Kaptol 27 (098 674 579).

Lokma from Istanbul

The only decent Middle Eastern restaurant in Zagreb's city centre, Lokma from Istanbul benefits from a first-class location on buzzing bar crawl Tkalciceva. Previously a Turkish-take out, Lokma have upgraded their menu to a bafflingly expansive selection of mezzes, attracting a new style of sit-down diners to this tiny restaurant and its slim courtyard. The Levantine-themed dishes are tasty, authentic enough, and hearty portions mean you get plenty of mezze for your buck – each around the 30kn mark. Open until past-midnight, it's perfect for the late-night munchies. → Tkalićeva 59A (01 5999 355, lokma.hr)

Mali Bar

Mali Bar serves up exquisite lunches and inventive nibble food in an informal, five-table dining room. Main courses change daily. Everything else comes

Restaurants

in the form of tapas – like small portions – grilled octopus, spring rolls, own recipe mini burgers and various salads. Superb desserts, too. Presiding over the kitchen is Ana Ugarković, prolific cookbook author and TV chef.

→ Vlaška 63 (01 5531 014, facebook.com/MaliBarZagreb)

Mano

Though called an Italian restaurant in local tourist brochures, Mano is actually a high-end steakhouse fit to bring your best girl to for an anniversary dinner or the business associate you're trying to impress. A better description of Mano – 'hand' in Italian (as in 'hand-made') – would likely be a fusion tribute to the grill. Fine cuts are grilled on charcoal in a kitchen set behind glass so that patrons can watch the process. Order the Steak Mano or T-bone and the waiter will bring the cut of meat, marinated in rosemary, olive oil and Dijon mustard, to your table with a mini-grill so that you can cook the steak to your own specifications. Simple, sleek and modish wooden chairs and tables sit on tongue-and-groove floors under exposed brick. The wines – a long, international list – are in a glass room for your inspection. Reservations recommended. → Medvedgradska 2 (01 4669 432, mano.hr)

Mano2

Mano 2 specialises in high-level dining, with parallel themes to its sister restaurant Mano: exquisitely cooked meat and seafood in a modern, unashamedly trendy dining room. → Radnička 50 (01 6430 535, mano2.hr)

Mašklin i Lata

Beneath the Old Pharmacy pub and named after farming tools, Mašklin i Lata brings a bit of the sea to the heart of the city. It's got the traditional feel just right. Most of the offerings have a fish or seafood base – lobster, cod, monkfish, squid, prawns, octopus – all combined with home-made pasta, gnocchi, risotto, wild asparagus, Istrian truffles or turned into great stews. Sample the brodet, gregada (a fish stew from Hvar) or a hulking white platter of mixed fish (priced by the kilo) with blitva, the traditional accompaniment of local Swiss chard and potatoes – you won't be disappointed. → Hebrangova 11 (01 4818 273, facebook.com/KonobaMasklinLata)

Restaurants

Namaste

The best Indian in Zagreb. See On Our Radar.

→ Selska cesta 217 (01 6264 458, namastezagreb.com)

NAV

Bold takes on classic Croatian cuisine by Tvrtko Šakota. See On Our Radar.

→ Masarykova 11 (01 202 9961, facebook.com/NavRestaurant)

Noel

Zagreb's only Michelin-starred meal. See On Our Radar.

→ Dukljanina 1 (01 4844 297, noel.hr)

Nokturno

As they say on the menu, it's just a one-minute walk from the main square... and that's if you're going slowly. For years this has been the classic place for tourists to go without feeling like they're too much of a tourist. You'll hear many a local voice inside the faux-brick dining room or on the multi-tiered terrace, which climbs along up the street toward the Cathedral or down to Tkalčićeva. The food and prices – a big helping of lasagne for 30kn, for instance – will keep

you coming back. This is all things to all men, a gastro anchor that also serves big salads, pastas, excellent pizzas, fish, squid and steaks.

→ Skalinska 4 (01 4813 394, restoran.nokturno.hr)

O'brok

At its simplest the Croatian word obrok means "meal", although it also comes with the connotation of something rather basic or straightforward, like army rations or school dinners. It's a neatly ironic introduction to what this small and intimate restaurant actually does, serving up quality food that suits the quick-luncher as well as those with time for several courses. The aim is to give Croatian cuisine a bit of contemporary style, but without losing sight of what's traditional about it. Four or five specials (65-90Kn) are chalked up on a board each day - old-school recipes like lung stew might feature alongside something a bit closer to the comfort zone, such as pork chop with mushrooms or lamb with peas. Mains are often accompanied with down-at-home extras that other restaurants no longer serve – such as žličnjaci,



Namaste

Restaurants

ON OUR RADAR



Beštija ★★★★★

Run by the team behind the Flying Pig on Hvar, Beštija is a new bistro bursting with fresh ideas. The décor is modern and unpretentiously shabby, managing to avoid many of the industrial tropes that have come to define 'The Bistro' – there are no hanging naked lightbulbs or exposed brickwork. The soundtrack is woozily ambient, a hipster-friendly playlist that oscillates between Brian Wilson, Cymande and The Grateful Dead. And the menu? Reassuringly small, it changes daily, but you can expect a cast of Adriatic favourites (grilled fish, Pag lamb) prepared with flavourful, fruity embellishments. Duck breast with homemade pasta arrives in a mushroom and cherry sauce. The grilled seabream is crisp-skinned and soft-fleshed, served with lemony chickpeas for acidity. As if to purposefully flaunt the freshness of their ingredients, a just-delivered box of veg sat briefly on the chef's counter before being hoisted into the kitchen to prepare for the next batch of customers. The drinks menu matches the light quality of the food - Istrian whites are well-represented, alongside Garden craft beers and a few cocktails. Mains are priced between 80-100kn – what you might pay for an average fish supper elsewhere, well worth the outlay for food this fantastically fresh.

→ Masarykova 11/1 (091 324 0120, facebook.com/bestijazagreb)

Franko's Pizza & Bar ★★★★★

The opening of this much anticipated new venture was accompanied by the kind of PR fanfare that saw journalists reviewing the restaurant before they'd even eaten there. Happily the hype has not been in vain; we went there towards the end of Franko's first week of business and found plenty of positives and absolutely nothing to complain about. It's a high-end pizzeria that delivers the goods, with ingredients sourced from Italian suppliers and a high degree of care invested in preparing the dough. Most of the toppings follow traditional Italian models although there's a lot of artistic license; Sweet Sky mixes mozzarella with pear, walnut and pomegranate; Wild Wild Boar is garnished with wild boar sausage and truffles; Il Respire del Mare goes for prawns, pomegranate and lime. We opted for the Calabrian Red (88Kn) with spicy sausage and hot peppers, which came with perfectly crispy crust and plentiful springy cheese, and a real paprika-bite to the topping. Service is highly professional and well-drilled – this is one of the few places in the city where Time Out's down-at-heel scribe was addressed throughout as *cijenjeni gospodin* ("the esteemed gentleman"), and to be frank we could get quite used to that.

→ Branimirova 71A (01653 0884, facebook.com/frankoszagreb)



Namaste ★★★★★

A spacious, light-filled and smartly presented upper floor restaurant, located ten minutes by tram to the west of the city centre, Namaste is the only restaurant serving what most would recognise as authentic Indian cuisine in the city. So correct are the flavours, textures, the balance of spices and herbs, that it's genuinely unsurprising to learn that both the owners and the kitchen staff come from India. Mains (around 80 kuna) come from across the continent, so Fish Goan Curry and Prawn Coconut Curry sit next to two rich mutton curries and the standard Butter Chicken on the menu, each served with rice and with optional flat roti breads. Again, the vegetarian mains (45-60 kuna), either cheese, vegetable or chickpea-based, are exceptional. Elsewhere there are spice-edged salads, a kids menu and a wide range of inviting sundries that will entice you to return so you can try them.

→ Selska cesta 217 (01 6264 458, namastezagreb.com)



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Restaurants

oddly shapen gnocchi-like things that soak up a good sauce. Baked štrukli, the central-Croatian dish comprising pockets of dough filled with cottage cheese, is something of a house speciality. White walls, pale wood and jazzy background music help to ensure a smooth, soothing experience.

→ Langov trg 6 (01/700 0355, www.facebook.com/RestoranObrok).

O'Hara

Routinely topping gastro-lists as one of the best pizzerias in Zagreb, O'Hara succeeds on many levels. Forget it's location (a no-man's land in the western suburbs of Zagreb) this place sells the best pizza for miles around, matched by a beer menu that matters - there's over a hundred bottled varieties and stout and craft beer on tap.

→ Ivane Bričić Mažuranić 1B (01 3792 112, oharazagreb.com)

Okrugljak

The grande dame of Zagreb restaurants attracts old money and new jet set, munching and mingling in the two high-ceilinged wooden-clad halls in a suburb below Sljeme. Top-rated international and traditional dishes from the continent and the coast are prepared with special care - from juicy barbecue meats and uplifting blood sausages to super-fresh tuna fillets and delectable swordfish carpaccios. Expect to see fresh lamb roasting away on spits in the yard on spring weekends. The pasta is made on the premises, while the wine list boasts more than 100 varieties. Reservations at weekends a must.

→ Mlinovi 28 (01 4674 112, okrugljak.hr)

Otto & Frank

Occupying a premium spot on Zagreb's bustling thoroughfare Tkalčićeva, Otto & Frank is a bistro with an emphasis on booze and breakfast. Finding a flawless full English in Zagreb isn't easy - breakfast here is a typically light affair, constituting pastries, cheese and cured meats, but there's a growing roster of restaurants you can go to for a good fry-up, and Otto & Frank lay on a killer all day breakfast. A stellar cast of craft beers from local breweries provide speedy replenishment for your hangover, and a daily selection of soups, salads and sandwiches are decent for the lunchtime munchies.

→ Tkalčićeva 20 (01 4824 288, otto-frank.com)



Noel

Oxbo Urban Bar & Grill

Far from just a hotel restaurant, the DoubleTree's Oxbo eatery is an increasingly important dining and socialising hub for the business and residential community grouped around the fast-developing Radnička cesta strip. Oxbo's chief attribute is its Angus steaks, served in a variety of sizes (the prices range from 150kn-250kn depending on the cut); all the restaurant's beef is imported from the USA. There's also a lot of quality Adriatic fare to choose from; you can start with pršut and continue with fillet of sea bass if you want to stick to Croatian tradition. To attract the non-business crowd, there's live music and half-price steaks on Saturdays.

→ Vukovarska 269A (01 6001 914, oxbogrill.com)

Papa's American Bar

Located in the same building as the Tuškanac cinema and spreading its outdoor seating across its housemate's terrace, Papa's works equally well as an eating or drinking venue, with club sandwiches, hot dogs, wraps, and highly regarded burgers driving home the Transatlantic theme. There's a list of original-recipe and classic cocktails and some great bottled beers - including Croatian Vukovarsko, Czech Kozel and Brooklyn Pale Ale from across the pond.

→ Tuškanac 1 (01 4834 017, papas.hr)

Pingvin

Something of a Zagreb fast-food institution, Pingvin has been

serving toasted sandwiches since 1987 and has long been considered the city's most dependable source of late-night munchies. It's disarmingly simple - just a service window and three rest-your-elbows tables in the entrance to a courtyard. It's also one of the first places where new arrivals get to try Croatia's famous dry-cured ham, the pršut and cheese combo (24Kn) being one of Pingvin's standard orders. You can also get hot dogs, burgers, tuna salads, simple grills (at 34Kn the fillet of sea bass is arguably the classiest option on the menu), and that Central European after-pub classic, cheese fried in breadcrumbs.

→ Teslina 7 (01 481 1446, www.facebook.com/Pingvin1987)

Pithos

Another of Zagreb's burgeoning range of daytime-only dining options, Pithos is a simple concept: home-made food served in a home-like atmosphere. Of sufficient quality to warrant a master chef, Taiba Redžepagić, and sous chef, Lejla Kopic, its cuisine centres on finely crafted Mediterranean mains served to an in-the-know, urban clientele. There are also cakes, pies and pastries should you be after a tasty start to the day or mid-afternoon pick-me-up.

→ Jurja Žerjavića 7 (01 4854 382, pithos.hr)

Pivana

Formerly known as K pivovari, the pub-restaurant besides the gates of Zagreb Brewery (home of local favourites Ožujsko and Tomislav

as well as brewed-under-licence incomers such as Staropramen and Carling) has been relaunched as an all-purpose going-out destination that offers cheap traditional lunches, live music in the evenings, and the best local brews - including the unfiltered, unpasteurised Pivana pivo that is only served here. Exposed red-brick decor and memorabilia recalling the history of the brewery provide the place with plenty of atmosphere, while the food (wings, ribs, pork knuckle and other beer-hall favourites) is as hearty as you would expect.

→ Ilica 222 (01 3775 377, facebook.com/Pivana)

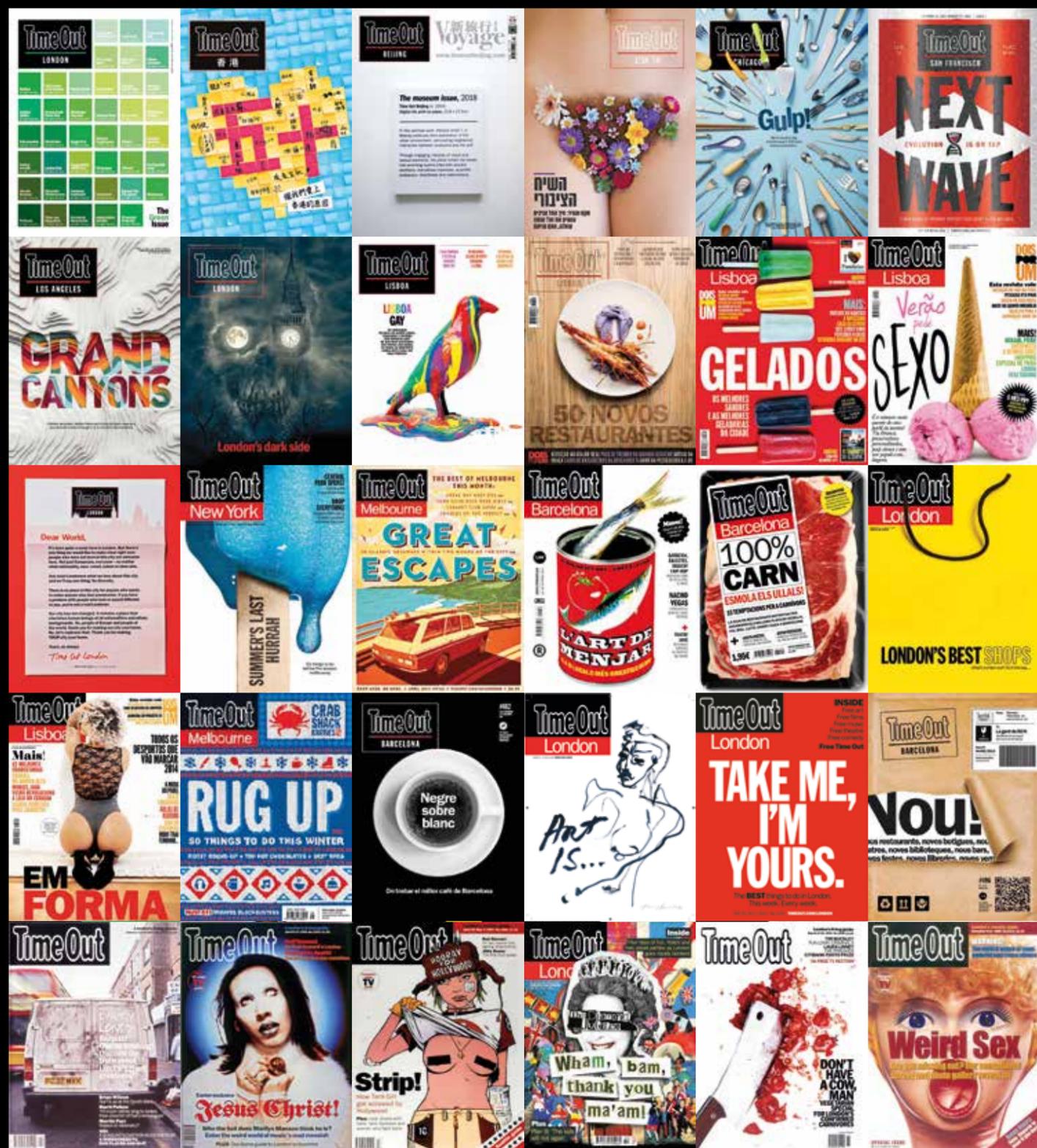
Pivnica Mlinarica

This popular community eatery in the direction of Sljeme is within easy reach of the city centre. Two playgrounds keep the kids entertained while the grown-ups tuck into steaks, chops and grills or the house special of spit-roasted meats. If you feel like pushing the boat out, there's krvavice, blood sausage. Unless you go mad on the decent selection of draught beers, you can't spend more than 150kn a head.

→ Matije Jandrića 36 (01 4673 607, facebook.com/pivnica.mlinarica)

Pizzeria Karijola

The first Pizzeria Karijola opened was on the island of Vis, named after the barrow porters used to ferry tourists' luggage. The hard-working owners made a point of using less salt and yeast, and fresher ingredients, most notably rocket, and



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success in Dalmatia soon followed. They then set up here in the capital, using the same formula only with more quality wines. The result is the best pizzeria in town, deservedly popular, handily located just over Savska near the Student Centre. There's another branch of Karijola at Vlaška 63, one floor up from the equally esteemed Mali Bar bistro. → Badalićeva 18 (01 3667 044), Vlaška 63 (01 5531 016, pizzeria-karijola.com)

Plavo Sunce

Italian restaurants are ten a penny in Croatia, as is the well-worn tag line that their cuisine is simplicity done to perfection. Where Plavo Sunce stands apart is their effort to ensure this is undoubtedly the case with fabulous, affordable cuisine. Handmaking pestos, marinades, confits from scratch, only ever using organic, seasonal produce from local, small-scale producers, the difference is notable in their authentic pizzas, pasta dishes predjela (starters) and prilozii (side dishes), most of which come with minimal but perfectly proportioned spices and fresh herbs. Prices are reasonable, and the drinks list offers a decent selection of Croatian wines. → Meridijan 16, 1st floor, Gračanska street 208 (plavosunce.eu)

Pod mirnim krovom

An unpromising-looking side street four tram stops east of the main square harbours this long-standing favourite with in-the-know Zagreb carnivores. Expertly singed steaks, veal cutlets and traditional Balkan grill-snacks fill out the menu, with squid representing the seafood side of things. Many people come here for the juicy roast lamb with roast potatoes (lamb is sold by the kilo; about 300g will be sufficient for one person) – raw spring onion is the usual side order. Prices are moderate. Most of Croatia's wine regions are represented on the drinks menu. → Fijanova 7 (01 2316 269, pod-mirnim-krovom.com)

Konoba Primošten

Quiet, relaxed, and moderately formal without being too forced, Primošten is one of one of Zagreb's best south-of-the-centre venues for a leisurely taste of Adriatic cuisine. Fresh fish forms the backbone of the menu: it can be grilled, baked, stewed, or served gregada-style in a white wine sauce, depending on your wishes. There are also fillets



Otto & Frank

of fish served in a range of imaginative sauces (such as sea bass with Roquefort cheese, or gilthead with prawns and fennel). Everything that comes out of the kitchen is well presented, portions are on the Croatian side (ie large), and solicitous service is never very far away. The desserts are outstanding, and the Sava river embankment is a short distance to the south – providing you with an excellent opportunity to walk it all off afterwards.

→ Stupnička 14 (01 6191 195, konoba-primosten.com)

Pod Zidom Bistro & Wine Bar

A must-visit when it comes to contemporary Croatian cooking. See On Our Radar.

→ Pod Zidom 5 (099 325 3600, pod-zidom-bistro-wine-bar.business.site)

Ribice i Tri Točkice

Offering simple and affordable seafood for people who prefer their restaurants to be fun rather than formal, Ribice bases its menu on the less showy dishes that form the backbone of Dalmatian home cooking. On offer are many of the fish dishes that have disappeared from fancier restaurant menus (notably anchovies, bonito and

hake), and fish is priced by the fillet rather than weight – so you can tell how much you are paying for your portion. Daily specials chalked up on a blackboard outside the entrance take account of what's fresh. The jolly interior features smart wooden tables, chairs painted in pastel blue and turquoise hues, and fishy murals by Vojo Radoičić, the Rijeka-based artist famous for his colourful sea-side scenes. Waiters in Dalmatian red sashes and Adriatic folk-pop background music drive home the maritime theme. A recent expansion testifies to its popularity. → Preradovića 7/1 (091 512 6454, facebook.com/Ribice-i-Tri-Točkice)

Rocket Burger

A new crop of quality burger bars sprang up in recent years and this was one of the first, serving deftly grilled patties of pure beef to an appreciative crowd. The cheddar bacon supreme (35kn) is the ruling monarch of the menu, although the pulled-pork sandwich (33kn) also has its devotees. There's a breakfast option (bacon, eggs and pancakes) available up until 2pm; bottled Belgian beers, Strongbow cider and locally brewed Nova Runda craft beer provide ample excuses

to hang around. With a handful of tables on the pedestrianised strip of Tkalčićeva, the setting couldn't be better.

→ Tkalčićeva 50 (01 4845 386, facebook.com/rocketburgerzagreb)

Rougemarin

Something of a cult among Zagreb carnivores on account of its delicious gourmet burgers, Rougemarin also serves top-notch bistro fare with a small menu of light but delectable meals strong on fish and healthy foods. Three-course set lunches with drink are well worth the 100kn outlay. Boutique Croatian wine, craft beers, and a small outdoor terrace provide further inducements to visit; located amid residential blocks just south of the Radnička cesta business district, it's not exactly central.

→ Folnegovića 10 (01 6187 776, rougemarin.hr)

Rougemarin City

A polished restaurant offering surprisingly decent food for its opportune central location off Zagreb's main square. The menu changes daily, with fresh fish from Zagreb's Dolac market, less than 100 metres away. A choice of starters, like the fruity peach and tomato gazpacho or tuna tartar range from 30-60 kuna. Mains which regularly appear include risottos, tuna steak or well-constructed burgers, with most mains costing 70 or 80 kuna, although their signature burger is even cheaper. A choice of excellent Croatian craft beers, Varionica's pale ale or San Servolo's lager are on draught, decent white and red wines are available by the glass.

→ Petrinjska 2 (091 509 3191, facebook.com/rougemarincity)

Royal India

Pretty much everything you would expect from an Indian restaurant, with a dining room decorated in rich warm colours, a scattering of subcontinental objets d'art, and a menu that contains pretty much everything that will be familiar to a curry-house regular. Tandoor-cooked dishes are a speciality, the side-order options of rice dishes and naans are exemplary. There's also a lot here for vegetarians to choose from – something that is always worth underlining in a meat-obsessed city like Zagreb. → Tkalčićeva 26 (01 4680 965, facebook.com/RoyalIndiaAuthenticIndianCuisineZagreb)

ON OUR RADAR

Gyoza ★★★★★

The owner of this little bar-cum-restaurant spent years living in Japan, before moving to New York, and finally, returning with his Japanese partner to Zagreb, equipped with culinary expertise. But he'll be more than happy to tell you that himself, in elaborate, gesticulated detail. The menu is small and specialised, and each meal – whether it be glass-noodles with prawns, or the Saturday special ramen – is prepared exactly as it would be in an izakaya bar in Tokyo. As its name suggests, the star of the show is the gyoza, traditional little parcels packed with grated meats or vegetables, which, when dipped in soy sauce, taste salty, fragrant, and fresh. It's not fine dining – don't expect elaborate sushi platters. Instead, you'll get simple, authentic dishes served up by the friendliest staff in the city.

→ Boškovića 6 (01 5584 088, facebook.com/gyozakebar)



Haustor Haus ★★★★★

One of Zagreb's most talked-about new openings of 2018, Haustor Haus serves up a creative mix of modern Croatian and global fusion cuisine, with a shrewd choice of meat, fish and vegetable mains and a daily special or two chalked up on the board. An intimate 8-table affair in a courtyard setting, it's a mellow and relaxing place to spend an hour or two, the feel-good factor accentuated by prompt and exceedingly attentive service. Mains (75-130Kn) range from white fish to rump steak, and frequently involve imaginative pairings of local ingredients and global spice. Pretty much everything that comes out of the kitchen is imaginative and well crafted. The smooth and tangy tomato soup (25Kn) is worth popping in for on its own account; our risotto (70Kn) was so smooth and creamy that it had us scratching our heads wondering how they did it. The style is minimal-casual, with grey floor offsetting pale wood tables. Check the big central blackboard for an exhaustive list of wines from home and abroad.

