















Glow on the horizon

Slavonia

 CROATIA

Sun		Horizon 8000
Water		River Wetlands
Plain		Life of animals Horse
Mountains		Mountains Heads
Woman		96° C Ivana and Dora
Mars		Pil Land and water
Venus		Noble land
Spring		Ducat and embroidery
Summer		Vallis aurea
Autumn		Princes of Ilok
Winter		Orient Express
Man		Oak Orion



Continuation of life

Glow on the horizon

The straight vertical of the horizon, the coming together of earth and the sky, this endless plain captivates all who come to eastern Croatia. The people who, having crossed mountains and having negotiated river valleys, arrived in this land thousands of years ago, decided to stay. They adopted the fertile black earth, which provided for him bountifully in return. And so he began to develop culture concurrently with the emergence of the first great civilizations of mankind-in the Indian sub-continent, in Mesopotamia, and in the Nile Delta. The largest rivers flowing through this area, the Danube, with its tributaries the Sava and Drava, were man's natural boundaries. Elevated ground on the hills and mountains provided the weaker with protection from attack.



Sunrise

Horizon

Erdut-Ilok Archeological Park
gm-vukovar@zg.tel.hr



Sunrise over Pannonia. The plain rises imperceptibly from the darkness, cloaked by a veil of haze hovering above the river valleys. The heavens slowly fill with blue. The first flickering rays of the sun blend into the Great Flash and then a curtain of gold covers the eastern part of the horizon. The sign for the beginning of the festivity of life... and so for some 370 million years, when the oldest land of this part of the continent rose from the primordial sea. For over 8000 years man has devoted himself to enhancing this miracle through his cultural

superstructure, right up to the present-day Pannonian-come-Central European landscape, with its range of settlements nestling among the lush colours of fertile fields and picture-book forests, to the accompaniment of the ode to joy sung by the most numerous and most diverse array of birds in Europe. It is a spatial code that sets eastern Croatia apart as a special spatial entity within Croatia and the wider Europe.





Vinkovci

8000

gradski-muzej-vinkovci@vk.t-com.hr
turisticka.zajednica@vk.t-com.hr



The most favourable conditions for man to mark his permanent routes in eastern Croatia came together in the area of Vinkovci, where diverse natural entities meet: the loess grasslands of the Vukovar-Đakovo area and the valley of the Bosut River; at the intersection of roads leading from the valleys of the Sava, Drava and Danube. The permanent settlement here is the oldest, and was founded by the landtillers of the Starčevo culture dating from 6000 BC. And they imbued it with the soul of an urban centre. Almost 8000 years of cultural development is reflected in the rich cultural heritage found at different localities along the left bank of the Bosut River. It is symbolized by a tell, a mound in the centre of the settlement, a monument to the birth and evolution of one of the oldest settlements in Europe. Down the history of Vinkovci, urban rises and declines replaced one another—from the Neolithic Starčevo culture, through the Copper Age of the Vučedol culture, from the Roman municipium to the later date colony, from the planned development of a town with a central European physiognomy from the beginning of the 18th century, down to the present day. The spirit of this long and rich past is felt at every step; it is built into the self-awareness of the inhabitants of Vinkovci, permeating the town on the Bosut with a quite special charm.





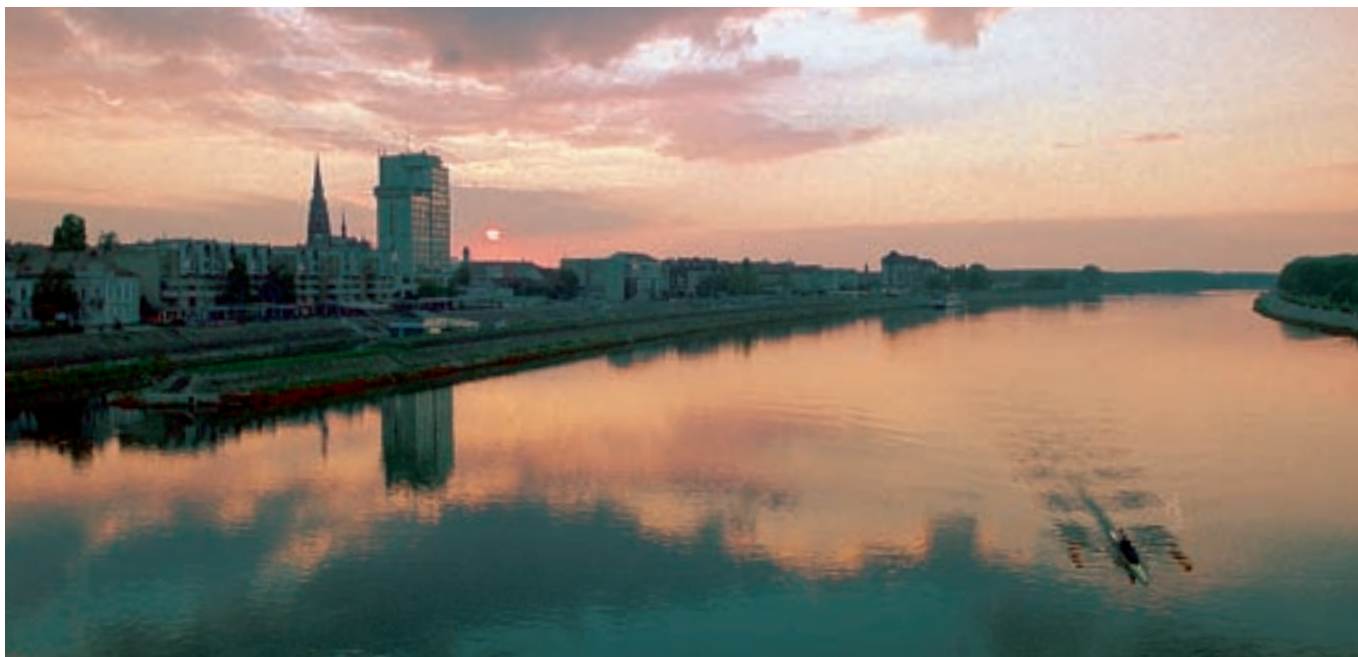




Civilization

The river

www.tzosijek.hr
www.vk-iktus.hr



There are few areas the landscape and life of which have been so closely defined by rivers as is the case in eastern Croatia. Endlessly flowing to these parts through the wide valleys of the Sava, Drava and Danube-rivers that have created wide alluvial plains, with magnificent forests-oases of biological diversity-these are the creative energies of the lands through which they course, blending with the local cultures, enhancing and enriching this area. From the late Neolithic Sopot-culture of fishermen who lived in pile-dwellings, through the Vučedol culture of the Copper Age and down to our own times. Standing witness to these influences of the wider region are the urbanistic and architectural characteristics of towns on the

river banks. Podunavlje, Posavina and Podravina are not only areas named after the rivers, but also the areas in which rivers define the character and the way of life-ranging from enjoyment in various water sports, to famous fish restaurants, or just abandoning oneself to rest and recreation in the greenery by the river. Their very omnipresence-in landscapes, in the collective consciousness of the people, in the culture-makes the rivers of eastern Croatia its kind of spatial code, easily identifiable within the regional mosaic of Croatia. They were, are and ever will be a drawing power for the population; they define the rhythm of life and steer it towards the future.







