Invitation

COME TO THE HILLS OF DOLENJSKA/LOWER CARNIOLA. IN ORDER TO REST THE SOUL, ACTIVATE THE BODY AND EXCHANGE THE ENERGY IN THE BEST COMPANY. TO EXPERIENCE YOURSELF.

In Dolenjska there live genuine people. Friendly, open and happy. They are rightfully proud of their achievements, creativity, as well as natural and cultural heritage, and they are always ready to share it with others. Their hospitality knows no boundaries, covered tables are full of culinary delights and wine. Their smiles are wide, their words are soft and soothing, their hearts are full of pleasant melodies.

An embrace of the soft warmth of Dolenjska that accompanies you long after you leave its kind glebes, is felt upon every subsequent meeting. Here you feel at home, regardless of where you have come from and where you are headed. Here you are not alone even if you don’t know anybody. And here you see for the first time, perceive, feel and become softer, even though you have arrived still and numb from the burden of time.

The door of Dolenjska is wide open for any human desires, needs and tastes - to move away from the miseries of everyday life and experience the unique, pure, extraordinary and unforgettable events.

Dolenjska - vibrant, green, sparkling, calm, sociable. Openly boastful and mysteriously sophisticated. A landscape of meadows and forests, pretty green rivers, a cradle of picturesque places and sincere, hospitable people.

Placidly sited in the south-eastern Slovenia, between the Ljubljana basin and the Sava river, Dolenjska has many surprising faces. The varied relief, numerous streams, karst features and biodiversity create its unforgettable dynamic. Through the local landscapes there extend boastful deep green forests, whose primeval remains and giant trees are absolutely breathtaking. The river valleys of sparkling beauties, the Krka, Mirna, Kolpa and Lahinja Rivers, which give home to rare plant and animal species, invite visitors into their quiet retreats. On the slopes of its hills, ripen sun-kissed grapes, which, once they are in the wine cellars, grow into a veritable poetry whose verses run inwards. In the bosom of its deep springs bubble restorative and healing thermal waters.

The rich heritage refines the hamlets, villages and towns of Dolenjska. Castles, religious, building, monument, garden and architectural heritage are the jewels that form its rich entirety.

When you thought you knew Slovenia...

Dolenjska, different experiences.
**DOLENJSKA**

**I CAN FEEL THE TRACES OF TIME, TRAPPED IN THE THROB OF THE PRESENT MOMENT.**

**I AM CONSOLING MY EMPTINESS, I AM FILLING MY HEART. HERE I MEET WITH MYSELF.**

When you think you know what this “new” is, in Novo mesto / New City, TN/ you can experience a different Dolenjska.

In the centre of Dolenjska there is Novo mesto, just big enough for a new culture, new theaters and new energy - and manageable enough to retain all the qualities of Dolenjska: the contact with the wavy nature, the river, and especially the people and their smiles, wine and local delicacies.

In the old town on a rocky bend of the Krka River, Glavni trg (Main Square) with arcades on the ground floors of town houses is still the centre of social life and a place to share good energies. From here the lace-like woven streets lead to the city’s many sights and monuments - churches, museums, galleries, libraries and architectural features. Novo mesto is an ancient seat of the Hallstatt Prince and Duke Rudolf IV of Habsburg, and due to many exceptional finds it is also a town of situations. The Krka River mirrors reflections of famous houses in the picturesque Breg that inspires artists of all kinds. Cultural and artistic heritage, woven by Anton Podbevšek, Miran Jarc in Bolždar Jakac, Janez Trdina, Dragonet Kette has strongly influenced the pan-Slovene national consciousness and encouraged the creative activity of many other Slovenian artists. Important cultural surpluses of modern Novo Mesto indispensably complement the project European Capital of Culture Maribor 2012.

Urban city vibrancy of the central Dolenjska with its soothing energy is upgraded by the near, richly endowed places - economic, cultural and administrative centers of municipalities. The unforgettable Dolenjske and Šmarješke Toplice Thermal Spas with therapeutic thermal springs and a rich historical and natural heritage. Šentijemelj, where famous Primož Trubar worked and from where he spread his influence, today takes pride in vibrant horse racing, fairgrounds and inviting handicraft and cuisine. Škocjan, the birthplace of the famous missionary dr. Ignacij Knoblehar, and its surroundings, which is, according to Prežihov Voranc, with its blue sky and beautiful colors perhaps the most beautiful place in the world. And last but not least Straža, with caves, archeological finds (archaeological collection: Arheological image of Dolenjska), sport airport and its unique tiny fraction of the beautiful Krka, which generously gives a more noble character to many places of Dolenjska.

In the centre of Dolenjska there is the best connection of a positive attitude to life through a rich cultural heritage, vibrant cultural events, natural treasures, indulgence of the spirit and pampering of the body in the nearby spa. Here, health and well-being really go hand in hand with different experiences.

