

CROATIA  
THROUGH THE EYES  
OF THE HUNTER







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From the Great cave by Varaždin, San Daniele by Pula, the Great cave on the island of Korčula, the shelter of the Neanderthal hunter by Krapina, to the Veternica cave above Zagreb, the oldest traces found in Croatia speak of the Palaeolithic hunters.



On Marjan, a wooded hill in Split, even before Diocletian's palace was built, a shrine devoted to Diana, the Roman goddess of hunting, the Dalmatian Thana, was erected. While on the noble island of Vis, the oldest and most beautiful antique finding is a bronze statue of Artemis, goddess of the hunt and fertility.



Numerous names of places or regions in Croatia have their roots in hunting or game, a testimony to the relationship between man and animal in those regions, from the very beginning.

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Above a delightful lake teeming with fish, in the naturally preserved landscape, stands the romantic Trakošćan castle. In the surroundings of the castle, one of the most beautiful in northern Croatia, are rich hunting grounds.

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Tall, dense old red oak forests in Spačva, in the South of Slavonia, are a national treasure. Yet they are only the remains of ancient heath forests which densely covered the big confluent lowland rivers Dunav, Drava and Sava.

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After the First World War, the main royal hunting ground, Tikveš, became a diplomatic hunting ground. Today, this is an attractive top class destination; with the densest population of game deer in Europe and the revered challenge of wild boar hunting.

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A photograph of a person in a field, possibly a hunter, holding a rifle. The person is partially obscured by a large black rectangular text box on the left side of the image. The background consists of tall grass in the foreground and a dense forest of trees in the background. The lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

## WELCOME!

If you like to hunt, be it alone or in the company of a dog or a bird of prey, in silence or as part of a chase, armed with a rifle or a camera, Croatia is the hunter's Eldorado in which your hosts know what hunting is all about, and where hunters are understood.





## WELCOME A THOUSAND KUNA

In a country of only 56,594 square kilometres (5,659,400 ha), two million hectares are covered by forests, another 400,000 are open spaces or semi-open wilderness, while various types of hunting grounds account for almost five million hectares of land (1060).



*Lovački ujesnik* (The Hunting Herald) (1892) is one of the oldest vocational hunting gazettes in Europe



A poster for a hunting exhibition Zagreb, 1954

The diversity of the regions found in such a small area is quite something: from the Mediterranean islands, the mainland coast and the hinterland, the highlands covered with coniferous forests interspaced with clearings, the hilly areas rich in deciduous forests, to the flood areas around the large rivers and the marshes and wetlands teeming with life. The landscape diversity offers thousands of opportunities for demanding hunters, ranging from hunting with birds of prey (falconry) to the experience of big game challenge. Hunting in Croatia is a well organised activity based on age-long tradition. One of the elements in the national coat of arms, which represents a synthesis of the country's historic regions, is a pine marten, the *kuna*. The national currency in today's Croatia carries the name of *kuna* – the animal whose pelt used to be the currency in these parts in the Middle Ages.





3



4



The best trophy of a red deer from Spačva (212.91 points), first prize, Düsseldorf, 1954



A badge: Gamekeeper

**KUNAS**

**HUNTING:**

Beech marten (*Martes foina* EHR)

–year round, except when the female is in advanced pregnancy and nursing its young

European Pine marten (*Martes martes* L.)

–from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> (29<sup>th</sup>) February

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis* L.) – no hunting

1 A FOLK HANDICRAFT (Slavonia) with the frequent motif of wild game

2 DEER, embroidery on canvas

3 A CROATIAN HUNTER from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

4 *U lovu* (Hunting), a painting by Croatian painter Vladimir Filakovac (1892-1972)

5 Going hunting by train: hunters from Slavonia from the 1930s

6 HUNTERS from north-western Croatia (Varaždin) from the 1930s

5



6







## A LARGE HUNTING GROUND

Croatia is a grand little hunting ground. Just as there are various landscapes in a small area, so too are there numerous hunting challenges. The landscapes include the Mediterranean climate belts, the rocky islands and the mainland coastline, great expanses of the virgin highland forests, as well as the rich and mature deciduous forests covering the hilly regions, the open grassland and the heaths, the river valleys and the wetlands. To make hunting still more challenging, all these various landscapes stretch not only across the belts of different climatic conditions—from the harsh continental through the moderate to the mild Mediterranean—but also through their annual seasons. To put it into a nut shell: Croatia is the one place where all the forms of hunting practiced in Europe can be found, and experienced.

Since the dawn of humankind, hunting has been the life-sustaining activity of our race, whether people were fully dependent on it for their livelihood, or simply supplemented their diet through it. To begin with, Men were food gatherers—and food was either found,

or not. The hunters had to be more inventive and quick-thinking, and indeed stronger than those who only foraged for what nature produced. The oldest traces in our region reach back to the Palaeolithic hunters. In a number of localities all across what today is Croatia—Velika spilja (the Great cave) in Varaždin, Šandalji in Pula, Vela spila (Great cave) on the island of Korčula, the habitat of the Neanderthal hunter near the town of Krapina, in the Veternica cave above Zagreb, and other places where primeval man found shelter—numerous bones of small and large game have been uncovered, from the cave bear, and the aurochs—the giant bovine, to the cave lion and leopard, the cave hyena, rhinoceros and cat, all of which constituted their daily menu.



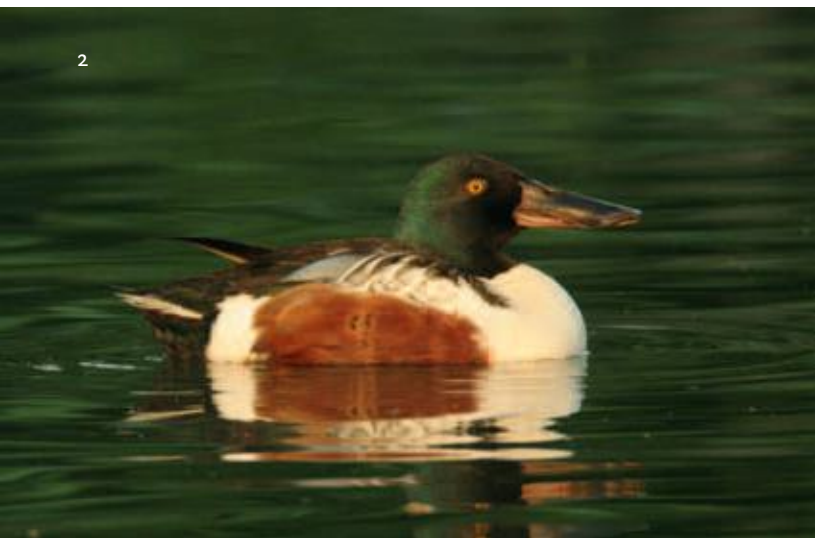
## THE MARSHES JASTREBARSKO



The Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) grows 50–61 cm large, with a wingspan of up to 120 cm

The meanders and estuaries are the segments of watercourses in which the mighty torrents lose their force, slow down and deposit whatever they had snatched from the riverbeds further upstream. Backwaters, dry riverbeds and floodplains function in a similar manner. The calm shallow waters turn into places teeming with life. Vegetation attracts fish and small animals, and they in turn draw in birds and large predators. Yet places like these are just as attractive to wildlife which has its own habitat elsewhere.

The ecosystem of marshes and wetlands represents one of the greatest values within the extensive range of biological and landscape diversities. Over 40% of all species of plants and animals are ecologically linked to that particular ecosystem. A number of marsh habitats have developed along the lowland rivers—alluvial forests and grasslands, dry backwater canals, riverbeds and meanders. The most important flood areas in continental Croatia are the basins of the rivers Sava, Drava, Mura and Danube. Featuring prominently in Mediterranean Croatia are remnants of the once huge marsh area around the delta of the Neretva river and the large reed bed in the north-western part of the Vrana lake in Dalmatia. Strwn along the entire Croatian littoral are a number of small wetland areas, and some of them stand apart. Particularly interesting are the *muds* like Velo blato and Kolansko blato on the island of Pag, and the bog





areas in the depressions and karstic ranges, all replete with vegetation typical of marshlands. Wildlife is also attracted to the artificially created wetland habitats in the continental part of Croatia; the numerous carp farms play an exceptionally important role in the nesting and feeding cycle of waterfowl, many species of which are on the endangered list. The lower course of the Neretva river is the largest and the most valuable remnant of the Mediterranean marshes in Croatia and one of the few that remain in Europe. The continental ranges of Lonjsko polje and Mokro polje rate among the best preserved alluvial areas on our continent. The endangered European Ferruginous Duck has also found shelter here. Another natural phenomenon of exceptional value is the marshland of Kopački rit, located in the alluvial confluence area of the Danube and Drava rivers. Crna mlaka is a well known artificially created marsh area which is now not only an important stop along the migratory path for over 235 bird species through central Europe, but also the richest otter habitat in Europe. The area is easy to find – it lies along the motorway between Zagreb and Karlovac, accessible by the motorway exit for the small town of Jastrebarsko.

#### WILD DUCK

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina* L.)

Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula* L.)

Garganey (*Anas querquedula* L.)

Common Teal (*Anas crecca* L.)

Eurasian Coot (*Fulicula atra* L.)

1 Many areas in Croatia qualify for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. To the present day, the following have been included in the list: Kopački rit (17,000 ha), Lonjsko polje and Mokro polje (50,500 ha), Crna mlaka (620 ha) and the lower stream of the river Neretva (11,500 ha)

2, 3 & 5 THE WILD DUCK inhabits many areas of Croatia

6 THE OTTER (*Lutra lutra*)

#### SISAK-MOSLAVINA COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

European badger (*Meles meles* L.)

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix* L.)

##### 4 GREY GOOSE

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis* Latham.)

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons* Scopoli.)





## THE MOUNTAINS RISNJAK

The dense coniferous forests covering the mountains of Gorski kotar and Lika, and the mountainous regions (highlands) of Kordun and Banovina are home to large game. The region, dominated by the mountains of Risnjak, Snježnik, Mala Kapela, Velika Kapela and Lička Plješivica, is reigned over by the bear, whose population here is the largest in the whole of Europe.



A wolf track

The neck-breaking mountain precipices are dominated by the chamois, while the forests are ruled by the lynx, the largest European cat, for which there is always enough prey, from rabbits and pheasant to roe deer. On the meadow glades, in the fertile gorges and along the edges of the mixed beech and spruce forests, there is ample food for the wild boar. The protected and numerous wolf population completes the picture. With a little bit of luck one can enjoy the sight of this beautiful and intelligent animal at its best. While the mating call of the black grouse, the wolf's favourite live prey, can still be heard ringing through the forests. The lynx, in Croatian, is a hunter of hares, rabbits, squirrels and birds, a loner primarily hunting at dusk and in the night. Its age-long residence in the forests of this mountain ultimately led to the mountain being named after it. The stark white soaring bare peaks of Risnjak sparkle above the dark green coniferous forest. The white crowns of those limestone peaks have earned Risnjak a



place among the most beautiful Croatian mountains. Veliki Risnjak (1,528 m) stands out as one of the most beautiful Croatian lookouts, from which an unforgettable view opens up on the Bay of Kvarner, the mountains of Klek, Bjelolasica and Velebit, and on the Kamnik and Julian Alps and Snežnik in the neighbouring Slovenia. The preserved richness of both flora and fauna, as well as the authentic wilderness, is evident every step of the way. The area of the Risnjak National Park is divided into two zones of protection: the zone of strict protection and the zone of managed protection. In total, over 4,600 hectares are under strict protection, with all activities banned, and nature left to take its course. Čabar is the hunting centre in this region of Gorski kotar, an area where men of each household are hunters. The Gerovo hunters are especially proud of the impetuous forest beauty, the black grouse, whose name has been adopted by the local hunting association.