Ecological Puzzle

Wetlands

The Kopački rit Nature Park. A managed nature reserve since 1967; Special zoological reserve since 1976; www.kopacki-rit.hr

Modern man is increasingly becoming aware of the immense significance that wetlands represent, both as a source of life and with regard to the preservation of biological diversity. Alternation of merely wet and flood periods, where the water world rhythmically drives back the creatures of the land, is but a preparation for the veritable explosion of life once the waters recede. The largest and best-known locations, those richest in various species are the Crnac-polje, Jelas-polje and Biđ-polje ranges within the alluvial plain of the Sava River, and Kopački rit at the confluence of the Drava and the Danube. Come springtime, and the melting of snow in the Alps, Kopački rit is transformed into a vast water surface interspaced with forests. In the warm part of the year this is a habitat for numerous migratory birds on their seasonal journey between Africa

and northern Europe. At the same time, in the waters of one of the largest spawning grounds in Europe, over fifty species of fish begin the renewal of the cycle of life, and it is from here that the predatory pike, the gold-yellow carp, the moustached catfish, reaching up to 100 kg in weight, roach, bream, pike-perch, orf-journey towards the Drava and the Danube, and much further. And there are almost 300 species of bird here. Particularly precious are the endangered European species of black stork, Saker falcon and white tailed eagle. Nesting in exceptionally numerous colonies are different types of heron, gulls, cormorants, as well as species endangered in Europe, such as Ferruginous duck and various types of wild geese which winter here in their tens of thousands. Another rare bird that finds its winter haven here is the Greater spotted eagle.





Brehm

Life of animals

List of important ornithological areas (IBA) 1986;

List of wetland habitats of international significance (Ramsar site) 1993.



Among the scientists who worked in this area were Professor Mojsisovics of Graz, Mr Zelborn (Custodian of the Viennese Imperial Museum), Mr Herman, ichthyologist, and Alfred Edmund Brehm-author of the major work "The Life of Animals". The abundance of game made this the favourite hunting ground for the nobility — from Eugene of Savoy to the Archduke Friedrich of the House of Habsburg who, in 1910, played host here to the German Emperor Wilhelm II. The Tikveš forest hunting complex, which is home to the largest community of deer in Europe, has throughout the 20th century been an exclusive hunting paradise for the chosen-local and world statesmen and other prominent personalities. Kings and emperors came to hunt here-from Franz Josef to Shah Reza Pahlavi. But forests of the plains are not replete only in big game. They are an authentic wilderness, and as such ensure survival to all forms of



life-from the harvest mouse, meadow mouse, adder, stoat, to the collared flycatcher and black stork. In the eastern part are animals which form a part of the steppe fauna: some rare species of butterflies, hamster, mouse, short-legged lizard, scincidae / *Ablepharus kitabelli*, i.e. bibron and bory, and the long snake. The Uviraljka abyss is the largest of several winter shelters for colonies of bats on mount Papuk. Living along the river banks is a rare and protected species of otter, and the Drava, Lonja, OrLjava, Vuka, Karašica and Danube provide nesting grounds for wagtails, Little Grebe, Grey heron, Little Egret, wild duck, moorhen, bald coot and lapwing, and here their prey is river charr, nose-carp, chub, burbot, barbel, rudd, bleak and bitterling. The favourite with anglers in rivers, backwaters, ponds and fish farms are carp, pike-perch, pike, catfish and perch-bass-from which the best fish-paprikash, or stew, is prepared.





Noble animal

Horse

White horses, competition of horse
breeders, Babina Greda (since 1980)
www.tz-djakovo.hr



The four-in-hand of Đakovo of indigenous Lipizzaners danced elegantly through Europe from Aachen, Lucerne, Budapest and Vienna to Rome, Verona and Windsor. Although the beginnings of the Đakovo stud-farm are officially stated as 1506, records dating from 1374 tell us that they were undoubtedly preceded by many years of breeding. In 1805, the Imperial stud-farm was transferred in the face of Napoleon's conquering armies from Lipice to Đakovo. The blood lines of high-bred horses like Contessa, Sphinx, Tapia, Romana, Austria, Sorti and Favory Perla-Calma further enhanced the famous European lines of Lipizzaners. The stud-farm in Lipik, or the Eltz stud-farm in Vukovar, or the Janković family tradition, are all well known: Julije's racing horses which won many European trophies, Elmer's large stud-farm in Terezovac, and the Lipizzaner of the Tulipan line in Aladar's stud-farm in Cabuna. The horse arrived in these parts some five millennia ago. To a Slavonian a horse was precious-it pulled carriages and carts, ran races, in times of war it served together with its master. The hussars were unimaginable without their horses, as were Baron Trenk's Troopers. They were Croats who, resplendent in their red capes and caps, are famous for having introduced what is today an indispensable detail of male fashion, with their neck scarves tied in a very special way, and which became known as "cravates".









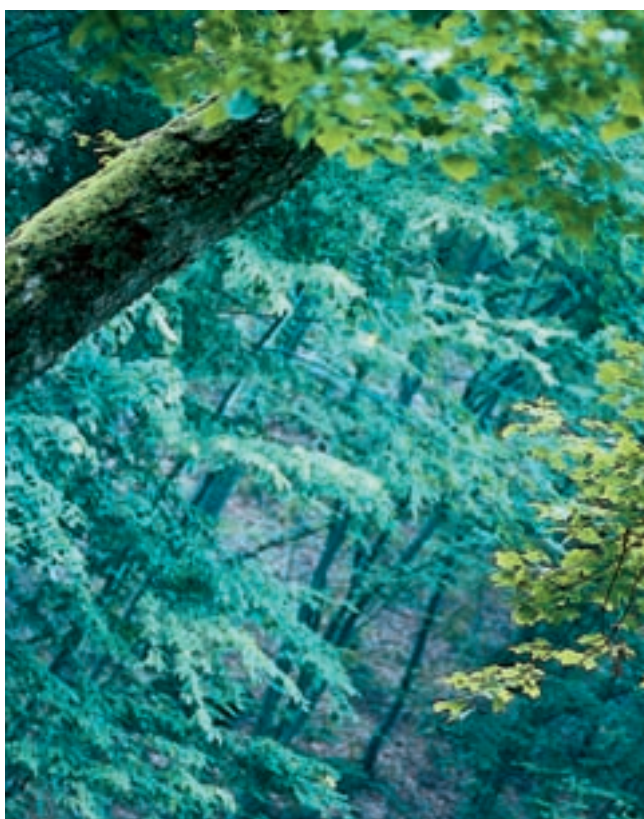
Islands in the sea

Mountains

Papuk Nature Park
www.pp-papuk.hr



The mountainous landscape of Slavonia extends from Papuk and Krndija in the north, down Psunj, Babja gora and Dilj gora, with the Požega valley in the south. These massive mountains are a unique monument to the geological development of this part of Europe. In the Neogene period, a later part of the geological past, they were islands, and Sovsko jezero (Lake Sovsko) on Dilj-gora is an elevated remnant rising from what was once was the Tertiary Sea of Paratetis, later known as the Pannonian Sea. All around one can find fossilized remains of the living organisms from its depths-forms of shellfish and fish, to shark and whale. Geologically most interesting is Papuk, composed of eruptive rock from Palaeozoic period, some 370 million years old. Its peak layer abounds in karstic phenomena. A grassy plain girdled by primeval forests of beech enhances the romantic atmosphere of the Jankovac mountain lodge, just as in the days of the guests of Count Janković in his hunting lodge. With the cooling of lava towards the end of the Mesozoic period, some 75 million years ago, Rupnica-the most outstanding geological phenomenon of Papuk-was created. Alongside several other similar examples elsewhere in the world, it stands apart with its secretion albite rhyolite, eruptive rock which crystallizes in the form of quadrilateral prisms. As the small area of Papuk encompasses a significant segment of Earth's geological history, a stroll down the pathways of the Nature Park is literally also to travel through times spanning millions of years.