→ Masarykova 26/1 (091 112 2215, facebook.com/haustorhaus)



Le Mika ★★★★★

Crêperie Le Mika moved into new premises and expanded its menu too, becoming a cute French bistro as well as the best place in town to snaffle a plate of Crêpes Suzette. It's the pancakes that remain the big attraction. Savoury galettes made from buckwheat flour are supremely light and crispy, and come with an intelligently curated range of fillings: the galette with ratatouille and bacon (56Kn) was one of the most exiting light lunches we've had in quite a while. The choice of sweet pancakes takes up a good 50% of the menu, with the signature Crêpes Suzette heading up a list so tempting that it will have you genuinely stumped for choice. L'aumonie (which comes with apple confit, bits of biscuit and a dollop of ice cream; 51Kn) is one of those confections that jumps off the menu and demands to be tried. Even if pancakes aren't your thing, Le Mika offers enough in the way of bistro fare to bring a constant procession of lunching locals through the door, with onion soup (39Kn), quiche of the day (48Kn) and an exemplary Boeuf Bourguignon (105Kn) among the regular orders. And as for non-crêpe desserts, the Crème Brûlée is perfection itself. It's a relatively snug and intimate space, with orb-like lamps hanging from a barrel-vaulted ceiling, a wall-hugging bench, and a two-person window ledge-cum-table that's well worth grabbing.

→ Teslina 14 (098 984 3395, lemika.hr)

Restaurants

Savica Casual Urban Eatery

Given the over-wordy title it might seem like they're trying to press too many trendy buttons at once, but don't let that put you off. This is an excellent addition to the Zagreb bistro-lunch scene, and the fact that it's in Savica – a modern suburb with large housing blocks and a famously grassy park – gives it an extra dose of authenticity. The cuisine follows the current tendency to cultivate Croatian culinary tradition while adding a dash of global inspiration: our lean and juicy *lungić* (a traditional cut of pork loin) came with a garnish of roast Sweet Potato, inducing one of those “why-didn't-I-think-of-that?” moments that had us experimenting in the kitchen when we got home. The *lungić* in question was one of the hard-to-resist weekday specials (55-60kn) that keep the place busy with the babble of lunchers. The full-bodied tomato soup (22kn) is a signature staple that goes down well at any time of day. Mains in the 70-90kn range stick to familiar meat, poultry and fish choices. Service is businesslike and breezy and it's

a very pleasant place to sit, too, consisting of a small white-cube room and a larger glass-box atrium with leafy indoor plants perched beside pale wood tables.

→ Lastovska 38 (01 298 5658, savica.hr)

Sofra

The best Bosnian restaurant in town is hugely popular despite its hidden location in a residential quarter – take a taxi. Grilled meats are the order of the day here, *pljeskavica* and *čevapi*, served with traditional bread, although a 120kn plate for two might be the way to go. Dishes are designed to be shared and enjoyed slowly – allow a good two hours for your meal. Another branch can be found at Rudeška cesta 169A.

→ 1. Gardijske brigade Tigrovi 27 (01 6131 026), Rudeška 169A (01 3891 100, restoransofra.com)

Stara Vura

Located in an artfully-lit brick cellar beneath the exhibition halls of the City Museum, Stara Vura (“The Old Clock”) has the semi-hidden air of a select retreat. With tinkling piano music, attentive service and a starched-napkin approach to



Rougamarin City



Tekka

laying the table, it's the ideal venue for a leisurely and intimate meal. It's a slightly different experience in spring and summer, when diners move out into a cobbled courtyard filled with potted Mediterranean plants. The kitchen specializes in high-level Croatian food at reasonable cost: porky Croatian classics like *punjeni lungić* (tenderloin filled with cheese and *pršut*) weigh in at 85Kn. Adriatic seafood takes up a good page of the menu; they'll bring fresh fish out on a tray for you to peruse the daily offering. All in all it's a fine venue for a relaxed three-courser accompanied by a bottle or two of good local wine.

→ Opatička 20 (01 409 5875, www.staravura.hr)

Stari Fijaker

From the embroidered red-heart tablecloths to the dark brown panelling and pictures of old Zagreb, the barrel-vaulted dining room of the 'Old Coach' is a nowadays rather rare example of what pretty much every traditional Croatian

restaurant used to look like. The menu is famous for sticking to north-Croatian staples, with schnitzel-style cuts of meat, roast turkey with *mlinci* (baked pasta sheets), venison goulash, and roast knuckle of veal leaping off the pages of a lengthy and not too pricey menu. Litres of wine start at 60kn. Zagorska soup (23kn) of potatoes, mushrooms and ham is a great way to kick off a meal – and may well be enough to qualify as a lunch in its own right.

→ Mesnička 6 (01 4833 829, starifijaker.hr)

Šalša

A low-rise suburban street in Trešnjevka is an unlikely location for one of Zagreb's cult new bistros, but it's well worth venturing out here to see what all the fuss is about. Occupying a rather unprepossessing pair of grey first-floor rooms, Šalša chalks up its daily menu – together with a small list of well chosen wines – on a huge wall-to-wall blackboard; there's usually

a pasta dish, a stew and something seriously meaty to choose from. Šalša burgers are legendary, and connoisseur-friendly beers such as Kozel, San Servolo and Nova Runda provide additional reason to linger.

→ Kostelska 11 (095 199 5459, facebook.com/bistro.salsa.hr)

Tač

Located in Zagreb's hilly northern suburbs, the family-run Tač strikes the right balance between traditional home cooking and high-quality cuisine. The accent is on Istrian and central-Croatian fare, with freshly sourced ingredients, home-grown vegetables and home-baked bread and cakes forming a crucial part of the operation. The menu is chalked up on a daily basis; cuts of meat and fresh fish are cooked simply and without too many digressions into culinary experimentation. Seasonal specialities, such as spring-time asparagus omelettes or cutlets of young lamb, are quite simply divine. For dessert, the own-recipe Tač Torte (layers of fruity-flavoured sponge-cake and cream) is well worth finding room for.

→ Vrhovec 140 (01 3776 757, restac.hr)

Takenoko

The first sushi restaurant in Croatia, Takenoko is still one of the very few Asian restaurants in town worth experimenting with – and although it will set you back a wad of kunas it is usually well worth it. Set on the ground floor of the Kaptol Centar mall, accessed from Medvedgradska, it's a swirl of mellow mood music mixed with the soft sound of chefs chopping behind a central cooking station. Leafy plants sit in tall vases around heavy wooden tables below



Savica Casual Urban Eatery

Restaurants

track lighting. Try the Tokyo platter: 11 nori makis (tuna and salmon) and seven nigiris. There's a handsome choice of wok-fried dishes and some truly inventive exercises in east-west fusion, with fish, chicken and veal dressed in exotic spice combinations. Success here has led to a new branch being opened at Radnička cesta 37B.

→ Masarykova 22 (01 6463 385, takenoko.hr)

Time Restaurant & Bar

Occupying an oft-overlooked street corner just off the main square, Time is one of the trendiest restaurants in town. The extensive Asian-inspired fusion menu covers all the usual dishes: ramen, teriyaki, Thai green; but what really stands out is how they blend sizzlingly fresh Adriatic ingredients with a familiar cast of eastern dishes. Much of what is chucked into your pan comes from nearby Dolac market; succulently tender lamb hails from Pag island and seafood is sourced from the coast. Fusion classics are served with flourish – and aren't eye-wateringly expensive either. The fancy interior would have you believe otherwise, what with its pricey lacquered furniture and low-key lighting. It's a very good place to work your way through a representative sample of the better Croatian wines; fans of international spirits and bubbly are also well catered for.

→ Petrinjska 7 (01 3333 660, timerestaurant.hr)

Tekka

Located in the Radnička cesta business district, Tekka attracts a sharp-suited clientele, and has cultivated the elegant decor and uber-attentive staff to go with it. The menu is near impeccable: sushi here is a masterful blend of flavour and finesse. For something with a bit more novelty, order from the Adriatic-Asian fusion section. The wine-list, featuring several Croatian award-winners, is well-tailored to the menu. It's neither central or cheap, but as one of Croatia's best sushi restaurants, it's worth the pilgrimage.

→ Radnička cesta 37B (01 6389 398, tekka.hr)

Trilogija

Trilogija sits just above the Stone Gate. Cobblestones lead from the door and inside. Tables sit on individual landings under vaulted, brick ceilings. The cosy dining room includes a bar area where folks can snack on a steak-and-cheese sandwich with caramelised onions (60kn). The idea is that



Zagreb Upper Town

Mletačka street 11

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Traditional tavern Didov San



Submarine Burger

even if you're in a hurry you can still enjoy a quality feed and glass of wine. More time lets you sample wonderful natural ingredients. Daily specials change per artistic mood and supplies on hand; mains run from 75kn to 145kn. Entrée examples include sea bass in lobster sauce and beefsteak in port wine. As well, you won't regret the black tiger shrimp risotto with mango and spinach. For dessert, try the ravioli with sweet walnut filling.
→ Kamenita 5 (01 4851 394, entrilogija.weebly.com)

Tvornica pljeskavica Kosta

Occupying an incongruously village-like hut on the corner of a main road junction, this recently opened eight-table grill-house has acquired cult dining status in a remarkably short time. 'Kosta's Pljeskavica Factory' specialises in the grilled minced-meat patties of the title, serving the plain ground-beef version, pljeskavice spiced up with hot peppers, pljeskavice specked with nuggets of cheese, rounding out the menu with a small selection of other grilled-meat dishes. Owner Kosta is a native of the grilled-meat heartlands of southern Serbia, from where he imports his kajmak – the deliciously buttery, cheesy cream that makes the obligatory side order. Despite being somewhat hard to locate, Kosta's is extraordinarily popular, and you might have to wait for a table – or even reserve by telephone – to avoid the pangs of culinary disappointment.
→ Savska 107/1 (01 6199 607, tvornica-pljeskavica-kosta.hr)

Umami Grill

Consisting of a single large table indoors and a couple of benches outdoors, Umami is a quality Asian-themed fast food outlet where you can just about eat sitting down if you ask your neighbour to budge up a bit. The regular menu usually features a curry dish, a wok dish, a Japanese dish, a Thai dish, a salad dish and a soup dish – and with hardly anything breaking the 40kn barrier, it's an inexpensive and satisfying way of acquiring your daily fix of spicy global food. It's certainly a godsend in the busy Tkalčićeva area, where a speedy post-sightseeing, pre-drinking feed is very often just what the visitor needs.
→ Skalinska 3, Horvaćanska 75 (no number, facebook.com/umami.restoran)

Vstarem Melinu

Out in the western suburb of Gornji Stenjevec, just off the main road to Samobor, this characterful restaurant is something of a destination in its own right, housed in a 16th-century mill that still produces its own flour. Kitted out with mix-and-match furnishings and with wooden-bench seating on the outside terrace, it's a suitably old-world environment in which to enjoy a traditional central Croatian repertoire of grilled and roast meats. Seasonal game, including boar goulash, is the speciality
→ Junkovičev put 2B (01 3463 132, vstaremmelinu.com)

Vegehop

This tiny vegetarian restaurant three tram stops east of the main

square is an oasis for those looking for something besides mixed-grill platters. There are delicious vegetarian and vegan daily menus – soup, salad, vegetables and grains – in the 55kn-60kn range. You can also order à-la-carte dishes: pastas, veggie burgers, smoked tofu lasagne. Pancakes for dessert are made with healthy wholemeal flour. Fresh-squeezed juices are a good way to detox after a night of revelry.
→ Vlaška 79 (01 4649 400, vegehop.hr)

Vinodol

Well prepared Central European fare at moderate prices attracts a mixed bag of local and overseas patrons. You can dine on the covered patio terrace accessed through an ivy-clad passageway off Teslina; the winter alternative is a massive dining hall with vaulted stone ceilings. The service is swift and the cuisine heavy on meat. Highlights include the succulent lamb; veal and potatoes under peka (traditionally baked in a coal oven); and more unusual options like pork fillets with dried plum sauce. Of the lighter alternatives, go for trout with almonds or grilled local wild mushrooms. It's a popular spot at lunchtime, so be prepared to wait for a table.
→ Teslina 10 (01 4811 427, vinodol-zg.hr)

Submarine Burger

Can burger-flipping be a sustainable, ecologically responsible industry? Well Submarine Burger is certainly giving it a go. The submariners pride themselves on making

thick, succulent burgers from organic local beef, garnished with local škripavac cheese and veggies. Smokehouse (36kn), featuring bacon, mushrooms and smoked cheese, is just one of several imaginative combinations. Fast food this good should be enjoyed slowly – the mellow wooden-stool interior is a pleasant place to sit.
→ Frankopanska 11 (01 4831 500, submarineburger.com)

Zinfandel's

Zinfandel's is an outstanding spot which transfers the elegance of Art Deco hotel, the Esplanade, built for the Orient Express back in 1925, to the dining room. Beneath the chandeliers, a pianist strokes the keys for a room overlooking the Oleander terrace. Dishes include duck, a daily selection of fresh fish, pan-roasted veal with foie gras or wild boar with a chestnut, truffle and pumpkin mousseline – the menu changes often to reflect the season. Sunday brunch buffet from noon runs the gamut – the best Croatian cheeses and sausage. Don't overlook in-house Le Bistro either, French in style and approach but with stand-out local štrukli.
→ Mihanovičeva 1 (01 4566 644, zinfandels.hr)

Zrno Bio Bistro

Hidden behind Kota, this smart bright bistro serves up dedicated vegan fare, with the accent on wok, noodle and pasta-based recipes. Ingredients are sourced from a local organic farm. There's a reasonable choice of desserts and the courtyard setting provides something of a calming oasis in this busy downtown neighbourhood.
→ Meduličeva 20 (01 4847 540, zrnobiobistro.hr)

Žar

For the traditional south-European repertoire of grilled meats there are few better places than the 'Glow', a neat and welcoming seven-table restaurant just round the corner from the NK Zagreb football stadium. Succulent *čevapi* and *pljeskavice* are the stars of the show, although *lungić* pork chops and *vješalice* (skewer-grilled strips of pork) are also well worth a try. And, unusually for this nation of carnivores, there's a whole section of the menu devoted to grilled vegetables. Make sure you order at least one *lepinja* (springy home-baked bread bun) on the side.
→ Badaličeva 19 (01 3820 251, facebook.com/grill.zar)

ON OUR RADAR

NAV ★★★★★

If there is such a thing as contemporary Croatian cuisine then one of the best places to find it is NAV, the new venture of owner-chef Tvrtko Šakota. Previously seen brandishing the spoons at much-talked-about Mundoaka and Xató, Šakota has built an impressive reputation, not only for being an outstandingly creative chef, but also as a leading devotee of locally reared, high-quality produce. Pretty much everything we saw on the (seasonally changing) menu displayed a high degree of imagination and a high level of intricacy in preparation, kicking off with the cream-cheese profiterole that came as an (unbilled) amuse-bouche. The appetizer tells you straight away that NAV is all about attention to detail – not just from the people preparing the food, but from those sitting down to eat it too. The prices are eminently reasonable for what you're getting; and the 5- and 7-course tasting menus (290-390Kn) are well worth considering. Eating in a great restaurant is a bit like an outstanding theatre performance that leaves you with plenty to talk about after it's over – and in this sense NAV definitely fits the bill.
→ Masarykova 11 (01 202 9961, facebook.com/NavRestaurant)



Pod Zidom Bistro & Wine Bar ★★★★★

Mutating from a wine bar that did smart lunches to one of the city's leading gastro-bistros, Pod Zidom marched straight into the 2019 edition of the Michelin Guide and is now pretty much a must-visit when it comes to contemporary Croatian cooking. A lot of the credit goes to head chef Jurica Jantolek and his desire to investigate the creative possibilities of traditional food, retaining the local ingredients but throwing out any formulaic attitudes to their preparation. The menu certainly has an old-school local look about it at first glance, with oxtail, black sausages, duck breast and buncek (pork hock) vying for attention alongside modish bistro-u-like regulars like beef cheeks and white fish. Best way to sample Pod Zidom's culinary approach is to opt for the three or four-course daily lunches (165-190), composed according to what they picked up that morning at Dolac. The bistro-wine bar informality of the place is well-maintained: the interior is bright, contemporary; service is brisk and informative; music tends towards the serious end of blues and jazz.
→ Pod Zidom 5 (099 325 3600, pod-zidom-bistro-wine-bar.business.site)

Noel ★★★★★

Noel is a sizzling hot restaurant dedicated to contemporary trends in gastronomy. This upscale restaurant mixes the best of Croatian ingredients with nouvelle experimentation, offering mains like the pork belly with shrimp and passion fruit. Portions are small but well garnished and more extravagant diners can opt for the taster menu - options include four, six or nine courses costing between 220 and 450kn. The decor is polished, and the attentive staff boast military timing.
→ Dukljanina 1 (01 4844 297, noel.hr)



CAFÉS AND PATISSERIES

Amelie

With a mixture of old wooden chairs and modern cast-iron affairs upholstered in pale blues and pinks, this delightfully twee, Frenchy-flavoured little place is the ideal spot to sip tea and munch your way through some of the Croatian capital's best lemon meringue pies, cheesecakes and quiches. There's invariably a strong showing of different cakes in the glass display cabinet, rendering the selection process tantalizingly difficult.

→ Vlaška 6, Duknovičeva 4 (095 355 3536, slasticeamelie.com)

Chococafé

Sporting an infectuously kitschy look based on floral wallpaper and American diner-style furnishings, the popularity of Chococafé has been built around two complementary themes. It does indeed offer plenty of the dark gloppy stuff, with hot chocolate drinks and chocolate cakes; however, it's as a pancake bar that it pulls in most custom. Crepes come with a broad range of sweet and savoury fillings – you can order from the menu or assemble the pancake of your choice by ticking off the desired ingredients on a sheet of paper. The pancakes are large and satisfying without hitting any real culinary heights; the pop art-meets-granny's parlour interior design does make it a rather instagrammable place to sit.

→ Teslina 12 (099 528 6944, chococafe.eu)

Chocolat 041

Chocolat 041 was quickly enthroned as the most talked about coffee-cake-and-ice-cream places in town. The fact that it is owned by former Croatian international footballer Zvonimir Boban is only part of the reason; the ice cream is superb, and the range of irresistible cakes – all of which are based on chocolate in some way or another – almost guarantees repeat visits. The décor, too, is a talking point: comic strips and album covers recall Zagreb pop culture of the 1980s, and a relief on one wall spells out the name Zvečka - a tribute to the New-Wave-scene café that once stood next door at no.23.



Amelie

The partially glass ceiling means that people seated down below can look up the chair legs of the first-floor lounge – so think about wearing long trousers if you're heading upstairs.

→ Masarykova 25 (no number, facebook.com/pages/041-Chocolat)

Cukeraj

A lot of locals swear by Cukeraj, a traditional cake shop and café that sticks to a time-honoured Central European repertoire. As well as a dependably sticky Sachertorte (18Kn per slice), they also turn out one of Zagreb's best examples of the Medimurska gibanica (15Kn), a multi-layered confection that somehow contrives to put fruitcake, custard and apple pie in the same gloriously calorific stack. There are croissant-sandwiches and toasties for those who want something a bit more savoury. The only drawback is that the café space is in itself a bit on the ordinary side, and you might not make a special effort to come to this part of the centre unless you are applying for a visa extension at the Petrinjska branch of Croatia's interior ministry.

→ Petrinjska 61 (01 481 9440, cukeraj.hr).

Kim's Coffee

Kim's is one of those cult neighbourhood cafes that rarely makes it into the guidebooks, probably because it lies outside the strict centre – although just uphill from Kvaternikov trg, it's hardly difficult to get to. As well as a regular coffee-supping joint for local residents it's also something of a destination café for interlopers – it's an ideal venue for an intimate

meeting or an informal natter. As well as regular coffees they do a range of Kim's specials (26Kn) such as Gingerbread Latte, or Pumpkin Spice Latte, which come in bowl-like mugs topped with generous swirls of cream. Decor reflects the folksy-crafty side of the Ikea catalogue with a lot of whites and reds, and hearts and flowers as key motifs. The iron railings out front give an intimate garden feel to the terrace, even though the street scene itself is a bit on the grey anonymous side.

→ Petrova 21 (01 466 2092, facebook.com/kimscoffeezagreb/)

Korica

Opened in 2016 and already a big beast in the boutique bakery scene, Korica ("The Crust") hand-bakes all its own stuff on the premises and has a handful of tables where you can sit and eat it. There's a pronounced French flavour to what's on offer, with croissants, brioches and baguette sandwiches lining up alongside some seriously mouthwatering mini-quiches. Appetizing dessert-breads flavoured with banana, carrot or cranberry ensure that there's quite a bit to choose from. Indeed it pays to arrive hungry: when you see what they've got on their glass shelves you'll probably want to order the lot. If you're buying bread to take out there's a choice of speciality loaves made with sourdough or rye flour, and some stand-out cinnamon and raisin batons. Coffee is Korica's only weak point, but then that's because it is merely OK when everything else is so superb.

→ Preradovičeva 39 (01 623 1995, no website)

La Marquise

French bakeries in La Belle Croatie don't get much better than this, with several shelves full of croissants, brioches, baguette sandwiches and open-topped tartines. La Marquise also does an exemplary Quiche Lorraine, which at 12Kn per slice is one of the best gourmet deals in the city. There is also plenty in the way of cakes and tarts, with cone-shaped lemon meringue mini-pies (19.50Kn) a particular standout. Their hand-made chocolates are quite a big deal too, with a variety of pralines sold by weight. There's no room for patrons to eat in, unfortunately, but Marquise is a near-vital resource if you need to assemble a picnic, or are looking for breakfast ideas that don't just boil down to burek.

→ Petrinjska 31 (no phone or website)

Le Kolač

Robert Hromalić is easily one of Croatia's most talented pastry chefs, having trained under the watchful eye of French patisserie-extraordinaire Yann Couvreur, but Le Kolač keeps things simple with just five options on the menu. A range of finger-shaped eclairs are stuffed with the most divine ingredients - the chocolate version is a heavenly rich mousse with a crunchy cocoa-nibbed glaze. The lješnjak (hazelnut) is a creamy, nutty affair with white chocolate ganache and an edible golden exterior. The shop is cutesy enough, but the cakes are really the star of the show - you'd struggle to find a better quality patisserie in town and at 27 kunas each, (€3.60) these sophisticated treats are extraordinarily good-value.

→ Petra Petretića 3 (no number, facebook.com/lekolacrh)



Korica

Magnolia

Magnolia by name, magnolia by nature: the décor of this elegant café-patisserie is an unblushing shade of pink; the desserts on offer in the display counter delicate and decorous. Highlights among the cakes (20-22Kn per slice) include a spongy green-tea cake, a "Caiprinha" lime-and-cream cake, Magnolia's rich own-recipe chocolate cake, and a superb cream-and-meringue confection. At 12Kn a slice Magnolia's quiche is one of the best-value savoury treats in town. The drinks list includes a better than average choice of sparklies, from miss-spelt 'prosecco' to more expensive Moets, making Magnolia an appropriately bubbly spot for a wee celebration. The music is pop-retro, and slots nicely into Magnolia's all-round sugar-and-spice-and-all-things-nice feel.

→ Gunduličeva 4 (01 707 9048, magnoliaslastice.com)

Meet Mia

Done out in tones of blue, grey and light wood, this funky cake shop and café provides enough variety sweet treats and salty snacks to keep a regular, interesting and chatty clientele through the door from breakfast time to evening drinks. Pride of place, though, goes to the bright and inventive cakes on show, sold by the slice or as dainty, individual creations, topped by a sliver of strawberry or dollop of meringue.

→ Vlaška 43 (01 4683 823, facebook.com/meetmia)

Oranž

There's an increasing number of smart-and-comfortable cafes in Zagreb that do the coffee-and-cakes thing respectably well. What distinguishes Oranž is the sheer scope and quality of what's in the display window: plumping for the impossible-to-resist lemon-and-lime meringue pie simply makes you pine for all



Orjent

the other cheesecakes and gateaux that you could have had in its place. There is also a respectable number of sandwiches, quiches and salads, but it's the sweet side of Oranž that will hold you in repeat-visit thrall.

→ Ilica 7 (01 7787 300, oranz.hr)

Orijent

Zagreb's most famous patisserie has been a family business since the 1930s and remains very much of its era, with Art-Deco fittings, marble-effect tables and low wooden stools. As well as being a dependable source of satisfyingly moussy cheesecakes and velvety chocolate tortes Orijent has built its reputation on a creative repertoire of own-recipe desserts – as exemplified by the Cirus (18Kn), a creamy custard with strawberry pieces wrapped in a light crust. Orijent is also one of the best places in town for artisan ice cream, with traditional vanilla and chocolate flavours joined by a clutch of experimental recipes. Plum and adzuki bean might not be everyone's favourite ice-cream combination, but the Key Lime is a perennial winner.

→ Maksimirska 34 (01 231 5323)

Slastičarnica Zagreb

A long-standing favourite in the cake-shop stakes, Zagreb is a dependable all-rounder that also has a solid selection of ice cream. Pick of the treats is the Zagreb torte (20Kn per slice), a spongy combination of chocolate, hazelnuts and apricot jam that is a worthy rival to any of the chocolate cakes on offer elsewhere. Other highlights include the Geraldine, with chunks of pear enclosed in a cone of custard and cream (18Kn), and the mille-feuille slice (16Kn) – the latter an exemplary piece of pastry-pulling that is not always done quite so delicately elsewhere in the city. Slastičarnica Zagreb's terrace, right next to the Nikola Tesla memorial on the corner of Masarykova and Preradovičeva, is a quiet alternative to the bustling cafés of Flower Square just around the corner.