**1** With its bare, white peaks, Risnjak towers above the green pinewood forests of the Gorski kotar region

**2** THE PHEASANT enjoys a continental climate with little precipitation in the winter as it is hard to find food in the snow

**3** THE LYNX (*Lynx lynx*) is the largest wild cat in Europe

**4** Numerous wild game species inhabit some of the most beautiful forests of the Gorski kotar region

**5** THE FOX is one of the most encountered animals in the forests of Gorski kotar

**6** The main wild game in Gorski kotar is the deer

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COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION**

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**COMMERCIAL HUNTING**

Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos* L.)  
Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)  
Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra* L.)  
Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)  
European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)  
Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca* Meissn.)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)  
European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus* L.)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)  
Edible Dormouse (*Myoxus glis* L.)





THE SEA  
**VELA SPILA**



Remnants of the hunting skills of the ancient inhabitants of Vela spila are found in decorations and pierced deer fangs, used as hunting trophies until modern times

There are hunters who cannot imagine the thought of hunting in a place where they are not surrounded by the aroma of salt permeated by the fragrance of pine resin, and where the sea is not close by. So it has been since ancient times. That this is indeed so is borne out by the findings in the caves of Šandalja in Istria and Vela spila near the town of Vela Luka on the island of Korčula, which include the oldest pieces of jewellery handcrafted from hunting trophies, and the pierced eye teeth of a stag—a trophy which has remained the symbol of hunting luck in some parts of northern Europe to this day.

Vela Spila (cave) is located on Pinski rat, a hill which overlooks the cove of Kale. This cave was used as shelter as far back as the Old Stone Age, some 20,000 years BC, and it is from that time that dozens of shavers, scrapers, blades and other tools made of stone, used in hunting and preparing kill like red deer, auroch and buffalo, originate. In the surroundings of the cave, the Middle Stone Age was characterised by the way of life of a sizeable group of seafood gatherers—as we learn from the thousands of shells of limpets, oysters and thorny oysters, together with bones of birds, deer, fox and other game, which the prehistoric man hunted for both meat and fur, and which have been uncovered in the deposits. The favourite prey of the hunters from Vela Spila was stag, but the auroch and







wild ass were also hunted. A hunting ground close to the sea has many advantages, one of which is the possibility to take a stroll down to the beach, or to escape a classic summer holiday routine by finding a different kind of peace in a blessed wilderness. Or even, having returned from a hunting trip, to discover Mediterranean food and exchange beer and spirits with wine. In Croatia, there are as many as seven Mediterranean hunting regions, from the rural Istria, across the hinterland of Kvarner, the Velebit littoral, the islands and Dalmatia up to the marshy delta of the Neretva river, the Pelješac peninsula and Konavle in the hinterland of Dubrovnik. There is also a large choice of hunting grounds and game, ranging from hunting in the open field, to hunting in the brush and in the marshes, and from hunting hare and dormice to larger game like roe deer, chamois, mouflon, wild boar and bear. It is well worth exploring every region because each is exceptionally diverse – as in its environment and accommodation, so in the characteristics of its hunting grounds and the game it offers. With an eye on the sea, every hunter will find both a hunting ground and prey to his liking.

**1 & 4** 18 to 12 thousand years ago, *Vela spila* on the Island of Korčula was inhabited by a group of large animal hunters

**2** **THE MOUFLON** is a large and noble game

**3** **THE WOOD PIGEON**, a frequent inhabitant of the littoral region and the Adriatic islands

**AXIS DEER** (*Axis axis H. Smith*)

**HUNTING:**

Buck – when its antlers are mature and the velvet has rubbed off

Doe and fawn – when not in advanced stage of pregnancy

**WILD PIGEON**

**HUNTING:** from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

Wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus L.*)

Rock dove (*Columba livia Gmelin.*)

**EUROPEAN RABBIT** (*Oryctolagus*

*cuniculus L.*)

**HUNTING:** all year round

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## THE HILLS TUROVO POLJE



The Early Krapina Man was a forest hunter and gatherer

The heart of Croatia is formed by the undulating region of Hrvatsko Zagorje in the north, and the mountainous regions to the south, east and west of the large plain of Turopolje, the northern edge of which is girdled by the river Sava. For thousands of years this plain belonged to the European auroch, the huge wild bovine locally known as tur—and hence the name of the plain: the Tur Range. This endless meadowland, criss-crossed by small watercourses, alternates with deciduous forests leading to the wider mountainous areas.

The wealth of the areas where valleys and forests come into contact ensured the diversity of landscapes and food in all seasons, which in turn resulted in the wealth of all kinds of life, be it plant-eating, predatory or omnivorous. Man was the last to arrive, and he stayed, drawn by the wealth of picking offered by nature.

The Neanderthal hunter also settled in the belt where mountains and valleys meet. In Krapina, a town where traces of the Neanderthal man are most abundant, the bones of the hunters are mixed with the bones of their prey, which ranged from the beaver and the cave bear to the rhinoceros. The oldest remains of the Neolithic man of Turopolje were found in Mraclin and Velika mlaka. The Bronze Age man from Staro Čiče depended on the auroch—the huge animal provided his community with enough meat for





weeks. The last tur in these parts was caught in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Together, the central oak forest, Turopoljski lug and the foothills of Vukomeričke gorice provide an ideal habitat for a number of animals – the hare, fox, wild boar, red deer and roe deer, badger, ferret and stone marten. The dominant mammals in the flood areas of the rivers Kupa and Odra are the otter and the European beaver. The grey heron reserve is in the village of Kravarsko. The long-established tradition of this area, where serfdom was abolished back in the Middle Ages, is to safeguard that which has been given to mankind. With that in mind, numerous hunting clubs and associations look after not only the game, but also other life in the protected area. Another cherished tradition upheld by the hunters of Turopolje, Vukomeričke gorice and Pokuplje, is the annual Hunters' Ball, where game dishes – like venison goulash – are a must. In the region of Hrvatsko Zagorje, small game like hare, pheasant, snipe, duck and quail is more common.

### 3 EUROPEAN BEAVER (*Castor fiber L.*)

HUNTING: not permitted

### EUROPEAN BADGER (*Meles meles L.*)

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> November

1, 2 & 3 HILLS are excellent habitats for many wild game species

### 4 THE WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola L.*)

is a traditional game species in the Republic of Croatia

5 THE BADGER is present in many areas, but is very rare

6 Some dog species have been used as a hunting aid for centuries

### KRAPINA-ZAGORJE COUNTY

#### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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#### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus L.*)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus sp. L.*)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa L.*)

#### QUAIL

##### HUNTING:

Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix L.*)  
– from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> November  
Virginia quail (*Coturnix virginiana L.*)  
– from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January





## THE LOWLANDS

## ORION



The famous Vučedol dove is, it seems, a grey partridge after all

The Eneolithic Vučedol culture was named after the Vučedol area – the high ground rising along the bank of the Danube, some five kilometres downstream from Vukovar, where the oldest finds were discovered. It took the inhabitants of Vučedol 200 years to extend their way of life to the next large settlement – Vinkovci. From the grassy plateaus, they descended to the area covered by a vast and dense oak forest. Carts were of no use there, the livestock had nowhere to graze, and they were forced to adapt and to change their economy. Ultimately, they became hunters, their predominant quarry being red deer.

On the endless plains in eastern Croatia, in an area defined by the river Drava to the north, the Danube to the east and the Sava to the south, where the alluvial marshland did not reach, there once stood the dense and impenetrable forests of the Pannonian plain. The wind had deposited fine sediments from the bottom of what once was the sea, in which the mountains of today were islands, along the banks of the rivers in the form of huge dunes. In the plain, those hills had become vantage points, grassy highways for the first people to move through Europe, because they were the only places where forests could not grow. Some ten thousand years ago, while travelling along those *highways*, people came to these parts and decide to settle, and two thousand years later the Vučedol culture,





superior to all other communities in the wider area, came to be. It emerged around the year 3000 BC as one of the most important centres of the time, which had a population between 2,000 and 3,000. Following the Baden culture, the inhabitants of Vučedol were the first of the Indo-European peoples to arrive to this region as part of the massive global wave. Like others who came from the Eurasian steppes, they stayed here, attracted by the landscape and the abundance of nature. In contrast to their predecessors, the people of Vučedol were hunters and fishermen, and they raised crops and bred livestock. They were probably the earliest cattle breeders, and beef was their staple diet. In the forest covered Vinkovci, people survived mostly on what they caught, which was predominantly venison. The craft they discovered – the serial production of sharp bronze axes which, in addition to being a tool, were also a universal weapon, secured their life of plenty, superior to all those before them and those around them. They also devised the first Indo-European calendar based on the observance of stars, the centre of which was Orion, the mighty celestial hunter.

#### RED DEER (*Cervus elaphus L.*)

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##### HUNTING:

Stag – from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Hind – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Fawn – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January

**1** The Vučedol civilisation draws its origins at the river Danube

**2 & 4** DEER were the favourite hunting game of prehistoric civilisations in eastern Slavonia: they prepared the deer meat for food, the skins for clothing and footwear, and the horns for hunting and fishing tools

**3, 5 & 6** The versatility of wild game has been preserved for centuries







## THE HUNTING GODDESS

On the beautiful island of Vis, the oldest and most beautiful find from the period of Antiquity is the bronze statue of Artemis, the goddess of hunting and fertility. On this island, which could be described as a vessel of vineyards and whose inhabitants are famous for seafaring and fishing, the Mediterranean diet was supplemented with everything that ran, flew and pecked in the interior of the island. An island is a world unto itself, and a trap from which there is no escape for the prey – all one has to do is find it and pick it off. Knowing that, the ancient Greeks faced no difficulty in introducing the cult of Artemis to the island, which was readily accepted by the local population.

The mountains which stretch practically the full length of the coastal belt of Croatia act as a protective barrier against the harshness of the continental climate. Thus protected, the region attracted people to settle in the coastal town back in the times of Antiquity.

The deeper the coastal mountain ranges reach inland, the greater their height. With the changing altitude, the habitats of both flora and fauna change, attracting different vegetation and different game. It can safely be said that with the growing heights the game

grows too, and the largest game is found on Dinara and Velebit, in Lika and Gorski kotar. From the mellow range of Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, meticulously plotted and fenced back in the times of the Greek settlement, and whose preserved strict geometrical parcellation earned it a place on the UNESCO list of world heritage, to the just as geometric dry-stone wall fencing of the vineyards of Primošten – where each square metre jealously guards a soil brought in from afar so that grapevine could grow, and which are admired as far away as Japan – hunting grounds with the most diverse of game have been organised and prepared. All one needs to do is choose.



## THANA



A relief of Thana, goddess of hunting and water sources

From the mythical belief that by eating the caught game the hunter is imbued with the strength of the defeated opponent, often more powerful than the cunning two-legged creature, there gradually developed a typical hunter's cuisine which, in addition to being a reflection of one's love of game, offers a special delight to the palate. Having enjoyed a fortifying meal, many a hunter-cum-connoisseur feels himself to be different from the ordinary folk, just as the gods stand apart from the mere mortals. Or if not that, then at least as mighty as the animal which they faced.

Man began to hunt out of the need for food. In the by-gone days, wild animals, and indeed everything else, was regarded as sacred, and the consumption of meat from a caught animal became a cult, a ritual through which the primeval hunter absorbed a portion of the magnificent strength and vitality of his prey, thus paying respect to the animal he killed. The hunters of today still share, to a degree, the mystical feelings of their predecessors. No longer regarded as a principal means of providing food, hunting has become a cultural movement, with its own specific qualities and rituals.

The soft and gentle landscape of the Gacka range, a valley spread between the rugged massifs of Velebit and Kapela and the Krbava valley, and a similar, if slightly drier plain enclosed by the barrier of Lička Plješivica, have provided populations with a life of plenty since







time immemorial. The undulating landscape enabled the peaceful Illyrian-Keltic tribe of the Iapodes to build their hill forts above the range through which the Gacka river, the best trout water in the world, meanders just as leisurely as it did in those times. Their elevated vantage points, enabling them to see across the whole valley, their skill in making tools, weapons and ornaments out of bronze, and their natural environment, which offered fertile land and rich grazing pastures, the abundance of game and fish, provided them with a peaceful, almost idyllic life. They showed their respect for life by venerating the cult of the dead, whose souls, they believed, found new hosts in snakes. They guarded their land riding on horseback. In fact, the horse was deemed so important that the Iapodes took it for their totem. Their main deity was Sylvanus, the god of forests and fields, and their main goddess was Thana, who in many ways resembled Artemis, the Greek goddess of hunting and water. The mountain forests, stretching on both sides of the elongated valley, were an inexhaustible source of game, which enriched the tribe's already varied diet.