Rudina

Heads

Church of St. Martin, near Našice (top left);
Erdut (bottom left); Ružica (bottom right)
www.pozega-tz.hr



The mountains of Slavonia shelter the greatest treasury of medieval building heritage. Benedictine monks built their monastery of St. Michael the Archangel on the eastern slopes of Psunj back in the 12th century, in Rudina. It is from this monastery that the famous Romanesque stone heads originate. In 1971 they were exhibited in Paris and their artistic value attracts a high degree of attention from the European culturally minded public. Also originating from the Middle Ages are St. Peter's church, the St. Dimetrius stone-built church-come-fortress in Brodski Drenovac, the square citadel in Cernik near Nova Gradiška, and the Cistercian monastery of the Blessed Virgin in Kutjevo, founded in 1232 in the southern foothills of Krndija. Ruins of one of the largest medieval



fortified burghs in Croatia, Ružica, also lie on the slopes of Krndija above Orahovica. From the elevated part of a plain in front of one of the best preserved medieval churches in Novi Mikanovci, a wide view opens up towards the Posavina Plain. It is from here that the ancient breed of Croatian sheep dog originates. This black, curly haired dog is a tireless worker and a fearless guardian of sheep, pigs and cattle. The area abounds in numerous other medieval churches and secular buildings, some of which are still in use, while others are located in the wilderness of mountain forests and can be reached only with the assistance of experienced local guides.





Orlov otok (Eagle's island) on the Danube (right);
The Sava (top and bottom)
www.opcina-bizovac.hr

It is difficult to imagine the dynamic tectonic processes that have shaped the mellow landscapes of Slavonia beneath the seemingly tranquil harmony of the Pannonian Plain and the mountain masifs. This came as the result of rising and falling of the sections of the ancient Pannonian base along the longitudinal and transverse fault lines. Their elevations gave birth to the mountains of Psunj, Papuk and the cores of other smaller mounts, and through the further sinking of ground there came about the depressions of Posavina, Podravina and Podunavlje. These vertical movements are borne witness to by numerous springs of medicinal thermal and mineral water: hyperthermal springs in Lipik (58.2°C), acrothermal (46°C) in the Daruvar spa. Their medicinal properties were



recognized as early as in the times of Antiquity. In Velika, in the southern foothills of Papuk, is a thermal spring (28°C) and the Toplice spa, and not far from there is another spring, Duboka (15 — 18°C). A similar thermal spring is located at the foot of the eastern slope of Krndija, in Đakovačka Breznica. The largest and the best known bathing and thermal health resort is Bizovačke toplice. In this the youngest part of the Podravina depression, is hyperthermal water with an incredible temperature of 96°C. It is saline (25%) and contains numerous minerals. Today, this is the best equipped and most modern spa in the whole of Croatia-its multifunctional swimming complex and state of the art remedial facilities ensure a unique experience.





Castles / Manor Houses

Ivana and Dora

Dora Pejačević, Music Festivals, Našice (right)
Bilje (far right), Donji Miholjac (bottom)
www.tz-donjimiholjac.hr, www.tznasice.hr



The manor house with the famous wine cellars in Kutjevo is part of what was once was a Jesuit estate, and the spacious castle in Donji Miholjac was built after its smaller predecessor proved insufficient for Emperor Franz Joseph I and all his entourage. The families of Khuen Belassy, Adamović, Janković, Mailath, Mihailović and Esterházy competed in splendour with Eugene of Savoy. The Counts Pejačević of Virovitica have bequeathed us the largest number of edifices of splendid architectural heritage. In one of the most beautiful, in Našice, there worked the second grand dame of the Croatian artistic Pantheon: Dora Pejačević. Being a part of the European artistic elite of her time, she composed a wealth of glittering musical miniatures.



Ivana Brlić Mažuranić, also known as the Croatian Andersen and whose fairy tale world rivals that created by J.R.R. Tolkien, once lived in the house which stood before the gate to the Brod fortress. This is where Ivana's secret and magical worlds were born. But she also describes a soot-covered castle built of oak tree trunks built within one of the fortifications that existed since times immemorial down to the Middle Ages, and beyond. Where once stood fortifications now rise castles and manor houses, some even merging into them-like the Baroque Prandau-Normann Manor House, with a large landscaped park, in Valpovo. These grand edifices testify to participation in the life of European nobility by the families that built them. The manor house in Vukovar, built by the powerful Eltz family, grew from a modest curia.









Baroque

Pil

Pil, Osijek (left); Cloister of the
Franciscan Monastery, www.tzosijek.hr
Brod (right), Požega (bottom)



Concurrently with its dominance throughout Europe, the style of the Baroque was equally represented here. The most significant Baroque fortifications are those of Slavonski Brod and Osijek. "Tvrđa" in Osijek is a harmonious blend of military, civil, administrative and sacral architecture. The central square is dominated by the buildings of the General Headquarters, dating from 1726, with the most sumptuous Baroque stone portal in Croatia, the main Guard posts comprising a prominent guard tower and a cupola, and the magistrates building. This Baroque beauty is further enhanced with two complexes of monasteries, while the centre of the spacious rectangular square is taken up by the Pil, the largest Baroque monument in Croatia. A similar monument is that of the Holy Trinity that stands in the main

square of Požega. Each building on this square is a precious monument, together with the City Hall and the home of one Mr Thaller, the local apothecary. Another town with a very picturesque Baroque centre, and buildings built by tradesmen and merchants in an irregular pattern of streets, is Vukovar. Vinkovci and Nova Gradiška also have typical Baroque squares, individual Baroque-style monasteries, churches and buildings filling various functions can be seen in many smaller places. Standing apart as a very special attraction are the Franciscan monastery in Slavonski Brod, containing the most monumental cloister in northern Croatia; the Canon's house in Đakovo; the Franciscan monastery and church complex of St. Roc, its interior filled with light and with a valuable inventory.





The Brod Fortress

Land and water

Tvrđa in Osijek (bottom);

Fortress in Brod;

www.tzgsb.hr, www.tzosijek.hr



When, in 1699, following the Karlovac Peace Treaty, the Habsburg Monarchy assumed control of the border on the River Sava, a part of the population of the largest urban centres took flight. The idea devised by the strategists from Vienna, whereby villages should become fortified settlements with two entrances easily defended was an effective one. Villages were fortified and protected by ditches, moats and palisades, and at night the gates were closed. Forests were cleared, rural life developed. And what changed the way of life of a village, while at the same time providing defence of borders, was the string of imperial fortifications protecting the entire area, which were in turn linked to the main imperial roads and navigable rivers. Throughout the existence of that system of fortifications no army attempted to drive its way through those passages. Towns may have become smaller, but the fortifications were insurmountable. On the Drava river these stood in Virovitica, Valpovo and Osijek ("Tvrđa"); on the River Sava there was Gradiška and the imposing star-shaped fortress of Brod, the garrison of the Brod fortress numbered 5000 soldiers, with the town of Brod having a population of a mere 3500. This system of fortification ensured an uninterrupted two-and-a-half centuries of peace. While the population from other parts of Croatia were emigrating to the New World, Slavonia was becoming the promised land of prosperity.





Prosperity

The noble land

Autumns of Vinkovci, folklore festival, gathering of indigenous folk culture (since 1965); www.vk-jeseni.com

A comprehensive experience of eastern Croatia is inconceivable without getting to know a Slavonian village. It is an adornment of the cultural landscape and a treasure trove of heritage instilled into the collective consciousness and identity of the local population. This applies equally to the compact villages built to a plan, with an agricultural landscape of open fields across the loess plateaux and terraced plains of eastern Croatia, and to the villages with compact homesteads and division of land following the fishbone pattern found in Posavina and Podravina. Accumulated within them are centuries of experience and knowledge of cultures linked to one another by living together in this rich and generous Pannonian land. And within it, authentic Slavonian cultural heritage. This is reflected in the sumptuous culinary

tradition of the region, which has no match in Croatia with regard to the abundance and diversity of gastronomic specialties. On the loaded Slavonian groaning board the concept of home cuisine acquires a new dimension. From the irresistible aroma of bread fresh from the baker's oven, through cottage cheese and spring onions, chicken or mushroom soups, roasts, to quality meat products and processed meats following the traditional pig butchering season-such as un-pressed crackling, dried meaty bacon, ham or delicious Slavonian sausages spiced with red paprika-ground or crushed, and of course the king of them all: kulen. All complemented by an abundance of home-grown vegetables. And then there are desserts-from richly stuffed rolls made with yeast dough, to delicate, lard-based flaky pastry cakes.