→ Masarykova 4 (01 481 0955, slasticarnica-zagreb.com)

The Cookie Factory

A relative newcomer on cafe-lined Tkalčićeva, The Cookie Factory has lost no time in becoming a firm favourite among Folks Who Love to Scoff Cake. Located in a cosy vaulted space, the Factory's

Cafés and Patisseries

cheerful design scheme features the kind of childlike drawings and spidery writing that are just on the right side of cute. The bar-side glass display cabinet is full of own recipe, melt-in-the-mouth cookies. Other treats include cheesecake, carrot cake, and brownies served with a mound of ice cream (18kn). They take festive cake orders too. As it says on the wall near the door: 'Life is uncertain, eat dessert first'.

→ Tkalčićeva 21, Nemčićeva 8 (no number, cookiefactory.hr)

Torte i To

Ask locals to name the city's best place for cakes and a lot of them will opt for Torte i To ("Cakes 'n' That"), despite the rather soulless location of their flagship outlet in the Kaptol Centar shopping mall. They certainly qualify as undisputed champions in the cheesecake category, with several quite sumptuous, fruit-laden varieties on display at any one time. They also offer quite a few cake recipes that you don't find elsewhere, such as the soft-and-spongy, lemon and poppy-seed Armenian Cake; and a veritable club-sandwich of a cake featuring layers of chocolate, orange and fig. As well as biscuits and other nibbles, Torte i To also sell their own wittily-packaged chocolate bars, one of which simply reads "odjebi" or "f*ck off" – surely the ideal gift for at least someone in your life.

→ Kaptol Centar, Nova ves 11 (01 309 0155, torte-i-to.hr)

Vis a Vis by Vincek

Just round the corner from the main branch of Vincek, Zagreb's most famous ice-cream parlour, this health-conscious offshoot offers an array of cakes and ices that are both gluten-free and made with rice or soya milk instead of cow's milk. Not that you would know by tasting the treats on offer; standouts such as the refreshing Orange Cake (22Kn) or the more substantial carrot and ginger sponge (16Kn) are not just worth shouting about for dietary reasons. There are only two tables inside but there is a rather lovely outdoor terrace, grandly situated right below the bottom station of Zagreb's funicular. Vis a Vis's ice creams come in regular vanilla and chocolate flavours and a number of more inventive alternatives; carrot, almond and ginger being one particular favourite.

→ Tomičeva 2 (01 483 1551, vincek.com.hr)

BARS

People in Zagreb always give themselves time to linger and socialize over drinks. Whatever the time of year, new locales are always raising and lowering their banners across the city centre and beyond, while traditional landmarks stay firm. You can find examples around lounge-bar central, by the flower market, near the main square. The best bar crawl remains the atmospheric, car-free thoroughfare behind the market.

Coffee is enjoyed on downtown terrace cafés (the post-shopping Saturday-morning drink is known as špica) or at contemporary spots such as Cogito, which also supplies beans to other quality outlets. Mention must be made of music

bars such as SPUNK and Route 66, the kind of bars that develop a clubby feel as the night goes on.

22,000 milja pod morem

An unexpected find in an unpromising courtyard, "22,000 Leagues Under the Sea" is very much a Zagreb one-off, decked out in wood paneling, metal rivets, and several clusters of dials that look like the kind of pressure-gages you might find in a submarine. It's a wonderful piece of steampunk-influenced design, and is very popular with young locals – it's the kind of place that might be full on a Tuesday in February when all other bars in the neighbourhood are empty. It's also one of the few central pubs that serves bottles of San Servolo beer (25kn/half litre), the malty boutique brew from Istria.

→ Frankopanska 22 (01 4817 007, facebook.com/22000.milja)

Alcatraz

Raucous all-night drinking den. See On Our Radar.

→ Preradovićeve 12 (091 521 3703, facebook.com/CaffeBarAlcatrazZagreb)

Bacchus Jazz Bar

Just off the first square as you walk up from the station, the Bacchus Jazz Bar is an ideal place to meet friends, listen to jazz and either have a civilised party evening or get revved up for what's to come. Relaunched as a jazz bar in 2008 after several years on the social margins, the bar exudes a homely Dalmatian feel: there's a fig tree next to the terrace, which is tucked into a passage off the street. Inside you'll find a hodgepodge of wooden furniture: a 1960s-era television and telephone, and wooden-plank floors under a brick

ceiling. It's almost always busy, so tables will be at a premium. Wines, mainly Dalmatian, have been chosen to suit the mood. There are cocktails too, but few pay them much attention. Live jazz on Fridays.

→ Trg kralja Tomislava 16 (091 587 2620, facebook.com/bacchusjazzbar)

Bar & Caffe Pod Gričkim Topom

Just below the Grič cannon (hence the name), this leafy terrace is a summer evening favourite. When the weather turns cold the enclosed terrace warms the mood. On offer are antipasti boards, a selection of sandwiches and a beautiful stack of homemade cakes. Service is excellent and the clientele cosmopolitan.

→ Zakmardijeve stube 5 (01 4833 607, facebook.com/BarCafePodgrickimtopom)

Beer Bar

It's a fake pub in a modern shopping centre, but don't let that put you off too much. It's certainly one of the best-stocked places in the city when it comes to international bottled beers (including some familiar Irish names and a lot of speciality Belgian stuff), although there's a lack of quality choices on draught. The Beer Bar's position next to the Cineplexx cinema and at the top of the Tkalčićeva strip makes it a useful inclusion in a busy night out.

→ Nova Ves 17 (01 4667 370 centarkaptol.hr/hr/brandovi/beer-bar)

Bikers Beer Factory

Providing another great reason to visit the nether regions of Savska cesta (Vintage Industrial Bar is one other), Bikers is by no means a niche bar for a niche public. Biking provides the design theme and indeed there's a motorbike repair shop at the same address, but the general atmosphere is one of easy going, alternative lifestyles plus rock'n'roll. The exposed brick interior contains a few post-industrial touches; there's a large inner-courtyard beer garden; live rock/blues a couple of times a week. As far as the drink is concerned; there's Erdinger on tap, a good choice of bottled beers, and Perković rakijas on the spirits menu.

→ Savska 150 (099 848 5663, bikersbeerfactory.hr)

Booksa

Zagreb's prime literary club also doubles as a café, a collective run by two enthusiastic women. There is a symbolic membership fee of 10kn/year, but members can then enjoy WiFi, carefully chosen music, a laid-back atmosphere and regular events that include readings by the big beasts of the local literary scene – with occasional ones by visiting English speakers. Thursdays are reserved for unplugged concerts by local musicians. The twice-weekly Mercredi Français pulls in the capital's Francophone community. There's also a small library of English-language books. Good coffee and several varieties of leaf tea help to make Booksa well worth the quick tram ride or ten-minute walk from the centre.

→ Martićeva 14D (01 4616 124, klub.booksa.hr)

Botaničar

Chic café overlooking the National Archives. See On Our Radar.

→ Trg Marka Marulića 6 (no number, facebook.com/botanicarzagreb)



Botaničar

Booze and Blues

Right at the top of the Tkalčićeva strip, this new venue launched in autumn 2014 looks exactly how a music bar should do, with a small stage at one end of a dark but imaginatively lit space and all kinds of musical memorabilia hanging from the walls. Lamps hidden inside bass drums hang above a long bar stocked with the kind of things that any self-respecting rock-and-roller would

want to see – with whiskeys, rakijas and boutique beers (from Istrian brewery San Servolo) lining the shelves. Live music from Wednesday through to Saturday, featuring funk, rock covers, and plenty of blues.

→ Tkalčićeva 84 (01 4837 765, booze-and-blues.com)

Bulldog XL

The anchor of the café and pub scene on the buzzing street between the Hotel Dubrovnik and

Flower Square (parallel to and one street south of the main square), Bulldog offers something for everyone. The interior is upscale: electronic sliding-glass doors; big flat-screen TVs for match days; a wide selection of Belgian beers on draught; cocktails; wine; and the standard list of coffee concoctions. A terrace leads to a boat-shaped front room with its giant-paddled, propeller-shaped ceiling fans, deck flooring and mezzanine observation level. Downstairs, a



Alcatraz

club, with green leather chairs and marble tables around a bandstand, hosts pop-rock cover bands, blues and jazz at weekends, no cover charge.

→ Bogovićeva 6 (01 6052 320, bulldog-zagreb.hr)

Café Dubrovnik

Set in the hotel of the same name, overlooking the main square, this is one of the most revered coffeehouses in Zagreb, exuding classic charm and providing smart service. The location, of course, simply can't be beat.

→ Gajeva 1 (number of the hotel: 01 4863 555, hotel-dubrovnik.hr)

Caffe Bar Gavella

The café-bar of the Gavella Theatre is something of a Zagreb classic, with its smoky ambience, looks-like-marble-but-isn't-really

interior, and odd mixture of dressed-up theatre-goers and garrulous middle-aged men who just popped in to see if the football was on TV. The likelihood of actually seeing any stars of the stage in here are slim indeed – the thespians have got their own private drinking club at the back of the building.

→ Frankopanska 10 (01 4848 553, facebook.com/caffegavella)

Caffe Bar Finjak

Cute café-bar in a secluded terrace off Vlaška. See On Our Radar.

→ Vlaška 78 (098 130 0057, facebook.com/caffebarfinjak)

Cajt

One of the most popular neighbourhood cafes on the Vlaška strip, Cajt had a reputation for serving speciality beers well before

the craft boom took hold, and it can still be replied upon to deliver a vast choice of bottles. If your favourite beer comes from an obscure Belgian brewery, you will probably find it here. As well as serving Munich's Augustiner on tap, Cajt has also embraced the new brews of the craft world, serving ales by local outfit Nova Runda on tap as well as bottles from the likes of Estonian Põhjala and Slovene Ressel. Bar-staff are a mine of knowledge and advice. The interior décor marks out Cajt as something of a post-modern period piece, with a row of strangely upholstered two-person booths, obviously custom-made to squeeze in to the café's limited space. Only one minor drawback: Cajt is primarily a daytime meeting place, and can be rather quiet on week-nights.

→ Vlaška 68 (01 4617 023, www.facebook.com/CafeCajt)

Cheese Bar Coffee, Food & Wine

Moody, mellow and rather chic wine bar offering an excellent range of local tipples, backed up by a small but toothsome menu of cheeses and cold cuts. By-the-glass options range from the light white Zlahtina (15kn) to the most velvety of Pelješac reds (55kn), with a few bubblyies thrown in for good measure. Outdoor tables spread out across the newly pedestrianised cobbles of pod Zidom, just round the corner from the main square.

→ Augusta Cesarca 2 (095 288 8628, facebook.com/Cheese-Bar)

Cogito Coffee

Flagship city-centre bar of the Cogito bean-roasting outfit, this recently opened clinic for unrepentant caffeine-a-holics is just off the main street, at the start of the mysterious, half-hidden passageway which leads from Varšavska through to Masarykova. Minimally decorated save for some salvaged furniture and a few pictures, it serves a hard-to-beat brew, plus leaf teas, some freshly-squeezed juices, and that's about it – although you will find muffins and cookies provided by the Piknik bakery and sandwich bar. Cogito have gone on to open new branches in Croatia and beyond, there's another café at Prilaz Gjüre Deželića 40.

→ Varšavska 11 (no number, facebook.com/cogitocoffeeshop)

Confusion Bar/Alcatraz Beer Pub/All Saints Restaurant

This three-in-one mash-up on Zagreb's main drinking strip comes from the makers of Alcatraz, the cult café on Preradovićeva that's famous for its junk-shop interior and rock-and-roll soundtrack. The new venture is no less memorable than its much-loved progenitor, with an interior that rejoices in well-chosen clutter – Buddhas perch above the bar while a motley collection of Eastern deities and elephant gods gaze in relief form from the walls. Whether you sit in the café-cocktail bar or head down to the basement beer pub you'll be treated to a big list of long drinks and a large selection of bottled beers. The first floor restaurant is a good place for cheap Monday-to-Friday lunchtime specials (30Kn), but otherwise concentrates on competent pub catering rather than special-night-out cuisine.

→ Tkalčićeva 15 (098 463 665, facebook.com/ConfusionZagreb)

Corner Bar

Tucked into a modern plaza just off the newly pedestrianised Europski trg, this swish glass-fronted café-bar looks like a suitably contemporary companion to its office-block neighbours. Inside it looks like a trendy modern flat, with matt-black furnishings set against a white-wall interior. It's primarily a daytime place, with good coffee, a selection of toasted sandwiches and marinated-anchovy nibbles, although the selection of wines (including several sparkly varieties) helps make it a good choice for after-work partying.

→ Augusta Cesarca 2 (no number, facebook.com/corner.bar.club)

Craft Room

Zagreb's first real craft beer pub, this should be your first stop for new releases from regional breweries. There are 12 beers on tap – around half of these are local, with one or two from the UK and Germany. There are also more than 150 bottled options. The atmosphere gets a bit headier on weekends. A DJ plays from a catalogue of funk, blues and rock 'n' roll, and the place fills up quickly. Phone to reserve if you'd prefer not to jostle for a table.

→ Opatovina 35 (01 4845 390, facebook.com/craftroombeer)



Greenery Procaffé

Crafter's Lav Zagreb (Kavana Lav)

Though this place shouldn't be difficult to discover – located above the Stone Gate and below St Mark's – it is, somehow, oft overlooked and thus a great find. The front room is an art gallery with local artists' works for sale. The back end of the building is a posh café (with seating in the front gallery as well) with Persian rugs thrown about, wooden floors and leather chairs. Beyond coffee, expect 15 sorts of tea, Leffe beer, wine and cognac.

→ Opatička 2 (01 4922 108, facebook.com/kavalav02)

Dežman Bar

Thank to a gaggle of designer stores the narrow, arcade-like Dežmanova is fast becoming one of Zagreb's coolest addresses, an impression only bolstered by the opening of this chic new café-bar. The interior is as modernist as they come but soothing with it. Matt-black walls jostle with warm woody tones, and geometric light fittings convey an arty bent. As far as the drinks are concerned the accent is

very much on quality at a decent price – coffee is supplied by local direct-trade roasting outfit Cogito, beers include the locally brewed Zmajsko Pale Ale, long drinks a refreshing Bellini (25kn), and there's a good wine list with plenty of sparkling options. The cakes are hard to turn down, and there's an evening menu of pršut and cheese platters.

→ Dežmanova 3 (01 4846 160, dezman.hr)

Drama Bar

If Zagreb had a theatre district then Drama Bar would probably be in the middle of it, located just around the corner from a couple of major thespian institutions. There's a peachy Eighties quality to the décor, with pastel-coloured furnishings and a fetching vegetal mural stretching along one wall of the smoking area. Health-restoring smoothies (20kn) and serviceable cocktails (from 35kn) ensure that Drama more than just a place to drink coffee. Breakfasts (available till noon) run from granola to boiled eggs; while there's also a choice of toasted-sandwich

brunch snacks. Expect a strident pop soundtrack, although there's a regular menu of live jazz in the evenings.

→ Dalmatinska 5 (091 132 6863, no webpage)

Eli's Caffè

Zagreb's leading venue for quality coffee.

→ Ilica 63 (091 455 5608, eliscaffe.com)

Express Bar

A recent addition to the growing number of top-drawer cafés in the city centre, Express serves direct-trade coffee from several origins (the specific farm will probably be chalked up on a board) and organic leaf teas. Decidedly mellow in atmosphere, it looks like a tiny place with room for only a handful of drinkers, but actually stretches back deep into the building with a long narrow corridor leading to a semi-hidden smokers' lounge right at the back. Outdoor seating on the pedestrianised bit of Petrinjska, and decent on-tap beer (Erdringer and O'Hara) ensure that it's a decent summer-evening spot too.

→ Petrinjska 4 (no number, facebook.com/expressz)

Gost&ona

This small, rather narrow-looking space with a 'coffee to go' sign outside looks at first sight like the kind of place you would pop in for a takeaway brew rather than spend a night of drinking and bumping into people. With a well-chosen list of rakijas and wines, and a fridge full of the usual beers, it's an increasingly popular spot, however, and the raucous, crushed-around-the-bar nature of the place only adds to its appeal. The name is a play on words – gostiona is an old-fashioned name for an inn, while gost & ona means 'the guest and her'. Plainly decorated, and illuminated by what look like leftover Christmas lights, it's very odd, very local and very appealing.

→ Preradovićeva 1 (099 400 0205, facebook.com/gostiona)

Greenery Procaffé

'Central Zagreb' is becoming an increasingly broad geographical expression, thanks to a burgeoning archipelago of drinking venues sprouting up on the periphery. Located near the busy crossroads of Savska and Vukovarska, Greenery Procaffé functions perfectly as local meet-up for

residents and office workers as well as a destination café for urban explorers. A neat and welcoming L-shaped space with a first-floor gallery, it looks out on green hedgerows and leafy plants, pulling off the unusual trick of creating an intimate garden feel slap bang in the middle of a neighbourhood best known for its modernist buildings and grey blocks. As well as good coffee it takes tea drinkers more seriously than most Zagreb cafés, with a choice of quality brews. Gins and cocktails are Greenery's other strong suits – and with a big outdoor terrace occasionally massaged by the friendly rumble of passing trams, it could be a good place to linger once the warm weather comes.

→ Vukovarska 52E (095 350 5415, facebook.com/greeneryprocaffé)

Hollywood Vanity Club

Hollywood Vanity Club has a gilded feel with ornate trimmings and chandeliers. Cocktails with fruit are among the establishment's specialties: the Mojito, of course, raspberry Martinis and the Amaretto Sour – with fresh oranges and lemons – is a showstopper. If the weather is nice, grab a pavement table among the pretty set dressed in all black and posing over sandwiches, healthy juices and macchiatos by day, and classic drinks like Mai Tais and Long Island Ice Teas at night to accompany DJs spinning house.

→ Tuškanac 1 (098 980 5000, facebook.com/HollywoodVanityClubZagreb)

Hop In Craft Beer Bar

Lauded by craft beer fanatics as one of the best artisan boozers in the capital, this new-ish bar offers eight local beers on tap and a good selection of bottles. It's out of the way location – situated on the backstreets of Zagreb's main bus station – and its unpretentious decor make clear this is a bar that puts beer before all - bolstered by staff who really know their stuff.

→ Dubravkin trg 3 (01 6646 653, facebook.com/hop.in.zg)

Johann Franck

Once upon a time, a radio-era coffeehouse, the Gradska kavana, filled this side of Zagreb's main square. A landmark but long closed down, it has recently been replaced by Johann Franck, sponsored by the afore-named



Caffe Bar Finjak

and venerable Zagreb brand of coffee, bistro, bar and club, it still operates as a prime meeting place in the capital, a contemporary spot in a city full of them but in a prime location and with a heritage second-to-none. Elements of the interior created Nedjeljko Mikac reflect this urban legacy, with an Art Deco chair dating back to 1927 and a space dedicated to the pioneering vehicles of Ferdinand Budicki. (Budicki was the first man in Zagreb to receive a fine for speeding – in 1901.) Just as this establishment has undergone an overall change of style, so it serves a more multi-purpose function. As well as a fully working kitchen, today's Johann Franck offers a full agenda of live performances, exhibitions, readings and sundry shows and screenings. Whether JF will achieve its aim of again becoming the vortex of social life in the capital is debatable – but this is certainly a step in the right direction. Its terrace, overlooking the statue of Ban Jelačić himself, will be busy come what may.

→ Trg bana Josipa Jelačića 9 (091 783 8153, johannfranck.hr)

Karibu Kaaawa

This is one of those places where the aroma of good coffee hits you as soon as you walk through the door. Just off the main street in Trešnjevka, a characterful Zagreb neighbourhood that's



Karibu Kaaawa

always worth a wander, Karibu is a winning example of how to make good use of a small space, with benches fashioned from planks of salvaged wood facing friendly staff behind a small bar. The coffee is supplied by independent roasters and usually includes at least one blended option and one single-origin brew (Guatemalan beans were hitting the grinder during our last visit). There are also some excellent fruit juices, own-recipe iced tea, and a small but welcome selection of biscuits and tarts.

→ Ozaljska 34 (no number, facebook.com/karibukaaawa)

Kavana Procaffe

A traditional central-European café experience probably wouldn't work in the middle of trendy bar-filled Tkalčićeva, unless it was a trifle kooky, or a touch camp. Procaffe covers these bases with aplomb, offering coffee drinkers and cake nibblers a backdrop of lush fabrics, plush burgundy tones and zebra-print details. A respectable list of cocktails in the 35kn-55kn range provides the evening drinking crowd with ample reasons to drop by, and there's a huge glass aquarium-style enclosure for smokers.

→ Tkalčićeva 54 (01 4819 503, procaffe.hr)

KIC Club

It's been here for years, the 'Cultural Information Centre', but still attracts a loyal, bohemian following throughout the week. It's an art school vibe. Cultural activities centre on film screenings, photo exhibitions, book presentations and lectures. Drinks wise, there's Heineken on draught, though most settle for local bottled varieties; gemiš spritzers at 12kn, and numerous teas. Many customers seem capable of making a single espresso last a whole afternoon.

→ Preradovićeve 5 (095 908 1621, facebook.com/KICclub1)

Kino Europa Café & Grapperia

Built in 1924 and still retaining many of its period features, the 500-seater Kino Europa is the oldest still-functioning cinema in Zagreb. The grand auditorium is the main screening house for the Zagreb Film Festival in autumn, and serves as a first-run and art-house cinema for the rest of the year. For those into grappas, good beer, quality coffee and excellent wines, the Europa's other principal attraction is the café that spills from the spacious lobby to a glass-enclosed atrium with big outdoor terrace. Patrons sitting in black directors' chairs are served honey, apple, pear, fig and cherry (to name a few) brandies. Club nights fill the foyer following the final film screenings on Friday and Saturday nights, with DJs spinning an eclectic mix of rock, pop and retro-disco.

→ Varšavska 3 (01 4872 888, kinoeuropa.hr)



Johann Franck

ON OUR RADAR

Alcatraz ★★★★★

This place has been around for a few years and it's a real locals' hang-out. The interior of Alcatraz is crowded with American number plates, beer flags, and mannequins – one of which wears a Mick Jagger mask and seems to be a part of the party. The weekends see it packed with locals, who stop by for a myriad of bottled beers – loads of Belgian speciality brews alongside the excellent local Velebitsko – and the DJs jamming rock and dance tunes. There are also a slew of home-made rakijas (grappas) such as honey, cherry or blackcurrant.

→ Preradovićeve 12 (091 521 3703, facebook.com/CaffeBarAlcatrazZagreb)



Botaničar ★★★★★

Botaničar is a stylish café, bar and sometimes art gallery near the botanical gardens. One of Zagreb's best-looking venues, the café is like a lookbook for retro furnishings; the well-lit room is scattered with '70s hairpin-legged tables and bright velvet sofas. The aesthetic theme is inspired by the nearby gardens: leafy plants are everywhere, with hanging creepers flowing out of oak cabinets. The drinks-only menu features coffee from Zagreb roasteries, a selection of craft beer and a respectable list of domestic wines. A soundtrack of gently jazzy music and the occasional chanson provides a relaxed, low-key atmosphere. The café gets buzzier when the after-work crowd arrive. An outdoor terrace overlooking the National Archives provides further inducement to visit in summer.

→ Trg Marka Marulića 6 (no number, facebook.com/botanicarzagreb)

The Garden Brewery ★★★★★

The Garden taproom serves the brewery's latest creations in a transformed warehouse space. Occupying a redbrick factory in Zagreb's industrial east, it's a characterful venue for after-work drinks and all-night parties. There's plenty of seating and a huge garden with picnic tables—perfect for sipping a fresh pale ale when it's warm outside. Worked up an appetite? Submarine serves gourmet burgers from a yellow shipping container indoors. As well as leading the way in Zagreb's embryonic craft beer scene, The Garden Brewery doubles up as an excellent late-night spot, attracting hip-hop legends, international DJ's and the cream of local talent to the industrial estate of Žitnjak. Every weekend the brewery throws an open-armed party - head there on Saturdays for DJ-led club nights.

→ Slavonska avenija 22F (01 5634 100, thegarden.hr/brewery)



Kolaž

This small, red-brick basement bar is decked out in wry, kitsch-but-cool details, with a veritable solar system of tiny mirrorballs hovering above the bar, and a seating area that – illuminated by tiny pinpricks of light emerging from bronzey-yellow panels – looks like the inside of a huge honeycomb. During the day Kolaž serves coffee to local office workers and lawyers, while by night it fills up with a sophisticated bohemian set with an easy-going straight-gay-whatever sense of social orientation. The music ventures into similar areas of ambiguity, ranging from PJ Harvey to La Roux with all kinds of indie-rock, synthi-pop, electro-disco and exotica thrown into the mix. Rare Marinsko is among the beers, while the handsome array of spirits includes some fine local liquors – ruta (rue brandy) being a particular one-more-for-the-road favourite. Weekend nights can be a tight squeeze.