**1** THE RIVER GACKA and its surroundings is an area rich in flora and fauna, and especially in wild fowl

**2** The game includes certain species of duck

**3** MAJEROVO VRILLO

**4** GACKA is also home to the famed trout

**5** THE WILD DUCK is similar to the domestic duck. We can differentiate between the male and female by their physical appearance

**6** DUCKS feed on food of both plant and animal origin. They have a very good sense of sight, hearing and touch

#### WILD DUCK

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina* L.)

Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula* L.)

Garganey (*Anas querquedula* L.)

Common Teal (*Anas crecca* L.)

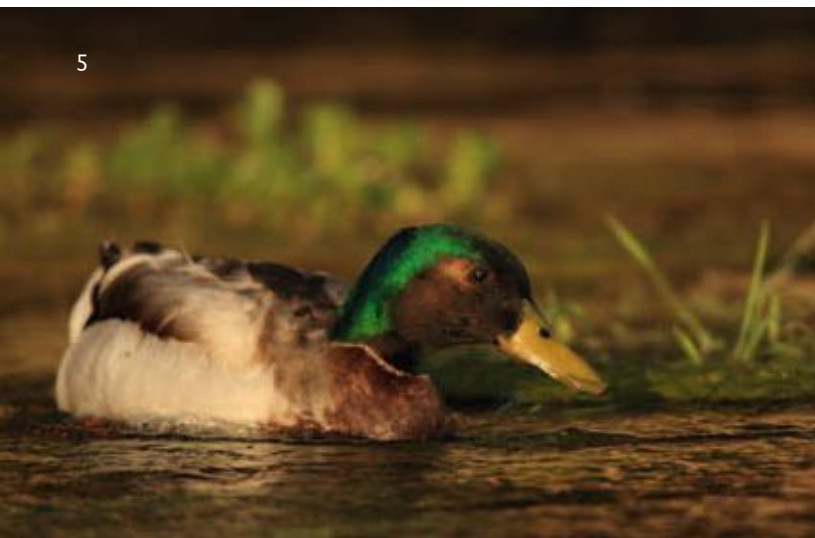
Eurasian Coot (*Fulicula atra* L.)

#### GREY GOOSE

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis* Latham.)

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons* Scopoli.)





## THE ISLANDS ARTEMIS



Artemis, the Greek goddess of hunting

The eastern shores of the Adriatic Sea proved attractive to seafarers, and among those who discovered them were the ancient Greeks. In their contact with the local population they exchanged goods and elements of culture. In contrast to many other peoples of the Old World, the natives of these shores, Illyrian tribes such as the Pleariaei, the Istri, the Liburnians, or the belligerent Delmatae, had no intention of migrating in search of better or more beautiful lands.

The exquisite figure of Artemis from the island of Vis, the Greek Issa, bears witness to the deeply rooted culture of hunting, as do the numerous hunting implements unearthed on the island of Korčula, which was once covered by forests so dense that their darkness earned the island the name of Korkyra Melaina. In the city of Trogir, Greek Tragurion, an urban entity which has been under UNESCO protection since 1997, the portrait of Kairos—the Greek god of the right moment—speaks of the feeling that every hunter in this world is very familiar with. Mythology tells us that that the first true hunters were the goddess Artemis, and Orion, son of Poseidon and Euryale, who was deemed to be the most beautiful man alive. As soon as she was born, Artemis sought out her father Zeus and begged him for a short tunic, hunting boots, a bow and a quiver full of arrows, and having been granted her wish, the virgin huntress gave herself to the pleasures of the chase, her quarry being stags, wild boar,





does and other game. Some Greeks, however, claimed that Artemis was the goddess of the Olympus, that she carries a silver bow and is represented by the new moon, a goddess for whom the night hunt is the best, and who gives herself only to stags, watched from the shadows by partridges, the feathery companions of the rakish and frisky Pan. Following in the trail of Artemis and Orion were Meleager, the powerful son of King Oeneus, and Atalanta the virgin. Daughter of Iasus of Arcadia, Atalanta was exposed by her father on Mount Parthenius for the wild beasts to devour, because he wanted a son. However, Atalanta was suckled by a she-bear, and taken in by hunters whose rough life she shared. It is claimed that she carried a weapon since her early childhood. A myth also tells us that Meleager ultimately suffered a harsh fate. Angered by King Oeneus' omission to offer her the first fruits of a harvest, Artemis sent a ferocious wild boar to ravish his land of Calydon. All the most celebrated heroes of Greece, among which was Atalanta, were called upon to help hunt down the monster. The hunt was cruel and hard, and many were killed by the wild boar. Atalanta was the first to wound it with an arrow and Meleager finished it off with his spear. A dispute arose among the huntsmen over the monster's hide which – smitten by her beauty – Meleager presented to Atalanta. The dispute resulted in fighting which led to Meleager's death.

**1 ARTEMIS**, the head of the bronze beauty, with long fluttering hair tied with a ribbon and silver placed in her eyes, from the time of the Greek colonisation of the eastern Adriatic coast and some of the islands, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, found on the island of Vis

**2, 3 & 4 WILD GAME**, still present on many islands of the Adriatic today, are part of many Ancient myths

**QUAIL**

**HUNTING:**

Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix L.*)  
 – from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> November  
 Virginia quail (*Coturnix virginiana L.*)  
 – from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

**PARTRIDGE**

**HUNTING:**

Rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca Meissn.*)  
 – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
 Chukar (*Alectoris chucar*)  
 – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January





# SPLIT DIANA

The period when ancient Rome ruled the whole of the Mediterranean left its traces on the eastern coast of the Adriatic as well. The incoming Romanic peoples mixed with the indigenous population, the Illyrian tribe of Delmati, proficient hunters who worshiped not only their supreme deity Sylvanus but also his companion Thana—the goddess of springs and hunting, often depicted in the company of a doe—as the reliefs carved onto rocks and found in several locations throughout central Dalmatia and in the ruins of the temple in the Range of Imotski will testify.



Relief on a sarcophagus from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, Archaeological Museum, Split

The warriors from the Balkan peninsula were highly regarded in the Roman Empire. Records state that the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who brought order into the area beyond the coastal mountains, settled in the area around Salona, today’s Solin. While still in power he had a magnificent palace built for the days of his retirement, and he had it built not in Italy but close to his place of birth, on the shores of the Adriatic sea. Following the fall of the Western Roman Empire, and come the Middle Ages, a city was born to the palace, a medieval town the heart of what was to become the second largest city in Croatia, Split. Diocletian’s palace, a unique complex from Antiquity, continued to live as a town in its own right and is today one of the most precious treasures of both this land and of the world. Legend has it that Diocletian was still a young officer when he was





told, or rather prophesied, that he would become an emperor. While his legion was stationed on the Rhine, where Belgium is today, he and his fellow legionaries were given food and lodgings in private homes, which they paid for. Diocletian, who at that time still went by the name of Diocles, and his friend Maximianus, were staying in the house of a woman called Driade—a name also carried by the fairies of the forest who bear influence on a man's destiny. One day, having finished his dinner, Diocles handed the landlady the exact amount due, when she told him that his hand would not drop off if he were to give her a few pennies over the price of the meal. He said he would be more generous when he became an emperor, upon which Driade cautioned him: *Diocles, do not jest with destiny, for you are indeed going to become an emperor, but only after you have slain the fateful boar.* Diocles took those words literally, and from that time he spent his time hunting boars, on foot, with a spear and a sword, hoping each day would be the one when he would kill the boar of his destiny. Before Diocletian's Palace, a temple dedicated to Diana, goddess of hunting and springs, and the Roman equivalent of Thana of the Delmati, was built on the wooded Marjan Hill which rises above Split. The path from the settlement of Spalatum to the temple was known as *ad Diana*, and as such it was entered into the Tabula Peutingeriana, the map of the Roman Empire.

**WILD BOAR (*Sus scrofa* L.)**

**HUNTING:**

Boar, shoat and boarle—year round  
Sow—from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1, 2 & 3 On the green Marjan Hill, a temple dedicated to the hunting goddess Diana was built back in Ancient times

4 A hunting scene on an ancient relief from Salona

5 There used to be many wild animals in this region, and today you can meet the wolf in the hinterlands

6 THE BOAR is mentioned in many legends and myths of Antiquity

**SPLIT DALMATIA COUNTY**

**HUNTING ASSOCIATION**

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[split@hls.t-com.hr](mailto:split@hls.t-com.hr)

**COMMERCIAL HUNTING**

Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra* L.)  
European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)  
Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca* Meissn.)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)  
Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix* L.)  
European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus* L.)





## MEDVEDGRAD

*Nomen est omen* – thy name is thy fate – says an old Latin proverb. When the veil of myths and prophecies is lifted, what is left is that, among thousands of names that can be chosen for a particular place, not one has been given haphazardly. In Croatia numerous places and areas draw their names from hunting or game, large and small, which bears witness to the magnetic relationship between man and animal, one which reaches back to primeval times. The solitary burg which stands on the summit of the mountain rising above the City of Zagreb, and from which a watchful eye can survey both the distant plains below and the river meandering through those plains, is but one example: Medvednica (the Bear Mountain) and Medvedgrad (the Bear City) tell us that the forests there were once roamed by those beasts, but also that lords and masters of the burg believed their fortified home to be as unconquerable as the mythical might of the paw that crushes a beehive with the same ease as it does an intruder threatening a playful litter of cubs in the raspberry bushes. Lying in the neighbourhood of Medvednica, stretching towards the southwest, and rising high above the ground, is the mountain system of Samoborsko gorje (the Hills of Samobor) – Plješivica – Žumberak.

### ZAGREB COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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[ls.zagrebacke@hls.t-com.hr](mailto:ls.zagrebacke@hls.t-com.hr)

### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)  
Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)  
Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)

### HUNTING ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF ZAGREB

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[ls.grada-zagreba@hls.t-com.hr](mailto:ls.grada-zagreba@hls.t-com.hr)

### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)



## ZADAR MEDVIĐA SPILJA



A medieval hunting scene on a tombstone

Medviđa spilja is only one of many caves in the Paklenica National Park. Not far from Zadar, this rugged mountain area, which lies between the ridge boasting the highest peak of Velebit–Vaganski vrh (the Vagan peak, 1,757 m) and the sea, is exceptionally rich in vegetation and wildlife. The larger types of wildlife include the roe deer, red deer, chamois and wild boar, while other wild animals of the area include the wolf, lynx, fox and wild cat, and of course the brown bear, after which Medviđa spilja (Bear Cave) was named.

Zadar, just like all the other old towns and cities along the Adriatic coast, takes great pride in its medieval statute. Those legal documents provided the foundations for law in Medieval times. Amongst the most important ones, along with the Zadar Statute from 1305, are the Statutes of the towns of Korčula from 1265, and Split from 1271. Like the other legal acts from Croatian Medieval times, the statutes also regulated hunting. The Statutes of Poljice (1440) and Novigrad (1402) stipulated, for example, that the hunter was obliged to provide the owner with a part of the hunted game, amounting to the haunch of a deer, the head of a boar, and the paws of the bear. If the hunter failed to fulfill his obligation, the landowner had the right to slaughter the hunter's cow if he concealed the haunch of a deer, a pig if he concealed the boar's head, and a calf on account of the bear paws.







The old historic City of Zadar, once the capital of Dalmatia, today is the administrative and cultural centre of the County of Zadar, which extends from the upper course of the Una in the north, to an island called Dugi otok, and beyond into the open sea. It also includes the lowland areas of Bukovica and Ravni kotari, the lake-like seas of Karin and Novigrad, an attractive shoreline and numerous islands, together with the Telaščica Nature Park, close to the Kornati National Park, and sections of the Paklenica National Park and the Velebit Nature Park.