Art nouveau

Ducat and embroidery

Embroideries of Đakovo,
folklore festival (since 1967)
www.djakovo.com, www.tz-djakovo.hr



In the mid-19th century the industrial revolution arrived in these parts. The Osijek match factory was founded in 1856, followed by factories producing beers, malt, ice, furniture, soap and sugar. From 1884 one was able to ride a tram through the streets of Osijek, the first such south of Vienna and Budapest. The imagination of Secession in this city measured that of large metropolises. In 1898 a monument was built to commemorate the 78th Infantry Regiment, the first modern sculpture in Croatia by the sculptor Robert Frangeš Mihanović. That same year Secession-style advertisements were being published in the local papers; residential and public buildings in the same style were built. But the style of Secession made its imprint in quite unexpected places-in the rural communities. In the area around the town of

Županja it was reflected in the fashion of dress and the perception of beautiful, festive and sumptuous attire for special occasions. On festive occasions the women wore up to three bodices and from one to as many as seven embroidered underskirts. The wealth of Slavonia is proudly demonstrated in those traditional festive costumes, made from home-woven cloth and embroidered with gold thread. Hair was meticulously styled in a traditional manner and was kept in place by the application of sugar water. Entire fortunes in gold ducats were carefully strung together for all to see and admire. It is remarkable that in such a small area, several distinctly original styles of such festive clothing developed, specifically in Duboševica, Bapska, Sopje, Đakovo, Bizovac...





Bread and wine

Vallis aurea

Olympiada of old sports, Brodanci (since 1972)
The boom in winegrowing in Pannonia is linked to
the Roman Emperor Probus (3rd century)



In the first centuries AD the area between the Rivers Sava, Drava and Danube became a part of the Roman Empire. This was the time of the first recorded economic boom, testified to by the roads: one led through Podravina towards the fortification of Mursa (Osijek) and the eastern provinces; the other linked the Aquae Balissae spa (Daruvár) and the fertile and wine growing area of Incera (Požega), Certis (Đakovo) and Cibala (Vinkovci)-where two Roman emperors were born: the courageous and popular Valentinian I, and his brother Valens. In the year 351 one of the crucial battles of the late Roman Empire took place near Mursa, where Emperor Constantine defeated the usurper Magnentius. In this conflict the Emperor was supported by the Bishop of Mursa, a fervent supporter of the Arian version of early Christianity, which was accepted by the Goth-barbaric neigh-

bours on the borders of the Empire defined by the Danube. They ruled Pannonia from the 5th century, and the saga of their decisive battle against the Huns travelled from one people to another as one of the oldest Germanic epic poems. In Roman times the area developed as a country where wheat and grapes were grown. Vineyards yielded wines of such quality that they were given appellations such as Mons aureus or Vallis aurea. Today, these areas are the Baranja and Požega-Pleternica wine-growing hills which, together with the Kutjevo vineyards and cellars, rank among the oldest European wine cellars. In other wine-growing areas-around Đakovo, Slavonski Brod, Nova Gradiška, Pakrac, Feričanci, Orahovica-Slatina, Virovitica, Erdut and Vukovar-Ilok-the grape vine has been cultivated for more than a thousand years.







Podunavlje / The Danube Basin

Princes of Ilok

Grape picking in Ilok (since 1962)
info@mgi.hr



For centuries Ilok has been the production centre of the wine of Srijem which, from as early as the Renaissance, was regarded by the writers of the time as the “most highly praised wine in the whole of the north”. This rich medieval little town enjoyed the privilege of self rule-which is testified to by the 1525 Statute. The Franciscan monastery in Ilok is the final resting place of the famous Italian Franciscan, Ivan Kapistran, interred there in 1456. The fortification was built towards the end of the 13th century by the Csak family, and some of its members had already begun to merge their title with the suffix “Von Ilok”. Another prestigious family was the Konths, its most prominent member being Nikola of Ilok, the Duke of Erdély, one of the most powerful Hungarian nobles of his time. Viceroy of Slavonia, Croatia and Mačva, he



minted his own coins and, when he died in 1477, he held the title of King of Bosnia. The vast family possessions were inherited by his son Lovro, Herzeg of Bosnia and Viceroy of Mačva who, as one of the mightiest feudal lords of the times, posed a threat to the king himself. Vineyards growing on the loess plateaux, which enjoy good drainage, and slopes on low elevations above the right bank of the Danube, extend from the Renaissance fortification at Erdut to the famous wine cellars of Ilok. Wines from that cellar were acclaimed at world exhibitions in Paris, Trieste, Vienna and Budapest back in the 19th century. Ilok’s Upper Town is one of the most beautiful points from where one can, while enjoying a glass of the famous Traminac of Ilok, watch the mighty Danube calmly flow by.

New Age Orient Express

Kulen competition in Požega, competition of producers (since 1982)
European Avenue in Osijek (bottom).

The modern life introduced through the rise in industry did not clash with rural traditions and the best they have to offer-food. The people of Slavonia complemented their traditional delicacies with Kaiser sweets and Stark chocolates, sweets from the Požega factory, Krenkhely liqueurs or the Nektar liqueurs from Nova Gradiška, as well as with champagne from Slatina. The glasses from which they drank were produced in the small towns of Zvečevo, Seona, near Našice or Herzog in Osijek. The matured "kulen" produced by the Brothers Nedela was washed down with beer made in Osijek or Daruvar, or with the wine and mineral water of Lipik-which has been on sale since 1875. With some 80 factories around the year 1925, Osijek was the hub of industry, a town with the highest concentration of industry in the State of the time. The new style of the

times left a deep imprint in Brod, Vukovar and Vinkovci, both in architecture and in prevailing taste. The internationally renowned spa of Lipice attracted people from all walks of life, including the famed Fjodor Šaljapin, the Russian operatic basso profundo. It was here that big land-owners, mayors, political dignitaries, artists, mayors, political dignitaries, generals, artists, scientists and rich folk from Europe and America relaxed. Slavonia also became the intersection of continental transport routes, which brought in a quite new world-modern, dynamic and bubbling with enthusiasm. The Orient Express linked Western Europe with Istanbul and the Middle East, and it was the opulent interiors of the train which, stuck in snow in front of Vinkovci, provided the setting for the end of a thriller by Agatha Christie.









J. J. Strossmayer

Oak

Church of St. Peter and St. Paul
in Topolje, Baranja, www.draz.hr
Strossmayer Cathedral (bottom)



Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Bishop of the Đakovo-Srijem Diocese, represents one of Croatia's most illustrious historical episodes. An excellent organizer, bilingual almost from birth, he became aware of the value of knowledge at an early age. Through his skilled management the economic performance of the diocese so improved that he was able to place the profits in the service of the people. He was the founder of the key institutions of science, education and culture, patron of arts and champion of the ecumenical philosophy which the Church accepted only during the Papacy of John Paul II. He even provided financial assistance to the Prince-Bishop of Montenegro, the Serbian Principality, Bulgarian culture and Bosnian Beys. The Strossmayer cathedral in Đakovo is, according to Pope John XXIII, the most beautiful church between Venice and Istanbul. Slavonia has another symbol that links heaven and earth, this one being a work of nature. The common oak, the most noble of all oaks, *Quercus robur*, is widespread in the flood plains of the Rivers Sava and Drava. Nobody has described it so well as did the writer Josip Kozarac, who wrote about the oak: "This emperor among oaks", whose bole can reach a height of 50 metres. The oak is indispensable whether it be as a traditional building material, or as the finest material for barrels. Common oak is an integral part of the spatial code of Slavonia, indelibly imprinted into the collective consciousness of its population. The great Bishop holds the same position, but in the spiritual sphere: he constantly strove towards the heights above the lowland horizon, resilient to all misfortunes and to the time.