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**Temeniška and Mirna Valley**

**I CAN SEE THE BEAUTY, I CAN HEAR THE MUSIC. I AM SIPPING HAPPINESS INTO MY DEPTHS. HERE I MEET WITH MYSELF.**

If you would like to see heaven, you needn’t go high. Heaven is at a height of 602 meters. Mirna Valley, together with Temeniška Valley in the area around Mirna peč, forms an idyllic landscape, where picturesque churches intertwine with well-preserved hayracks, fields and vineyards, similarly as the Mirna and Temenica Rivers with their meanders offer nearly as much pleasure as the much more famous Krka and Kolpa Rivers. Like flowers in a spring bouquet, varied beautiful places are similarly incorporated herein together with their magnificent districts: Trebnje with the peasant and craftsmanship marketplace and the Gallery of Naive, Šentrupert with the Land of Hayracks, Mokronog and Trebelno with princely seats, Mirna with the castle, and Mirna Peč with a number of churches and chapels. This is a place of tranquil heritage, local restaurants, vineyards and wine routes - a place ideal for hiking and cycling or multi-day rides. Hence derive the Vienna Boys Choir. This is not a joke, it is a part of the different experience.
Suha krajina

I APPRECIATE THE JOY AND DEEP HARMONY. I DRINK LIFE WITH DEEP MOUTHFULS. HERE I MEET WITH MYSELF.

Suha krajina /TN Dry Landscape/ is “dry” only when talking about the most precious among liquids - water. At the lower Temenica River, in the southern part of the Šentviška basin and below Stična, water begins to move under the earth’s surface. There it creates mysterious dwellings in inaccessible depths of earth. There hides the young Krka River, caught in the bosom of the karst subfield, which penetrates into life for the first time in Suha Krajina and decisively heads towards its future, to new rivers and seas. Otherwise, Suha Krajina is in all respects anything but dry. Karst caves, fields and ravines, picturesque wine-growing areas, ancient architecture with medieval Žužemberk and history, set in the present day rhythm. Here taste buds come alive, the mind is calm and the heart is filled with happiness at all the different experiences.

BELA KRAJINA

EXPERIENCE GIVES ME STRENGTH, AND ENTHUSIASM PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES OF THE POSSIBLE. HERE I MEET WITH MYSELF.

As Zeleni Jurij (Green George) awakens our senses in spring, similarly Bela Krajina revives old experiences and adventures. This is a land of ancient traditions, national costumes and traditional dances, music from tamburas, rich culinary, cultural and natural heritage and people who carry their hearts in their hands, as Toni Gašperič wrote. Picturesque Črnomelj, Metlika and Semič invite you to experience them with all your senses. During the time when nature is in full blossom, Metliška Vigred invites you to a unique culinary experience, while Semiška ohcet (Wedding in Semič) evokes precious customs from the area of Bela Krajina, tempts you to dance and warms the heart. Lahinja joins Kolpa and the two form an ideal environment for, at this moment, probably the most innovative educational programs far and wide, in an environment that is a treasure trove of wisdom and freshness that is made alive each year by George Green. He can also be found at the Bela Krajna ski slope in the winter. Unexpected! Different!
KOČEVSKO-RIBNIŠKO

I uncover veils, reveal the mystical primal nature, the resources of power and creativity. Here I meet with myself.

Find your inner peace and experience the world of primal nature in the home of Kočevje bear.

Kočevska, a wealth of unspoiled nature, flora and fauna, forest, water and caves. Exceptional natural and cultural heritage, enjoyed and appreciated by more and more visitors. Biking and hiking trails lead past the hidden corners of the Kočevska nature. Tourist reserved remains of castles and monuments. Forest land represents a retreat from the everyday rituals and from the city. There are opportunities for year-round activities such as fishing, hunting, survival in nature, hiking, biking, visiting museums and churches, and visiting trails. Perhaps you are more fascinated by the valley of the River Kolpa, or the pearl blue lakes, the Jelka and Kočevska regions, the wilderness of rainforest or patina museum collections and the ruins of the disappeared villages where Gottscheers used to live. Discover the delights of nature and forest land will not let you stay indifferent, such as honey and wine. Kočevska will certainly suit those who like to spend their time outdoors and are looking for simple life and priceless peace.

Ribniško

Precious images of history, culture and arts light up the spirit. Here I meet with myself.

In the middle of the Ribniško Plain, between the slopes of Mala and Velika gora, and along the Bistrica River, there lies the lovely and inviting Ribniška Valley, the cradle of Slovenian language and culture. The poetic natural environment has always been an inspiration to many Slovenian artists - the composer and conductor Bojan Adamič, the composer Jakob Petelin Gallus, the linguist and sociologist Stanislav Škrabec and to politician and novelist Dr. Janez Ev. Kek. Even Primoz Trubar spent his time there in order to spread the biblical message. In the middle of the valley, in all its glittering, there lies Ribnica, one of the oldest Slovenian towns, enriched by Plečnik’s parish church steeples, Miklova house, a library and a craft center with a gallery and a museum. Here are also the pleasantly domestic Sodražica and Lokkki Potok, who take pride in original woodenware products. The kind environment, endowed with a rich religious, artistic and historical heritage, invites you to discover the gifts of the past and awards the soul with the beauty of the present. Again new and different experiences.
Osilnica

I calm down my mind, listen to my thoughts, and become aware of my body. Here I meet with myself.