The types of hunting grounds in the Zadar region vary according to the type of wildlife habitat, whether in the mountains or in the lowlands. In the rock-bound areas of southern Velebit, one can hunt small game such as hare, Rock Partridge and snipe, while in the higher grounds the game includes wild boar, chamois, deer and brown bear. The Zadar area is one of the last natural habitats of the partridge. It is also the venue of the International Championship for Bird Dogs, one of the most important in Europe. The Ravni kotari hunting ground offers the hunt for quail, pheasant and hare, and the interest of hunters may also be stirred by the opportunity to give chase to the golden jackal, whose population is quite large.

**2 BROWN BEAR (*Ursus arctos L.*)**

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December and from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April

**3 GOLDEN JACKAL (*Canis aureus L.*)**

HUNTING: year round except when the female is at an advanced stage of pregnancy or nursing its young

**WILDCAT (*Felis silvestris Schr.*)**

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January

**1 THE ZADAR REGION** is one of the last natural habitats of the partridge

**4 ROCK PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris graeca Meissn.*)**

**5 THE CHAMOIS** is a decoration of the karst region

**6 THE GROUSE (*Tetrastes bonasia L.*)**

**ZADAR COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION 31**

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zadar@hls.t-com.hr

**COMMERCIAL HUNTING**

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa L.*)  
European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon Pall.*)  
Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos L.*)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus L.*)  
Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca Meissn.*)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix L.*)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus sp. L.*)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)  
European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus L.*)  
Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus L.*)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos L.*)

**EUROPEAN RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus L.*)**

HUNTING: year round





## ZAGORA KOZJI VRH



Hunting scene by master Radovan, from the portal of the Trogir Cathedral, 1234

The wealth of opportunity to hunt for fresh meat has always drawn the local population, and not just them, to the slopes and foothills of the chain of the Dalmatian coastal mountains of Biokovo, Mosor and Dinara. Far from being a mere picturesque background to the low lying landscape, it was in fact a kind of richly laden larder, attracting folk from both the mainland coast and from the hinterland who, having spent days trying to outsmart their quarry, would return home with a catch that enriched the typical diet of fishermen, mariners or highland cattle breeders.

The height and wilderness of the mountains, which stand as a climatic divide between the coastal belt and the continental part of the country, are the ideal habitat for the toughest of animals, those which can make their way across the neck-breaking, rock-bound slopes and sparse and inhospitable thorny vegetation. The nimble, cunning and downright impertinent chamois is the textbook example of the perfect adjustment to such conditions. With that in mind, the names Kozjak and Kozji vrh – the Goat mountain and Goat peak – come as no surprise, indeed they are a tribute to this magnificent animal. The Biokovo Nature Park is an example of a systematic effort to preserve that kind of wilderness, and see to it that it develops exclusively in keeping with the laws specific to this particular ecotype. Today, Dinara is just as much a hunting Eldorado





and a challenge to both the hunter's skill and his physical prowess as it has been through the ages. The profound respect for the hard life in these rich mountains is reflected in the sculptures and reliefs depicting hunting, which can be seen on the western portal of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Cathedral of St. Lawrence in Trogir, carved by the master carver Radovan. This cultural monument gives us the most detailed visual presentation of medieval life on the eastern shores of the Adriatic. The portal has two displaced door jambs on each side decorated with reliefs and two round columns adorned with scenes of hunting and images of beasts. The lateral sides of those columns are decorated with images of people and animals interwoven into tendrils of floral motifs twined around the columns. They form vivid and realistic scenes of hunting wild boars and deer, a man's struggle with a bear, a hunter stalking his prey, throwing spears, shooting with a bow and arrow, lying in wait for an animal and hunting on horseback. The abundance of shoots and leaves evoke the forest and the brush, the nature in which the primordial confrontation between the hunter and his quarry takes place.

#### CHAMOIS (*Rupicapra rupicapra* L.)

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1 The stone peaks of the Zagora region are a habitat of the chamois. It likes peace and leaves areas disturbed by hunters

#### 2 GREY PARTRIGE (*Perdix perdix* L.)

3 THE CHAMOIS feeds on mountain grass, young leaves, blackberries and raspberries

4 The most monumental work of Roman-Gothic style in Croatia, artistically on the level of the best European masterpieces of the time.

5 Shooting with a bow and arrow (Radovan's portal)

#### ŠIBENIK-KNIN COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)  
Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)  
Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca* Meissn.)  
European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus* L.)  
Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus* L.)  
Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.)





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## LIKA SOKOLAC

A very popular sport among the Croatian nobility of the Middle Ages was hunting with birds of prey, particularly with falcons. So much so in fact, that they often named their fortified homes, burgs and castles after those noble birds—like the fortified Sokolac in the north-western part of Lika, or Sokolgrad (Falcon Town) near Bosiljevo...



A medieval relief of a hunting scene

The inland areas, separated from the mild Mediterranean climate by the belt of coastal mountains, are exposed to adverse weather conditions. The mountain chains covered with spruce forests girdle the karstic plateaus, with frost-depression where the lowest winter temperatures are usually recorded—as for instance in Brinje. Those forests belong to the beasts of prey: the wolf, bear and lynx, with their prey varying from deer to small rodents. Although the wild boar is also native to these parts, and therefore a common sight, rarely does any beast of prey attack it. It was in the Middle Ages that hunting in this area ceased to be an activity aimed solely at securing food, and gradually became a form of culture, a sport and a competition.

In the karstic rocks of Lika, water has created the unique geological and hydrological phenomenon of the Plitvice Lakes. The area was declared a national park as early as 1949, which makes it the oldest national park in Croatia. There are few significantly large lakes in





Croatia. Standing apart among the natural lakes are the Plitvice Lakes—sixteen lakes cascading through the course of the river Korana, joined by a myriad of waterfalls tumbling over a myriad of travertine barriers. From 1979, the Plitvice Lakes have been included on the UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The beautiful forests of the area will delight all, while the mountain meadows and clearings open up breathtaking vistas of the surrounding heights, water courses, villages and hamlets. Those of a patient nature, ready to sit and wait in a sheltered position at the edge of the forest, may get to see the cautious doe with her fawn, the frisky fox cubs frolicking around, or a badger moving stealthily through the dusk, and if luck is really on their side, a sow might come along with her cubs, or maybe even the ever alert wolf in search of food.



**BROWN BEAR (*Ursus arctos* L.)**

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December and from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April

**EUROPEAN BADGER (*Meles meles* L.)**

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> November

**1 & 4** The remains of the medieval town Sokolovac, named after the Falcon, a hunting bird

**2, 3, 5 & 6** The Plitvice Lakes are a habitat for a large number of big and small mammals. Bears and wolves have their young here, and together with the rest of the fauna here, are under special protection

**LIKA-SENJ COUNTY**

**HUNTING ASSOCIATION**

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**COMMERCIAL HUNTING**

Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos* L.)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)  
Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)  
European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)  
Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)  
Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra* L.)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)  
Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca* Meissn.)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)  
Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.)  
Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus* L.)





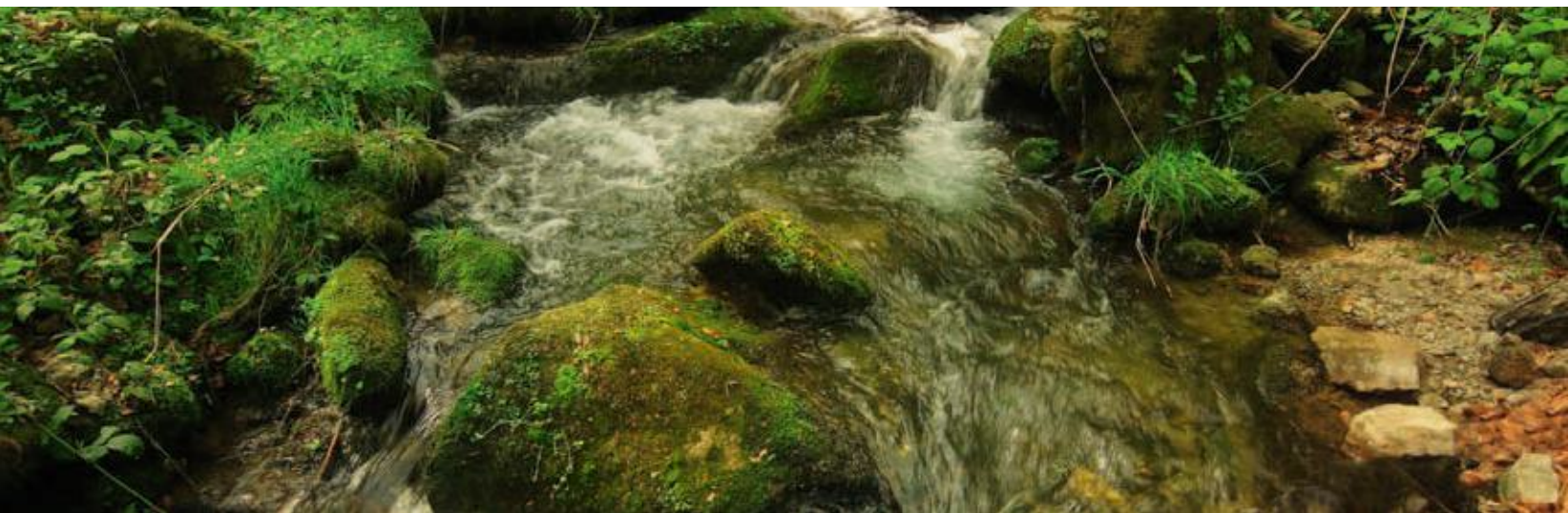
WESTERN SLAVONIA  
**LISIČINE**



Historical hunting equipment from the 18<sup>th</sup> century

When descending from the Mountain of Papuk into the Drava valley, one comes to Voćin, a charming village and a place of pilgrimage nestling at the foot of this mountain covered with beech forests. Suddenly, the practically uniform beech forest turns into a colourful diversity of trees. No two are alike! You have arrived into the Lisičina arboretum, the lovingly planted park-forest to which the most varied types of trees have been brought from all corners of the world.

The name of the Lisičina arboretum stems from *lisica*, the Croatian word for fox. The arboretum has been in existence since 1963, and the care and effort invested into it have turned Lisičina into one of the most significant places of its kind in south-eastern Europe. In addition to being a site of professional and scientific interests – it contains species both from Croatia and from the rest of Europe, but also from Asia and the Americas – it is also a healing sight for sore eyes. There are only two other such planned tree gardens in Croatia. Great care was taken to protect the fragile young saplings from the numerous wildlife of the area, and the entire garden was fenced. Sadly, the fence proved insufficient to protect the arboretum during the war. It was broken and the wealth of trees and bushes suffered serious damage inflicted by the wildlife which entered through the breach in the fence. Looking from the slopes of the mountains of





western Slavonia, it becomes obvious that the mountains rise from flat ground, as if from the sea, a sea of green. Once upon a time these mountains were indeed islands in just as flawless a sea of blue. During a leisurely walk through Rupnica, a geological monument of nature located in the Papuk Nature Park, a wooded mountain which together with others forms the string of Slavonian mountains, one can see the fossilized remains of primordial life forms from the sea in the living rock.

From the crest of the Slavonian mountains of Psunj, Papuk, Krndija, Dilj and Požeška gora, deciduous forests descend to the wide valleys of the rivers Drava and Sava. The valley enclosed by those mountains has long been recognised as a particularly bountiful area, so much so that the Romans named it *Vallis Aurea*, the Golden Valley. The woods of the mountains have always teemed with life. The people have always known this, and they came here to hunt. Those of but little imagination, and a finely tuned ear, could not fail to hear the cry of the peasant chasers driving the fox or a pheasant towards festivities were organised by the nobility, when the last grapes had been picked and the meat was already being smoked in the curing houses. Down below one can hear the barking of a dog which has fetched a duck from the reeds and is asking to be praised.