Vučedol

Orion

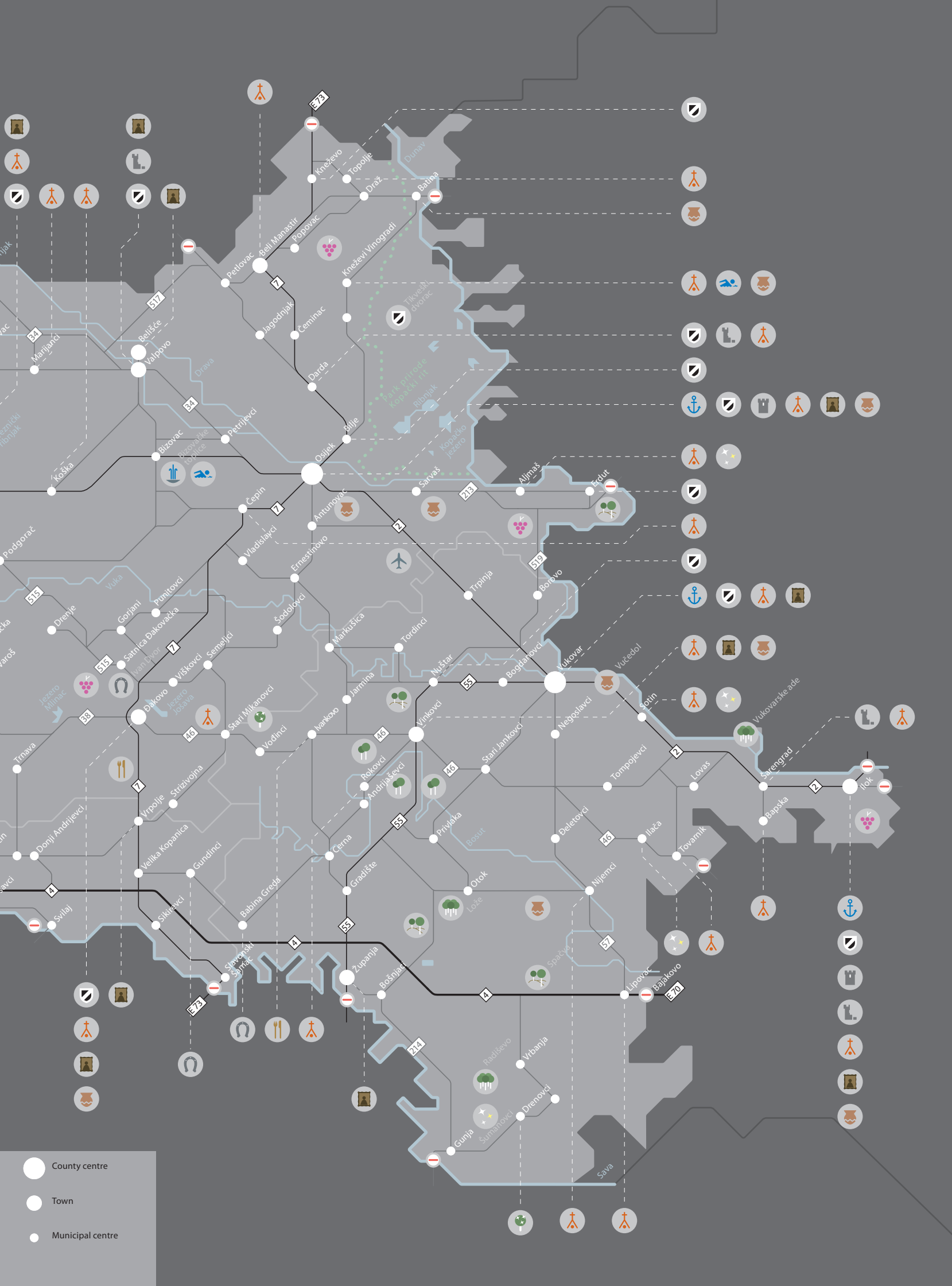
Jasprena, Duboševica (Baranja)
tz-vukovar@vu.t-com.hr

The fateful bond between the population of the plains and land the provider has predestined that life in these parts ever pulsates in harmony with the laws of nature. This is why man, “set between the earth and the stars”, has been reading cosmic signs since time immemorial. First to understand them were the ancient people of Vučedol, one of the most specific cultures which existed between 3000 and 2400 BC in the wider area of the basin of the Danube. On clear winter nights they directed their gazes and their thoughts towards the constellation of Orion at the heaven’s equator, which they honoured as a deity. They perceived a supernatural, divine hand in the shining start at the corners of its rectangle. When Orion seemed to vanish come springtime, they followed the changing phases of the Moon

and created one of the oldest calendars. They adapted their lives to it, and integrated it with a great deal of imagination, as into their daily lives, so into their mythology. This ritual of life was translated into graphic symbols, a kind of pictorial script found on the cult/ritual ceramic pots of exceptional beauty. On their cultural monuments they left their message for all time. As though nothing essential has changed in the endless passage of time. Today, as in the time of the Vučedol culture, the local population is rooted into the Pannonian soil, like the oaks. Today, they still live their lives in accordance with the calendar of seasons, striving towards the future, their gazes directed towards Orion.









County of Osijek-Baranja

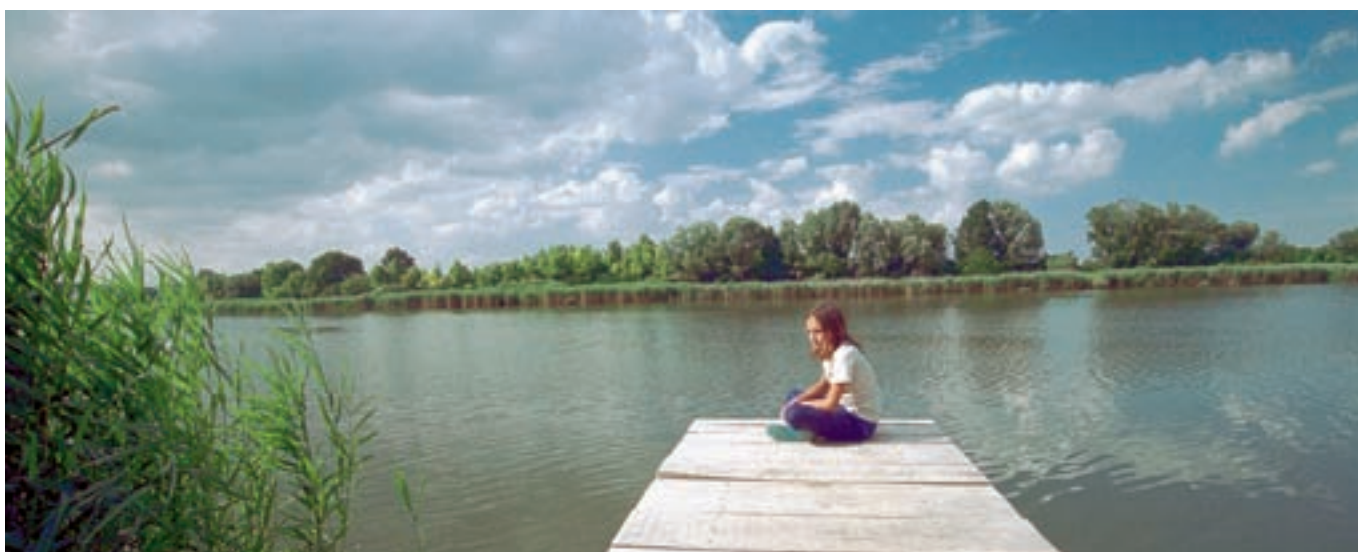
The River Drava

www.tzosbarzup.hr
www.tzbaranje.hr

The County of Osijek-Baranja occupies the north-eastern part of Croatia, i.e. the lower Croatian Podravina with parts of the historical regions of Slavonia and Baranja. It is an open plain dominated by the alluvial lowlands of the Rivers Drava and Danube. Exceptions are the low elevations of “Bansko brdo” in Baranja and “Daljska planina”, with the loess Erdutsko brdo south of the confluence of the Drava and Danube. The point of gravitation for settlements in Baranja is Osijek-as for Beli Manastir, its centre, so for Belišće. There are also Našice, Valpovo, Donji Miholjac, Đakovo, and other settlements which, through their public buildings and horticultural monuments, represent a link with the urban structures and architecture of Central Europe (protected parks in Donji Miholjac, Valpovo, Našice, Đakovo, Muštar, Osijek, Tenja, Dalj, Bilje and Čepin). Their history can be learned in the local museums: Museum of the Val-