Although only a tiny jewel on the map of Slovenia, Osilnica inherited the power of its hero Peter Klepec. The power for growth and development. The power to respect the past, to honour the present and open up to the future. The power to extract its best and divide it between those who find it and visit it, while a lively image of the present gives it a sense of modernity. Osilnica recognizes and respects its natural beauty. The high mountains, wild rocky overhangs, numerous streams, among them the most beautiful Mirtoviški Stream, are its timeless jewels. And Kolpa, the green beauty, is especially generous in this part. To immerse the body in its depth, to feel the power of its flow in a raft, kayak or hydrospeed, to relax on its slopes while fishing, to inhale the scents of trees while hiking or cycling and to taste culinary gifts are unforgettable experiences that gently erase the memories of a hard day and give strength for a new day.

Kostel

Amazing harmony in nature makes me feel relaxed. Here I meet with myself.

The deep valley that the Kolpa River curved in the landscape a long time ago presents a linguistic and political division, which gently but permanently touches your heart. Mountain variety, intact forest reserves, karst caves and a castle with a handful of settlements in its lap are admired by travellers as well as locals. The vast landscape is home to the brown bear and many other animal and plant species. It is also the home of friendly people who live in harmony with the beautiful nature and with themselves. The Kostel region with the Kostel castle and the River Kolpa with its abundant affluents and the Nežica waterfall, all of them endowed with mysterious beauty, are pervaded with many ancient legends. Stories of the past reflect in the present and inspire new generations to come. Why not relax in the nature, in the fresh air, the sandy slopes and the crystal clear water? Why not sit by a warm fireplace with your friends and taste the local cuisine? Why not experience something different?
Where to stay?

**Hotel Bela krajina**

The Bela Krajina Hotel is situated in Old Town Metlika. In operation since 1963, this hotel has been embodying the traditional hospitality of Bela Krajina for more than 50 years. It features 26 modern air-conditioned rooms and an excellent restaurant with a varied selection of house specialties, traditional meals and superb local wines.

**Address:** Cesta bratstva in etnotnosti 28, 8330 Metlika

**Contact:** +386 7 30 58 123

**Email:** hotel.belakrajina@gtm-metlika.si

www.hotel-belakrajina.si

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**Bed and Breakfast Termal, Dolenjske Toplice**

In the idyllic setting of Dolenjske Toplice Spa Resort the existing accommodation capacities have been expanded by additional holiday apartments and guestrooms. There is also a restaurant located on the ground floor where you can now enjoy your breakfast or half board and spoil yourself with culinary delights. The restaurant is also open for external guests and is focused on Slovene cuisine. The Termal Bed&Breakfast is located approx. 100m from the Krka Hotel and Balnea Wellness Resort, just next to the new Congress Centre (KKC).

**Address:** Sokolski trg 2, 8350 Dolenjske Toplice

**Contact:** +386 31 413 588

**Email:** info@penzion-termal.si

www.penzion-termal.si

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**Obolnar Holiday farm**

There is no better starting point for walks or biking, or just having your day as active as possible, than a farm. This holiday farm features an outdoor swimming pool, paved playground, beach volley, trampoline, badminton on the lawn, swings, or you can just...assist with the farm work. Skilful in preparing traditional dishes we offer lamb, baby beef in various ways, trout, vegetable dishes, different kinds of soups, or, in winter, rustic dish with black pudding or fresh grilled bratwurst sausages, pork chops with sauerkraut or sour turnip and more goodies that are to remain secret until you are with us.

**Address:** Dolenja vas pri Čatežu 17, 8212 Velika Loka

**Contact:** +386 41 622 934 and +386 7 348 90 76

**Email:** kmetija.obolnar@siol.net

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**Campsite Podzemelj**

The Podzemelj campsite is located along the road connecting Metlika and Črnomelj, just following the village of Gradac. It is situated in the beautiful, unspoiled natural environment of the Kolpa River, one of the country’s cleanest and warmest rivers. The site features about 70 landscaped pitches and 3 mobile housing units, not to forget a cozy restaurant and numerous playgrounds. Kayaking, boating (raft or canoe available to rent in the campsite), fishing and hiking are just some of the activities offered by the Kolpa. Getting pretty warm during the summer the river is perfect to refresh. There is a small leisure airport located nearby as well as a pond. There is no better way to discover the Bela Krajina region than by bike. You are always welcome to rent one at Podzemelj, map of routes included. You should go for a pleasant and interesting visit of one of the nearby vineyard cottages to taste those delicious local wines. Numerous hiking, mushroom picking, and horseback riding options, but also trips to the Kolpa Nature Park are offered in the surrounding area.

**Address:** Škrlje 11, 8332 Gradac

**Contact:** +386 7 30 69 572 and +386 40 327 492

www.kamp-podzemelj.si

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**Koptur Holiday Apartments**

Recently renovated, these apartments are located in a 100 year old farm in the village of Zagrad. This is a typical, small Lower Carniolan village where you can find your refuge, retreat from the city bustle and spend some leisure time in a quiet environment. Just few miles away you can find the Termé Smanjške Toplice Spa Resort. Choose between a family-size apartment featuring four beds or two smaller apartments featuring twin beds each. A special apartment for two guests is arranged in the recently renovated granary.