#### POŽEGA-SLAVONIJA COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)

European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)

1, 2, 3 & 4 PAPUK, rich in natural attractions and plant and animal life

5 THE FOX, frequently seen on Papuk, is important for keeping the biological balance

#### VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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fax: +385 (0) 33 722 457

[virovitica@hls.t-com.hr](mailto:virovitica@hls.t-com.hr)

##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Eurasian Coot (*Fulicula atra* L.)

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis* Latham.)

European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.)

European Badger (*Meles meles* L.)

Wildcat (*Felis silvestris* Schr.)





## THE ISTRIAN POINTER

ISTRIA

One of the miniatures in the exquisite Hrvoje's Missal from 1404 depicts a dog chasing a prey. *It seems to be three to four spans tall, of short or medium long white hair with reddish spots across the body, and it is bred mostly in the Croatian lands by the sea. There they regard it as the best hunting dog for stony ground.*



Engraving depicting a medieval hunter

In those words, Petar Bakić, the Archbishop of Đakovo, described in 1719 one of the oldest breeds of a hunting dog native to this soil, that is the Istrian pointer as we know it today. The oldest mention of the pointer dates to the times of Xenophon, in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Even back then he differentiated between the short-haired and the wire-haired types, and stressed that they must not be of a single colour but either white with reddish spots or the other way round. Flavius Arrianus (175 - 95 BC), the Roman Governor who ruled Asia Minor from Nicomedia, left us his writings about the dogs of his time. Describing one of the breeds, the characteristics of which correspond to those of the Istrian pointer, he states that they were bred by the Celtic tribe of Segusians. A fresco in St. Mary's chapel in Beram in Istria, dating from 1474, and painted by Vincent of Kastav, portrays a short-haired white brachycephalic dog with yellow-reddish spots that resembles the Istrian pointer of today. One of Titian's paintings (1488 - 1576) shows two dogs, one of which looks very much like the Istrian pointer. In modern times, this ancient breed was used to







improve the characteristics of other breeds, for instance to moderate the weaknesses of the Austrian Bracke Dachshund and the wire-haired Italian bird dog. The cross breeding between wire-haired dogs from that breed with the Hanover bloodhound produced the long-legged Styrian pointer. This well proportioned dog is just as reliable as a single companion for a lone hunter as it is working in a pack. Its innate nature is that of a passionate hunter, but it is also gentle, calm and disciplined, and utterly devoted to its master. When hunting pheasants one could not wish for a better dog on rock-bound and bush-covered terrain the likes of which prevail in the interior of Istria, around Pazin, above Buzet on the mountain of Čičarija, or on the inland-facing slopes of Učka. When a dog remains unchanged through centuries, it means that it reached perfection all those centuries ago, and that a hunter and this dog are always a winning team.

#### ISTRIA COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION 39

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#### EUROPEAN BADGER (*Meles meles L.*)

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> August to  
30<sup>th</sup> November

**1** ISTRIA is a region where numerous  
hunting and dog events are held

**2, 3, 4 & 5** One can hunt in Istria as well

**6** The green Istrian interior entices many  
tourists and hunters





## POSAVINA PATKOVAC

Patkovac is a place in the central part of the Bjelovar-Bilogora County which abounds with exceptionally rich hunting grounds. The neighbouring county of Brod-Posavina is just as replete with a variety of game. It is also the area where one can see the Posavina pointer, the indigenous Croatian breed of hound, highly appreciated for its speed and agility as well as for its readiness to obey and devotion to its master.



Branko Desković, *Dog on the trail*, Split Arts Gallery

The Posavina pointer, which belongs to the group of short-haired pointers, has been bred since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in the Sisak area of Posavina. It is a medium-size dog with a compact body, and is of a wheatish-yellow or reddish-brown colour. White markings should cover up one third of the body, and on the head they should be in the form of a flower, or a streak. The pointer usually has a white collar, chest, belly, lower part of the legs and tip of the tail. The oldest documents about the breed date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and are kept in the Đakovo diocese. The Posavina pointer is at its best when hunting hare, fox and wild boar. It performs equally well in the forested mountainous areas as it does on rocky ground. As a pointer it should not be either too tall or too heavy. Its sturdy constitution is suitable for hunting in the wide forested areas of Posavina, where there is plenty of brushwood. Though of a calm temperament, this dog has just the right amount of spirit not to be



4



sluggish. When tracking a quarry it relies solely on its sense of smell. It is somewhat slower than the Istrian short-haired pointer. When working, it never loses contact with the hunter although a chase may take it quite a distance away. Once the chase is over this highly obedient dog returns to the hunter without being called.

5



#### QUAIL

##### HUNTING:

Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

– from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> November

Virginia quail (*Coturnix virginiana* L.)

– from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

#### SLAVONSKI BROD-POSAVINA

##### COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 Numerous and varied game is the reason for which hunting is so popular in this area

6 In addition to breeding and hunting, the folk of the Brod-Posavina County cherish and nurture hunting ethics, and their traditions and customs

#### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis* Latham.)

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)

6



7





DUBROVNIK

# THE DALMATIAN



Stamp with a Dalmatian dog

In the thicket of Konavle everything seems to be standing still. The white rocks are interspersed in the shrubbery and the higher ground along the lovely small fields. Only when it moves at the sound of the hunter's whistle, does one realise that there was a dog there, standing entirely still, tense as a bow from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail, watching a quail's nest. The spot-covered dog that will come running to its master is the Dalmatian dog. Irrepressibly jolly and lively, the spotted Dalmatian became accepted as a pet back in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which inevitably led to people forgetting its true nature, that of a hunter.

Among the figures found on the wall paintings discovered in the tombs of the Egyptian pharaohs is a white dog with black spots. If that is indeed the part of the world from which it originates, it was from Asia Minor that the merchants of Dubrovnik brought this large, muscular dog to these shores as long ago as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Only here, on their home ground, did they find time to discover its main characteristic – it was an excellent hunting dog. The citizens of Dubrovnik introduced the breed to wherever their trade took them, and since it possessed many other qualities, their owners found they could do all kinds of tasks – from pulling milk carts to helping firemen in their search for the source of the fire. It is therefore not surprising that the hunting side of the Dalmatian's nature and its





home on the eastern side of the Adriatic were soon forgotten. So it came about that the folk of Dubrovnik not only saved the dog from extinction, but also discovered its inner nature—its talent for the chase. The issue of its origin and the job it was actually meant to perform became the source of quite a few misunderstandings. Its lean and muscular body even led some to categorise it as a hound. It must be said however, that just as it is fortunate the animal was saved from extinction, it is just as unfortunate that people have forgotten what this dog is best at. The reason for this may lie in the fact that it was merchants and seafarers who took it all over the world, praising its qualities—and not the hunters. Thus, in its new homelands, the dog's main characteristic went unnoticed. At the same time, the owners in the new lands discovered that their pet had a whole range of wonderful qualities. The only aspect of the animal that has never been disputed by anybody is its beauty. The cuisine of Dubrovnik is an unusual combination of continental and Mediterranean gastronomy. At the same table, fish and quail, *frutti di mare* and wild duck are served. Today the region of Dubrovnik, specifically the area of Sveti Ilija on the peninsula of Pelješac, is particularly attractive as a mouflon hunting ground. The species has become so well adjusted that one captured specimen scored as high as 233,85 CIC points.

1 DUBROVNIK will in 2010 be host to the CIC General Assembly for the second time

2 THE TRAINING OF FALCONS has been undertaken here since the Middle ages

3 MOUFLON HERDS can be encountered on the Pelješac peninsula

4 The Dalmatian dog on an 18<sup>th</sup> century fresco from the Franciscan monastery in Zaostrog

5 Dubrovnik cuisine used to combine seafood and wild fowl

MOUFLON (*Ovis aries musimon Pall.*)

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HUNTING:

Ram—the year round

Ewe and lamb—from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

EGYPTIAN MONGOOSE (*Herpestes ishneumon L.*)

HUNTING: year round except when the female is in an advanced stage of pregnancy or nursing its young







## THE HUNTING MANOR

Rising above the lovely lake, amidst just as lovely a landscape, is the enchantingly romantic castle of Trakošćan, the surroundings of which offer a choice of several rich hunting grounds that were greatly enjoyed by the local nobility, the Counts of Drašković. The Croatian nobility withdrew to these parts before the Turkish onslaught to regroup, but also to indulge in their favourite pastime – hunting. The Counts of Erdödy, the family which produced several Croatian Viceroy, whose estates were spread from Kutina to the charming hunting lodges in Popovača, Bosiljevo, Novi Marof, Varaždin, Veliko Trgovišće all the way to Sveta Nedjelja to the west and Kerestinec to the south of Zagreb, were also passionate hunters. It was not only the blue bloods that took pleasure in the riches of nature. In the permanently flooded wetlands in the basin of the river Kupa, between Zagreb and Karlovac, at the foot of the mountain system of Samoborsko gorje, Žumberak and Plješivica, one Cornelius Zwilling decided to clear 600 hectares of forest and build a fine, spacious manor house in the style of Austrian Secession. He named it Ribograd, or rather the Fishtown, since it sat amidst well organised fish ponds. The birds discovered the site and it can be

said that they took it for their own. For the migrating water birds, the vast open spaces became an ideal resting place with abundant sources of food. Determined to ensure his complete privacy amidst the glorious nature, the great Austrian general and diplomat, Prince Eugen of Savoy (1663-1736), Italian by origin and French by birth, built himself a villa not far from the extensive marshy areas of Kopački rit in Baranja, where the population of red deer was at its most numerous, but far enough from his luxurious Baroque country manor house in the heart of his estate, in Bilje near Osijek.



HRVATSKO ZAGORJE  
**ZELENDVOR**

Count Marko Bombelles Jr. (1852-1912), owner of the large estate of Vinice, was one of the richest men in the country of the time. In 1898 he was the first to own a car in these parts, and of course it was the Benz, and it is therefore not surprising that he was also the first president of the Croatian Automobile Club in Zagreb. He was also closely linked to the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir apparent, who often came here to enjoy hunting in the bountiful surroundings. The ladies, meanwhile, had their own way of passing time during their comfortable country life.



*Still nature with venison*, Vladimir Filakovac, oil on canvas, 1938

The modern and prudent management of his estates, combined with the introduction of new methods of agricultural technology, brought Marko Bambelles to the forefront of the economic and political life of his time. He also worked on improving livestock breeding, particularly horse breeding. His passion for hunting was not satisfied only with the gift of nature; in addition to being a refuge which provided him with complete privacy during the hunting season, his manor in Petrijanec near Varaždin, aptly called Zelendvor (the Green manor), built in 1870, was used as a base for the introduction of numerous new species into his hunting grounds and, as the passage of time proved, he was successful. The generous nature of the area aided his efforts in as much as it provided support for the newcomers not only to survive, but also not to threaten







the indigenous species which had been living there in fine balance for thousands of years. From Asia he imported numerous types of pheasant, from those of purely decorative nature to the game-type birds. From America came the Virginia quail. All in all, he had achieved an across the board improvement in the breeding of game. In fact, Zelendvor remains one of the largest pheasant farms in Croatia to this day. His experiments were not restricted only to wild animals but extended to animals bred in other parts of the world. Count Marko Bombelles was just as much of a very inquisitive nature as he was well read. Only with a meticulous research of the Bombelles library, today housed in the Varaždin City Museum, can one begin to understand what a versatile man he was, but also the extent of his achievements, and he did achieve a great deal. It has all been meticulously recorded, so that today we know – and not only from books – that next to his castle of Opeka near Vinice and close to Varaždin, he had planted an arboretum of 14,000 plants: over 200 types came from Japan, China, Tibet, the Caucasus, North America and from all over Europe. Whenever he felt the need for a change from the landscapes in which he usually hunted, and which characterised the seven continental hunting grounds he owned, he would go to the one close to the sea, near Obrovac, nearby Zadar.