povo Area, of Belišće, of the Đakovo Area, the Zoological Museum of Baranja(Kopačevo). A variety of manifestations taking place also contribute to their attraction: Ethno-Eco Festival (Bilje, VI); The Ribald Songs and Verses of Baranja (Draž, VI); Summer in Valpovo (VI); Encounters in Miholjac (VII); Harvest Festivities of Petrijevci (VII); The Đakovo Embroideries (VII); Pilgrimage for the Feast of the Assumption (Aljmaš, VIII); Art Colony (Ernestinovo, VIII); Olympiad of Old Sports (Brođanci, VIII); Autumn in Baranja (Beli Manastir, IX); Sling Competition (Radikovci, IX); Days of Slavonian Forest (Našice, IX); Get-togethers in Ladimirevci (XI-XII).

On the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List is the annual spring procession of “Kraljice/Ljelje” (queens) from Gorjani. Croatia is among the countries with the most protected intangible cultural heritage elements, recorded on the UNESCO list.









City of Osijek

The Bridge

grad-osijek@os.t-com.hr
www.tzosijek.hr

As well as being the administrative seat of the County of Osijek-Baranja, Osijek is the largest town and plays the leading role in the towns of eastern Croatia. The crucial factor for its development has always been its “bridging” role, its position at the most favourable crossing point of the River Drava. It is symbolized by the famous 16th-century, 8 km-long Suleyman’s bridge, built across the wetlands of Baranja to Darda. The transport routes that intersect here ensured that Osijek developed as the centre of the wider region. This worked in favour of early industrialization and urbanization, and by the end of the 19th century it had become one of the largest and most developed towns in Croatia. This is reflected in the rich architectural heritage: the urban entity known as Tvrda, with a range of monumental and prestigious buildings; the Upper Town shaped in

the 19th century, and finally, the park architecture-which sets Osijek apart as the best horticulturally landscaped town in Croatia. Today, this town is also the cultural centre of this part of the country, with its own university and scientific institutions. All those aspects create the special charm of this Pannonian metropolis of Croatia. Among a number of museums and collections, the Museum of Slavonia and the Gallery of Visual Arts are worthy of a visit. Cultural events take place in Osijek: International competition of young pianists (I.), SLUK, Festival of puppet theatres (V), Festival of tamburitza music (V), Osijek’s Summer of Culture (VII), Summer Nights in Osijek (VI-VIII), Krleža’s Days (XI), “Fishiade”, or as some would say, a festival of fish fare, Biennale of Slavonians (XII), Pannonian Challenge (VIII) and Zemlja bez granica (VIII./IX.)





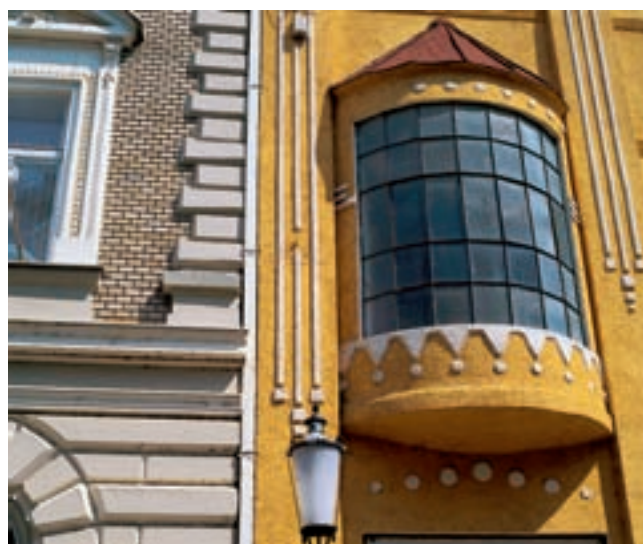
County of Brod-Posavina

The River Sava

turisticka-zajednica.bpz@sb.t-com.hr
www.tzgsb.hr, www.tzgng.hr

This county includes the elongated belt along the River Sava in the southern part of Slavonia. This section of Slavonian Posavina, between the mountains of Psunj, Babja gora and Dilj-gora in the north and the Sava in the south, central Croatia to the west, and east Croatian plain in the east, is a part of Croatia with the most distinct characteristics of Posavina. Its landscape is dominated by the lowlands along the Sava, between the narrow elevated belt along the Sava in the south and edges towards the foothill region in the north. Only smaller areas of the once vast natural forests of common oak in Posavina remain, and the most valuable of these are today protected as reserves of forest vegetation. Slavonian Posavina was for a long time under the dominance of Požega, but following the construction of roads through the valley of the Sava it gradually began to develop as the backbone of both life and

transport in this part of Slavonia. The key position, and role, among the settlements of Brod-Posavina County as it is today, belongs to Slavonski Brod, its regional centre. Its position close to the border, and therefore its strategic significance in the past, is reflected the architectural heritage-in particular the large Baroque fortress and the Franciscan monastery. The second largest urban centre is Nova Gradiška, which is a gravitation point for the western part of the county. The cultural and historical development of these parts can be viewed in the County Museum in Nova Gradiška, and in nearby Cernik, with its old citadel and Baroque Franciscan monastery. The attraction of Brod-Posavina County is contributed to by the memorial house of sculptor Ivan Meštrović in Vrpolje, as well as by the traditional manifestations, "Brodsko kolo" (VI), and Summer of Nova Gradiška (VIII).









County of Virovitica and Podravina

Gilding

www.virovitica.hr
www.slatina.hr
www.orahovica.hr

The County of Virovitica-Podravina is situated in the north-western part of eastern Croatia, covering the western part of Slavonian Podravina, between the elevations of Bilogora and Papuk in the south and the River Drava, (the Hungarian border) in the north. Its northern part is predominantly flat country which gradually rises towards the mountain massif of Papuk. The Nature Park within it contains the valuable natural heritage of the county (the geological monument of Rupnica, the Jankovac park-forest and Sekulinačke planine, a special reserve of forest vegetation). Outstanding settlements are Virovitica, Slatina and Orahovica. Virovitica grew at the crossroads, as both the historical and the modern centre of this part of Slavonian Podravina. The historical significance of the

town is reflected in the Baroque-Classicistic-style castle, and in the Franciscan complex containing valuable monastery collections, and the church of St. Roc-one of the most mature Baroque entities in the whole of Slavonia. Orahovica has a valuable cultural heritage (the Ružica burgh, the monastery of St. Nicholas). Pitomača is an internationally known venue for children's films. Virovitica-Podravina County also possesses protected parks (Virovitica, Slatina, Suhopolje), the Virovitica Town Museum, the County Museums in Slatina and Orahovica, the Ethnological Collection, as well as a number of cultural manifestations: Songs of Podravina and Podravlje (Pitomača, VI), The Spring of Orahovica (VI), Rokovo (Virovitica, VIII), Days of Milko Kelemen (Slatina, X).