**Address:** Zagrad 3, 8275 Škocjan

**Contact:** +386 41 506 311

ap.koptur@gmail.com

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**Tomlje Homestead**

Situated just under a beautiful green forest the Tomlje Holiday Homestead has been there for 25 years. You find it just few minutes away from the BALNEA Dolenjske Toplice Spa Resort. Its rooms and apartments each feature its own bathroom and internet connection. Your breakfast is served in a wooden chalet next to it, but you can also prepare your meal there by yourself. You will find a unique picnic space with a BBQ provided in the garden. A covered parking is available next to the house. As our guest you will enjoy numerous discounts from 5% to 20% at the nearby Spa Resort. Children up to 2 years of age stay for free. Those up to 7 years enjoy a 30%-discount or 20% if they are up to 10.

**Address:** Zdraviliški trg 24, 8350 Dolenjske Toplice

**Contact:** +386 7 30 65 023

joze.tomlje@gmail.com

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**Obolnar Holiday farm**

Dolenja vas pri Čatežu 17
8212 Velika Loka

+386 41 622 934 and +386 7 348 90 76

kmetija.obolnar@siol.net

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**Campsite Podzemelj**

Škrlje 11, 8332 Gradac

+386 7 30 69 572 and +386 40 327 492

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**Koptur Holiday Apartments**

Zagrad 3, 8275 Škocjan

+386 41 506 311

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**Tomlje Homestead**

Zdraviliški trg 24
8350 Dolenjske Toplice

+386 7 30 65 023

joze.tomlje@gmail.com
Located at 2,700ft or 828 metres of altitude, far away from the bustle of your city, you are warmly welcomed at the highest altitude restaurant in the municipality of Novo Mesto. Take one of the 100 seats available on the terrace and enjoy the stunning view unfolding whole the basin of Novo Mesto and reaching as far as to Mt. Triglav some 100 miles away. The hut’s interior features further 100 seats in 2 rooms. In one of them you can use the bread oven to get warm in winter while the second one offers, for the same purpose, a shot of one of the 30 sorts of homemade brandy. In addition to the rich selection of dishes comes a range of selected drinks, including elderberry juice and lemonade from clear spring water, Lower Carniola specialty - the Cvček wine coming from Mt. Trška Gora, or other wines like Repčan coming the Bela Krajina region and Metliška Črniha (Metlika Black) from Krmacina, organic Refoško from Istria and so on.

This apartment house is located directly at the Bela ski resort at some 800m of altitude and offers accommodation for 10-12 guests throughout the whole year. The Natura 2000 area features plenty of sports activities (including alpine and cross-country skiing, biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.). Guided excursions to local attractions are also organised. These include the Rog primeval forest, Baza 20, Zgornji Hrastnik Partisan Hospital, Gače, Mt. Mima Gora, and several holiday farms offering to taste fine local delicacies and delicious wine. Not far from this location you will find the Terme Dolenjske Toplice Spa Resort, while the Bela Krajina region features numerous museums, handicraft-related attractions and wonderful nature parks around the Kolpa, Lahinja, Dobičica and Krka Rivers.

This luxurious and modern penthouse duplex holiday apartment of 1000ft or 97m shall definitely provide you for a relaxed and comfortable accommodation. Cozy and located at a quiet downtown location just few steps from numerous restaurants, pubs, shops, galleries, hospital, post office, hairdressers, and beauty salons it is the ideal starting point to discover all the attractions, experiences and beauty of Lower Carniola. You reach Ljubljana by car within 20 minutes, and only drive an hour to the coast, Alps, or Zagreb (Croatia), or two hours to Venice.

The tourist farm is located along the stream, halfway between Ljubljana and Zagreb, only a kilometre away from the Šmarješke Toplice Thermal Spa. The farm offers 1/1, 1/2 or 1/3 rooms with a high standard 220 cm beds, air conditioning, a refrigerator and a private bathroom. They offer homemade dishes (trout, suckling pig, dumplings, a strudel, bread ... ) and beverages (natural juices, local wines like Cvček, ... ) from nearby farms. There are horses and other farm animals, tennis court and children’s playground. There is also a place for caravanning guests. Guests can cool down in the natural mill-stream, go on a ride with canoe or go hiking to the nearby winegrowing hills or woods. The farm is often visited by cyclists and golfers (golf Otočec - 4km). Terrace above the river, orchard, vineyard cottage and good accessibility are additional benefits for transit guests and visitors who seek daily relaxation in a natural environment of Natura 2000. On the tourist farm they speak several languages (English, German, Italian, Russian, Croatian ...). They are also “Bikers Welcome” hotel.
Where to eat?

**Krmc Homestead**

The Krmc Homestead is a renovated holiday farm with tradition. It features a restaurant, accommodation, picnic space, and a swimming pool. It is located far from the city bustle in the very heart of the Suha Krajina region. It offers a marvellous panorama down to the Kočevski Rog forest, Gorjanci hill chain, reaching up to the Julian Alps. You will be most welcome to taste the delicious homemade local dishes. Spending time at this homestead is a splendid idea for all of you loving cosiness and activities such as mushroom picking, hiking, or biking. This Karst area attracts cavers, the local forests are a must for wild animal lovers, while the nearby churches are a treasury of religious heritage.