#### PHEASANT (*Phasianus sp. L.*)

HUNTING: from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1 MARUŠEVAC, one of the many castles in the Hrvatsko Zagorje region

2 HUNTING DOGS in a painting from the Museum of the City of Varaždin

3 PHEASANT BREEDING was developed by Count Marko Bombelles in Zelendvor

4 HUNTING TROPHIES in the Trakošćan castle, testimony to the hunting tradition practiced by the noble family Drašković

5 The people of north-west Croatia are particularly proud of their hunting tradition

#### VARAŽDIN COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Pheasant (*Phasianus sp. L.*)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)  
Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix L.*)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos L.*)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus L.*)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa L.*)





## MEĐIMURJE WILD BOAR ROASTED IN HONEY



Cover of an old Croatian cookbook

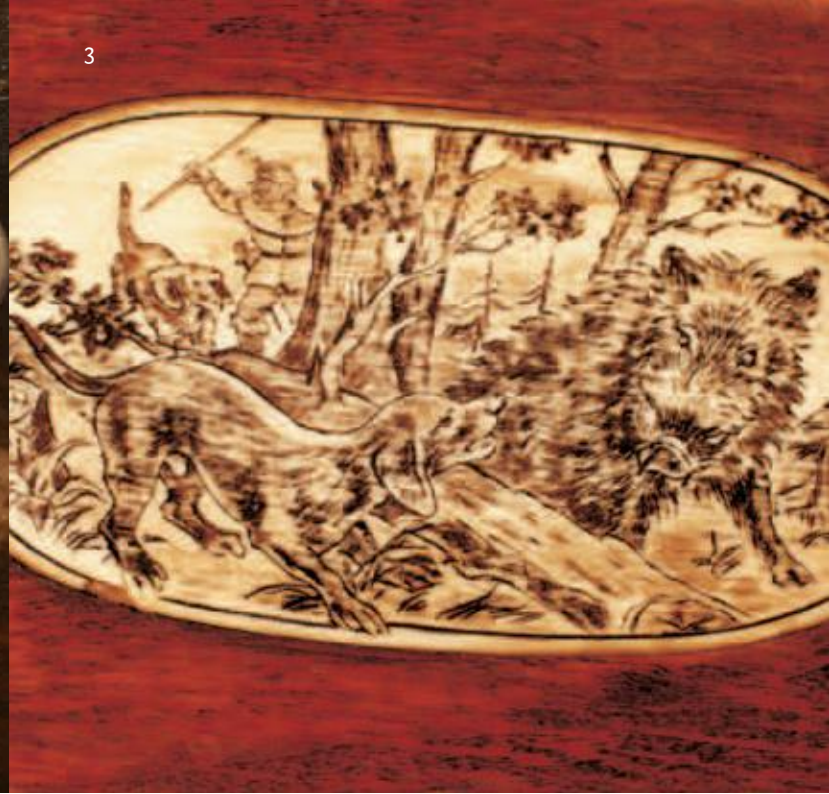
MEĐIMURJE

There are still restaurants in this country where one can savour *venison in black soup*, a delicacy from the superb cookery book of Count Nikola Zrinski. In addition to providing descriptions of numerous specialties of the time, this guide through fine cuisine is particularly inspired by dishes prepared with game. The nobility of the time enjoyed roast wild duck, medallions of venison, or game prosciutto. Many of the delicacies have been preserved through the years. On special festive occasions, the folk of Međimurje will serve one of the most delectable dishes from the Count's cookery book: wild boar roasted in honey.

The Croatian Viceroy Nikola Zrinski died on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1664. He was killed by a wild boar during a hunt in the large forest of Međimurje, Kuršanečki lug, near the town of Čakovec, which was the seat of the powerful Zrinski family. The news of his death was brought to his guests, who were to be entertained by His Highness upon his return from the hunt, by Paka his personal servant. The story tells that Nikola wounded the boar, and then went after it into the bush, alone, to finish it off. The animal turned on him, and a moment later he was mortally wounded.

Bethlen, the Lord of Erdelj, said that the third wound was the fatal one. The boar caught the Viceroy below the right ear, and the neck vertebra ripped forward and tore all the tendons in his neck.





The animal went berserk and *caught him with its tusk and bit the thread of life*, wrote the Franciscan Franz Schwaiger at the bottom of the engraved copperplate portrait. In his last sentence, Bethlen expresses his surprise at the fact that *such a brave man did not shoot, or slash with his sword although he had both his musket and his sword on him*.

At the time when he was taking his place at the head of the Croatian and Hungarian nobility, which was embittered by the Peace of Vásvar, which rendered pointless all the victories and casualties suffered during the Great Austro-Turkish war (1663-1664), the struggle for the preservation of the national territory, the identity, the hereditary feudal rights and the dignity of the knight-Viceroy Nikola died like the Cypriot Prince Adonis of ancient Greece. Who could tell today whether he was destined for so harsh a fate by Ares, the jealous god of war and a lover of Aphrodite, or whether he fell victim to the vengeful passion of Artemis, the goddess of hunting. One thing is certain however; the cookery book of Count Nikola Zrinski, together with other Croatian cookery books devoted to game dishes, greatly contributed to the perception of hunting as a sport, to the creativity in the local gastronomy and ultimately to the culture of enjoying dishes prepared with game meat, turned into mouth-watering delicacies by traditional cooking methods.

#### WILD BOAR (*Sus scrofa L.*)

##### HUNTING:

Boar, shoat and boarle – year round  
Sow – from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1 THE COOKBOOK of Count Zrinski holds the recipes for many wild game dishes

2 & 3 Motifs of hunting and hunting gastronomy are frequent on paintings and everyday objects

4 Game dishes prepared in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries are today prepared and served once again

#### MADIMURJE COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus L.*)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa L.*)  
Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus L.*)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus sp. L.*)  
Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix L.*)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola L.*)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix L.*)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos L.*)  
Eurasian Coot (*Fulicula atra L.*)  
Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis Latham.*)  
Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes L.*)  
European Badger (*Meles meles L.*)





## THE WINES OF ILOK WITH GAME DISHES

In the far-east corner of Croatia, rising from the vast plain, is the wooded mountain massif of Fruška gora. So solid is it that it forced the mighty Danube to veer eastwards. Reflected in the waters of this large European river is Ilok, the easternmost town of Croatia, a place which has been continually inhabited since prehistoric times. The Romans built Cuccium, a settlement with a border fortification, in which they stationed their cavalry. The golden age of Ilok came with the Middle Ages.



Noble families engaged in hunting and wine production

The town had been granted royal privileges from very early on. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century it was fortified, and thereafter it flourished. Its crucial trading position is proven, among other things, by the fact that a consul from the Republic of Dubrovnik stayed there. The masters of the town were known simply as the Princes of Ilok, and they filled a variety of illustrious posts—from high military posts to that of Viceroy. The most prominent among them was Nikola of Ilok (1410-1477), the *Viceroy of Croatia, Slavonia and Mačva*, and *King Matija Corvinus* even appointed him as the *Bosnian King*. The family certainly knew how to enjoy the blessings of the rich land, and the Franciscans—who came to Ilok in the 14<sup>th</sup> century—were no less fond of such enjoyments. When the nobility of Ilok died out in the struggle for the liberation of Ilok, Emperor Leopold presented the castle and fiefdom of Ilok to Pope Innocent XI, who in turn passed it



3



on to his family, the Princes of Odescalchi. Their palace, which rises on the ruins of the castle of Nikola of Ilok, and stands opposite the church of St. John of Capistrano, today houses the Town Museum and a restaurant.

Whoever the rulers of Ilok were, they all valued the gifts offered by the southern slopes of Fruška gora: vineyards on ideal locations which were already appreciated by the Roman Emperor Probus (276 - 282). The famous Traminac of Ilok, particularly the ice wine version, is appreciated everywhere. Fifteen metres below the main square, the huge oak barrels, with 15 cm thick walls and at least a century old, are a true tourist attraction. This wine was the star at the celebration of the coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953, and the cellars of Windsor Castle are regularly topped up with the archival wines of Ilok. Yet the best place to savour these superb golden drops is the very place where they were nurtured, in the company of delicious dishes from the hunting menus of the aristocratic, Franciscan or folk tradition – shepherd's stew, venison or rolled boar stuffed with eggs! The fallow deer trophy from the Ilok hunting ground that scored 209,22 CIC points still holds its place among the greatest trophies in Croatia.

4



#### FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama* L.)

##### HUNTING:

Buck – from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Doe – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Fawn – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1 THE ILOK REGION is known for its grape growing and wine production tradition

2 GRAPE VINE has been cultivated in Slavonia since Antiquity

3 Hunting specialties, covered in excellent Ilok wines

4 Snipe hunting, Rastovica, 16<sup>th</sup> March 1911

5 THE ILOK WINE CELLARS store unique wines, which are excellent companions to rich hunting feasts

#### VUKOVAR-SRIJEM COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)

European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)

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## THE MIGHTY FOREST

*When I say oak, I think of the forests of Spačva*, the Croatian writer Josip Kozarac wrote in 1888. The magnificent, dense, tall forests of common oak in Spačva, in the southern part of Slavonia, are a unique national treasure, and yet they are but the remnant of the ancient forests which once covered practically every inch of the immense valley created by the large lowlands rivers of the Danube, Drava and Sava. The Spačva forest is also the largest single area under oak in the whole of Europe. With 51,600,000 hectares it is 2.5 times larger than the Fontainebleau Forest, the largest oak forest in France – the country which boasts the richest reserves of oak. As much as 36% of the territory of Croatia is still forested land. In Europe, only Finland has more forested area, Austria has about the same as Croatia, but it is only in Bosnia and Herzegovina that true wilderness has been preserved in such large areas. Regardless of who owns a particular section of forest, this huge area is managed by the state-owned company Hrvatske šume (Croatian forests), and the management policy is based on the strict adherence to the principle of sustainable use. The wisdom of this approach – an uncompromising management of diverse forest communities, has

proven itself to be of benefit for both the said communities and man, and has been recognised throughout the world as the best. It is precisely owing to this kind of management that the large areas of primeval forests like Štirovača on Velebit, the magical, age-old oak forest of Tramuntana on the island of Cres and the Motovun forest, which hides an additional treasure – the delectable truffle, have been preserved. Yet the symbol of that glorious tree is undoubtedly the town of Županja, where the nearby forest of Luže and a part of the forest of Radiševo have been declared reserves of forest vegetation, with some of the prime specimens within them including the individual gigantic oak tree. The oak is the mainstay of the vibrancy of life in the wilderness.





# THE HUNTER'S SONG

OSIJEK

Downstream of the river Drava, by Osijek, the artists Adolf Waldinger (1843-1904) and his teacher Hugo Conrad von Hötzen-dorf (1807-1869), protagonists of the Osijek School of Art, showed a great passion for the woods, hunting and game.



Hunting motif on a plate, porcelain, 19<sup>th</sup> cen- tury, Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb

Although they had the best academic education that could be gained in art at that time, they left behind them all these trends in painting and returned to Osijek in order to portray the rich colours, textures and their passionate love for the Slavonian countryside, in photorealistic and romantic landscapes, as well as their feeling of total freedom, while they stayed in the countryside. Something they found to be particularly interesting was still life, where they showed the spoils from the hunt, such as ducks, rabbits, pheasants...Their unofficial paintings are even more notable when compared with the expert portraits of rich patrons, which were painted according to strictly defined rules. The level of freedom in these depictions of nature and hunting was not well received by their peers, so during their lifetimes their paintings went unrecognised. Yet when looking at the paintings of the *Return from the hunt* or *Observations of the storm*, one can almost hear the echoes of the songs sung by the hunters. In this unique form of folk song, ethnomusicologists have noted at least 40 thousand joking, bawdy and even lascivious double verses. The same melody of 24 bars is always sung where one







person sings the first verse, and then the group repeats it. When the second verse comes to be sung, the group that is repeating it normally bursts into laughter.



1, 2, 3 & 4 In the vicinity of Osijek are top class big game and small game hunting grounds

5 *Still nature*, Vladimir Filakovac, oil on canvas

6 *Forest*, Adolf Waldinger, oil on canvas, Gallery of Fine Arts, Osijek

7 *In the hunt*, Hugo Conrad von Hötendorf, oil on canvas, Gallery of Fine Arts, Osijek

#### OSIJEK-BARANJA COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)

European mouflon (*Ovis aries*

*musimon* Pall.)