County of Vukovar-Srijem

The Danube

www.tzvsz.hr
www.zupanja.hr

Vukovar-Srijem covers western Srijem and the south-eastern part of Slavonia, with three natural geographical entities: the loess plain of Vukovar, the Bosut lowlands with the basin of Spačva and the Posavina around Županja. In the far, eastern section, the loess plain extends into the foothills of Fruška gora, ending in steep inclines by the Danube. The Spačva basin is the core of the once famous Slavonian forests, with some 400 km² under common oak. The most valuable parts of that forest now enjoy protection as special reserves of forest vegetation (Lože and Radiševo). Natural sites of Spačva also include the locality of Virovi. The most important aspects of cultural heritage are found in Vinkovci, Vukovar, Županja and Ilok. The centre of the county, both historically and today, is Vukovar, also the largest Croatian port on the Danube. Its development took off at the beginning of the 18th century, when the picturesque heart

of the town was shaped with many prestigious buildings built in Baroque style along the main street. The terrible devastation suffered by the town during the Croatian War of Independence, and the role it played in that war, resulted in Vukovar becoming a memorial monument, and occupying a unique place in the collective consciousness of the Croatian people. Županja has been a venue for tennis and football since as far back as 1880s. The county also stages a number of manifestations more than well worth a visit: “Šokačko sijelo” (Encounters of Šokadija, Županja, II); How lovely is Srijem (Nijemci, V); Springtime in Otok (Otok, V); Festival of Actors (V); Where the Danube Kisses the Sky (Vukovar, VI); White Horses (Babina Greda, VI); Harvesting and Threshing in the Past (Županja, VII); Harvest Festivities (Cerna, VII); Grape Picking in Ilok (IX), and Autumns in Vinkovci (IX).









County of Požega-Slavonia

Springs

www.tzps.hr
www.pozega-tz.hr
www.pakrac.hr

In the central part of western Slavonia, situated between Podravina and Posavina, is the County of Požega-Slavonia. Its landscape is dominated by the mountainous chain encircling the Požega valley, separating it from the Drava valley to the north, the River Sava to the south, and the River Pakra in the west. Covered in forests, the mountains of Psunj, Papuk, Krndija, Požeška gora and Dilj-gora also abound in water. The peak belt and the slopes of those mountains are replete with springs feeding numerous streams, while their foothills hold thermal springs. The natural treasures of Slavonia's mountains are further enriched by the protected natural heritage ("Muški bunar" (Man's well at Psunj, and "Sovsko jezero" (lake) on Dilj-gora). The traditional centre of this part of Slavonia, and today also the seat of Požega-Slavonia County, is Požega, with its rich cul-

tural heritage-particularly its central square, one of the most beautiful in the country. This town has been made famous throughout the world by its native son, the Congo explorer, Dragutin Lehrman. The Požega Valley, enclosed and sheltered by its relief, has a long winegrowing tradition and is now becoming widely known for its ecological food production. In the north, at the foot of Krndija and Papuk, are locations interesting to tourists: Kutjevo, with its famous wine cellars, and Velika together with Toplice, its thermal spa. The cultivated appearance of this part of Slavonia is contributed to by its protected parks (Kutjevo, Trenkovo, and Lipik). The Cultural manifestations held here also play an important role: Grgurevo (III), Festival of one-minute films (V), Golden Strings of Slavonia (IX), Days of Graševina (Kutjevo).





Eneolithic

Calendar

At the same time when the first town in Mesopotamia emerged, before the appearance of cuneiform writing, at the beginning of the early dynastic period of ancient Egypt, of the foundation of Troy and European beginnings, traces of which are found in megalithic tombs, a shaman in today's town of Vinkovci used in his rituals an almost nondescript ceramic ornamented pot. In a scientific adventure no less exciting than was Schliemann's excavation of Troy, or Champollion's deciphering of hieroglyphs on the walls of the Pharaoh's pyramid fascinating, it was discovered that the signs on that vessel constituted a precise record of celestial phenomena occurring throughout the year, with star constellations and beginnings of seasons of the year, in the centre of which was the magnificent constellation of Orion. A millennium before Stonehenge, and half a millennium before pyramids were built, people in these parts created the oldest known star calendar!



Tourist Board of the County of Osijek-Baranja
Kapucinska 40,
31000 Osijek, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 214 852; Fax: 385 31 495 975
info@tzbaranje.hr
www.tzbaranje.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Osijek
Županijska 2, 31000 Osijek, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 203 755; Fax: 385 31 203 947
grad-osijek@os.t-com.hr
www.tzosijek.hr

Tourist Board of Baranja
Imre Nagya 2, 31300 Beli Manastir, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 702 080; Fax: 385 31 495 975
tz.grada.belog.manastira@os.t-com.hr
info@tzbaranje.hr
www.tzbaranje.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Belišće
Tel: 385 31 400 601; Fax: 385 31 400 602
Grad Belišće p.p/20
31551 Belišće, Croatia
grad.belisce-odnosi.s.javnoscu@os.t-com.hr
www.belisce.net

Tourist Board of the Town of Donji Miholjac
Vukovarska 1, 31540 Donji Miholjac, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 633 103; Fax: 385 31 633 103
tzdm@tz-donjimiholjac.hr
www.tz-donjimiholjac.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Đakovo
Kralja Tomislava 3, 31400 Đakovo, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 812 319; Fax: 385 31 822 319
tz-grada-djakova@os.t-com.hr
www.tz-djakovo.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Našice
Pejačevićev trg 4, 31500 Našice, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 614 951; Fax: 385 31 614 951
tz.nasice@hi.t-com.hr
www.tznasice.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Valpovo
Matije Gupca 32, 31550 Valpovo, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 656 200; Fax: 385 31 651 408
info@tz-valpovo.com
www.tz-valpovo.com

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Bilje
Kralja Zvonimira 10, 31327 Bilje, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 751 480; Fax: 385 31 751 481
info@tzo-bilje.hr
www.tzo-bilje.hr

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Bizovac
Kralja Tomislava 89, 31222 Bizovac, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 675 301; Fax: 385 31 675 674
nacelnik@opcina-bizovac.hr
www.opcina-bizovac.hr

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Draž
I. L. Ribara 10, 31305 Draž, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 736 100; Fax: 385 31 736 474
draz@draz.hr
www.draz.hr

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Erdut
Bana Josipa Jelačića 4, 31226 Dalj, Croatia
Tel: 385 31 590 111; Fax: 385 31 590 150
opcinaer@inet.hr
www.opcina-erdut.hr

Tourist Board of the County of Brod-Posavina
Petra Krešimira IV. 1,
35000 Slavonski Brod, Croatia
Tel: 385 35 408 393; Fax: 385 35 408 392
turisticka-zajednica.bpz@sb.t-com.hr
www.tzbpz.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Slavonski Brod
Trg pobjede 28/1, 35000 Slavonski Brod, Croatia
Tel: 385 35 447 721; Fax: 385 35 447 721
info@tzgsb.hr
www.tzgsb.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Nova Gradiška
Slavonskih graničara 15, p.p. 27, 35400
Nova Gradiška, Croatia
Tel: 385 35 361 494; Fax: 385 35 361 494
tzgng@tzgng.hr
www.tzgng.hr

Tourist Board of the County of Virovitica-Podravina
Masarykova 6, 33000 Virovitica, Croatia
Tel: 385 33 726 069; Fax: 385 33 722 060
ured@tzvpz.hr
www.tzvpz.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Virovitica
Trg kralja Tomislava 1, 33000 Virovitica, Croatia
Tel: 385 33 721 241; Fax: 385 33 721 241
virovitica@hi.t-com.hr
www.virovitica.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Orahovica
F. Gavrančića 6, 33515 Orahovica, Croatia
Tel: 385 33 673 540; Fax: 385 33 673 125
tzgorahovica@tzgorahovica.hr
www.tzgorahovica.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Slatina
Trg sv. Josipa 1, 33520 Slatina, Croatia
Tel: 385 33 553 629; Fax: 385 33 553 629
tz-grada-slatina@vt.t-com.hr

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Pitomača
Ljudevita Gaja 26/1, 33405 Pitomača, Croatia
Tel: 385 33 782 860; Fax: 385 33 782 870
turisticka@pitomaca.hr
www.pitomaca.hr