**Guesthouse Vovko**

Guesthouse Vovko is a traditional family-run restaurant renowned for its excellent cuisine and a wide range of wine. Traditional Slovenian cuisine is combined with grilled dishes for which natural charcoal is used. The Vovko family opened this restaurant distinguished by its cosiness and tradition with a touch of innovation in 1977. Locally produced ingredients supplied by appointed local producers and farms are mainly used. Rok Vovko, owner and manager, fluently speaks English, German, Italian and French.

**Oštarija Restaurant**

In the very centre of Dolenjske Toplice you will find this home of Slovenian cuisine letting each taste bud find its place. With its cozy ambient, top chefs and experience in art we wake up all your senses and seduce you to leave the boundaries of conventional restaurants. Selected dishes, wines coming from all Slovenian regions and best local ingredients combined in a fresh and healthy meal invite you to enjoy in an unbeatable rainbow of flavours. Our dishes are tailored with careful hands, lots of love and creative interventions in the tradition of the indigenous.

**Gostilna Rorman**

Gostilna Rorman provides 3-star accommodation, lunch options, meals for groups up to 60 guests on request, and features a covered terrace. Enjoying in our delicious homemade dishes, you should not forget to taste our specialty, the steak tartare. This inn is located as an excellent starting point for hiking to Vinji Vrh to walk among plenty of vineyards, or to go for a bath in Šmarješke or Čateške Toplice spa resorts, or just to enjoy in the beautiful castle environment that provides of the nearby Otočec Manor.

**Vila Otočeč**

Welcome to Villa Otočeč offering you a wide selection of a la carte dishes, cakes and pastries from the local Rogljiček patisserie. Accommodation including breakfast is also available at accessible rates. Villa Otočeč is located on a hilltop featuring a spacious terrace with a splendid panorama over Krka River, Otočec Castle and nearby vineyards. This location is also renowned for its energy positive point that gives you a sense of energy and relaxation.

**Gostilna Prinovec Restaurant and Winery**

Local and Mediterranean dishes are served here. Starting your day with a brunch you can continue it with an a la carte dish. Excellent wine collection is recommended by our house sommelier. You are warmly welcome for a monthly organised seasonal or thematic culinary evening. Reservations for groups of up to 100 guests are accepted, to which another 100 seated on the outdoor terrace can be added in the warm part of the year. Our restaurant features a children’s corner and playground during the summer time. You will find a well-stocked souvenir shop at the Gostilna with renowned local producers of culinary delights represented.
Named after Rudolph IV of Habsburg, founder of Novo Mesto in 1365, this downtown-located Oštarija Rudolfswerth is there to delight your taste buds. The history of Novo Mesto is intertwined through both its ambience and menu, starting in Hallstatt period (situlas) and reaching up to the old town inns existing between both world wars. Combining modern culinary imagination and respect for local and seasonal particularities, Oštarija Rudolfswerth provides you many a good reason to visit.

**Oštarija Rudolfswerth**

Kandijska cesta 35, 8000 Novo mesto
+386 7 33 23 335
info@ostarija-rudolfswerth.si
www.ostarija-rudolfswerth.si

You will admire this Gostilna’s ambient and view over the Krka. It is located just a few steps away from the Otočec castle and close to the motorway 3 miles from Novo Mesto. It features a spacious parking, an interior large enough for 100 guests, an outdoor terrace for further 50 guests and children’s playground. There is a wide range of meals available, including Slovenian, Italian and Mexican cuisine, pizza. Also offered are seasonal dishes, snacks, lunch options and menus for groups.

**Gostilna Šentpeter Restaurant and Pizzeria**

Šentpeter 10 a, 8222 Otočec
+386 7 30 99 999 and +386 51 225 222
info@sentpeter.si
www.sentpeter.si

**Vesela Vas Organic Holiday Farm**

Sela pri Ajdovcu 1, 8361 Dvor
+ 386 40 458 585 and +386 51 227 700
info@veselavas.si
www.veselavas.si

You will find the Harlekin Restaurant and Pizzeria along the main road in the centre of Ribnica town. You will enjoy its cozy atmosphere so typical for traditional Slovenian countryside inns. So the main tavern room does not lack a bread oven providing that irresistible smell of homemade bread and warming you nicely up in winter. When warmer, you can enjoy the garden and its splendid panorama encompassing a meadow, a forest and a small river. Various freshly prepared European meals and traditional Slovenian cuisine are served. Daily offers of a variety of snacks, brunch and lunch options complement rich selection of our permanent offer - not to forget our delicious seasonal meals to round up our offer. Fresh ingredients of local origin are mostly used. For this purpose, we collaborate with nearby farmers, growers, breeders and suppliers from the home Ribnica Valley and other places in the region.

**Harlekin Restaurant and Pizzeria**

Gorenska cesta 21, 1310 Ribnica
+386 1 8361 532, +386 41 644 415
info@harlekin.si
www.harlekin.si

You will find the Vesela Vas Organic Holiday Farm in Ribnica Valley. You can reach it by car in just a few minutes from the main road, which is right in front of the Ajdovec plateau. The farm is renowned for its ongoing events, entertainment, fun and relaxation. Comedies, celebrations, festivals, weddings, family gatherings, competitions and exhibitions bring many cheerful moments in your life. Various guided excursions are offered to discover attractions and all the beauty of Slovenia, but you are also welcome just to enjoy the natural environment of our Happy Village as well as homemade meals and company of kind people.