→ Amruševa 11 (01 4811 833, facebook.com/Caffe-bar-Kolaž)

Kulturni Centar Mesnička

One of those mildly eccentric places that give the Croatian capital its distinct but hard-to-put-into-words sense of character, Kulturni Centar Mesnička (“Mesnička Cultural Centre”) is a vintage-style living-room bar with a side room devoted to art exhibitions

and a live gig space (mostly jazz) in the cellar. With burgundy hues, barrel-vaulted ceiling, mismatched furniture and those cast-iron column radiators they don’t seem to make anymore, it’s a great place to mellow out. There’s a full range of daytime and evening drinks, with draught beers coming from increasingly inventive local brewers Crafters.

→ Mesnička 12 (091 767 6952, facebook.com/KCMesnicka)

La Bodega Wine & Tapas Bar

La Bodega represents the busy, café-lined Bogovićeveva at its most chic; an artfully-designed wine bar whose outdoor terrace – set between incongruously rustic piles of logs – is constantly busy. Indoors, purple light bathes the fat legs of pršut ham hanging from the ceiling; old sewing machines, radios and TV sets jut from the walls. As the name suggests there’s a comprehensive menu of wine and nibbles (there are plenty of Croatian wines by the glass from around 20Kn upwards); jazzy music by day, house-y music by night helps to set the tone.

→ Bogovićeveva 5 (095 345 3445, labodega.hr/zagreb)

Legend Riders Blues Bar

Zagreb’s cult neighbourhood boozers don’t get more cultish than this: a blues-and-beer bar crammed full of musical mementoes, including a sign

reading “Clapton is God”, and a clutch of Fender Stratocasters hanging authoritatively from the wall. It’s another of the places that started stocking bottled beers from around the world long before the craft brewers came along, and is still a great place to pick up Czech and German brands you’ve been planning to try for ages. Well-kept Nova Runda ales are available on tap. The background music revolves around blues, rock and roll and vintage soul; while the narrow, 7-table lay-out contributes to a cosy convivial vibe. The outdoor terrace faces a neighbourhood park teeming with children, dogs and their handlers.

→ Bartola Kašića 4 (no number, facebook.com/LegendRidersBluesBar)

Limb

Underground, understated and right by the KSET club, Limb is comprised of two tiny colourful rooms and the glass-enclosed terrace with a tree in the middle. A slightly older, artistic crowd hangs out here – reflecting more than a decade of established patrons. Limb is a good spot for DJ-ed, funky, club beats at weekends.

→ Plitvička 16 (01 6171 683, facebook.com/limb)

Noel Bar

Noel Bar is arguably Zagreb’s most aesthetically pleasing place in which to enjoy a relaxing

daytime brew. Designed by local architecture studio Penezić and Rogina, it’s a great example of how to make the most of a small space, with a glass-cube bar area enfolded by a tiny L-shaped lounge with room for three or four tables. Wall-hugging green couches provide a simple and effective sense of comfort. An outdoor terrace with decking, sofas and potted plants has the feel of a small urban garden, and is deservedly popular with local drinkers on languorous summer evenings.

Nikole Tomašića 13 (01 4844 297, facebook.com/noelbarzagreb)

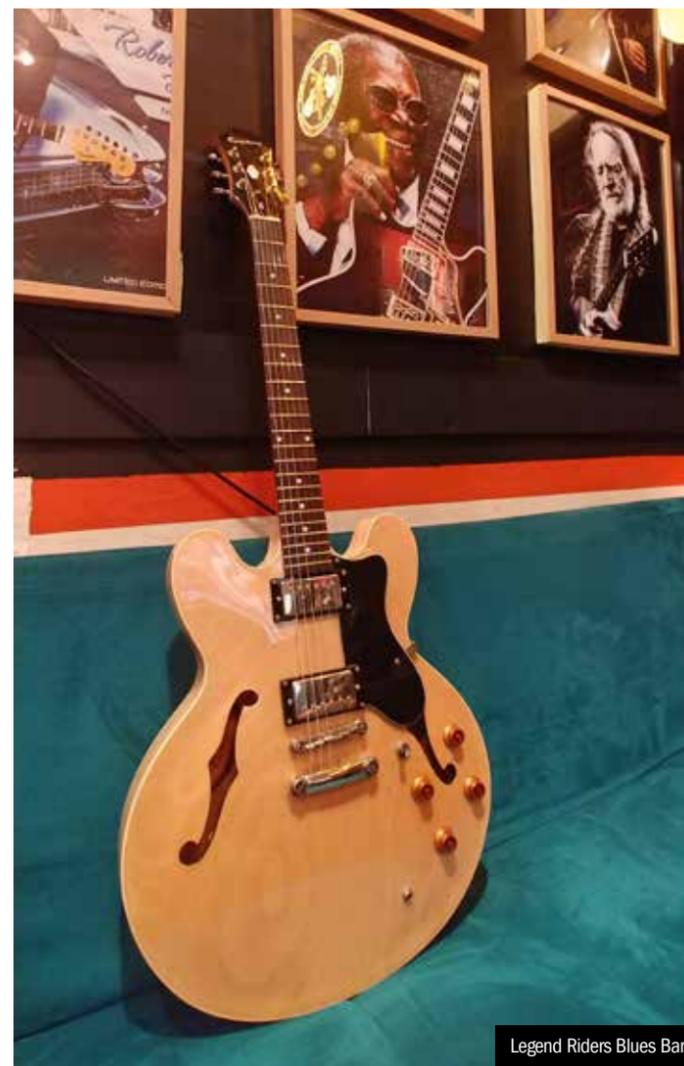
NPU (Ne Plus Ultra)

Traditionally visited for its access to hiking routes rather than the chance to chill with a cup of the brown stuff, the prosperous hillside suburb of Šestine has finally got the natty café it has been crying out for. A simple structure with chic contemporary furnishings, big windows and grassy views, it’s the perfect place to spend a meditative hour or two. The drinks list may be small but it’s a masterpiece of shrewd selection; the coffee comes from the town’s top roasting outfit Cogito, the beer from the Garden Brewery, and there are tubs of the cold stuff from Samobor ice-cream alchemists Medenko. There are toothsome cookies and bake-snacks aplenty, and with Šestine’s children’s playground just a few steps away, it’s popular with families at weekends. Suddenly, there is a lot more to Šestine than the long walk uphill.

→ Šestinski vijenac 2 (no number, facebook.com/pages/category/coffee-shop/npu-cafe)

Melin

Visitors accustomed to the old, grungey, rock-a-punk Melin will be in for a shock: Tkalčićeva’s favourite cult bar entered 2014 in a completely new guise. For starters, the guiding musical theme is now Jazz with a capital J – brassy blasts and sultry crooning spew forth from the sound system and there’s a tiny stage for occasional live performance. The decor follows the guess-what-I-bought-at-the-flea-market school of interior design, with misfit furnishings, and hollowed-out TVs setting a pleasingly vintage tone. The choice of wines and spirits is excellent (it’s less of a beer-drinkers joint than it



used to be); your bill arrives tucked into the pages of a paperback book. The age range of the customers has risen slightly as a result of the makeover; although such is Melin’s swim-against-the-tide nature that it remains a favourite of youngish alternative types too.

→ Kožarska 19 (no number, melinbar.business.site)

MK Bar

Known by all as ‘Krolo’ after the writer Miroslav Krleža who lived here, this beautiful old wooden bar near the main square gives its many patrons a flavour of pre-1991 Zagreb. The bar staff are easy-going, the inviting older clientele religiously scan the day’s newspapers and the younger regulars gather round the semicircular bar. No DJs, no hipster-attracting tricks, but still crowded and raucous at weekends. Timeless is the word you’re looking for.

→ Radićeveva 7 (no number, facebook.com/pages/MK-Krolo)

Mr. Fogg

Arguably Zagreb’s first steam-punk bar – a concept, perhaps, nobody really asked for – Mr. Fogg is garishly fun, what with its theatrical set-design pieces based on the theme of Jules Verne’s ‘Around the World in 80 Days’. It’s USP is a range of international teas, exotic varieties of gin and a decent craft beer menu.

→ Martićeva 31 (no number, facebook.com/BarMrFogg)

Old Pharmacy Pub

A classic-looking old pub: a mirror behind the brass bar, pharmacy-related sepia photographs and vintage adverts crowding the walls, and dark wood everywhere. A couple of screens are tuned to football matches on big European nights, although they’re unobtrusive enough not to ruin the evening for non-sporty types. The no-smoking section in the back is full of leather armchairs and cosy corners, perfect for an intimate chinwag. There is a wide assortment of beers but also, and importantly,

a menu of Irish whiskeys, scotches and bourbons. Nice place to start the evening with a band of good friends. → Andrije Hebranga 11A (091 245 6183, facebook.com/oldpharmacypub)

Oliver Twist Pub

Smack in the middle of Tkalčićeva, Oliver Twist has a giant terrace with a beer-garden feel and goes elbow-to-elbow when the weather is nice. Inside, they serve Guinness on tap and, exclusively in Croatia, Augustiner from Munich. There are pictures of ‘Jack Daniel: Our Benevolent Sponsor’ and newspaper etchings of Charles Dickens’ trip to America. Scattered among the three floors and around leather couches and under wooden-beamed ceilings are books, Dickens memorabilia and the occasional suit of armour. The crowd is all ages but leans toward the younger set.

→ Tkalčićeva 60 (01 4812 206, facebook.com/pages/Oliver-Twist-Pub)

Pivnica Pinta

It simply doesn’t get any more local than this. And, you’d be hard-pressed to find a place more central. Located in an alley just metres north and west from the main square, this passage was once used to stable Ban Jelačić’s horses. The patio spills into this passage. Inside, it’s a real bar – everything is wooden and people are there to drink. There are pictures of old Zagreb strewn about the two rooms and lots of beer – Kilkeny, Paulaner, Erdinger and local drafts – and liquors to keep folks happy. → Radićeveva 3A (01 4830 889, pinta.hr)

Pod starim krovovima

One of Zagreb’s classic watering holes, patronised by writers and actors since the 19th century, it looks every inch the part, with its bare pine floor, wooden panelling, timber-beamed ceiling and old-style ceramic stove. It’s one of the few bars in the Upper Town that has successfully held on to a regular late-night clientele, with art exhibitions and sporadic concerts helping to keep the bohemian spirit buoyant. With hard-to-get Vukovarsko beer on draft, and a handsome list of rakijas and wines, it’s certainly the right place for the discerning drinker; while the baguette sandwiches will take care of any lingering hunger.

→ Basaričekova 9 (01 4851 808, facebook.com/KodSnidarsica)

Pod Zidom Bistro & Wine Bar

Pod Zidom has effortlessly elbowed its way to the top of the wine-bar league, offering an affordable-to-expensive mixture of great Croatian wines and a wonderful outdoor terrace overlooking a street that’s very central but also slightly hidden from the hubbub of the main square. Done out in a mixture of greys and pale wood tones, it manages to look smart but laid back at the same time.

→ Pod Zidom 5 (099 325 3600, pod-zidom-bistro-wine-bar.business.site)

Program

If quirky, imaginatively-designed cafés are what you’re after then Martićeva is the place to find them. Just a few doors away from local cultural hub Booksa, Program is run by the same people who brought you the late lamented Divas, the famously eccentric living-room-gone-bonkers café that arguably set the whole Martićeva trend rolling. Program goes for a rather novel refurbishment-in-progress look, with (totally unnecessary) scaffolding in the middle of the room and bags of builders’ cement stacked under the tables. Artwork on the walls and pink chairs on the ceiling provide an additional degree of abnormality, without taking anything away from the café’s eminently comfortable and relaxing vibe. The coffee is good; the cakes look a bit on the heavy-duty side at first sight but turn out delightfully soft and springy when they’re on the end of your fork.

→ Martićeva 14 (098 993 8279, facebook.com/programbar)

Pupitres

Established by qualified sommelier and long-standing Croatian wine enthusiast Jelena Simić Valentić, Pupitres is a great place to taste your way through the best tipple the country has to offer. A small intimate space with a jazzy soundtrack and only a handful of tables (it’s wise to reserve at weekends), it’s well set up for a long relaxing evening. Despite being geared towards wine buffs it’s certainly not intimidating to those who aren’t – the recommended selection of whites and reds cover a good range of vintages and prices, with the cheapest options starting at a very reasonable 18kn per glass. The 2-person platter of cold-cuts





Pod Zidom Bistro & Wine Bar

and olives (85kn) is the standard accompanying order, although more substantial tapas-style dishes are also available.

→ Frankopanska 1 (01 4848 568, pupitres.hr)

Quahwa

Chic and cosy café-bar and purveyor of specialty coffee. See On Our Radar.

→ Teslina 9 (no number, facebook.com/quahwacoffeeoveronly)

Rakhia Bar

This first-floor flat in a charming old Tkalčićeva building has been transformed into an agreeable warren of quirkily decorated sitting rooms, with mix-and-match furnishings, paintings on the walls, and agreeably low-key lighting. There's also outdoor seating in a slightly raised garden overlooking one of the busiest stretches of this bar-filled street. Rakijas are the stars of the show: if there's a fruit or vegetable that you can make brandy out of then rest assured that it will be on the menu here somewhere. Bottled beers include the excellent Velebitsko pivo and the boutique-brewed Visibaba range.

→ Tkalčićeva 45 (095 919 3469, facebook.com/RAKHIA-Bar-Zagreb)

Retro Caffè

This two-room café-bar at the southern end of Savska cesta (near the Savski most tram terminus) is far from the cute exercise in nostalgia that you might assume from the name. It does have an old-style domestic-apartment feel, however, with bits of salvaged sideboards and storage cabinets jutting from the walls – each filled with a distinctly homely kind of junk (biscuit tins, toy cars, old books). The front room with huge curving bay window comes with fitted soft benches and feels rather like an oriental pasha's divan. Leffe, Erdinger and Croatia's finest Velebitsko pivo feature among the bottled ales.

→ Savska 180 (099 324 0001, retro-nightcaffe.com)

Regular Bar

Zagreb's off-street courtyards remain a much underused resource, one of many urban attributes which are talked about with great affection but which rarely seem to take off. Which is why courtyard cafés like Regular Bar are such a good thing, drawing customers into a cute passageway diagonally opposite the Britanski trg market. It's primarily a coffee

bar and a lot of effort has gone into getting this just right: the brews are good, the décor goes for a cool uncluttered Sixties feel that hits the right balance between modernity and nostalgia, and service comes with an added citrus twist - patrons are provided with (free) jugs of drinking water flavoured with slices of lemon and lime. The tree-shaded terrace makes for a great off-street hideaway, while DJ events provide reasons to push the boat out on weekend evenings.

→ Illica 65 (no number, facebook.com/regular.bar/)

Ro & Do

Long considered a cult destination on Zagreb's craft-beer strip of Opatovina, Ro & Do has upped and moved to a new location opposite Britanski trg market. It has lost its snug wood-panelled interior, but gained a much bigger courtyard terrace – which might make it into a key destination as the Zagreb summer takes hold. The basement location is bigger than their previous space but still has the feel of an intimate speakeasy. It formerly served as a French bistro and then a wine bar, and there's an improvised look about an interior that contains murals

and furnishings inherited from previous owners. Ro & Do retains its distinctive character however, thanks to its gregarious, guest-greeting owner, a sizeable cast of regulars who have clearly been frequenting Ro & Do for a long time, and the sense that there is always something to do here other than just drink – after-work DJ sets, quiz nights, occasional gigs or sport on TV. A well-kept selection of crafts is still a key plank of Ro & Do's appeal, with ales from Bjelovar's Zeppelin brewery and Zagreb's Pulfer currently ruling the bar.

→ Illica 73 (091 411 1113, facebook.com/Ro.Do.Zagreb)

Route 66

Zagreb's rock bar par excellence, Route 66 features live music, pool tables and sought-after Velebitsko beer. Photos of Bill Wyman and someone from AC/DC mark their respective visits, sealing the venue's reputation as a musicians' hangout. Live bands play two or three nights a week, including Sundays – which is blues night. A large terrace comes into its own in summer, while free parking is a boon all year round.

→ Paromlinska 47 (01 6118 737, facebook.com/route66zagreb)



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Regular Bar

Sedmica

Cult bar Sedmica does little to advertise its presence on the street. The clue is a small sign above a residential doorway. It's the meeting place of people from the creative arts, an obvious rendezvous spot before a private view at a trendy gallery or for an impromptu cast party. You enter through a corridor lined with concert and exhibition posters. Inside, a small room contains a crowded bar counter upon which stand taps of Fischer's and Erdinger. Long, thin marble tables provide a place to prop, otherwise you can join the boho crew on the wrought-iron mezzanine behind. → Kačićeva 7A (01 4846 689, caffebar-sedmica.com)

Sheridan's Pub

Compared to Vienna, Budapest or Ljubljana, Zagreb contains a relatively modest number of faux pubs. This is the best of a motley bunch – and the best loved. Cosy, communal and staffed by sweethearts, Sheridan's encourages a loyal if limited regular custom with pub quizzes and craft brews to complement the mainstay draught option of

O'Hara's – the nearest you'll find to Guinness. Darts, TV football and occasional live music sessions provide further entertainment. → Savska 36 (095 868 8553, sheridanszagreb.com)

Sherlock Bar

Occupying a prominent corner in the heart Trešnjevka, this glass box-fronted café is a great vantage point from which to observe the ebb and flow of the much-travelled Trakošćanska. The Sherlock Homes theme becomes more evident the further in you go, with a wood-panelled corner just beyond the bar looking just like the kind of 19th-century parlour in which Holmes and Watson might have conducted their criminological ruminations. There are some ambiguous (and here and there mildly disturbing) pictures of crime scenes and criminals on the walls, and some protruding pipes and rivets providing an additional sense of steampunk theatre. Beers are from the Ožujsko stable (including their rather palatable 'craft' offshoot Grif), and there's a better than average choice of rakijas and whiskies. Music is mostly upbeat pop-soul-funk;

just don't forget your pipe and deerstalker. → Trakošćanska 38 (no number, facebook.com/SherlockBarZG/)

Slastičarnica Zagreb

One of the oldest café-pâtisseries in the city and renovated to convey an almost lounge-bar feel, Zagreb has always been held in high regard by locals who value a good ice cream or elegant slice of fine cake. Pretty much everything in the display counter is worth a try, although you should perhaps reserve space in your stomach for the Zagreb torta, a chocolate sponge cake layered with hazelnut cream and apricot jam that was dreamt up in 1987 in culinary celebration of the Zagreb World Student Games. A whole Zagreb torta in a presentation box is not a bad option if you're desperate for souvenir ideas. → Masarykova 4 (01 4810 955, slasticarnica-zagreb.com)

SPUNK

Located under the gleaming glass-and-steel National University Library (NSK), it's a coffee-break bar for students during the day, and an alternative music bar

serving discerning bohos by night. The interior features comic-book murals by Igor Hofbauer, vintage movie posters and twinkling ceiling panels that look like the sky at night. Indie and cover bands occasionally squeeze into the corner of the room; DJs spin garage-rock discs at weekends. → Hrvatske bratske zajednice b.b. (01 6151 528, facebook.com/Spunk)

The Movie Pub

Despite the modest-looking entrance this is a stylish, roomy and bustling place with a long bar running along one side of the room, lots of brass fittings and a fair bit of exposed brickwork. The range of beers is enticing and the events staged here are a lot of fun. Beers include Leffe, Tuborg, Bellevue Kriek and popular Benelux brews; entertainment is in the form of karaoke on Saturdays and live music. All takes place in celluloid-themed surroundings; many of the photos taken at international film festivals are original. There is a restaurant too and an adjacent hotel should the need arise. → Savska 141 (01 4400 680, the-movie-pub.com)

New Generation

Diagonally opposite the enduringly popular terrace of Kino Europa, New Generation attests to the popularity of Zagreb's Flower Square bar hopping area. First came Bogovićeve, then Preradovićeve and now round the corner into Varšavska. Smart, but sufficiently dark inside to feel like a groovy nightspot rather than just a café-bar, the New Generation covers up for its rather mainstream choice of bottled beers with a good wine list and cocktail menu. Cover bands, regular DJs and happy hours fill out a varied weekly programme. → Varšavska 4 (098 955 8194, teslanewgeneration.business.site)

Thalia Caffè Bar

In a passageway just round the corner from the Zagreb Youth Theatre (ZKM), Thalia is a laid-back basement bar which is a good place to party in the wee hours without having to do it with wee teenyboppers. Named after the Greek muse responsible for the thespian profession, it has portraits of Brando, Dean, Gable

and Marilyn hung on the walls above the brick floors leading from the bar to the atrium-ish side room with a plexiglass ceiling. DJs play songs from the 1970s through the 1990s at weekends. → Teslina 7 (no number, facebook.com/thaliazagreb)

The Beertija

Opened in autumn 2012, the Beertija was one of the winning courtyard terrace locations of the 2013 outdoor drinking season. While the terrace sits behind trees and shrubs protected from the busy road, main body of the bar itself is in a neighbouring basement. Decked out in a mixture of red-brick and grey, it's pretty post-industrial – there's a glass-wall smoking tank in one corner for days when it's too cold or wet to light up outside. As the name suggests (Beertija is a play on words based on the term birtija, a kind of Balkan pub), the accent is on amber liquids, with a simply mind-boggling choice of local and imported ales. This is probably the only place in town where both Newcastle Brown and cult

Montenegrin Nikšičko pivo crop up on the same menu, alongside all manner of heady dark liquids dreamt up by crafty Belgian monks. There's also a list of beer snacks that run from garlic bread to smoked pork hock, and a rock/alternative soundtrack that seems to go perfectly with this kind of food and drink. → Pavla Hatza 16 (01 4839 020, facebook.com/thebeertija)

The Garden Brewery

Sample Croatia's best craft beer in a converted redbrick factory. See On Our Radar. → Slavenska avenija 22F (01 5634 100, thegarden.hr/brewery)

Time Restaurant & Bar

Occupying an oft-overlooked street corner just off the main square, Time is one of those bars that really looks like a bar the moment you step inside – a subtly under-lit space with a long wooden bar, shelves stacked with all manner of bottles, and a mixture of tables, bar-stools, and standing-room-only corners. Popular with the working and

after-work crowd during daylight hours, Time turns up the music a notch in the evenings and fills up with a predominantly young, style-conscious crew. It's a very good place to work your way through a representative sample of the better Croatian wines; fans of international spirits and bubbly are also well catered for. → Petrinjska 7 (01 3333 660, timerestaurant.hr)

U Dvorištu

Hidden in an off-street courtyard, this mellow café next to a music shop has quickly built a regular clientele since opening in mid-2011. They take their (free-trade, Ethiopian) coffee very seriously, and serious caffeine addicts will trek halfway across the city to get their regular fix. With poetry readings, jazz in the evenings and art on the walls, it's something of a cult cultural hub into the bargain. The discerning drinks menu marks this spot out as more than just a regular boozier; with Erdinger, Fischers and O'Hara stout on draught. → Jurja Željavića 7 (no number, cogitocoffee.com)



The Beertija



Valhalla Beer Bar

Lurking in the upper reaches of Radićeva, Valhalla bills itself as a heavy metal pub but is actually exceedingly mellow, an unpretentious pub-like alternative to the flashy places on nearby Tkalčićeva. It fills up on Friday nights but is at other times an ideal venue for a relaxed beer and chat. Well over a hundred varieties of bottled beer are available at any time, and there are usually eight or so brews on tap – the latter usually include latest runs from local outfits Zmajaska, Nova

Runda and the Garden Brewery, plus international stuff from the likes of London's Brewdog. The background music is indeed of the resolutely riffing variety, but not so obtrusive that you can't talk over it.
→ Radićeva 25 (no number, facebook.com/valhallabeerbarzagreb)

Velvet

Just off Ilica in a passageway lined by some of Zagreb's fancier shops, Velvet displays the kind of flamboyant-but-minimalist interior typical of its co-owner, avant-garde florist Saša šekoranja.

A big mirror above the marble bar and wine glasses share space with displays of croissants, chocolate cake and quiche. A well heeled gaggle lounges on low couches or elegant wooden chairs, supping strong quality coffee.

→ Dežmanova 9 (01 4846 744, facebook.com/velvetzagreb)

Vinyl

Occupying one of the best pitches in central Zagreb, right in the middle of the pedestrianised strip opposite the Grounded Sun sculpture, newly opened Vinyl is a bit like

a rambling apartment, with five separate rooms on the main floor and a live music and events room downstairs. Each is decorated in a slightly different style. The drinks menu is big on whiskies; among the bottled beers, look out for Rock and Roll (17kn), an extremely palatable red variety from Daruvar in eastern Croatia. The previous tenant of this roomy property was a Japanese restaurant, which helps to explain the samurai-fixated graphic art on the walls of the back bar. The weekly schedule includes live music on Wednesdays, literary reading on Thursdays, vinyl-only DJs at weekends, and – perhaps uniquely for a Zagreb café – the 'Flying Bookshop' second-hand book exchange on Monday evenings.