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)

European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis* Latham.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)





BILOGORA AND MOSLAVINA  
**JELEN-GRAD**



President of the Society for the Defence of Hunting, Count Ladislav Pejačević

Once upon a time there were two Jelengrads. One in the river valley, the other in the hills. The Jelengrad in the rich village of Petrijevci, was half way between Osijek and Valpovo, while the other Jelengrad was in the hills of Moslavina, an area enclosed by five rivers: the Česma to the north, the Lonja to the south, the Ilova to the east and onwards, the Sava to the south and the Drava to the north. Today they are both gone.

In 1894, local Squire Gustav Normann built a palace with two towers on a site close to Petrijevci, on the bank of the river Drava. The locals still talk of Jelengrad, the memory of it going strong even though the building with 60 rooms set a record for brevity of existence. It was devastated in the two weeks of the existence of the *Republic of Petrijevci*, in the autumn of 1918, at the time of the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The owners fled and subsequently sold the manor house. In a few years it changed hands several times but nobody took the trouble of restoring it. Finally, in 1927, its last owner razed it to the ground and shipped the pieces with barges up the Drava and the Danube to Germany, to be used as building material.

In the Jelengrad restaurant, which stands where the Zečevac forester's cottage once stood, at the entrance to the forest called Lipovačka šuma, or rather the Lipovac Forest, the place of honour





belongs to the venison steak in hunter's sauce prepared with penny buns. In the other Jelen-grad, situated in the hills of Moslavina, the local folk had wondered whether the Latin name of the hilly area, *Mons Claudius*, meant the Closed Mount or the Claudius Mount. Tradition tells that it was Emperor Claudius who planted the first grapevines where the famous vineyards now grow. This however does not exclude the other option, since both Moslavina and Bilogora are areas without a distinct main ridge, which makes it easy to lose one's way. In the Middle Ages this was a densely populated territory. Today the landscape is a kaleidoscope of forests and meadows with transitional scrub zones and sporadic settlements, where wildlife practically comes into the village farmyards. In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, several fortresses stood in the the centre of this hill country, and served as a fall-back points during the Mongol onslaught from the north, and later on when the Turkish armies attacked from the south. Among the strongholds were Košutgrad (Doe Town) and the better known Jelen-grad (Stag Town), located by the Jelenska spring. All the fortresses were devastated during a brief penetration of the Turkish forces in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and they were not rebuilt. All that is left are the thickly overgrown foundations, and their names which tell of the game that has never been as abundant there as it is today.

#### FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama* L.)

##### HUNTING:

Buck – from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Doe – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Fawn – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January

#### EURASIAN JAY (*Garrulus glandarius* L.)

HUNTING: year round, except when the bird is nesting eggs and feeding its young

1, 2, 4 & 5 BILOGORA AND MOSLAVINA are today particularly attractive hunting areas

3 Abundant game deer

#### BJELOVAR-BILOGORA COUNTY

##### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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##### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama* L.)

European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon* Pall.)

Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)

European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix* L.)

Wildcat (*Felis silvestris* Schr.)

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.)

Beech Marten (*Martes foina* EHR.)

European Pine Marten (*Martes martes* L.)





ĐAKOVO  
MAČKOVAC

Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer (1815-1905) was an undisputed giant of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Croatia. His astute management of the Church holdings in eastern Slavonia brought economic prosperity to the entire area, and enabled him to lay the foundations for the modern scientific and cultural institutions of Croatia. In addition to being a generous patron of science and art, he was also an ardent nature lover.



*The Roar, Vladimir Filakovac, 1955*

Hunting was his favourite way of escaping the everyday form of his post. When feudalism was abolished in 1848, the right to hunt was transferred to the estate owners, which contributed to the gradual recovery of the significantly reduced number of wild animals. The only area where the situation was relatively good were the 125 acres of the diocesan estate in Đakovo, which was the seat of his diocese in Valpovo and Baranja. Although Strossmayer had inherited well organised hunting grounds where game animals were bred for a full century before he arrived, he expanded the grounds and improved the existing stock with imported animals and by introducing new species like pheasant and fallow deer. His efforts proved so successful that he was able to give some animals away. He also expanded the existing breeding farms and established new ones. The Gara Forest near Gorjan was fenced and white deer and pheasants were released into it. Strossmayer believed that hunting grounds should



3



4



really be park-forests, and he regarded deer as the adornment of the woods and never hunted them himself.

In his youth he did hunt wild boar, and in keeping with the then perception of the relationship between men and beasts, he was particularly fond of hunting foxes and wolves. Knowing that, the frontier troops along the river Sava often invited him to hunts in the immense oak forests. In January of 1864, he ordered a wolf hunt in the forest known as Đakovački Gaj, and 13 wolves were killed, the Bishop downing 5 of them. Such were the times, and back then the wolf population was quite high. Strossmayer's hunting legacy is still felt today. The largest hunting ground and breeding farm is Mačkovac, which extends to 19,000 hectares, where over 400 wild boars and 120 fallow, roe and red deer are being bred. Close to Mačkovac, located by the C5 motorway which runs through Beli Manastir and Osijek, linking Hungary with the south, is the rest stop Ivandvor, in every way the best on any of the motorways in Croatia. Located so close to a hunting ground it has, quite appropriately, been decorated in the hunting style.

#### WILDCAT (*Felis silvestris* Schr.)

59

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1 Hunting grounds, developed for centuries

2 THE WILDCAT used to be a numerous species, today it is rare

3 Bishop Josip Juraj Strossmayer

4 & 6 Game and hunting themed works by Vladimir Filakovac

5 THE PHEASANT MALE has rich colours unlike any other European bird

5



6





60

## VELEBIT PIVČEVAC

On the inland side of our longest mountain range, Velebit, there are a series of villages and towns, large and small, where many people still live a pioneering way of life, and hunting is a daily activity. In comparison to the bare, windy coastal side, the sheltered side is covered with dense forests.



The capercaillie is a forest chicken, named in Croatia after a peak of the Velebit mountain (*Pivac*)

The mountain itself is a protected nature park within which there are two national parks: Paklenica, which descends from the ridges of the highest peaks down the two gorges towards the sea, and the Northern Velebit National Park, which covers the forested heights of the mountain and within which the areas of Rožanski kukovi and Hajdučki kukovi (*kuk* is a stone peak in the shape of a cone, with a rounded top) are protected as nature reserves under strict regime. Stretching from the edge of that national park towards the heartland is the spruce forest of Štirovača. Its most intriguing and elusive inhabitant—the nervous and timid black grouse—can be deciphered in the name of the Pivčevac peak (*pivac* is Croatian for cockerel). The forest provides a home to all other game, including the largest population of brown bear in the whole of Europe. This diversity of game both small and large is reflected in the names of the hunting clubs of the area: Vepar (Boar) from Kompolje, Kuna (Marten) from Lički Osik, Orao (Eagle) from Kosinje, Lane and Srnjak (Fawn and Stag) from Perušić. Such wealth of choice inevitably leads to a





wealth of gastronomy. On the theme of gastronomy, the town of Otočac was the venue for the Championship of European journalists in the preparation of hunter's stew in a pot over open fire. The local population understand hunting and, needless to say, know the land like the back of their hand. So whoever it is that starts a conversation about hunts and hunting, must also end it, because that kind of conversation never stops on its own. It is not a rare occurrence in the month of January that a weary hunter, returning home with his cultivator trailer full of killed wild boars, is met in the street by the applause of his neighbours, despite the bitter cold, and there is always someone to treat him with a drink! It must be pointed out that though they are passionate about hunting and their prey, the local folk have just as much compassion for wildlife. In the Velebit village of Kuterevo, they provide enthusiastic assistance to Vuk—a Velebit Association which has established a refuge for bear cubs orphaned through a number of reasons. The cubs, brought to the refuge from diverse locations, are prepared for an independent life in the wild.

#### BROWN BEAR (*Ursus arctos* L.)

61

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December and from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April

1 THE VELEBIT MOUNTAIN surrounds the continental region of Lika to the south and west

2 LIKA has always been known for harbouring some of the largest samples of wild game

3 THE WOLF belongs to one of the most valuable and adaptable predator species among mammals

4 THE BEAR used to be perceived as a threat, a dangerous and harmful beast, only to become and remain wild game for hunters










## HUNTS FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Following the First World War and the fall of the Habsburg Monarchy, part of which was Croatia, Belje – the estate owned by Eugen of Savoy who died without an heir, and within it the imperial hunting ground of Tikveš where the Archduke Friedrich of the Habsburgs had built his hunting manor – became the hunting ground for the Diplomatic Corps. In the newly created states it was more than appreciated, first by Aleksandar Karađorđević, the king of the first Yugoslavia, and then by Josip Broz Tito, the life-long president of the second Yugoslavia, who was a dedicated hunter. It is not difficult to envisage the once exclusive ambiance of the court, with camarillas who continued their plotting and scheming in this exquisite environment, or the gatherings of the statesmen for which the court offered informal opportunities for new diplomatic initiatives. Tito was particularly skilled at taking advantage of the relaxed atmosphere of a hunt. Today this superb hunting ground beckons with the largest population of all types of deer in Europe, as well as with the highly appreciated challenge of a wild boar hunt.

Being a nature lover, Tito created the famous safari park close to his summer residence on the Brijuni islands. He brought in numerous continental species of deer and the mouflon, but also a number of exotic animals – elephants included – presented to him by statesmen from different countries. The offspring of those animals still roam the lovingly tended landscapes of that national park, which encompasses the archipelago located right by the coast of Istria, and is now open to all.





## GORSKI KOTAR GORNJE JELENJE



Hunters from Čabar

During his brief occupation of these parts from 1803 to 1809, Napoleon constructed a road through the mountains, linking Karlovac and Rijeka, and nothing was ever the same again. He named this shortest transport route to the sea, the Luisiana, after the woman of his life. Come 1813, he was no longer able to maintain his hold on the lands he called the Illyrian provinces. At the same time, however, it was his road that enabled the Austrians to discover Rijeka and Opatija.

The first luxury hotel in the area, the Villa Angiolina, opened its doors in 1844, and from then onwards the shores west of Rijeka saw the gradual emergence of the Riviera. From 1873, guests seeking comfort could also travel by train as Zagreb and Rijeka were linked by a railway line. Many, however, would get off the train or the road before their final destination, the reasons for which were, and still are, the towns of Karlovac, Duga Resa, Severin, Vrbovska, Skrad, Kupjak, Ravna Gora, Mrkopalj, Delnice, Lokve, Gornje Jelenje, Grobnik and many more... and so it was that they discovered that Ogulin was not just a dreary post of the military border, but also the starting point for a venture into the wilderness of the mountains of Velika and Mala Kapela.

While the ladies strolled through Opatija enjoying the vistas of the sea and the islands, the men set off from the hotel in Jasenak,





catering for hunters, to hunt bears, or from Grobnik via Kamenjak towards Gornje Jelenje to hunt deer. The mountainous hinterland of Rijeka and the Bay of Kvarner also offer a range of game: wild boar, deer, fox, and in a special fenced area, the mouflon. Through the areas of Kapela and Bjelolasica, the hunt for dormouse can be fun. This nimble nocturnal rodent feeds on seeds, buds and berries, but will not hesitate to ransack a hunter's backpack carelessly left unattended – particularly if there is food in it. It is rarely able to resist the bait in the approved snares, where only bigger specimens are caught – the only ones that can be hunted. In earlier days, dormouse was hunted as a supplement to the diet of the poor, and its fat was used in popular medicine for the treatment of wounds and burns. Today, roast and stew made from its tasty meat are specialties in Gorski kotar. The coastal thickets and the islands are especially popular as hunting grounds for the Eurasian woodcock, the Rock partridge and the pheasant.



### 3 EDIBLE DORMOUSE (*Myoxus glis* L.)

HUNTING: from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September

### BROWN BEAR (*Ursus arctos* L.)

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December and from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April

### FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama* L.)

HUNTING:  
Buck – from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
Doe – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
Fawn – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1, 2 & 4 GORSKI KOTAR is rich in natural beauties and many wild game species

5 THE MOUSE BUZZARD, the goshawk and the imperial eagle also inhabit the Gorski kotar region

6 The fur of the chamois is dark grey, almost black in the winter

### KARLOVAC COUNTY

#### HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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#### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)  
European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)  
Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix* L.)