**Vesela Vas Organic Holiday Farm**

Gorenjska cesta 2, 8232 Mokronog
+386 40 368 359
info@deu-mokronog.si
www.deu-mokronog.si

The Gostilna Zlata Kaplja (Golden Drop) belongs to the pearls of the Mirna valley reminiscent of the figure of a nice mother spreading her apron and inviting for lunch. Letting you clearly know that its house lord cares for the past the house’s exterior does not leave you cold. Already its vast collection of carts, sledges, old farming tools and carters’ accessories exhibited in the courtyard is convincing. What this traditional family-owned inn is following can be defined as “preserving what’s sound and further building on that basis”. This principle has already been working since 1768 when the inn is mentioned for the first time in the chronicles. For generations the family has been professionally fostering and preserving the most precious elements of Slovenian hospitality and at the same time responding to the demands of time. In fact the ingredients are quite simple: love, knowledge, diligence, kindness and sound entrepreneurship. The inn’s menus mainly consist of local dishes and house specialties like lard, pate, Mokronog dumplings, and cottage cheese dumplings, or home-made sausages in winter. Meals on spoon, a la carte dishes and ready-made menus for groups are offered.

**Gostilna Žlata Kaplja**

Stari trg 3, 8232 Mokronog
+386 7 33 23 335
info@zetin-mokronog.si
www.zetin-mokronog.si

On an islet in the heart of the region of Dolenjska dominantly sits one of the most alluring hotels in Slovenia, the Otočec Castle Hotel, creating a storybook look by blending with the emerald green Krka River. The imposing castle walls house a 5-star hotel with a top-notch restaurant where local traditional ingredients are subtly intertwined with the best of modern cuisine. Indulge yourself in pure luxury of the castle gastronomy by going for their degustation menu or just enjoy a sweet treat at the castle café. See for yourself why the Otočec Castle is a proud member of the oldest, largest and most prominent international gastronomic association, Chaine des Rôtisseurs, as well as the prestigious international association of the world’s finest hoteliers, chefs and restaurateurs, Relais & Châteaux.

**Restavracija Grad Otočec**

Grajska cesta 2, 8222 Otočec
+386 7 38 46 900
booking@terme-krka.si
www.grad-otocec.si
From prehistory to today Dolenjska has been unique, different. Dolenjska Museum in Novo mesto keeps important finds from the 10th century BC onwards, particularly out-
standing are finds from the Hallstatt period, Late Iron Age. At the time of the Roman Empire Trebnje hosted the only military post in Slovenia. In the times of Christianization and the Middle Ages, Dolenjska became a province dominated by numerous fortresses and castles, some of them are still well-preserved. Consequences of Turkish invasions from the 15th and 16th centuries can still be felt, but what marked the area of Slovenia even more were Protestantism and Slovenian literature in the region of Dolenjska. Many churches of Dolenjska, such as pilgrimage church at Zaplaz, are woven into the hills of Dolenjska, and are a memorial of the very important cultural heritage. These picturesque images from the past are surrounded by farms, vineyards, cottages, craft shops and granaries full of local delicacies, which, together with the good people of Dolenjska, give the region kind-heartedness, a wide smile and a warm embrace. Fields are traditional and picturesque in their fragmentation. Vineyards elongate along wine routes and cottages, which offer the possibility to experience quintessential traditions, which are transmitted from generation to generation. All of this is accessible by car, bike, horse or local can take you for a ride along the winding roads that follow the contours of the hills of Dolenjska. Cvitek, which is available in these cottages, is the sort of cvitek that you can not experience anywhere else.

Soseska - Vineyard Neighbourhood Cottage of Drašiči

In the basement of the former village primary school of Drašiči next to the St.Peter’s church the Soseska Vineyard Neighbourhood Cottage featuring its unique wine bank has been operating for the last 250 years. Each year wine cider produced by the bank’s members is selected by a specially appointed Commission. The members can then borrow the cider and return it later with interests. You can taste wine from more than 50 winemakers from one glass here and get acquainted with the roval - a wooden consumption measurement device serving to assess debts of individual members. Also available are wine tastings.

Art Crafts by Silva Dravšnik

Handmade dolls and figurines of porcelain, clay, wool and fabrics are designed and made by Silva Dravšnik living in a tiny village of Osojniki near Semič. Active in art craft design for 16 years she has been awarded for several times, among others with the Gold Tendril of the Slovene Chamber of Craft and Small Business.

Museum of Lower Carniola (Dolenjski muzej)

For permanent exhibitions are present in the Novo Mesto-located Museum of Lower Carniola (Dolenjski muzej). Archaeological image of Lower Carniola features all major objects making Lower Carniola and Novo Mesto one of the European regions of exceptional archaeological heritage significantly contributing to the knowledge of European prehistory. Ethnological exhibition displays the rustic and handicrafted way of life in Lower Carniola of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. Exhibition of Contemporary History represents the time from the end of the 19th century until 1945. Its central part is focused on the World War II in Lower Carniola. The exhibition dedicated to Leon Štukelj 1898-1999 presents the life of the well-known Olympic. There are always temporary exhibitions worth of visiting. In a dislocated unit named Jakšič dom (Jakšič’s House) art collections are exhibited while the dislocated unit Kovačski Rog - Baza 20 is showing the headquarters of the Slovenian national liberation movement.