→ Bogovićeva 3 (01 2385 421, facebook.com/vinylzagreb)

Waves Denim Bar

A grotto-like interior beneath bare-brick vaults, this is an unexpectedly intimate spot, set slightly apart from the cafe-crawling bottlenecks of Tkalčićeva and Cvjetni trg. There's a denim theme behind the decor, with a strange but compelling blue tapestry behind the bar, blue-topped tables and blue-upholstered stools. The people at Waves are serious about their wines, and a food menu featuring soups, pastas and salads makes this a solid choice for lunch.

→ Mesnička 6 (01 4833 380, wavesdenimbar.com/restaurant-zagreb)

Witness Restaurant & Lounge Bar

Just up the street from the Croatian Supreme Court and the Zagreb County Court, the appropriately named Witness looks every bit the stage-set for a contemporary gangster movie, with silver-painted chairs, oversized teddy bears sitting cushion-like on plush sofas, and a white grand piano all serving to conjure up an atmosphere of easily-acquired bling. It's still very cosy as a daytime/evening retreat, with a good choice of wines, a strong cocktail list, and, kitsch details notwithstanding, an intimate, lounge-bar feel. The restaurant provides above-average bistro fare with a menu that majors in well-presented Adriatic fish and meat dishes.

→ Amruševa 1 (no number, facebook.com/witnesszagreb)

ON OUR RADAR

Caffe Bar Finjak ★★★★★

The extravagantly decorated, cutesy Finjak is unique enough to attract custom from anywhere in the city centre. A courtyard also helps. The drinks selection is extensive but geared towards daytime consumption: exotic teas, fine coffees, San Servolo and sought-after beers.
→ Vlaška 78 (098 130 0057, facebook.com/caffebarfinjak).

Eli's Caffè ★★★★★★

You are now entering Evolution Area' says the sign on the door, which leads through to a coolly minimal white space with a handful of tables grouped around the bar. For several years now Eli's has been Zagreb's leading venue for quality coffee, leading a brown-stuff brewing revolution that is slowly spreading to the city's other bars. It is also one of the few cafe-bars that has remained 100% non-smoking, ensuring that you can actually taste and smell whatever it is you're drinking. A foxy young professional clientele gather here to gas, goss and guzzle coffee from 100% arabica beans selected and roasted by the café owner Nik Orosi, the country's first specialty coffee roaster and supplies a half-dozen cafés with enough taste to want the best coffee in town.
→ Ilica 63 (091 455 5608, eliscaffee.com).



Quahwa ★★★★★

Quahwa treat coffee with the reverence it deserves. One of the few independent roasters in town, Quahwa an easy walk from the main square, located in an attractive courtyard on Teslina. The beans, organic Arabica, are imported from Ethiopia and roasted in the café downstairs. Upstairs, the minimalist interior is cool without feeling cold: cushy '70s armchairs and hairpin-legged tables are strewn haphazardly about the polished parquet. Coffee is slightly more expensive than what you'll find in the cafés clustering around nearby Cvjetni trg. The difference in quality is obvious and worth the few extra kuna. Beyond coffee, Matcha-lattes, specialty liquors and excellent craft beers provide a respectable list of alternatives.

→ Teslina 9 (no number, facebook.com/quahwacoffeeoversonly)

NIGHTLIFE

AKC Medika

Still going strong despite the municipal authorities' threat to dramatically raise the rent, this shrine to all things alternative grew out of Zagreb's anarchist movement and is still run as a non-profit-making collective. A courtyard decorated by some of Zagreb's best street artists has a café-bar on one side, and a concert venue-cum-club space on the other. Events range from anarcho-punk gigs to dub reggae DJs and cutting-edge dance music, with all kinds of other styles thrown in for good measure. Visual arts association Otomptom throw impromptu film evenings screening animation and shorts. Popular with a broad spectrum of Zagreb's club-hungry youth, Medika is much more than just a gathering point for the grungey underground.

→ Pierottijeva 11 (01 6197 223, attack.hr)

Aquarius

The one club on the Jarun lakeside to be open 12 months a year, this 2,000-capacity, two-floor venue, which opened in 1992, is still ahead of the field. This is largely due to its commitment to mixing danceable beats with innovative DJ styles, augmented by a regular agenda of live music (with international rock and world music predominating) and DJ sets by international big names. The two floors – Aquarius 1 and 2 – pump different sounds but do, on occasion, come together. Friday might feature anything from Goa Trance to RnB (check the website), while Saturdays usually see an eclectic mixture of cutting-edge House and electro presided over by chief resident DJ Martyn Negro. In summer, Aquarius opens its beach branch at Zrće at Novalja on Pag. Entrance fees range from 30kn for club nights to 120kn for gigs.

→ Matije Ljubeka b.b. (01 3640 231, facebook.com/aquariusklub)

Boogaloo

A 15-minute walk south of the train station, Boogaloo is a 1,500-capacity DJ club and live venue, opened in a spacious former cinema and cultural centre – scene of seminal shows by Laibach and Einstürzende Neubauten in the mid-1980s. Expect a



AKC Medika

varied schedule of retro parties, house or techno DJs, and live international metal acts.

→ Vukovarska 68 (no number, boogaloo.hr)

Bunga Bunga

One of the flashiest of the currently fashionable nightspots, Bunga Bunga is an essential night out for connoisseurs of Croatian popular culture. Expect Croatian and Balkan dance-pop, dancing girls, and a shake of local celebrities.

→ Florijana Andrašeca 14 (099 443 2223, facebook.com/bungabunga.zagreb)

Funk Club

A rather tatty-looking café-bar by day, by night the Funk Club is lively

indeed. Spontaneous interaction sparks around a horseshoe-shaped bar, while thumping beats come up from the cellar. Down a spiral staircase, in a small plain basement with stone-vaulted ceilings, DJs spin catchy tunes (house, jazz and broken beats) to a dance-happy crowd Tuesdays through Saturdays.

→ Tkalčićeva 56 (no number, facebook.com/funkklub)

Gallery

One of the snazziest clubs by Lake Jarun – and in Zagreb – Gallery has hosted DJs such as Ian Pooley, David Guetta and Martin Solveig. The interior is funky-chic and filled with chandeliers and

candelabras. Big doormen keep a tight control on numbers and enforce a dress code (no trainers or jogging suits, please). Once you pass the face test, you get to rub shoulders with local bling, actors, sports stars and the odd random hipster thrown in. Fridays are devoted to hip hop and r'n'b, while Saturdays are dedicated to house. The wooden terrace is a boon. If you're in, it's fun. Typical cover charge: 30kn for women and 40kn for men.

→ Matije Ljubeka 33 (099 444 2444, gallery.hr)

Hangar Club

One of the most enjoyable places for mainstream weekend clubbing



Pločnik

with a no-nonsense, dancefloor-filling DJ style, a lighting rig that must have cost a few bob, and a fair share of wacky party ideas. Hangar is an apt description for the large, minimally decorated main room. A centrally located main bar and relative absence of tables and alcoves gets everybody mingling and dancing.

→ Florijana Andrašeca 14 (099 655 2066, facebook.com/hangarclubzg)

Hard Place

Fancy a night out at the National Library? The row of retail units that runs along the base of the library building is increasingly being taken over by music bars, of which alternative hangout SPUNK is the most famous. Previously located near Kvatrić Market, the Hard Place rock club moved here in early 2014. It has an excellent live music performance space at the back for local bands (expect hard rock/indie/pop-rock covers), a two-level bar area at the front, and a scattering of outdoor seating.

→ Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4 (no number, hardplace.hr)

Jabuka

Everyone knows the Apple, where a generation of thirty- and forty-somethings danced and found romance a decade or two ago. This grungy Tuškanac club, set in one of the nicest neighbourhoods in town, has a worn-in feel and still offers the rocking sounds of the 1980s in its modest dance room with multi-coloured spotlights. DJs mix in R&B and soulful tunes with New Wave, Eighties and other retro genres as a mixed-age crowd jiggle and writhe about the bar and the

expansive back courtyard. There are occasional live bands and half-litres of domestic beer run at 16kn. It's a beautiful 20-minute walk due north from the centre or a quick taxi.

→ Jabukovac 28 (no number, facebook.com/GKJabuka)

Klub

Occupying the same courtyard as the Beertija beer bar, Klub is the ideal venue for small-scale live gigs and club nights. Located in a long, L-shaped brick cellar with a bit of a bottleneck around the bar, it feels lively and crowded even on slower nights. Regular club nights include the long-standing indie knees-up (Take Me Out), which moved here

following the demise of its previous home, Purgeraj. Shared with Beertija is a leafy ground-level beer garden presided over by a statue of Joe Strummer, installed here to much fanfare in summer 2013. Behind the statue hangs a street sign reading Trg Joea Strummera, or 'Joe Strummer Square' – now that's something every city should have.

→ Pavla Hatza 14 (no number, facebook.com/pg/subkulturni.centar)

KSET

KSET is an excellent, adventurous venue for live music and DJs, with events taking place three or four nights a week. Well worth

the hassle of finding, KSET has actively promoted new bands for decades, an oasis for underground, post-rock, Americana, avant-jazz, punk, rap, ethno and lots of other stylistically diverse artists. With a 400-person capacity this intimate and friendly space is the ideal venue in which to catch a band on the cusp of the big time. The choice of drinks is limited to beer, wine and fruit juices, but prices are rock-bottom.

→ Unska 3 (no number, kset.org)

Masters

The intimate Masters is located next to the clay courts of the Maksimir Tennis Centre and in a loft bedecked with wooden floors and a tree-house-style bar. The DJ presides over a relaxed vibe and offers music from deep house to dub, techno to reggae. International names make appearances here in this relatively secret dance enclave. Check Facebook page for events.

→ Maksimirska 132 (no number, facebook.com/masters.zagreb)

Močvara

Legendary venue that has hosted innumerable international names (the Buzzcocks, Jonathan Richman, Einstürzende Neubauten and Mogwai to name but four) alongside virtually anybody that matters on the domestic musical scene, Močvara, 'the Swamp', is where young alternatives gather for underground fun



Boogaloo



KSET

and a wide variety of live music acts. Set on the banks of the Sava, it holds about 600 people in an abandoned factory imaginatively muralled by graphic artist Igor Hofbauer. The programme ranges from live punk, metal, world and ethno music to retro-DJ nights, gothic parties, alternative theatre and mind-bending one-night-only art exhibitions. Entrance ranges from free to 100kn depending on what's on (check the website).

→ Trnjanski nasip b.b. (01 6159 667, mochvara.hr)

Pločnik

As much a bar as it is an essential hub for alternative culture. Pločnik is run by event promoters Pozitivan ritam, and it's one of the few places in the city where you can hear afrobeat, dancehall or grime music. The music programme is dizzyingly diverse and there's usually something happening in the bar's basement. Depending on the day of the week, it could be open-mic, live dub music or a large crowd gyrating to drum and bass. An upbeat vibe and reasonably priced craft beer on tap (Nova Runda and The Garden) makes

Pločnik a reliable choice.
→ Medimurska ulica 21 (091 430 0733, pozitivanritam.hr/plocnik)

Pogon Jedinstvo

Occupying the same former factory as the Močvara club but with a larger hall at its disposal, Pogon hosts events organised by various alternative-culture organisations – club nights, gigs, art shows and performing arts included. It's the perfect post-industrial space for a grungey party, attracting the same kind of good-natured indie crowd you'll see at Močvara or AKC Medika. The programme is pretty unpredictable, however – there's no point in setting out unless you've studied the website first.
→ Trnjanski nasip b.b. (01 4682 463, pogon.hr)

Sax

Opened a decade ago, Sax is one of the best spots in town to see live bands. Different nights of the week are devoted to different genres, with up-and-coming indie bands playing on Tuesdays, jazz, classic rock and dance-oriented DJs filling out the rest of the schedule. The stage is big and the venue is spacious and awash in

orange with plenty of booths for the partied-out and also plenty of room for dancing. The crowd here is JJ Cale-mellow and half-litres of Tuborg are only 16kn. Sometimes free, sometimes 20kn or more on the door depending on who is playing.
→ Palmotićeva 22/2 (01 4872 836, sax-zg.hr)

Sound Factory

Located in the former site of the legendary Sirup, Sound Factory is one of Zagreb's most reliable all-night underground clubs, hosting marvellous extended sessions that frequently stretch well into the daylight hours.
→ Koturaška 1 (no number, facebook.com/sound-factory-zagreb)

Shock Show Industry

The organisation at the core of the Katran-factory warehouse scene runs weekend club nights that are a mixture of DJ dance culture, live music, mainstream fun and alternative art madness. Despite the grizzled post-industrial minimalism of the location, there's a relaxed, private-house-party vibe.
→ Radnička 27 (095 418 8385, ssi.com.hr)

The Garden Brewery

As well as leading the way in Zagreb's embryonic craft beer scene, The Garden Brewery doubles up as an excellent late-night spot, attracting hip-hop legends, international DJ's and the cream of local talent to the industrial eastern estate of Žitnjak.
→ Slavonska 22F (01 5634 100, thegarden.hr)

Tvornica Kulture

Zagreb's leading indie music venue. See On Our radar.
→ Šubićeva 2 (01 4678 389, tvornicakulture.com)

Vintage Industrial Bar

This capacious new music bar occupying a former button factory opened its doors to deserved media fanfare in December 2012. The interior preserves the concrete, exposed brick and metal girders of the original factory floor, but clever lighting and comfortable seating ensures that this is far from being a minimalist post-industrial experience. The long (indeed extraordinarily long) bar serves beers from the Ožujsko stable, alongside Leffe in bottles, Erdinger on draught, and the full range of Perković rakijas. With regular gigs and DJ events take place in the adjoining hall, it's the ideal place for a rock-and-roll night out.
→ Savska 160 (01 4819 375, vintageindustrial-bar.com)

Željezničar

Littered with old industrial buildings too costly to renovate, Zagreb is a veritable paradise of potential warehouse rave spaces. Željezničar, meaning railway worker, is perhaps more rough around the edges than SoundFactory, but a considerable effort with the décor does an impressive job of transporting you to a different place in a perhaps similar way to how the train tracks that run through its courtyard used to. The venue is extremely large, with at least three floors available for parties, but their use, and indeed whether the club will open, very much depends on the party. Usually, only open on weekend nights, but not open reliably on every Friday and Saturday, its soundtrack is usually dark and speedy rave sounds, old school, Goa and psytrance, hard trance and dub, but you can also find techno nights here.
→ Trnjanska 1 (no number, facebook.com/KlubZeljznicar)

ON OUR RADAR

Pločnik ★★★★★

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→ Medimurska ulica 21 (091 430 0733, pozitivanritam.hr/plocnik)



The Garden Brewery ★★★★★

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→ Slavonska 22F (01 5634 100, thegarden.hr)

Tvornica Kulture ★★★★★

Tvornica Kulture ('The Culture Factory') has established itself as Zagreb's leading medium-sized venue for live rock and pop. The fashionably black, 1,800-capacity main hall (Veliki pogon, 'Large Workshop') has now been augmented by the addition of a much more intimate small hall (Mali pogon), which hosts gigs by local bands and disc-spinning after-parties. Mali pogon also works as a café during the day. Concerts take place several times a week, with club nights featuring DJs and visuals at weekends. Ticket prices range from 35kn to 200kn depending on who is playing. Draught beer 1.5kn, imported Czech Budweiser in bottles 20kn.
→ Šubićeva 2 (01 4678 389, tvornicakulture.com)



Sound Factory

SHOPPING

A'Marie

Croatian Ana Marija Brkić established her own fashion label for womenswear in 2002, quickly establishing a reputation for understated glamour and subtle chic. She is also one of Croatia's leading designers of spectacles and sunglasses. You can see her creations in her tiny but elegant, white-walled shop just a few blocks south and east of the main square. Alongside the current season's collection of casual and eveningwear, there are also handbags, belts and bracelets on display.

→ Gundulićeva 19 (01 4873 524, amarie-fashion.com)

Arena Centar

This huge shopping centre in south-west Zagreb is home to 200 shops and kiosks, and includes several of the big brands present in Croatia, including fashion retailers Inditex/Zara, H&M and LPP/Reserved as well as Mohito, Sinsay, Cropp and House. The large hypermarket, the international food court and various cafés are your options if you're hungry; if you're looking for entertainment, there's the Game World Casino and the Cinestar Multiplex Cinema offers 3D, IMAX, and Samsung 4DX screenings. There are allocated play areas for children, and around three thousand parking spaces; the centre also runs its own free bus service and is easily accessible by public transport. In summer time a green patio area with water fountain provides the opportunity to relax.

→ Vice Vukova 6 (01 6661 411, arenacentar.hr)

bio&bio

Zagreb's first ethical, organic health-food store serves products made to macrobiotic and vegetarian principles. Now with branches in Split, Dubrovnik and Rijeka, plus three others in Zagreb, bio&bio offers natural and organic food and food supplements, and natural cosmetics. They are also book publishers, and run classes for yoga and similar activities.

→ Various city locations (0800 246 246, biobio.hr)

Bonkulović Delikatese

On level two of the Kaptol Centar mall, between Tkalčićeva and

Nova Ves, Bonkulović is one of the few true gastro speciality shops in Croatia. It's here that locals come to find French cheese, champagne, Tuscan salami, designer pasta, and single-plantation-cocoa-bean chocolate. There are a lot of niche Croatian products too, including Tomac sparkling wine from the Plešivica region, a range of flavoured rakijas from the Perković distillery, and Brachia olive oil from the Dalmatian island of Brač.

→ Nova Ves 17 (01 4860 789, bonkulovic.com)

Bornstein

Now run by an enthusiastic and friendly young couple, Bornstein is the best wine boutique in Zagreb and potentially in all of Croatia. It opened in 1990 on Pantovčak, the first private enoteca in all of former Yugoslavia, selling only wines from private producers. Some 24 years later, the store is filled with labels from every region of Croatia, and clear advice on their qualities is offered willingly. The shop also stocks truffles, honey and olive oils, making it a handy one-stop shop for quality souvenirs. Bornstein, the original location, can be found just above Britanski trg at Pantovčak 9.

→ Kaptol 19 (01 4812 361, bornstein.hr)

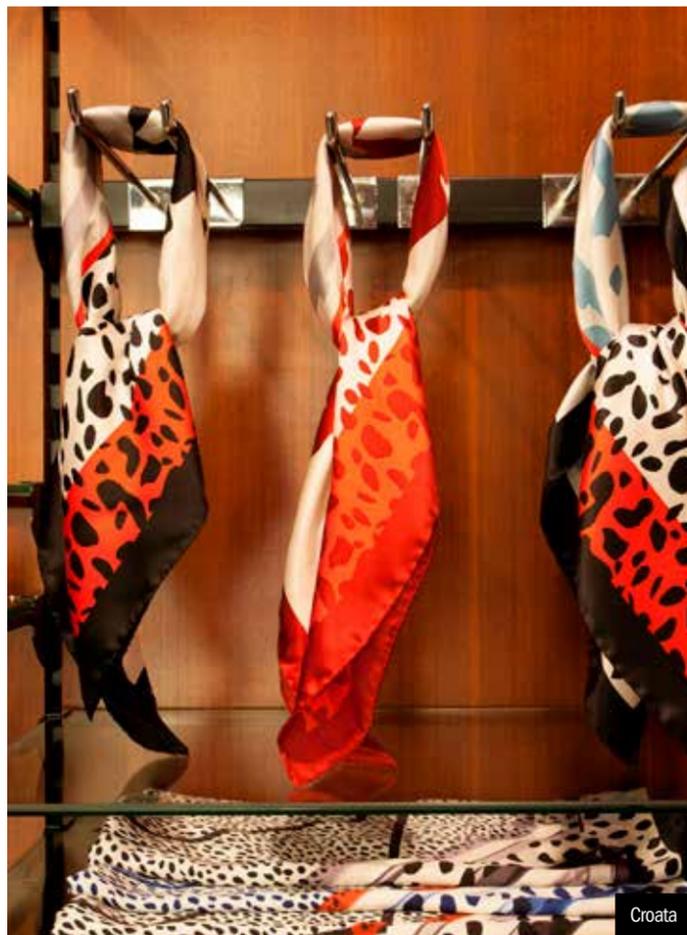
Boudoir

Run by delightful twins and designers Morana and Martina, Boudoir has been open for more than ten years. It sits on the cobbled street running parallel to Tkalčićeva and up to the Stone Gate. Inside the shop – where their grandmother once made women's hats – are one-of-a-kind designs, which combine funkiness with satin and lace, elegance with Moulin Rouge and the little black dress with the MTV music awards. Their customers are both international and Croats, with locals usually reserving their purchases for special events. The pair, like their grandmother, design hats, which are also displayed. Dresses are priced from 2,000kn to 12,000kn.

→ Radićeva 22 (091 481 3464, boudoir.hr)

Cahun

This long-standing family business certainly boasts one of Zagreb's best shop signs, with an amusing graphic of a top-hatted gent with a monocle hanging over the entrance. Cahun's hand-crafted hats cover all the classic styles,



although the fantastic range of summer headgear is perhaps its strongest suit. The straw boaters, straw panamas and straw fedoras on offer here exude a timeless glamour and are several cuts above the generic straw-hat gear you will find at street markets at seaside resort. Accessorize with Cahun's hat bands and turban-wraps to recreate that art-deco movie-poster look.

→ Vlaška 59 (01 4814 975, no webpage)

CHOCO BAR Bonbonnière Kraš

Having celebrated its centenary in 2011, local chocolatier Kraš continues to produce everyone's favourite sweets, biscuits and wafers. This stylish store is its flagship outlet, and it's a short walk from the main square. Make sure you try some Bajadera.

→ Ilica 15 (01 2396 111, kras.hr)

Croata

Croatia is widely regarded as the original home of the necktie, and this smart store in the Oktogon arcade (just west of the main square) is a successful attempt to turn this heritage into contemporary style. Many know the story of

how the necktie was born: while fighting alongside their Croat allies in the 17th century, the French were struck by the Croatian soldiers' scarves. The look became fashionable and the French named the accessory the cravat (the French-isation of the word Hrvat, or Croat). Croatia plays this story hard and has blossomed into Croatia's tie-selling leader with shops all over the country. This location is beautiful with marble and wooden inlay floors, dark wooden display cases and everything awash in manly brass. Besides silk ties – ranging in price from 249kn to 2,000kn, some with Croatian Glagolitic letters – shelves are stocked with wallets, shoes by Lloyd of Germany, belts, tie clasps, briefcases, fountain pens, tuxedos, and women's accessories like scarves, handbags, gloves and belts.

→ Various city locations (01 6457 010, croata.hr)

Cropp

This is a very well stocked delicatessen concentrating on the quality side of authentic Croatian food and drink. There are wines, olive oils, cheeses and honeys in abundance. The rakija selection includes a weird, peppery,

olive-flavoured variety you're unlikely to find anywhere else. There's a wide range of seductive sweet things made by Rab-based chocolatier Vilma (including chocolate with Pag cheese). Other little extravagances you should look out for include smokvenjak, compressed fig cake, and Rapska torta, a pastry-wrapped cake rich in marzipan.

→ Tkalčićeva 28 (091 533 8233, facebook.com/CropAuthenticCroatianGifts)

Cvjetni Centar

Opened somewhat controversially in 2011 (the access ramp to Cvjetni's underground car park ate up a much loved chunk of pedestrian precinct), this three-storey mall contains many of the international brand names that have colonised European city centres in the last two decades.

→ Preradovića 6 (no number, centarcvjetni.hr)

Dancing Bear

A music store at its core, Dancing Bear is also a great place to shop for T-shirts, movies and music-video DVDs. Naturally CDs predominate, spread across the red walls of its

two floors. Local songbirds as well as international blues, jazz, rock and classical fill the racks. Old-schoolers will be happy to find a substantial vinyl selection.

→ Gundulićeva 7 (01 2302 623, dancingbear.hr)

Deliicije

The first of what is now a multi-shop operation around Croatia, Deliicije stock quality chocolate, cakes, biscuits and sweets from famous European brands. From French Henaff to Swiss Lindt, English Mackays to Belgian Hamlet, there's certainly something for everyone.

→ Various city locations (01 7899 590, deliicije.com)

Dioralop

Bold, edgy, unisex designs in a post-industrial boutique belonging to Dioralop, the fashion duo made up of Maja Merlić and Andreja Bistričić. Regular participants in the London and Paris fashion weeks, they are noted for using blurry polaroid ('dioralop', geddit?) photographs as the basis for their striking prints.

→ Online shop (099 232 4405, dioralop.org)

Dolac

The beating heart of Zagreb. See On Our Radar.

