

**Invitation**

## **Fly-In Rovinj 2016**

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2016



**The Magic of Istrian Gastronomy!**

**Destination airport: Pula - LDPL**

Istria - Croatia's largest peninsula - will enchant you, not only with its coast, but also with the beauty and diversity of its inland.

This Fly-In is not primarily about culinary delights, but it would be grossly negligent to avoid them.

On this tour, we want to more closely experience the "Istrian Tuscany" and take in the treasures of this beautiful, fertile countryside.

To ensure that we succeed in this, we have, so to speak, as an entrée reserved beautiful rooms in the wonderful \*\*\*\*\* *Hotel Monte Mulini* – overlooking the sea.

From here there are, in fact, far too many options for discovering the country – but we will try to gather lasting impressions with the help of a number of exceptional particularities.



At the top of a hill, for example, there is the artists' village of *Kostanjca* with its enchanting Old Town, through which ancient cobbled streets lead.



If you look carefully, you will discover surprising things, like a hidden bar in a noble Italian style or other ornamentally restored houses.



But soon the hilly landscape shows itself covered in vines. Manifold, as the fertile soil and the local climate produce quite a lot of sought-after wine. Near Koslovic, for example, but the Matosevic produce in particular!



The typical white wine in Istria is the fresh and elegant Malvasia, which should be drunk young. This wine can be enjoyed in the barriques - that traditional award-winning Alba Barrique.





Here, the way is the goal, but hidden away in the hinterland in an excellent little hotel with equally good cuisine – San Rocco – a place of enjoyment, that is not to be missed.



One legend, for example, is Zigante – the 'Truffle Pope'. But on closer inspection, it's his business acumen that stands out, which rather encourages one to look around for alternatives.

In any case, this gourmet mushroom is an important topic in Istria, so one finds it regularly adding a culinary touch to the pleasures in this region.



By chance we discovered another little farm 'at the end of the world'. The door was open and we were politely welcomed inside. Somewhat hesitatingly, we followed and soon found ourselves sitting at the dining room table. We gathered that the family lived from their goats and, in particular, from home-made cheese. Of course, we had to try everything – a pleasure, including the goats cheese with truffle, which one dips into olive oil. Followed by home-made Grappa. Hospitality that's almost embarrassing.





We continued the journey through the region and our curiosity led us to a small farmyard. There was nobody there except an old man in a small hut, surrounded by numerous dogs of every conceivable age and mixture.

Here a bunch of geese, there a lonely infinity-pool in the middle of nowhere. Olive, nut and fruit trees led to a view over a fabulous valley.

Three well-dressed ladies appeared out of nowhere and joined us. They asked if we'd seen a particular gentleman – they wanted to pay for the youngest's wedding feast. Where had we landed? One of the ladies told us in excellent English that even Ban Ki Moon had been a guest here!

Was this place his secret?

Just to remind you - Ban Ki-Moon is a South Korean diplomat and politician. He was South Korea's Foreign Minister between 2004 and 2006 and has been the 8<sup>th</sup> Secretary General of the United Nations since 1. of January 2007.



We were in fact in Paladnjaki, as this estate was called.

In the course of our further researches into this special area, we even managed to meet the son of the house. From him we learnt that he would like to invite us – all of us in the MMIG46 – to a typical regional meal!

We are looking forward to it!



But now it was time to make our way back to Rovinj. That evening we wanted to have something nice to eat somewhere and so we followed one of the narrow lanes through the Old Town. It said *Puntulina* over the entrance and soon we were sitting again at a table, balancing on the sloping rockface. Obviously, we would have to come back here again!

Naturally, we want to share this paradise with the MMIG46 and are please to be able to present the wonderful impressions to you, dear members.

So don't forget – Fly-In Rovinj – 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

As always the first ones to register get the best rooms!

**Last registration: 20. April 2016**

Registrations please under:

<http://mmig46.eu/index.php/welcome/news/mmig46-fly-in-rovinj-2016/registration>

With best wishes

On behalf of the Committee

Wilhelm Schröer