Hayracks Country

Šentrupert-located Hayracks Country is the world-first open air museum of hayracks. In the recent 18 months it has been visited by 30,000 visitors from 35 countries. 19 drying devices are exhibited there, from which 17 are hayracks representing each hayrack type present in Slovenia. The objective of this installation is to show the entire historic development process of hayrack and its importance for the region. It is renowned for an exhibit named Lukatov Toplar, one of the oldest preserved two-hayracks preserved worldwide, whose origin goes back to 1795. The project is not only important in terms of preserving cultural heritage, but has also significantly contributed to a greater visibility of the Municipality of Šentrupert and the development of tourism there.

Soteska - Vineyard Neighbourhood Cottage of Drašiči

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Museum of Lower Carniola (Dolenjski muzej)

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www.dolmuzej.com

Soteska - Vineyard Neighbourhood Cottage of Drašiči

Drašiči 46, 8330 Metlika
+386 41 753 017
www.soseskadrasici.net
The building in which once classes were held is today known as the Old TRIS School (standing in Slovene for Tourism Development Information Centre) featuring tourism-related products and services representing the town of Kostel all on one spot. The geographical area named World of Kolpa is represented by the wine-tasting, multifunctional and multimedia space, TiC information office featuring temporary or permanent exhibitions, events, workshops, books, lectures, local products all located at this Centre.

Handicraft Centre of Ribnica is a public institution in charge for crafts, museum, and gallery-related activities. It features attractive exhibitions describing the history of Ribnica, witch trials, traditional dry wooden accessories, pottery and other crafts. Here you can meet contemporary visual arts or, on request, have a meeting with the masters of handicraft and produce a wooden accessory or piece of pottery all by yourself.

In this unique and memorable castle story the genuine lords of the Struga Castle, located near Otočec, combine warmth, love for history, a treasure chest of knowledge and magic, fun, socializing, castle life experience in the and perform an interactive show for you. Pre-booked groups can choose between programs such as adventure castle tours, blacksmithing and dance workshops, team building with knight skills, historical feasts with music and entertainment program, historic weddings, etc.

The IMV Museum Collection features exhibits of vintage passenger cars and vans, caravans, motorhomes, technical documentation and models. The exhibition shows more than half a century of development of car and caravan design of IMV, Adria Mobil, TPI, and Renault brands. In addition, it also includes ephemeral but significant advertising and marketing production such as catalogues, brochures, billboards, all contributing to the corporate identity of companies by which development of dominant aesthetic norms and social values since 1954 is demonstrated. The IMV Museum Collection is situated in the idyllic location of Drgančevje. You are welcome to visit the exhibition from 10am till noon every Saturday while group tours out of these schedules are possible by prior arrangement.

Museum of Bela Krajina is located in the old Castle of Metlika. It takes care for the mobile heritage of the Bela Krajina region and features four permanent exhibitions in Metlika, Vinica and Sensič. Quite different from the rest of the country, the rich history of the region between the Kolpa River and Gorjanci mountain chain is special both in terms of geography, ethnic, and culture. The major part of the large-scale exhibition focused on peoples’ lives in Bela Krajina from prehistory to the mid-20th century has recently been renovated. Likewise, the Castle of Metlika has been subject to a thorough renovation still in course.
Cottages and wine tours

Dolenjska is a country of cottages. Many of them, interspersed by numerous wine routes, are now converted into comfortable yet unadorned posts, which offer a unique experience for a few days of the Dolenjska lifestyle. For a person from Dolenjska, his cottage is not his second but his first home, working in the vineyard and the fruits of the vineyard is not only an enjoyable use of leisure time, but a responsibility to the ancestors who developed this way of life and to descendants, who will enjoy it regardless of the pasts - or precisely because of them. While it is said that the air of Dolenjska already contains enough wine vapors that can drug, cottages are exceptional places which link peace, and are made for reading a book or solitary enjoyment of wine, which are known to have turned any foreigner into a person from Dolenjska. Experiences in vineyard cottages are not only different, but they cannot be compared to anything in this world.

Have you ever dreamt of spending your holiday in unspoilt nature of green hills covered with vineyards, in a charming little house with a balcony and a terrace unfolding a most splendid view of the surrounding hills and valleys? Kind hosts will prepare a special welcome for you, hand you the key to the wine cellar to enjoy a glass of delicious wine. Unless you prefer to use the grill and kitchen also provided to prepare your meal by yourself you will be kindly directed to local providers of delicious homemade dishes. Vineyard cottages are the most excellent starting point to explore the whole of Slovenia or, why not, neighbouring Italy, Austria or Croatia since the distances are so short and reachable by car within a blink. Even if you fly the vineyard cottages are only one hour drive from the Ljubljana or Zagreb airports.

Cottage tourism for whom?

▪ For lovers of active experiences: 3000km of hiking, biking, riding routes and waterways (www.visitdolenjska.eu)
  Otočec Golf Court, hunting, fishing, flight by a powered aircraft, paragliding, swimming in Terme Šmarješke and Dolenjske Toplice Spa Resorts, etc.