→ Dolac 9 (01 6422 501, trznice-zg.hr)

ELFS

This is the main city-centre outlet for a deservedly successful local fashion label launched by young Zagreb design tandem Ivan Tandarić and Aleksandar Šekuljica. Incorporating an ironic take on today's bling culture, ELFS play with elements of kitsch without going too far over the top, producing clothes that are fun, sexy and wearable. As well as frocks, bags and tights for the gals, the shop stocks hooded tops for the guys, and baby grows for infant followers of fashion.

→ Amruševa 19 (01 4816 182, elfs.hr)

Etna Maar

The brainchild of Croatian, Italian and UK-trained designer Andrijana Subotić Pjajcik, the Etna Maar label produces coolly minimalist and eminently wearable dresses in black, reds and greys; alongside some highly desirable leather bags. The name comes from Dora

Maar, Croatian-born muse of Pablo Picasso. The Blau Lines shop on Radićeva is one of the best places to find Etna Maar clothes and accessories.

→ Ilica 82 (01 7000 345, etnamaar.com)

Franja

Primarily known for its coffee beans and leaf tea, Franja is also a good place to pick up Croatian delicatessen products, including quality wines, traditional biscuits, and single-plantation olive oils from all over the country.

→ Vlaška 62 (01 4573 235), Heinzelova 6B (01 4616 744, franja.hr)

Free Bird

Based here since 1999, secondhand music shop Free Bird is run by Tomislav Gaži, who stocks 5,000 LPs and 2,500 CDs covering all musical genres. It has a fast turnover with buy-outs of big collections, weekly sales and old hi-fi equipment.

→ Tratinjska 50 (01 3821 870, freebird.hr)

Greencajg

Near Kvatrić market, this new store sells organic and alternative deli



Free Bird

products with strong emphasis on the Croatian, rather than the imported. The name is Croatian dialect for German Grünzeug, all that 'green stuff' that goes into soups and stews to give them a strong savoury flavour. You can indeed stock up on bio veg here, although it's the deli fare – olive oils, marinades, preserves – that make a visit here worthwhile. Speciality items include bottles of gloppy baby food made from organic ingredients, and the demonic, tongue-broiling chili sauces made by Croatian firms Alpinos and Volim Ljuto. Greencaj is the ideal place to pick up hemp products (hemp oil, hemp flour, hemp tea), as well as the nutty flavoured, locally grown and milled pumpkin-seed flour, perfect for making gluten-free bread and cakes.

→ Heinzlova 4 (097 631 4737, greencaj.hr)

Importanne Galleria

This three-storey building, just east of the main square, was the second mall to open in Croatia. There is underground parking too. → Iblorov trg 10 (01 4619 503, importannegalleria.hr)

Intera

Long Zagreb's main outlet for the cooler end of Italian furniture design, the shop also stocks the Element line of furniture created specifically for Intera by Austrian-Croatian design group Numen/For Use. Numen's talent for executing deceptively simple shapes in trusty-looking chunks of oak and walnut is showcased in a range of beds, tables and storage units. The x-shaped magazine racks and disarmingly wonky-looking bookshelves are eminently affordable – and sufficiently portable to be carried home. Intera also stocks the

wiry-looking lamp stands made by Zagreb design collective Grupa. → Ilica 168A (01 3906 855, intera.hr)

Jesenski & Turk

With another branch at Preradovičeva 5 in the city centre, Jesenski & Turk is the best stocked and most browser-friendly of Zagreb's second-hand bookshops, with a clearly arranged selection of old prints, antiquarian titles, English-language novels and attractively illustrated art and photography books. → Preradovičeva 5 (01 4876 897), Vukotiničeva 4 (01 4826 233, jesenski-turk.hr)

Jewellery Store Bashota

Founded in 1924, family firm Bashota excels in the kind of filigree earrings and coral necklaces that are typical of Zagreb's traditional jewellery scene. More recently they have become famous for their line of gold and silver brooches based in traditional Zagreb motifs such as red-and-blue stripe Šestine umbrellas, gingerbread hearts, and other folksymbols. → Ilica 37 (01 4833 109, insightdesignguide.com)

Juice Box

This is a misleadingly simple name for what is actually an Aladdin's cave of the good things in life, from organic fruit and veg to fair-trade coffee, soya beans, olive and other vegetable oils, and crunchy crisps made out of apple, pineapple and other healthy things. Freshly made fruit and vegetable juices are the star attraction, with Juice Box's own-recipe cocktails sold in picnic-ready bottles. Also on sale are locally made pastas flavoured with nettle or hemp, cooking ingredients that you can't get anywhere else, such as ghee and, perhaps uniquely for Zagreb, healthy Vau Torte biscuits for dogs. → Various city locations (juicebox.hr)

Kaptol Centar

Past the Cathedral, this is arguably the most exclusive and certainly the oldest of Zagreb's many malls. You can expect to find outlets for major chains, as well as a supermarket, cafés and the Movieplex cinema. → Nova Ves 17 (no number, centarkaptol.hr)

Karma Record Store

A bright conservatory full of cacti provides a rather welcoming environment in which to browse one of Zagreb's biggest and

best-arranged collections of collectable vinyl, with sections devoted to just about every genre imaginable. Sideboard drawers are packed with 7-inch singles, and there's a growing collection of second-hand films on DVD. Karma also have a huge collection of vintage film posters, and piles of pop-culture magazines. → Podgorska 3 (01 3633 685, karmavinil.com)

Kloto

Formerly known as the Kovač second-hand record store, this cute shop tucked away in a city-centre courtyard has been reincarnated as Kloto, the retail outlet of an association of local artists, clothes designers and accessory producers. The accent is on steampunk and Goth lite – and the plethora of bags and brooches adorned with skulls, bats and black cats will appeal to the average high-school witch. The shop is named after Clotho, the youngest of the Three Fates in Greek mythology, and the one responsible for spinning the thread of human life. Kloto also sells advance tickets for several concert events throughout the city, providing another reason to pop in. → Masarykova 14 (01 4872 659, udrugakloto.hr)

Kobali

Almost a century old and still in the family, this classic hat shop is a real Zagreb institution. Looking at Kobali's artfully arranged salon display is a bit like leafing through vintage fashion magazines and being taken aback by just how individual, wearable and stylishly retro the millinery still is. Leopard-print caps (800kn) look like something out of a Seventies fashion shoot and will go down a storm at the disco; classic ladies' straw hats (2000kn plus) come in natural colours or in black and can be swoon-inducingly elegant when paired with the right summer outfit. For the guys, a raffish linen flat cap will set you back 600kn. Note that the address is Ilica 5, but the salon is actually located just round the corner on Margaretska. → Ilica 5 (01 481 2867, no webpage)

Ljevak

Located right on the main square, this is the place to come for books on science, economics and politics, including a limited selection in English. → Trg bana Josipa Jelačića 17 (01 4812 992, ljevak.hr)

ON OUR RADAR

Dolac

The daily market, on a raised square a set of stairs up from Jelačić, has been the city's major trading place since 1926. Farmers from surrounding villages come to sell their home-made foodstuffs and some of the freshest fruit and vegetables you'll ever taste. In the covered market downstairs are butchers, fishmongers and old ladies selling the local speciality (cheese and cream). Flowers and lace are also widely available. Alongside, the renovated fish market, ribarnica, sells fresh produce every day but Monday. → Dolac 9 (01 6422 501, trznice-zg.hr)



Maria Store

Arguably Croatia's leading luxury boutique, Maria was launched in Dubrovnik in 2007 and opened up in Zagreb in December 2010. On sale are the latest collections by top international names across the whole spectrum of pret-à-porter collections, including Celine, Gucci, Valentino, Balenciaga, Givenchy, Loewe, Chloe, Saint Laurent and many more. It's not just a question of fancy frocks: ultra-glamorous (and ultra-expensive) shoes, bags and belts are there to be tried on too. → Masarykova 8 (01 4811 011, mariastore.hr)



Take Me Home

The aim of this exemplary little shop near the lower station of Zagreb's funicular is to stock all those quality products made by Croatian designers that also work well as souvenirs – in the sense that they're small enough to fit in your luggage and might also be useful once you actually get them home. There's a lot to choose from here, from Ana Horvat's eccentric-but-loveable animal soft toys to SexyPlexy's wear-with-care coloured-shard necklaces. Playful present ideas include Žvig's one-shot rakija mugs carved from walnut wood (they only stay upright when empty), and Hidden Garden pendants with real herbs inside. For those prepared to splash out on something for the home, Lidia Bosevski's ceramics convey arty elegance; while Filip Gordon Frank's Mini Me desk lamp is already something of a Croatian design icon. In total, more than 60 domestic designers are represented in this one store. → Tomičeva 4 (01 7987 632, takemehome.hr)



Kloto

Shopping

– Love, Ana

Designer Ana Tevsić started her own '– Love, Ana' label, a line of quirky interior furnishings and accessories, in defiance of the current market crisis. This is her own sleek shop/studio; she sells a variety of her own designs, including her most famous 'Chew On This' wall-hanger, and also stocks products from other promising designers, along with a variety of multilingual magazines. An interesting place to pick up something both useful and original.

→ Dežmanov prolaz 4 (01 5801 675, loveanadesign.com)

Mali plac

Zagreb's pop-up market is an ecological, biological, organic affair that focuses attention on small-scale producers of vegetables, delicatessen products and baked goods. Alongside organic olive oils and rare mountain honeys, you'll find a range of artisan preserves, natural fruit juices, pâtés (both meat and vegetable) and natural soaps and cosmetics. Providing a good opportunity to mingle and talk with good-food freaks, Mali plac is

also a great place to pick up gluten-free bread and diabetic-friendly cakes. Check website for full programme of events.

→ Various city locations (no number, mali-plac.org)

Maria Store

High-end fashion boutique See On Our Radar.

→ Masarykova 8 (01 4811 011, mariastore.hr)

Modus Design Shop

This smart and tasteful shop at the top of Zagreb's main café strip is a good place to browse for chic international design, particularly Alessi kitchenware and Iitala crockery and glass. They do have a handful of cool Croatian products too, notably the wiry lamp stands and hangers-cum-towel rails produced by local creative collective Grupa; bags made from recycled rubber by Gooma; and Little Horse and Baby Beuys's spindly rabbit-man soft toys.

→ Tkalčićeva 48 (01 4813 470, modusdesignshop.com)

Natura Croatica

Natura Croatica specialises in olive oils, jams, soaps, pâtés,

vinegars, fruit brandies, liqueurs, sweets, honeys and truffle-based preserves. This is the most central branch of a mini-chain.

→ Preradovičeva 8 (01 4855 076, naturacroatica.com)

Oblak

Founded by Croatian jewellery designer Diana Zelmanović some two decades ago, Oblak ('Cloud') should be your first stop on the trinkets-and-accessories trail that leads up Radičeva towards the Upper Town. There's a variety of visually appealing items on display, from necklaces of polished stones in various colour combinations, idiosyncratic items such as flowery brooches made from various textiles (70kn-80kn), and floppy felt flowers with dangly stalks that can be thrown round your neck as a shawl (150kn).

→ Online shop (095 858 4306, facebook.com/galerijaoblak)

Record Store

A vinyl shop that looks like a fashion boutique, thanks to the white walls and smart presentation, Record Store looks like the kind of place where you need to try your new record on in a changing room before proceeding to the till. They sell new vinyl as well as old – it's a great place for tracking down the cream of the Croatian and ex-Yugoslav new wave scene, giving you the feeling that staff have rummaged their way across the entire country in order to save you the bother. Prices are on the high side – Record Store also sells new, top-quality turntables to initiate those into the way of the gramophone.

→ Tkalčićeva 34 (01 5520 560, recordstoreday.com)

Roxy

A shop so small that there's hardly room for more than one customer at a time, Roxy is an essential stop-off for the dedicated vinyl hunter, especially those with a strong interest in ex-Yugoslav rock and pop. The owner is a mine of information and has a lot of stock that isn't on display in the shop itself – give him your wants list and he will see what he can dig out.

→ Savska 34 (no number, cdshop-roxy.com)

Russian Delicacies/ Ruske Delicije

Hidden in a courtyard off the northern side of Vlaška, this tiny but well-stocked shop will satisfy anyone who hankers after the bounty of

Mother Russia. And we're not just talking about vodka and pickled gherkins – you can also stock up on Georgian barbeque sauce, smoked salmon, and fine-looking presentation boxes of chocolates made by confectionery firms who still rejoice in names like Red Front St. Petersburg and Red October. For all this Russian bounty, we need to thank Anastasija, brought to Zagreb when she was 11 years old.

→ Vlaška 19 (01 4876 533, facebook.com/RuskeDelicije)

Saša Šekoranja

A florist shop nominally, this is a spot where art and flowers intersect. For a tourist's purposes, Saša Šekoranja's shop is the best place to give your hosts a thank-you-gift flower arrangement that shows you both have an insider's knowledge of town and ample amounts of taste. You'll see the sign prominently above the door in the direction of Britanski trg from the main square. This is Šekoranja's flagship shop. The artist and flower magician also has a gallery, Velvet (at Dežmanova 9 – next to his café of the same name), which sells delicate design elements for the home: china, lamps, sculpture, etchings, and odd-but-welcome findings such as organic bowls made of roots, herbs and leaves.

→ Dežmanova 1 (01 4847 070, instagram.com/sasasekoranja)

Škrgatić

There's something pleasantly old-fashioned about Škrgatić, a family hat-maker that has been around for over a hundred years and doesn't look as if it has changed its lines for decades. The ladies' hats seem to have jumped straight from the pages of Vogue circa 1932; although it's the retro styles of the men's hats that represent Škrgatić's key appeal. A Victorian top hat that's perfect for that steam-punk look will set you back around 800kn, while a black fisherman-style cap of the kind worn by John Lennon in the early Sixties costs a very reasonable 180kn. Trilbies and wide-brimmed fedora-style affairs fill in the middle ground. All hats are made from natural materials such as wool, rabbit fur and felt.

→ Heinzelova 2A (01 4650 289, sesiri-skrgatic.hr)

Spirit of Music

In business since 2001 under Josip Matić, SoM houses mostly

CDs, 7,000 in number, with 1,500 LPs, new and used, from prog rock to psychedelia, blues to new wave. LPs and CDs can be ordered from all over the world, including Japanese rarities.

→ Kanarinska 42 (01 2991 844)

Što Čitaš/Sapunoteka

Hidden away in an off-street courtyard, this is a most unusual and unexpected combination of anarchist bookshop and hand-made soap boutique. Let's begin with the soap, which is made from olive oil and Adriatic herbs by Šibenik-based firm Sapunoteka. It can be bought in big slices priced by weight, or in nicely packaged 100-gram bricks (25kn). There's a big choice – particularly recommended are Three Colours White (3 boje bijelo; with aniseed), Not Everything is as Grey as You Think (Nije sve tako sivo; fennel and lemon), or the excitingly grainy Little Witch (Mala Vještica; poppy seed, clay and lavender). On sale in the anarchist half of the shop are T-shirts with subversive slogans, vinyl 7-inch singles by anarcho-punk bands, and a variety of rabble-rousing books.

→ Gunduličeva 11 (01 4827 250, stocitas.org)

Take Me Home

A one-stop shop for Croatian design products. See On Our Radar.

→ Tomičeva 4 (01 7987 632, takemehome.hr)

Tisak Media

Just around the corner from the Draškovičeva tramstop (one stop east of the main square), this shop carries books, magazines and multimedia items like CDs and DVDs. Essentially anything that's needed for a traveller to refuel is here: mobile phones, backpacks, even wrapping paper.

→ Various city locations (tisakmedia.hr)

Ulični ormar

Second-hand clothes shops are ten-a-penny in Zagreb, but few of them really reward a long and dedicated rummage. Except that is for Ulični ormar ('Street Wardrobe'), a vintage clothes boutique whose stock is so well chosen that it has attracted a torrent of adoring prose from the local style magazines and fashion blogs. Located in a courtyard off Jurišićeva, it's nevertheless easy to find, with a slogan-daubed suitcase advertising its presence rather than a straightforward shop sign. Most retro styles are catered for, with



Što Čitaš/Sapunoteka

ladies' coats, blouses, gloves and bags particularly well represented. Prices are not exactly rock-bottom, but the acquisitive instincts of the ormar team have at least spared you the job of sorting the fashion jewels from the jumble.

→ Jurišićeva 16 (01 4926 500, ulicni-ormar.hr)

Vintage Circus

Vintage Circus is the label of Lidija Bošnjak, a designer who has a reputation for producing ladieswear for ladies who are still girls at heart: bold, brash, playful prints that just about remain on the right side of kitsch. T-shirts (200kn) featuring the TV test card, Frida Kahlo or a range of cat motifs are among the top sellers, although there's a broad range of unabashedly colourful frocks and skirts – one skirt sports a striking map of the world print (420kn) but they're all pretty far-out. There is also a small range of accessories and jewelry by other local designers.

→ Jurišićeva 10, Vlaška 125 (098 950 8571, vintage-circus.hr)

Vivat Fina Vina

This large and well-stocked wine shop is something of a treasure-trove, stocking all manner of Croatian wines in all geographical areas and price ranges, and a fair spread of foreign wines too.

There's a particularly good stock of sparkling wines in all price ranges, and plenty of non-wine extras such as specialist Croatian olive oils by Oleum Viride, cheeky chocolates by Split-based Nadalina, and a variety of fine, herb-based rakijas from the Aura distillery in Istria. Vivat also sells quality glassware, should you be on the look-out for quality home accessories.

→ Various city locations (01 6195 332, vivat-finavina.hr)

Vrutak

Vrutak is something of an oddity in the Zagreb retail scene, selling mainstream supermarket goods alongside the kind of wines and spirits that you would normally only find in specialist shops. Their range of Croatian wines features both the big players and the best of the boutique producers, with a good choice of top-of-the-range tittle, inexpensive table wines, and pretty much everything inbetween. Most varieties of rakija are present here too, as well as a chiller cabinet filled with craft beers. Quality Croatian chocolates, olive oils and cheeses are also on offer; all of which are presented without the snobbery and high prices that you might find in upmarket stores and tourist-trap gift shops.

→ Kaptol 1 (01 2002 528, vrutak.hr)



– Love, Ana

HOTELS

Amadria Park Hotel Capital

The 'Capital' in the name of this city-centre newbie refers to its location in Zagreb and its original purpose as the Croatian branch of Austrian bank Wiener Bankverein. A vault and safe still sit in the basement.

Viennese architects Ernst Gotthilf and Alexander Neumann designed this art-deco masterpiece in the early 1920s, its classy exterior dominating the junction of Jurišićeva and Palmotićeva. Valet parking is a huge plus, and there's an on-site restaurant, café and gym. Rooms, from 20 square metres and up, continue the art-deco theme but this is very much a modern, urban lodging – and, for Šibenik-based, family-run Amadria Park, a first foothold in the Croatian capital.

→ Jurišićeva 22 (01 5562 700, amadriapark.com)

4CityWindows

A converted ground-floor flat mere minutes from the main square is the venue for this chic, welcoming and intimate B&B venture. Rooms are small but all are ensuite and come with a lot of character: one is themed around the local animated-film tradition; another (the 'Art Room') is crammed with pop-art works by Nikolina Ivezić and Tatjana Politeo. There's more artworks by Ivezić and Politeo in the exposed-brick breakfast room, where you get a decent buffet choice in the morning and the chance to help yourself to tea and coffee throughout the day. Parking is available if you reserve in advance.

→ Palmotićeva 13 (01 8897 999, 4citywindows.com)

Apartment Design Studios SviMi

Five apartments, ranging in size from two-person studio to family-sized flats, on a quiet residential street that's only ten minutes' walk from the main square. Rooms come in calming whites, creams and pastels, and are furnished with beds and sofas from Kvadra, Croatia's leading contemporary furniture maker. Each apartment comes with fully equipped kitchenette, air-conditioning and cable TV. The owner has a wine cellar in the basement, and everyone gets a welcome drink.

→ Martićeva 35A (098 351 411, designapartmentszagreb.com)



Amadria Park Hotel Capital

Best Western Hotel Astoria

Built in 1932, this hotel is located between the station and the main square. After a floor-to-ceiling makeover, Best Western unveiled it in 2005 as one of its 45 premier properties. In 2008, it went to four stars. A lobby of wood panelling, plush red armchairs and marble floors leads to red-carpeted hallways lined by replicas of Croatian masterpieces. Rooms range from smallish twins and queens to more spacious executives and suites with window-paned sliding doors. Decor features a palette of beiges, yellows and creams and contemporary paintings. WiFi too.

→ Petrinjska 71 (01 4808 900, hotelastoria.hr)

Best Western Hotel Stella

The contemporary Stella, which opened in 2007, is another option within easy reach of Zagreb's airport. A comfortable three-star with 43 rooms and one suite, it appears on many generic hotel-booking websites, thus attracting regular international traffic. The exterior looks quite functional and apart from the café on the hotel premises, there are no bars or restaurants within an easy walk. A taxi ride from the airport takes ten minutes and costs about 100kn.

→ Maslenička 1 (01 5393 600, hotel-stella.hr)

Boutique Hotel No.9

The black exterior of this new hotel at the bus-station end of town provides little inkling of what it's like on the inside, which is a bit like the hollowed out interior of a giant wedding cake. The reception area and first floor are almost totally white, furniture included, save for

the black-and-white photographs in the rooms. The second 'silver' floor has more white, although here the chairs and couches are upholstered in silver-coloured material. The third and final 'gold' floor, done out in black and gold, is the kitschiest of the lot, but is undeniably sexy with it. It's by no means an overpowering place to stay, however, and the excellent buffet provided in the third-floor breakfast room is eloquent proof of Hotel 9's focus on quality comforts.

→ Držićeva 9 (01 5625 040, hotel9.hr)

Canopy by Hilton Zagreb Centre

Opened close to Zagreb's main train station in 2018, Canopy is Hilton's urban lifestyle brand, initiated in Reykjavik in 2016. The Zagreb branch is one of 20 or so worldwide, putting the Croatian capital on a par with London, São Paulo and major US cities. Taking over a prominent spot once occupied by the Arcotel Allegra, the Canopy offers the signature features of the brand: free use of bikes, artisanal breakfasts, in-room dressing gowns and socks, and filtered spring water points on most floors. Beds all feature canopies, of course. The ReUnion Restaurant echoes the building's heritage as the former Union chocolate factory, both in name and decor, its kitchen supplied with monkfish, meat and seasonable vegetables from the nearby Dolac market. At the Canopy Central Café & Bar, complimentary snacks and drinks samples are offered from 5pm to 6pm, and feature Croatian

cheeses, hams, wines and craft beers from the Garden Brewery. Paid-for platters, ales and aperitifs are otherwise available until 11pm. Other amenities include a 24-hour gym and a rooftop garden terrace. All in all, Canopy is an exciting development in Zagreb's hotel stock – Hilton launches another venture in its mid-priced Garden Inn range on Radnička later in 2019.

→ Branimirova 29 (01 4559 505, canopy3.hilton.com)

Chillout Hostel

Initially round the corner from Britanski trg, Chillout relocated to Tomićeva, nearer the main square, in early 2013. The recipe is largely the same: a totally renovated apartment building in an off-street courtyard, newly-installed facilities, and neat air-conditioned dorms, ranging in size from three-bed to 12-bed – the smaller ones can be rented as private doubles if space allows. The beds themselves come in the form of brightly-coloured pods. The hostel's key attribute is the common room with Wifi and 24-hour bar – an ideal place to hang out and plot your next foray. There's a fully-equipped kitchen, and breakfast is available for an extra €4.

→ Tomićeva 5A (01 4849 605, chillout-hostel-zagreb.com)

DoubleTree by Hilton

Rising serenely above Radnička cesta, Zagreb's developing commercial and financial district, the sleek bronze block of the DoubleTree was a major hotel opening and brings a new dimension of contemporary design and comfort to Zagreb's

upper-bracket accommodation. All rooms feature a svelte mixture of charcoal, chocolate and ochre surfaces and fabrics; big windows provide both plenty of light and a sense of outside bustle. Desks and luggage space are well provided for, even in the smaller 'standard' doubles. Wifi, and media hubs that allow you to play your gadgets through the hotel TVs and speakers, are standard throughout. Importantly, every room has a bathtub. Another major plus is the top-floor gym and spa centre, with a small pool on one level and a large exercise area just above it, big wall-to-ceiling windows offering breathtaking panoramas of the city as you pedal way or pump iron. Down on the ground floor, the hotel bar and the Oxbo restaurant share a relaxing open-plan social space.

→ Vukovarska 269A (01 6001 900, doubletree3.hilton.com)

Esplanade

Since it opened in 1925 to cater to travellers on the Orient Express, the beautiful and opulent Esplanade has accommodated Alfred Hitchcock, Elizabeth Taylor, Queen Elizabeth II, the King of Spain and Louis Armstrong. Fabulous luxury and top-notch service are the name of the game at this art-nouveau gem beside the train station. After a complete refurbishment, it reopened in 2004. The lobby is a venerated wonder and clocks display the time in six world cities. Stylish guestrooms range in size and configuration, but all come with perks such as heated floors, goose-down bedding, mist-free mirrors and fancy toiletries in the marble bathrooms. The chef at Zinfandel's restaurant conjures up modern Med cuisine and Croatian traditional dishes, while Le Bistro does the best štrukli in town. Relaxation packages are popular: hot-stone and chocolate massages in the treatment and sauna rooms. There are also deluxe room service options like a Bath Butler, who'll draw the perfect, bubbled tub. Even the pooch gets in on the action here. Pets receive a bone, a welcome letter and a bed when they arrive.