Tourist Board of the County of Vukovar-Srijem
Glagoljaška 27, 32100 Vinkovci, Croatia
Tel: 385 32 344 034; Fax: 385 32 344 034
turisticka-zajednica@vk.t-com.hr
www.tzvsz.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Vinkovci
Trg bana Josipa Šokčevića 3,
32100 Vinkovci, Croatia
Tel: 385 32 334 653; Fax: 385 32 334 658
turisticka.zajednica@vk.t-com.hr
www.tz-vinkovci.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Vukovar
J. J. Strossmayera 15, 32000 Vukovar, Croatia
Tel: 385 32 442 889; Fax: 385 32 442 889
tz-vukovar@vu.t-com.hr
www.tz-vukovar.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Ilok
Trg Nikole Iločkog 2, 32 236 Ilok, Croatia
Tel: 385 32 590 020; Fax: 385 32 592 966
tzilok@post.t-com.hr
www.turizamilok.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Županja
Veliki kraj 66, 32270 Županja, Croatia
Tel: 385 32 832 711; Fax: 385 32 832 711
tz-zupanja@vk.t-com.hr
www.zupanja.hr

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Nijemci
Trg kralja Tomislava 6, 32 245 Nijemci, Croatia
Tel: 385 32 280 376; Fax: 385 32 280 377
tznijemci@inet.hr
www.nijemci.hr

Tourist Board of the County of Požega-Slavonia
Županijska 7, 34000 Požega, Croatia
Tel: 385 34 290 177; Fax: 385 34 290 226
kontakt@tzpps.hr
www.tzpps.hr

Tourist Board of the Town of Požega
Trg sv. Trojstva 1, 34000 Požega, Croatia
Tel: 385 34 274 900; Fax: 385 34 274 901
tz-pozega@po.t-com.hr
www.pozega-tz.hr

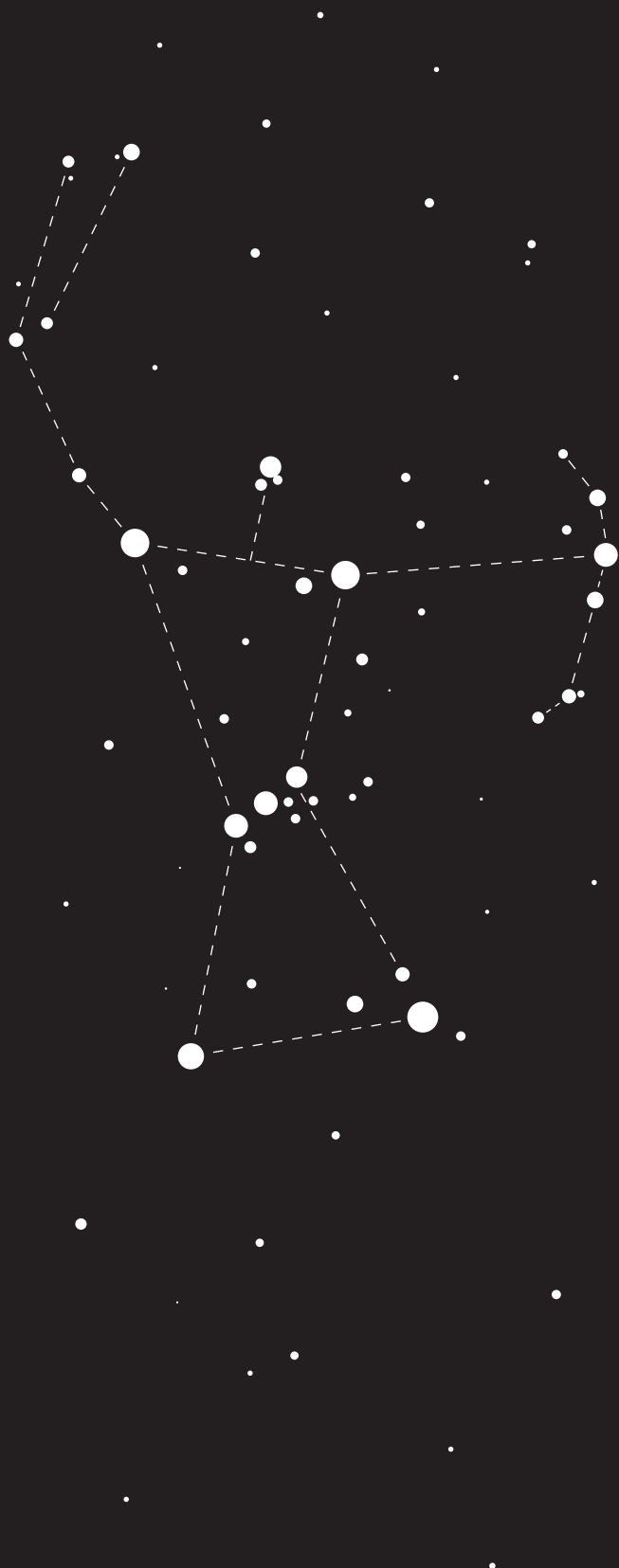
Tourist Board of the Town of Lipik
Trg kralja Tomislava 3, 34551 Lipik, Croatia
Tel: 385 34 314 809; Fax: 385 34 421 031
tz.lipik@gmail.com
www.lipik.hr/turizam

Tourist Board of the Town of Pakrac
Hrvatskih velikana 3 34550 Pakrac, Croatia
Tel: 385 34 411 288; Fax: 385 34 411 288
tz.pakrac@gmail.com
www.tz.pakrac.hr

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Kutjevo
Trg Graševine 1, 34340 Kutjevo, Croatia
Tel: 385 34 255 288; Fax: 385 34 255 093
tz@kutjevo.hr
www.tz-kutjevo.com

Tourist Board of the Municipality of Velika
Trg sv. Augustina bb, 34330 Velika, Croatia
Tel: 385 34 233 135; Fax: 385 34 233 135
tz-velika@net.hr
www.tz-velika.com

Hrvatska turistička zajednica
(Croatian National Tourist Board)
Iblerov trg 10, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: 385 1 46 99 333; Fax: 385 1 45 57 827
info@htz.hr
www.croatia.hr



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For the publisher:
Niko Bulić, M.Sc.

Project Advisory Board:
Niko Bulić, Stipe Maleš, Rujana Bušić, Josip Mikolčić,
Petar Huljić, Dalibor Nedela,
Antonio Sobol

Editor:
Slavija Jačan Obratov
Concept:
Milan Sivački, Creation Team
Dr. Aleksandar Durman & Dr. Dane Pejnović
Collaborators:
Miroslav Ambruš-Kiš, Ivo Oblijan & Dr. Želimir
Brnić

Text authors:
Stanko Andrić, Dane Pejnović, Grgur Marko
Ivanković & Stjepan Lončarić

Photography:
Dražen Bota, Damir Fabijanić, Dalibor Nedela, Ivo
Pervan, Saša Pjanić, Damir Rajle, Mario Romulić,
Zvonimir Tanocki & Marin Topić

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Material acquisition assistants:
Damir Macanić, Janja Juzbašić & Srećko Vuković

Authors of literature used:
Dr. Viktor Amruš, Dr. Nedeljko Bosanac, Božica
Brkan, Dr. Katica Čorkalo, Ljubica Gligorević, M.Sc.,
Rudolf Heli, Dr. Ivana Iskra Janošić, Dr. Eduard
Kušen, Vilim Matić, Ivo Lajtman, Srećko Ljubljanović,
Ivica Mandić, Dr. Stanislav Marjanović, Dr. Ive
Mažuran, Dr. Melita Mihaljević, Dr. Jozsef Mikuska,
Božo Plevnik, Goran Radonić, Dr. Stjepan Sršan,
Vlasta Šabić, Dr. Jasna Šimić, Dr. Branko Štancel & Dr.
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