▪ For lovers of natural and cultural heritage (rivers, karst caves, archaeology, churches, castles, monasteries, art galleries and museums, village architecture)

▪ For lovers of wine and culinary adventures

▪ For lovers of many traditional ethnological and other events

The cviček story at the Matjaž homestead

Feel welcome to visit a 150 year old homestead listed in the European Network of Houses with Tradition and get familiar with the lives of our ancestors. In the cellar, accompanying your glass of Čviček a special Čviček toast will be sung by the house lord for you. A 20-minute multimedia presentation named The Čviček Story will follow. In the seven acts you learn about the history of wine, wine protectors, wine container, composition and production of Čviček, followed by tasting of the ingredients and, finally, the Royal Čviček with buckwheat bread.

Additional options: ride or walk in the wine-growing Gredove, visiting St. George’s church including a concert of baroque music, visiting one of the vineyard cottages, Lost in The Vineyards team building program or any of various thematic motivational workshops.

Vineyard Cottage Tourism

Become owner of a vineyard cottage in the middle of wine hills

You should not miss this unique offer!

Have you ever dreamt of spending your holiday in unspoilt nature of green hills covered with vineyards, in a charming little house with a balcony and a terrace unfolding a most splendid view of the surrounding hills and valleys? Kind hosts will prepare a special welcome for you, hand you the key to the wine cellar to enjoy a glass of delicious wine. Unless you prefer to use the grill and kitchen also provided to prepare your meal by yourself you will be kindly directed to local providers of delicious homemade dishes. Vineyard cottages are the most excellent starting point to explore the whole of Slovenia or, why not, neighbouring Italy, Austria or Croatia since the distances are so short and reachable by car within a blink. Even if you fly the vineyard cottages are only one hour drive from the Ljubljana or Zagreb airports.
Active time-off, water delights, rich health resort tradition and relaxation in modern wellness centres surrounded by amazing natural environment – you can experience all this and much more at Terme Krka.

Terme Krka brings together two health and spa centres - Dolenjske Toplice Spa and Šmarješke Toplice Spa, the Ta laso Strunjan thalassic health resort at the seaside, and the Otočec Hotels with their adventure park, the attractive and exciting golf course and one of the most beautiful sights in Slovenia, Otočec Castle.

Dolenjske Toplice Spa has been a reputable health spa resort for centuries. Nowadays, one of the oldest health resorts in Europe has become a popular wellness centre for all generations with its modern wellness hotel.

First written records of Dolenjske Toplice Spa date back to the 13th century. In the 18th century, when «the most prominent spa building in Carniola» was built, Dolenjske Toplice Spa was known as one of the most elite spas in Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Thermal water spring with its human body temperature (36°C) is ideal for treating rheumatic disorders of the musculoskeletal system. The top notch qualified employees at the Medical Rehabilitation Centre compliment the beneficial effects of the unique thermal water and thus help your successful recovery.

The Balnea Hotel is a true pampering spot, noted for its original design and architecture as well as artwork by famous Slovene artists. The path to the world of delights and relaxation leads you through a fascinating panoramic hall to the thermal pools, saunas, baths and body treatment centre.
Šmarješke Toplice Spa

In the haven of green woods and meadows, far away from the everyday hustle and bustle, one of the most modern Slovene thermal health resorts, Šmarješke Toplice Spa, is located. As Šmarješke Toplice Spa is known as a centre for prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, they mainly focus on modern medical wellness programmes, designed by their medical, wellness, nutritional and sports experts. Weight-loss, detoxification and stress management programmes, carried out at Vitarium Spa&Clinique centre, are noted for their all-inclusive and individual approach as well as excellent results that attract numerous guests from all parts of Europe.

Relaxation and recreation take place in the thermal pools with saunas and baths, while the green setting with its wine-growing hills lures Nordic walking, hiking and cycling fans. The old wooden pool from the 18th century, located directly above the thermal water spring and which has been preserved so you can still take a swim in, and a pond in the health resort’s park where the precious Indian lotus grows are only two of Šmarješke Toplice Spa’s peculiarities.

The Otočec Hotels

The Otočec’s most known feature is Otočec Castle, one of the most beautiful pearls of the castle architecture. The only river castle in Slovenia, situated on an islet, surrounded by the Krka River and dating back to the 13th century, has been reorganized into an exquisite 5-star hotel.

Otočec Castle is one of the most appealing hotels, especially to numerous gourmets, businessmen, newlyweds, and aesthetes; to sum up, all those who want to spend a couple of unforgettable days in a special atmosphere. As a member of the renowned international chain of mansions and hotels, Relais & Châteaux, Otočec Castle is one the most prominent high-class tourism providers in the world.

Nature fans absolutely love the unspoilt nature in the Krka River valley. They can take a stroll in the castle park or enjoy a game or two on one of the most beautiful golf courses in Slovenia. The Otočec Golf Course has been named the best golf course in Slovenia for two years in a row. The course with 18 greens, stretching out on an area of more than 70 ha, is interesting for professionals as well as amateur golf players. Otočec offers a wide range of other sports activities as well; from tennis, cycling, slke (rollerblading with poles), boating, hiking to the ground-breaking and adrenalin-pumping form of outdoor recreation at the adventure park.