

TASTE OF CROATIA

8 Days / 7 Nights

This gourmet tour has been designed for those with a specific interest in experiencing Croatia's culinary delights and wineries. The tour utilises first class accommodation throughout and visits some of Istria's finest vineyards. There will be opportunity to sample the local cuisine (the region around the town of Motovun is famous for its truffles) and some of Croatia's finest wines. Istria has some of the most picturesque scenery Croatia has to offer and, coupled with superb restaurants, this all inclusive holiday is designed to appeal to the 'gourmet' in all of us.

Day 1: Arrive Zagreb

Arrival and check in at the 5 star Regent Esplanade Hotel Zagreb. Three course gourmet dinner with a glass of wine in the hotel restaurant. Overnight. (D)

Day 2: Zagreb - Plesivica Wine Route - Zagreb

Breakfast followed by a guided walking tour of Zagreb, capital of Croatia. The tour will enable you to explore the architecture and monuments of the Lower town and continues through the narrow streets of the Upper town, visiting the Cathedral, Dolac open air market, Stone Gate, St Mark's church with its famous chequered roof, Parliament and the Government buildings. You will finish with a coffee/tea in one of the picturesque cafes. Around noon you will depart for Plesivica, situated on a wine route in the hills near Zagreb. You will have lunch in a local restaurant followed by a scenic drive and wine tasting at Tomac winery. Return to Zagreb for dinner at a local restaurant featuring typical Croatian cuisine. Overnight at the 5 star Regent Esplanade Hotel. (B, D)

Day 3: Zagreb - Opatija - Istria (Buje - Brtonigla)

After breakfast at the hotel you will travel to Opatija. The city, owes its' name to the Benedictine Abbey which was built in the 15th century, on the sea shore. It was a pearl of Austro-Hungarian Riviera at the end of 19th century, which gained recognition as a tourist destination by the Austrian and European high society. You will continue through the Istrian peninsula to the area of Buje, the centre of Istria's wine region, where you will have lunch and sample a few local wines. Following lunch, it is a leisurely drive to your hotel in the village of Brtonigla. Gourmet dinner and overnight in a lovely rustic 4 star hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Istria (Brtonigla - Groznan - Motovan - Brtonigla)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a drive and a wine tasting at Ravalico, and the cellars of F.lli & Figli. After that you will depart for the stunning hilltop town of Groznan. Lunch at a local gourmet restaurant followed by a short drive to Motovun, a town between dream and reality, located on the very peak of a hill which offers a magnificent view of the valley, the Mirna river and the surrounding hills. The Groznan and Motovun regions are famous for their truffles, as well as the best white wines Croatia has to offer. Return to Brtonigla for dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in a 4 star hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Istria (Brtonigla - Visnjan - Porec - Rovinj)

After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart to Kurncici and visit the local wine producer Matosevic to sample his exceptional products. After the tasting, you will continue to Porec for a walking tour and visit to the ancient basilica - Euphrasia. Lunch will be taken at a local restaurant and the afternoon will be spent in Rovinj, the Jewel of Istria, where you will take a short walking tour and have dinner. Overnight in Rovinj at a 4 star hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Istria (Rovinj - Vodnjan - Pula - Rovinj)

Following breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for Vodnjan, the olive oil centre of Istria and a wine tasting at Giacometti-Moscarda wine cellar followed by a visit to St. Blais' neo-baroque basilica and a typical lunch in agro-restaurant "Sia". In the afternoon you will take a walking tour of Pula and visit the Roman Amphitheatre. Dinner at a local restaurant. Return to Rovinj to your 4 star hotel for the overnight. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Istria (Rovinj) - Zagreb

Breakfast and return to Zagreb early afternoon. Farewell dinner at a typical Zagreb restaurant. Overnight at the 5 star Regent Esplanade Hotel. (B, D)

Day 8: Zagreb - Departure

Breakfast and check out. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON FROM: \$3,227

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation as specified in a 4 or 5 star hotel (7 x bed & breakfast) with local stay tax and VAT
- Seven (7) 3 course dinners including wine
- Five (5) 3 course lunches including wine
- Four (4) wine tasting sessions at well known local wineries
- Transportation with private car/minibus throughout
- Guided tours of Zagreb, Groznan, Motovun, Porec, Rovinj, Vodnjan, Pula
- Admission fees to sights included in the program

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Beverages where not specified
- Porterage
- Tips
- Items of a personal nature
- Airport transfers

NOTE: Based on shared twin/double accommodation, group of 6 travelling together.