→ Antuna Milhanovića 1 (01 4566 666, esplanade.hr)

Fulir Hostel

Every place has a story. Fulir, on the north-west corner of the main square, once housed the servants of the fellow sitting in bronze and on horseback and gives the square its name: Jelačić. Below the hostel,

the famed Croatian leader kept his horses. Today, the alley the hostel occupies (it shares it with a solid locals' bar called Pinta) still feels as if a group of soldiers might ride up any moment in need of stew and ale. Inside the hostel, there's everything you need and nothing more. It's a small and intimate 16-bed place, with a relaxing common room, fully-equipped kitchen, wireless internet and laundry machines. But it's the owners who make the difference. Davor and Leo have a wealth of local knowledge and will likely go out with your group to make sure you have the best Zagreb experience possible. Logically, Fulir has no curfew.

→ Radićeva 3A (01 4830 882, no webpage)

Garden Hotel

A medium-sized 33-room hotel in a good location midway between the train station and the pretty Republic of Croatia Square, Garden gets its name from the Botanical Gardens a short stroll from the front door. Rooms are soothingly decorated in browns, greys and creams; all come equipped with free Wi-Fi, a flat-screen TV and a desk.

→ Vodnikova 13 (01 4843 720, gardenhotel.hr)

Hostel Bureau

This striking office-block conversion in a former newspaper HQ offers some of the swankiest hostel accommodation in the region. With a high proportion of doubles

and triples, solid beds and contemporary decor, it's more like a good, cheap hotel than a shoestring backpacker option. Computers on every floor and witty graphics (rooms are labelled 'secretariat', 'import-export' and other officious-sounding names) play ironic tribute to the building's businesslike past. Rooms on the northern side have great views of Zagreb's twin-pronged cathedral. The large basement includes a café with breakfast options and a snooker table. Triple and quad rooms also available.

→ Vlaška 40 (01 5510 517, hostel-bureau.eu)

Hostel Chic

Hidden away in a courtyard just a hop and a skip from the train station, Chic goes for contemporary design in a big way with lots of white surfaces, pastel colours and clean lines. It's ideal for anyone who wants the full hostelling experience but without the grunge. As usual there is a mixture of dorms and privates, a common-room with kitchenette and free Wi-Fi throughout.

→ Pavla Hatza 10 (01 7793 760, hostel-chic.com)

Hostel Swanky Mint

A courtyard on Zagreb's main shopping street harbours this engaging former dry-cleaning and textile-dyeing factory, still featuring an atmospheric combination of exposed brickwork and industrial floors. There are some cute double rooms alongside the regular

dorms, and the communal areas (complete with kitchen facilities, bar, and leafy backyard) come with exactly the right mix of laid-back vibe and social buzz.

→ Ilica 50 (01 4004 248, swanky-hostel.com)

Hostel Temza

A peaceful place that's hardly likely to bring out the hellraiser in you, this small, ship-shape and friendly hostel is in a converted flat at the station end of the Lower Town. It has the feel of a cosy family apartment although the furniture is all new; there is a decent-sized common room, free use of the kitchen, and Wi-Fi throughout. The staff can organise bike rental and laundry for an extra charge.

→ Šenoina 24 (01 4921 216, temza.hr)

Hotel Academia

At the top of bustling Tkalčićeva, the Academia is ideal for a weekend city break. With everything in walking distance, not least the main square, market, and restaurants of Tkalčićeva itself, this four-star comprises 51 attractive doubles, with views of the street or the garden on the other side. Each of the two suites has a jacuzzi. The Bistro St Michael focuses on small-batch Croatian producers, both in terms of produce and wine, while the three conference and meeting rooms, and free parking space for 170 cars, cater to business visitors. Adjacent to the Centar Kaptol mall and cinema, all feels swish and modern, and very much part of



Hostel Swanky Mint

Tkalčićeva's transformation from tatty but revered thoroughfare to contemporary urban hub.

→ Tkalčićeva 88 (01 4550 046, hotelacademia.hr)

Hotel Antunović

The L-shaped business hotel has made a big splash since it opened in 2006 thanks in part to its business-district location and the top-floor panoramic Vertigo bar. Rooms come with warm colours and smart modern bathrooms. Mention must also be made of the facial and body treatments available at the three-sauna spa, with pool and whirlpool. There's also a restaurant (Argante) specialised in traditional and Med-style dishes; a self-service one (Lucija); a lobby bar (Bulle); and conference facilities.

→ Zagrebačka 100 (01 2041 201, hotelantunovic.com)

Hotel Aristos

Located in the Buzin Business Park ten minutes from the airport, this stylish four-star completed a new wing in 2010 that more than doubled its occupancy size from 70 to 146 rooms and four suites and added a wellness centre, a restaurant, a lounge bar and increasing conference capacity from two congress halls to seven plus additional meeting spaces dedicated to business events. As before, the comfortable bedrooms

have high-speed Internet, separate sitting areas and 400 paintings by Croatian artists.

→ Cebini 33 (01 6695 900, hotel-aristos.hr)

Hotel IAS

It's a mystery why this hotel, which opened in 1999, gets so readily ignored within Zagreb hotel circles. A four-star set in Zelengaj Park, it has 22 spacious rooms – 19 rooms, two junior suites and a business suite – with overstuffed furniture, two-sink bathrooms, reproductions of Impressionist paintings and views of the leafy park. The sensation here is that you are at a fancy mountainside retreat. The architecture is a wave of green glass that's a cross between feng shui and tree-hugger retro. Also on the property is the longstanding and chi-chi Restaurant AS, renowned for its seafood specialities. To get to the centre of town from the AS, take the ten-minute footpath over the hills and trek through the woods – seriously.

→ Zelengaj 2A (01 4609 111, hotel-as.hr)

Hotel Central

Just opposite the train station, Central is still the most convenient and cheapest of the decent places to stay if you're coming in by rail. The non-descript five-storey building features a poky lobby and 76 smallish but clean rooms

with en-suite bathrooms (some with showers, some with tubs) and an abundance of unnecessary furniture. For a quieter night, request one of the courtyard-facing rooms. Or, sacrifice silence for a room with a view of the station. Currently, though, there are fewer rooms available due to a refit.

→ Branimirova 3 (01 4841 122, hotel-central.hr)

Hotel Dubrovnik

Right on the main square, the four-star Dubrovnik is a Zagreb classic. The complex comprises two buildings. The older, a six-storey number from 1929, has a beautifully spruced-up façade; the younger is seven storeys and a 1980s glass extravaganza. Inside the pair, 258 rooms and eight suites come in different shapes and sizes, but all boast unfussy decor with old-world flair, dark wood and modern trimmings such as Wi-Fi and modem connections. Rooms in the new part look onto Gajeva and the café crowd. Rooms in the older section offer fantastic views of the main square.

→ Gajeva 1 (01 4863 555, hotel-dubrovnik.hr)

Hotel International

The 205-room, four-star Hotel International is actually something like 4.5 stars. The minimalist lobby and café-bar is awash in gleaming polished marble and attractive abstract art.

There are gold-leaf chandeliers. The bedrooms are big, wireless and immaculate with sleek, modern, wooden furniture, comfy beds and flat-screen TVs. Just a quick walk east takes you to Lisinski Concert Hall. A ten-minute tram ride on No.13 takes you to the main square. Dark glass cladding provides the hotel's 1970s-era exterior with a contemporary sheen. A new gym and sauna are a latest addition.

→ Miramarska 24 (01 6108 800, hupzagreb.com)

Hotel Jarun

Jarun is, appropriately, next to Jarun Lake. For visitors looking to be close to the centre (about 4km away) but get a little nature in – rowing on the lake or cycling, rollerblading, and running around it – while also being in the hub of Zagreb's late-night action, you couldn't pick a better locale. Most importantly though, the 30 rooms and one junior suite in this three-star are beautifully designed with dark wood everywhere and more than a touch of modern, glassy minimalism. Opened in October of 2009, the complex has wireless, free parking, a lounge bar and a buffet-style breakfast.

→ Hrgovići 2 (01 3691 111, hotel-jarun.com)

Hotel Laguna

For all its design modesty, this three-star is a handy little option three stops on the No.9 tram from the station. Rates for compare favourably with those in hostels at the nearby Student Centre or station – and the Laguna has a sauna, one designated for women, a gym and free wireless. 155 rooms and five apartments.

→ Kranjčevićeva 29 (01 3047 000, hotel-laguna.hr)

Hotel Le Premier

Steps away from Trg žrtava fašizma and its Meštrović Pavilion and art gallery, Le Premier occupies a stately property built by noted architect Lav Kalda in 1923. Conversion has been respectful of its heritage, its exterior suitably regal, the extensive use of marble in the public areas exuding style. High ceilings and spacious windows characterise the 62 rooms, while guests can take advantage of the spa and massage treatments, and Stefano Cosattini's seasonal creations in the restaurant.

→ Kralja Držišlava 5 (01 4400 880, lepremier.hr)

Hotel National

For the price and location, a short walk from the bus station and therefore airport transport, the National is a great find. Bright, colourful and contemporary, it comprises 19 guestrooms and one suite, a terrace café out front and private parking (paid-for) alongside. Reception is 24 hours and breakfast features fresh juices, a nice touch.

→ Supilova 8 (01 7057 570, national.hr)

Hotel Maksimir

This is an inexpensive and convenient modest option five tram stops east of the city centre. Opened in 2008, it has a spotless, no-frills, ski-lodge feel. Everything is tidy – space demands it. There's a snug breakfast room. The 12 bedrooms are smallish with TVs and internet access. Even the exterior gives you the feeling things are in order: sturdy wooden shutters against Austro-Hungarian-esque pastel yellow. With the broad open spaces of Maksimir Park only five minutes' walk to the east, this is great value for the location.

→ Maksimirska 57/1 (01 6666 160, facebook.com/HOTEL-Maksimir-1751067631806196)

Hotel Meridijan 16

Marvellously placed for nearly any likely point of arrival, the Meridijan 16 is a one-minute walk from the bus station, four quick tram stops from the train station, and close to the main routes for getting in and out of the city by car. Opened in 2005, this four-storey, three-star has 25 small but well appointed rooms with elegant wood furnishings, Internet connections and LCD-screen TVs. There is parking (for a fee) and 24-hour room service. Ask about summer weekend discounts.

→ Vučkova 241 (01 6065 200, meridijan16.com)

Hotel Palace

This grand and recently renovated Secessionist mansion, the Schlessinger Palace, houses Zagreb's first professional hotel, opened in 1907. More than a century later, it's still one of the city's most elegant properties, located right in the heart of the city centre and overlooking Zagreb's most beautiful grand square and parks. More than 120 rooms – including three exclusive, high-end suites – are a mix of Art-Nouveau decor and contemporary amenities:

sturdy dark-wood furniture, huge windows, original paintings and spacious, modern bathrooms with tubs and showers. For minimum noise and the best views of Sljeme, book a courtyard-facing room. The ground-floor café, bar and bistro is one of the most lavish places in the city to sit and drink coffee or cocktails and gaze outside the window. Decorated with fantastic Habsburg-era frescoes and chandeliers, it serves up excellent drinks and food, including a heritage menu containing one of the city's best cheese štruklis. Guests come from every possible demographic; young couples on a weekend city break to businessmen and regulars who return year after year, all in search of a lavish and authentic Zagreb experience.

→ Trg Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 10 (01 4899 611, palace.hr)

Hotel President Pantovčak

The President, which opened early 2009, is a beautiful boutique hotel built specifically for the community it inhabits – guests of ritzy businessmen and embassies in the vicinity of this posh street that's a ten-minute walk uphill from Britanski trg with its outdoor market and weekend antique stands. Designed by the owner/architect, who's the son of an art critic, the interior is a combination of old and new. The walls and floors are all teak. The furniture is designer-chic with Persian throw rugs and centuries-old trunks and tables scattered artfully about. The paintings and sculptures come from the owner's collection and are sprinkled throughout the rooms, which are variously equipped with two-person jacuzzi baths, LCD TVs, Wi-Fi, silk-cotton linens and ceiling-to-floor windows looking from the hotel onto the terraces and into the wooded park. Looking from the lobby, across the café, and through wall-sized windows, it feels as if you were in a tree house with a drop-off, infinite view of the forest. The restaurant – with retractable and sliding windows so that the forest-side wall disappears for morning coffee or evening summer breezes – stocks caviar, champagne and fine cheeses. A new Royal Suite with granite flooring, fireplace and terraces completes this fine picture.

→ Pantovčak 52 (01 4881 480, president-zagreb.com)



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Lobagola B&B

Hotel Sliško

Sited a short walk from the bus station, the recently renovated and expanded Sliško is a great number to keep on you for travel convenience. Its 49 rooms are simple but quite tidy and tasteful with wooden bed frames and furniture. The reception staff is also quite helpful. For breakfast, there's a nice buffet spread. Prices rise during trade-fair periods.

→ Ivana Bunića Vučića 7 (01 6184 777, sliko.hr)

Irundo

Calling itself Croatia's first 'integrated' hotel, which means it has apartments with certain shared communal features, Irundo (previous Zig Zag) is the brainchild of the agency of the same name, one of the better sources of short-stay flat rental in the city. There are a couple of options at the main Petrinjska 9 address and several others spread around the neighbouring streets. Ranging in size from two-person studios to two-bedroom family flats, Irundo's apartments are all kitted out with modern facilities and contemporary furnishings. Staff recommendations of what to see, where to eat and drink, are chalked up on blackboards in the living room of each property. All units are self-catering.

→ Various city locations (01 8895 433, irundo.com)

Lobagola B&B

Nine guestrooms fill this funky household close to Britanski trg. Everywhere you turn, you can appreciate the thought that has gone into every detail, from the antique and ethnic artefacts around the spacious public areas to the collection of vinyl LPs and record player in the lounge. The owner has obviously put in the miles by motorbike because special attention is paid to those who arrive on two wheels, from storage to tips to tools to Yamahas and BMWs for sale. The tours offered go beyond the range of those you'll find at lodgings charging twice the price. Bedrooms feature parquet flooring, high ceilings and tasteful decorative touches, without overdoing the theme of historic Dalmatian cities – six lend their names to rooms lining one floor. The hearty buffet breakfast, included in the price, can be taken on the sun-catching terrace, the aroma of fresh bread, local hams and fine coffee filling the air. Recommended.

→ Bosanska 3 (01 5801 990, lobagola.com)

Old Town Hostel

Located in the heart of the Lower Town, this newly renovated place contains pleasant pastel-coloured dorm rooms and a couple of high-ceilinged private rooms. With a small kitchen, free all-day coffee

and obliging staff, it's easy-going and sociable without cultivating a party vibe. The fact that the train and bus stations are within walking distance is a plus.

→ Đorđićeva 24 (01 4816 748, facebook.com/pg/OldTownZagreb)

Orient Express Hotel

Once a dowdy lodging dating back to 1939, the Orient Express was completely overhauled in 2015 and now sports a three-star status. Set almost next to the Lisinski concert hall and walking distance from the train station, it's a tram ride rather than a stroll from the main square but pretty convenient for all that. The 38 rooms are functional rather than stately but with occasional direct online booking deals at €60 – the standard rate is €90 – and breakfast and parking included in the price, guests seem to be pretty satisfied. There's a restaurant, too, and even room service.

→ Trnjanska 11E (091 442 2378, hotelorientexpress.com)

Panorama Zagreb Hotel

The phrase you hear thrown around with regard to this property is 'a good bang for the buck'. The re-named Panorama Zagreb Hotel is located next to the Dom sportova arena on the western edge of the city centre – five stops on the No.9 tram from the train station – and thus a favourite for those travelling

to Zagreb for sporting events and various mid-sized-venue concerts. The 279 straightforward and ample-sized rooms are internet-ready and equipped with everything you would expect: tea- and coffee-maker, safe and satellite TV. The part you might not expect – how helpful and nice the staff are. Sweeping views from the upper storeys live up to the hotel's name.

→ Trg Krešimira Čosića 9 (01 3658 333, hupzagreb.com)

Shappy Hostel

This new arrival on the hostel scene certainly enjoys an enviable location, situated in a courtyard opposite the Europa Cinema and just round the corner from cafe-clogged Cvjetni trg/Flower Square. Dorm rooms are neat and colorful, and there are a couple of small doubles too. The groovy downstairs café-bar (9am-11pm Mon-Thur & Sun, 9am-2am Fri, 11am-2am Sat), renovated for the summer season, is open to non-residents and has a genuine social buzz.

→ Varšavska 8 (01 4830 483, hostel-shappy.com)

Sheraton Zagreb Hotel

A true five-star on any scale, the Sheraton has 306 rooms, all with marble bathrooms, well lit and expansive living spaces, handsome wooden nightstands and desks, and high-speed internet



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Hotels

connections. All in all, like a polished version of home – with turndown service. The lobby flows from the café bar across to the restaurant under cascading glass chandeliers and leather armchairs. There are 17 conferences rooms, a fitness facility, spa and indoor pool. When you factor in the location, service and level of pampering, it really is quite good value for money. Make sure you ask about weekend specials when prices can drop down.

→ Kneza Borne 2 (01 4553 535, hupzagreb.com)

Studio Kairos

There's a chronic shortage of B&Bs in Croatia, and the small and welcoming Kairos comes as something of a reach of fresh air. Situated a 15-minute walk from the main square, it's an intimate and friendly place with four small rooms – one of which can serve as a triple, although most are intended for single or double occupancy. Each room is decorated according to some Zagreb theme: the Writers' Room evokes memories of local scribblers such as Matoš and Krlježa; while Granny's Room teases guests with images of fresh vegetables and home-cooked food. There's a bright breakfast room, and extras such as laundry and bike-hire can be arranged. Despite being something of a new kid on the block (Kairos only opened in

2012), it is already the recipient of good word-of-mouth – so book well ahead to be sure of a room.

→ Vlačka 92 (01 4640 680, facebook.com/pg/StudioKairosBedbreakfast)

Subspace Hostel

Housed in what used to be an internet cafe, Subspace Hostel simulates the inside of a spacecraft. Guests sleep in their own private capsules, each of which comes with Wi-Fi, android screens and air conditioning. There's no natural lighting because of its subterranean setting, so the sci-fi atmosphere is completed with eerie blue lighting and ultraviolet solar systems.

→ Teslina 12/1 (098 1626 444, subspacehostel.com)

Taban Hostel

Taban is a sprightly hostel opened in 2012, renovated in 2014, and firmly aimed at those who want comfort and cleanliness slap in the middle of Zagreb's principal bar-hopping zone. The hostel itself has a fully-stocked ground-floor bar which is open to all-comers during the day. Accommodation is on the slick side for a backpacking joint, with high-ceilinged six-bed dorms sharing space with spick-and-span singles and doubles, some with their own bathroom. Breakfast isn't provided, but there are plenty of bakeries and restaurants down

the street. Laundry services cost a few kuna extra, and Wi-Fi is free throughout.

→ Tkalčićeva 82 (01 5533 527, tabanzagreb.com)

The Movie Hotel

Open since 2005, the Movie hotel is a rarity in Zagreb: a three-star that's a boutique, is affordable and has a little attitude. The 20 rooms of the complex – and handful of apartments – have Hollywood themes, naturally, with splashy images of stars in all. Sleeping is better when done beneath the stable gaze of Sharon Stone. As well, there are pics of the Governorator, Clooney and Brad Pitt. The rooms are reasonably sized and spotless. It has a similarly named and themed pub in the same building.

→ Savska 141 (01 4400 680, themoviehotel.com)

Vila Tina

This 25-unit hotel opened in 1998. Rooms come with free wireless, free parking and breakfast. There is also a fitness area with a sauna and solarium – unexpected among this class (three-star) of hotel in Zagreb. But the best aspect of this lodging is its location. Just above Maksimir Park, it's within strolling distance of the city's zoo and main park, an easy tram hop to the main square. Bed-rooms are basic but big and there's

a solid restaurant on the premises serving international dishes.

→ Bukovačka 213 (01 2445 204, hotelvilatina.hr)

The Westin Zagreb Hotel

Something of an urban landmark ever since it first opened in the 1970s under the Intercontinental banner, this cool five-star slab has frequently been the top choice for high-end Zagreb visitors: the Stones, Sophia Loren and Nick Cave have all graced its halls. In 2005, a €10-million renovation gave the hotel its contemporary feel and current 378-room, 13 conference-room look. The rooms come equipped with fog-proof mirrors and marble-effect bathrooms. The north-facing units have grand views of the Old Town and Sljeme mountain. The hotel's 'Heavenly Bed' philosophy prioritises a good night's sleep with deluxe mattresses and pillows and high thread counts. The sparkling, jet-set-worthy fitness and beauty centre contains Turkish and Finnish saunas, cutting-edge Nautilus equipment, and massage treatments alongside pedicures, manicures and facials. The 17-metre pool is surrounded by tasteful wooden lounge chairs and black stones, bathed in an ethereal blue light.

→ Izidora Kršnjavog 1 (01 4892 000, hupzagreb.com)

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Sheraton Zagreb Hotel



Day trips from Zagreb

ZAGREB IS SURROUNDED by attractive day-trip destinations. Historic castles, stunning national parks and picture-postcard villages are all within easy reach of the capital. Here we pick our eight of our favourites.

1 Trakošćan
Dating back to the late 1200s, the fairy-tale castle of Trakošćan owes its romantic appearance to one Major-General Juraj V Drašković, who fought alongside Ban Josip Jelačić in the revolutionary battles of the mid-1800s. The dynasty had occupied Trakošćan since 1584, when the military leader's namesake forefather was gifted it by the Habsburg

emperor. Almost every generation, in fact, fought against the Ottomans, although mention must be made of influential politician Janko Drašković, whose vision for a unified Illyria, conceived in Trakošćan, lay the groundwork for what was to become Yugoslavia.

Other illustrious members of the clan were Karlo Dragutin Drašković, one of the leading photographers of the late 1800s, whose prints and slides are on display here, and Julijana

photography, including stop-motion footage, pioneering in its day.

On the top floor, sumptuous rooms are lined with Baroque, Rococo and Biedermeier furniture, along with portraits of the Drašković clan through the centuries.

Allow time to explore the gardens, centrepiece by an artificial lake which freezes over in winter.

It all makes for a relaxing day out 80km from Zagreb. The only practical way to reach Trakošćan is to drive – alternatively, take the train to Đurmanec (40min from Zagreb) then a taxi (approx 130kn) for 17km.

→ Dvorac Trakošćan Trakošćan 1, Bednja (042 796 281, trakoscan.hr). Open Apr-Oct 9am-8pm daily, Nov-Mar 9am-5pm daily.

Admission 40kn. Park only 5kn. Audio guide free.

2 Krapina

Krapina would be just another pretty provincial market town in the bucolic hills of Zagorje were it not for a remarkable discovery made here in 1899 – and superb museum created 110 years later.

It was Zagreb paleontologist Dragutin Gorjanović Kramberger who had first been attracted to the area, intrigued by tales of strange bones unearthed on the outskirts of town. His excavations revealed what turned out to be the largest collection of Neanderthal bones in the world, significantly enhancing scientific knowledge about our prehistoric ancestors. In all, he and his team found 900 human fossil bones and more than 1,000

pieces of stone tools, thought to date back further than 125,000 years.

At this same site, cut into the landscape, architect Željko Kovačić and paleontologist James Radović have created the outstanding Krapina Neanderthal Museum, both an educational resource and an entertaining, family-friendly attraction. Behind a façade of smooth stone and shiny glass, 18 themed sections not only illustrate the historic discovery here but do nothing less than tell the story of mankind itself.

A visit begins with a short film in the entrance area in which the daily lives and struggles of the Neanderthals who once lived here have been dramatised, a seemingly constant search for food and modifying weaponry with which to find it. The importance of the family unit is also underlined.

Computer graphics then show the beginning of life on Earth and arrival of Homo Erectus some 1.5 million years ago while an expertly conceived diorama shows an extended family of Neanderthals gathered around the hearth in this semi-cave.

Multimedia features, touchscreens, holograms and virtual installations offer further enlightenment as to how life was like for our forefathers, close to the modern-day border between Croatia and Slovenia.

An infrequent Presicki bus (presecki.hr) runs the 56km from Zagreb directly to Krapina in 1hr 15mins. The train (hzpp.hr/en) from Zagreb Glavni kolodvor takes between 1hr 30mins and 2hrs, changing at Zabok, with services around every hour. The site is at Hušnjakovo, a hill just outside Krapina.

→ Šetalište Vilibalda Sluge, Krapina (049 371 491, mkn.mhz.hr). Open Apr-Oct 9am-7pm Tue-Sun, Nov-Mar 9am-5pm Tue-Sun. Admission 60kn, discounts 30kn. Audio guide 10kn.

Drašković, whose paintings from around the same era can be admired.

Both resided in this ornate pile, previously abandoned by the family in preference for Klenovnik Castle, halfway to Varaždin. Juraj V Drašković saw fit to sell Klenovnik in order to transform Trakošćan into the Disneyesque complex you see today, surrounded by lush pleasure gardens.

With little threat of a Turkish invasion, the Major-General grasped the romantic spirit of the era, creating a Neo-Gothic confection from a medieval fortification. Towers were added, vaulted terraces, even a pretty lake.

After World War II, the noble residents having fled to Austria, their heritage was preserved as a museum, which now fills four floors. Starting with the kitchen, pantry and, of course, dungeon, you move up to one level to find a huge family tree, suits of armour and hunting trophies before reaching the first floor. Here you can discover the history of the castle and the Drašković dynasty, along with examples of early





3 Kumrovec

Inspired by the Skanzen open-air ethnographic museum outside Budapest, itself inspired by the original Skansen on an island in Stockholm, Kumrovec was transformed from a sleepy, depopulated hamlet in Zagorje into a restored and reconstructed historic tourist attraction, the Staro Selo or Old Village.

The key here is that the choice of Kumrovec, although a typical rural settlement surrounded by vineyards, farmsteads and haystacks close to the border with Slovenia, was no coincidence. In

fact, the most extensive work on its conversion took place after 1980, again, no coincidence. For Kumrovec was where a certain Josip Broz, the later Communist leader of Yugoslavia, Marshal Tito, was born in 1892. They say that everyone knew where they were when they heard that Kennedy was assassinated – certainly, every Croat of a certain generation can recall May 4, 1980, the day Tito died.

His house, the only one made of brick when his father Franjo inherited it, has a suitably rustic appearance, its white façade and red-tiled roof standing out against the lush greenery around it. Here the young Tito spent part of his first 15 years, also often living with his Slovene mother's parents at Podsreda ten miles away. After leaving for jobs at car plants around Central Europe, he would only return once

to Kumrovec, after taking part in the Russian Revolution in 1917.

What you see inside the house today, therefore, are examples of how the Broz family's immediate surroundings would have looked, the solid, wooden furniture and the stove that would have warmed the whole single-storey building in winter. There's little to see of Tito's early life, only a uniform from World War II, by which time he was in his fifties, and photographs of him as a global statesman and representative of the non-aligned nations in a post-war world polarised between Washington and Moscow.

Outside stands a likeness in bronze by Antun Augustinčić, raised around the same time in nearby Klanjec and who defected to Tito's Partisans in 1943. He created this statue five years later, the military leader in a pensive mood, contemplating victory over the Nazis.

Around the Broz homestead, some 40 rustic buildings have been reconstructed, workshops, barns and the schoolhouse where Tito began his earliest attempts at reading. Models in costume and authentic implements add folksy realism throughout. Holidays and celebrations are of particular importance, a village wedding, Christmas and Easter all depicted.

If you get hungry during your visit, traditional Zagorje dishes, including štrukli dough parcels, as well as pizzas, are served at the Hotel Kumrovec (hostel-kumrovec.hr), where affordable, basic accommodation is also available.

Driving is the only practical way to reach Kumrovec. Meštrović buses (mpz.hr/linija200.pdf) run between Zaprešić and Kumrovec every 2hrs, but only four times a day on Saturdays, twice on Sundays. Frequent trains from Zagreb Glavni kolodvor run to Zaprešić, journey time 25mins. → Kumrovec (049 225 830, mss.mhz.hr/en). Open Apr-Sept 9am-7pm daily. Mar & Oct 9am-5pm daily. Nov-Feb 9am-4pm daily. Admission 25kn. Discounts 15kn. Audio guide 10kn.



4 Lonjsko polje

Along with its eight national parks, including stunning Plitvice and Krka, Croatia contains 11 lesser-known nature parks, where abundant wildlife is protected in unspoiled landscapes. Of these, the wetlands of Lonjsko polje, some 50km south-east of Zagreb just past the provincial town of Sisak, are of particular significance.

Here, not only can you observe nature up close, exploring on foot, by bike, in a boat or canoe, but also how locals have lived here for the last 200 or more years, their traditional wooden houses lining the banks of the Sava river. Tethered alongside are the little boats that they use during the annual floods. When the waters recede, grazing animals take over

the fertile pastures, including the Posavina horses and grey, long-horned Podolian cattle native to these parts. The spotted Turopolje pigs are thought to be near extinction.

Migrating birds, particularly storks, are another attraction. Most of the houses and barns around Čigoć, a designated European Stork Village, is topped by a nest and the birds usually find rich pickings here from spring until late summer. Spoonbills, herons, egrets and white-tailed eagles are also regular visitors. Depending on the time of year, dragonflies abound, and there are said to be some 550 species of plant, most notably four-leaf clovers.

At the visitor centre in Krapje, you can arrange all kinds of tours and trips, and each hiking trail passes by this traditional village. Starting from Čigoć, the Posavac route lasts just over two hours and takes in grazing animals as well as birdwatching from a tower along the way. Bikes can be rented from either Čigoć or Krapje, and boat trips are also advertised in each. The Vodomar riverboat meanders around willow-lined waterways for 40 minutes between Drenov Bok and Krapje, allowing passengers to snap the plentiful birdlife. Canoes, rafts and other craft can be rented, with or without a captain.

Heading out from Repušnica, a horse-riding trail passes by Vrbak and runs on to picturesque Čeperlin before turning back, an all-day excursion of some five hours.

For food and, if you need it, lodging, Tradicije Čigoć (Čigoć 7A, 044 715 124, tradicije-cigoc.hr) serves classic spicy fiš paprikaš and also rents out bikes and boats. A campsite lies alongside.

Trains leave Zagreb Glavni kolodvor every 1-2hrs for Repušnica, the only easily accessible destination within Lonjsko polje by public transport. Journey time is 1hr 40mins.

Driving from Zagreb to either Čigoć or Krapje can be quite convoluted – details can be found at parkovihrvatske.hr/nature-park-lonjsko-polje. → Lonjsko Polje Nature Park (www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr). Visitor centres: Krapje (044 672 080, open Apr-Nov 8am-4pm daily) & Čigoć (044 715 115, open 8am-4pm daily). Admission Park 10kn; ornithological reserve 40kn. Guided tours from 400kn.

5 Plitvice

In a land of absolutely stunning natural attractions, the finest is considered to be the Plitvice Lakes. The country's first national park, Plitvice attracts over a million annual visitors, who use the walkways, bridges and boardwalks, even electric-powered boats, in order to get the best view of the scenic wonders on offer.

And although they may not catch sight of a lynx, wild cat or brown bear, or even a wolf, weasel or skunk, their overall impression will be one of dramatically cascading waters, greenish in tone thanks to the conditions that create these 16 lakes.

Centuries of calcium carbonate deposits upon the algae, moss and bacteria here have formed travertine barriers, a natural dam growing inch by inch every year. Not only does this affect the dimensions of these lakes but it is the reason for the dazzling shades of emerald of the waters within them.

Just above the surface, walkways surrounded by thick woods provide visitors with an intimate view of the natural world above and below.

Many may be tempted to take a dip but, unlike Krka, here swimming is strictly forbidden.

Crowds can build up, particularly in these days of selfie-taking at the big waterfall, Veliki slap. To avoid the bottlenecks in high season, get here as early as you can. Online tickets allow for quicker admission but make sure you're there at the allotted time.

Mini-trains link the signposted stations so that you can see most of the main attractions in a day. If you're pressed for time, start at Entrance 1 and descend towards Veliki slap. From here, boardwalk trails criss-cross the lower lakes, including Milovac, marked by the waterfalls of the same name. From here, a popular trail runs along the western side of Lake Kozjak to the jetty, where you can catch the shuttle boat across the water to Entrance 2 – and the mini-train back to Entrance 1.

Beyond the lakes, the park extends for almost 300 square kilometres. Trails lead up into the hills, taking you way beyond the tourist hubbub and into deep woodland.

Around the edges are spots where you can dine and doze. The most popular is Lička kuća near Entrance 1, a busy terrace where the speciality is Lička juha sausage stew. By Entrance 2 are three hotels, including the year-round Jezero (053 751 015), with tennis courts, a gym, sauna and jacuzzi.

Plitvice is just off the motorway between Zagreb and Split. There are many coach tours from Zagreb or you can travel independently, services running from the busstation every hour or so, 2hrs 15mins journey time, singles around 100kn.

Admission includes transport around the lake, which only runs in summer. Prices drop accordingly in winter.

→ Plitvice Lakes (np-plitvicka-jezera.hr/en). Open 8am-7pm daily. Admission summer 150kn-250kn. Spring/autumn 100kn. Winter 60kn. Discounts 25kn-120kn.





6 Rastoke

The perfect stop-off on the way to Plitvice from Zagreb, Rastoke shares certain similarities with Croatia's most popular national park. Both are picturesque, both developed, in terms of activity, because of an abundant supply of rushing water and both feature travertine barriers, natural dams created by a build-up of calcium carbonate deposits upon algae, moss and bacteria. Both are under national protection.

Rastoke, however, was a mill town, but the water-powered mechanisms were superseded by electric ones elsewhere around the country. By the late 1960s, depopulation was such that Rastoke was granted special status to protect its traditional waterside buildings from decay. Locals, some 100 in number, still live in Rastoke, occupying the traditional wooden houses saved by heritage status.

These days, the main income is from tourism, this bucolic settlement 90 minutes from Zagreb providing both a relaxing and a thoroughly active day out.

At the confluence of the Slunjčica and Korana rivers, Rastoke would be pretty enough to visit whatever its other attractions. But, as you'll find out if you pop into the Tourist Center Mirjana Rastoke (mirjana-rastoke.com/en), a tourist resource, a comfortable hotel and a traditional restaurant focused on organic local produce. Activities organised from the hotel are many: kayaking, rafting, hiking, horseback riding and quadbiking, to name but five. You can fish for trout, explore Baraćeva Caves and swim in the clear green waters of the



7 Samobor

The most obvious day trip from Zagreb, and one made by many city dwellers on a Sunday, is to Samobor. Only 20km west of town, Samobor has always been a destination designed to alleviate the stresses of urban life. A spa and public park were added in the 1800s, when it became a district capital and, perhaps more importantly, a meeting place for writers, composers and politicians away from the prying eyes of Zagreb.

Here, intellectuals would meet

to explore the possibilities of a Croatian nationalist revival, a movement that would lay the groundwork for independence from Austria-Hungary after World War I. Ferdo Livadić, for example, created the stirring anthem of the day, *Još Hrvatska ni propala* ('Croatia Hasn't Fallen Yet'), taking tips from Franz Liszt who would journey down from Budapest the composer's estate here. Antun Gustav Matoš, a revered poet and travelogue writer, was also resident around the same time.

The Town Museum (samobor.hr/muzej, closed Mon), though set in the house where Livadić once lived, has a broader approach to local history, showing the long tradition of glass-making and, still popular today, hiking in the nearby wooded slopes.

The setting-off point for many of these treks is still *Šoićeva kuća*, despite the fact that this rustic restaurant has long closed. From here, locals head to the hilltops of Japetić and Oštrc.

Rewards for their travails might include a slice of the famed *samoborska kremšnita* cream cake, traditionally taken on the picturesque main square, Trg kralja Tomislava. Confectioners U prolazu is the classic choice of many but if too many, and there isn't a table free on the sun-catching terrace, then the Hotel Livadić on the next corner also specialises in local pastries. For something more substantial, then *Samoborski klet* on the same square serves hulking portions of veal and game – phone ahead (01 332 6536) and they'll slow-cook it for you under a *peka* cooking bell. Reserve a table on the terrace while you're at it.

→ Autotourist buses (autotourist.com.hr) Nos. 151, 153, 155 and 156 regularly serve Samobor from Zagreb Črnomerec, Ljubljanka and the main bus station.



8 Varaždin

If you're going to visit one town from Zagreb, it should probably be Varaždin. And if you're going to visit Varaždin, you should do it during Špancirfest (spancirfest.com/en), this year taking place between August 23 and September 1, ten days of street performances, 30 concerts on four stages, exhibitions, wine and local gastronomy.

This segues nicely into Baroque Music Evenings (September 20-October 1), a 40-year-old institution where the sounds of Bach, Handel and Vivaldi provide the soundtrack for this most Baroque of Croatian towns.

Here, in the country's former capital where the borders of Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary all meet, you'll see Baroque almost everywhere you turn, in the palaces, churches and concert halls where some of these classical music performances are staged. Varaždin is a very alfresco city, one of parks, gardens and pedestrianised streets, and it's hard to think of it now as the stern stronghold built to sustain any attack from Turkish foes.

Dominating the historic centre, stark white Varaždin Castle contains the City Museum (gmv.hr/en), whose collection of arms, crafts, Old Masters and insects also extends across nearby palaces. The World of Insects numbers some 4,500 examples, preserved and documented, curated by local schoolteacher Franjo Koščec and housed at the Herzer Palace since 1954.

Varaždin Cathedral (Pavlinka 5) is another Baroque landmark, dating back to 1647, while an air of nobility is maintained every Saturday with the changing of the guard outside the Town Hall.

Don't leave without taking a stroll around the Town Cemetery near the Castle, part graveyard, part public park, whose creation in the early 1900s influenced other landscapers of the genre.

To dine well in historic surroundings, Palatin (palatin.hr) on the edge of the historic centre is a fair bet, its veal sublime. Behind the castle, its illuminated outline atmospheric from your terrace table, Bedem (bedem-varazdin.com) is a collaboration between two contemporary chefs, Anđelko Levanić and Zlatko Novak, who know what to do with locally sourced Zagorje specialities, particularly game.

To stay over, the Park Boutique (park-boutique-hotel.eu) is the best place in town, a four-star with a modest sauna, decent restaurant and terrace café.

Frequent buses take 1hr 45mins to reach Varaždin from Zagreb, single tickets around 65kn-90kn. The bus station is near the city centre. Trains are not worth the bother.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

By air

Zagreb is served by 27 major airlines with direct flights to most European capitals.

Overland

To enter Croatia by car you need a valid driving licence with a photograph, vehicle registration documents and insurance documents

(including a Green Card). Car hire in Croatia is expensive – about 400kn a day for an average family car. Seat belts must be used front and rear and using a mobile while driving is forbidden. No under-12s are allowed in the front seat. Rail and bus links from the UK are lengthy. Check with Rail Europe (raileurope.com) and Eurolines (eurolines.com).

Arrival

Zagreb's new Franjo Tuđman Airport is 17km (10.5 miles) south-east of the city centre. Buses (30mins journey time,

30kn) run to Zagreb bus station every half-hour 6am-8pm daily, then after each flight. From the bus station, buses run every half-hour, 4.30am-9.30pm daily. A taxi should cost about 150kn.

Transport

Local transport is operated on a ticket system. Tickets are usually bought before travelling. ZET (zet.hr) consists of traditional paper ones (4kn for 30 minutes, 7kn for 60 minutes, 10kn for 90 minutes). Simply stamp the paper ticket when you board. A day ticket is 30kn, a three-day pass 70kn and seven-day 150kn.

There is also a four-line network of night trams (15kn per journey). Tariffs and network maps can be found on the ZET website.

Buses serve outlying areas. Ticket tariffs are the same.

Ekotaxi, Taxi Cammeo and Taxi Zebra provide competitive rates alongside Uber and Bolt.

RESOURCES

Emergency numbers

General emergencies 112.

Gay & lesbian

Queer Zagreb (queerzagreb.org) organises regular events.

Health

European passport holders are entitled to reciprocal free hospital and dental treatment in Croatia. We recommend investing in travel insurance – in the case of an emergency, you may need to go private.

Internet

Zagreb has free Wi-Fi hotspots across the city: look for the Grad Zagreb wireless network. Most cafés and bars provide Wi-Fi.

Money

The Croatian kuna (kn) comes in notes of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000kn.

Currency can be exchanged in banks, post offices, tourist agencies, bureaux de change and at some hotels. ATMs are plentiful. Most hotels, shops and restaurants accept credit and debit cards.

Pharmacy

Trg bana Josipa Jelačića (01 4816 198). Open 24hrs daily.

Post office

Branimirova 4 (0800 30 33 04). Open 7am-midnight Mon-Sun. Open all day and right by the train station.

Telephones

The dialling code for Croatia is +385, Zagreb 1. When calling overseas from Croatia, the prefix 00 is the international access code.

Time

Croatia uses Central European Time Zone, a standard time which is one hour ahead of Coordinated Universal Time.

Tipping

Round up bills to the next 10kn or by about 10 per cent. You don't need to tip in pubs and cafés, unless you have received special service.

Toilets

Universal signs will be placed on the toilet doors to indicate men's and ladies', or look out for M (men's) and Ž (ladies').

Tourist information

Open 8.30am-9pm Mon-Fri; 9am-6pm Sat, Sun and holidays 10am-4pm. Free brochures and maps. Buy the Zagreb Card (zagrebcard.com) online or from the Tourist Information Centre: 98kn for 24hrs, 135kn for 72hrs.

Visas

Visitors from the European Union, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand do not need a visa if staying in Croatia for less than 90 days.

Websites

'croatia.hr' Official tourist website – excellent hotel database. 'infozagreb.hr' Official website of Zagreb Tourist Board. 'zagreb.hr' The Zagreb municipal site. 'lovezagreb.hr' A platform for local bloggers.

Emergency numbers

In a local emergency, call 192 for the police, 193 for the fire brigade and 194 for an ambulance and ask for an English speaker.



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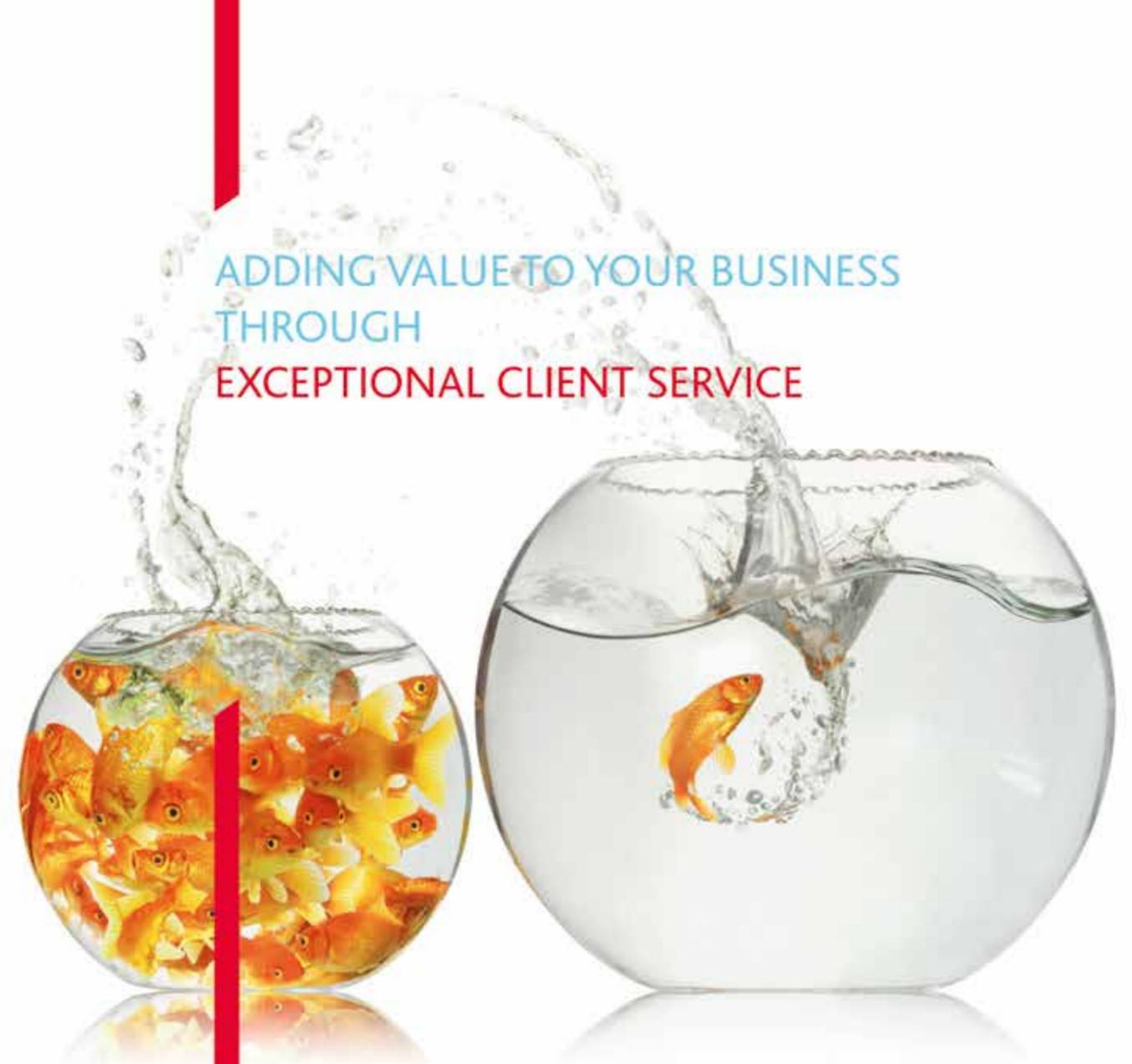
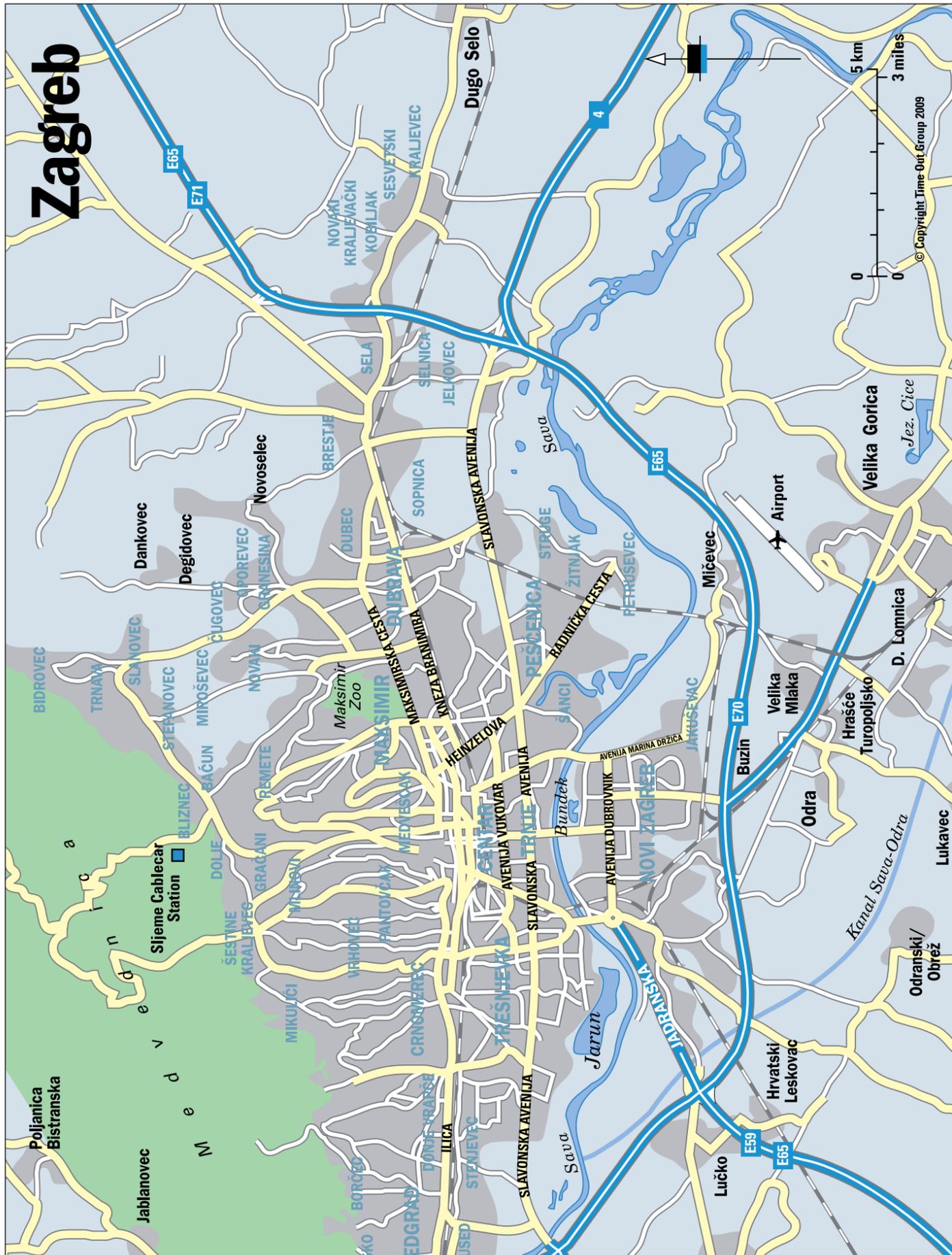
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