#### WOODCOCK

HUNTING:  
Eurasian woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)  
– from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> (29<sup>th</sup>) February  
Common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago* L.)  
– from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January





BARANJA  
ZMAJEVAC

The alluvial wetlands of the Danube and Drava rivers in the north-eastern part of Croatia, surrounded by forests, the centre of which are the internationally significant marshes of Kopački rit, are not just the largest stop for the numerous types of marsh birds in central Europe, and birds nesting in the undergrowth, but are also a magnet for carnivores such as the Pine marten and the fox, as well as being a veritable Eldorado for game like wild boar and the large population of red deer.



An old map of Baranja

The Austrian general Prince Eugen of Savoy, whom Napoleon had ranked as one of the seven greatest military leaders in history, achieved great successes in the war against the Turks. Following the battle of Senta in 1697, the Austrian Emperor Leopold I rewarded him, as was the custom of the times, and his reward was the estate of Belje, covering approximately 800 km<sup>2</sup>, in the southern part of Baranja. The estate included 13 villages with 6 more added subsequently. The new owner chose the village of Bilje as the hub of the estate, and it was there that he had a manor built for himself between 1707 and 1712. In the vicinity of the manor was a nine kilometre long oak bridge which spanned the river Drava. It was built by Suleiman I, known as Suleiman the Magnificent, who wished to make his communications with the conquered parts of Hungary easier and to serve in his ongoing push into the heart





of Europe. Although the bridge is now gone, in its time it was the wonder of the bridge-building world. In the nearby Tikveš, set among surroundings which boast the largest population of deer in Europe, is a luxury hunting manor. The great warrior, diplomat and generous patron kept coming back to Belje from the battle fronts across Europe, which ranged from the Netherlands to Spain, Bosnia and Poland, and there he organised glittering hunting balls for the crowned heads of Europe, aristocrats, diplomats and soldiers. Following the death of Eugen of Savoy, Belje remained an elite imperial hunting ground from the end of 1736 to the end of the First World War. Occasionally it would temporarily pass from the ownership of the Crown into the hands of one of the nobility, tied to which was the obligation to organise an imperial hunting event. Belje would then be returned to the direct management of the Royal Court, which did not relish the thought of losing. This is little wonder; with the wilderness of the Kopački rit reserve, its huge communities of water birds, its birds of prey which keep the rodent population in the fields near Vardarac at an acceptable level, with the golden deer in Tikveš and the wild boar in the area of Čeminac, with the famous vineyards on the Mount of Branja, which stretch all the way from Zmajevac to Batina, and the grand wine cellars in Kneževi Vinogradi, Baranja was and still is a magical place.

#### RED DEER (*Cervus elaphus L.*)

##### HUNTING:

Stag – from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Hind – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January

Fawn – from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January

1 In the 1930s, a small, one-storey hunting castle was built in the forest and hunting complex Tikveš. After WWII, Yugoslavian President Josip Broz Tito occasionally resided there, hosting some of the world leaders and taking them hunting

2 THE DEER of the Baranja hunting grounds are of great importance for Croatia's hunting tradition

3 The eldest female at the head of a wild boar herd

4 In Baranja, there is a natural habitat for deer, with a herd of up to 2,000 deer

5 In the Kopački rit region, over 20 pairs of the worldwide endangered white-tailed eagle nest

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6 THE COMMON SPOONBILL in the Kopački rit Nature Park





## THE DEER WEDDING

The link between Ernest Hemingway and the primeval man from the cave of Altamira are works of art the subject of which is hunting. Such a part of Man's life that is as exciting as it is important and full of all kinds of experiences, inevitably leaves its trace in the field of art. One area of Croatia which abounds in autochthonous artistic expression, both visual and musical, is the basin of the river Drava.

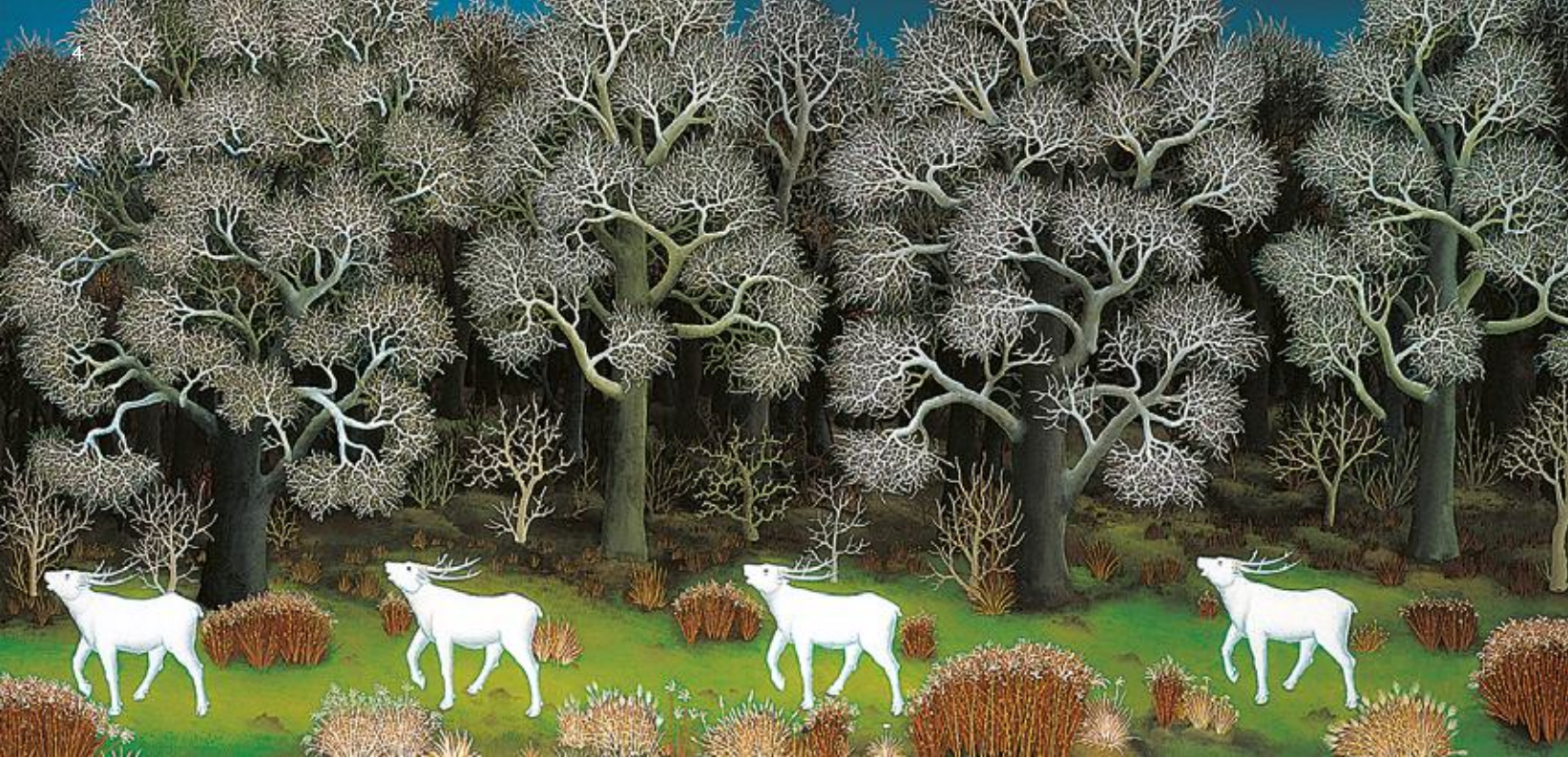


Deer are the most popular motif in Croatian traditional handicraft

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the upstream part of Podravina – where towns and villages are not always located on the river bank itself since, come the rainy season, its waters can rise to three times their normal level – saw the emergence of the form of folk painting which came to be known throughout the world as naïve art. Many superb works of this style have found their place as exhibits in the most prominent museums around the world. The point of issue of this movement was the village of Hlebine, and oil painting on glass became readily identifiable with the Hlebine School of Croatian Naïve Art.

The peasant folk felt that a brush and some paint provided them with the freedom to express themselves, to speak of their lives with unbridled passion and energy, at times with downright rude naturalism, but also with poeticism which refuses to be enslaved by academic conventions. Needless to say, this region of fields, willow groves, thickets, reed beds and wildlife is also dedicated to hunting.





The painting entitled *The Deer Wedding*, one of the pinnacles of the naïve art of Hlebine, idealises the mating call of white stags with no less passion than is shown by Captain Ahab, the hero of Herman Melville's novel, who sails the seas of the world in his fateful pursuit of Moby Dick, the white whale.

Much further downstream, the protagonists of the Osijek School of Art, Adolf Waldinger (1843-1904) and his teacher Hugo Conrad von Hötzendorf (1807-1869) had demonstrated no lesser passion towards the forest, hunting and the quarry. Although they possessed the best academic education available in the Europe of their time, upon their return to Osijek they abandoned all the trends in the currently prevailing painting style. Instead, in their landscapes of only seemingly photo-realistic and romantic nature, they depicted all the wealth of colours, textures and passionate love for the Slavonian landscape and one's unrestrained freedom to be a part of it.

**EUROPEAN RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus* L.)**

HUNTING: year round

**1** PODRAVINA is a region between the river Drava and the Bilogora hills to the north, and the northern parts of the Kalnik hills to the south

**3** PODRAVINA, a region rich in game

**4** JELENSKI SVATI (*The Deer Wedding*, 1959) is a famous glass painting by Ivan Generalić, one of the greatest painters of the Croatian naïve art movement

**2 & 5** THE RIVER DRAVA divides the riches of game deer between the Podravina region in Croatia and Hungary

**KOPRIVNICA-KRIŽEVCI COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION**

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**COMMERCIAL HUNTING**

- Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.)
- European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.)
- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa* L.)
- European Hare (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.)
- Pheasant (*Phasianus* sp. L.)
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* L.)
- Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* L.)
- Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix* L.)





## THE ELAFITI ISLANDS



A tall tombstone from the 15<sup>th</sup> century  
from Brotnice

The Elafiti group of islands, situated west of Dubrovnik, owes its name to the Greek word for deer: *élaphos*, although deer has long been gone from these isles. The first to mention them was Pliny the Elder, back in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, in his work *Naturalis historia*. The name of Šipan, the largest of the Elafiti, also comes from ancient Greek: *Gypanon* means the eagle's nest. Though the deer are gone, the hunting club from Šipan, the Fazan, tends to the hunting ground, the main game in which are pheasant and hare.

The nobility of Dubrovnik hunted not only with their dogs but also with their sharp-eyed falcons. That this is an old tradition is best proven by reliefs dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century which decorate the standing tombstones originating from the Middle Ages, and many of which depict scenes of hunting with birds of prey. Documents kept in the Archives of the Republic of Dubrovnik contain a wealth of data about the purchase of birds of prey from the Dubrovnik area. One paper from 1343 tells us that the first delivery of trained falcons from Dubrovnik, to a certain de Fonti from Barcelona, took place in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. According to the customs statute from 1277, an export duty of 1 grosz was paid for each bird and only the Venetians were exempt from such a payment. The falcons of Dubrovnik were also appreciated far beyond the borders of the Republic, as the instruction given by the Dubrovnik Government to its representa-







tive, dated 23 March 1531, informing him that Ibrahim-Pasha from Istanbul asked to be supplied with two falcons with white markings (*falconi con lo signal biancho*) testifies. It is known that falcons were trained on the island of Lastovo, and that the people of Lastovo delivered them to Dubrovnik as part of their taxes.

Many of those birds ended up in Naples. One report says that on one occasion a batch of 16 birds was delivered to the ViceRoy of Naples, and since the birds were so valuable, the nobleman accompanying them vouched for their safety with his life. Bearing all this in mind, it comes as no surprise that the family name of Sokolar has survived to this day. They used the trained birds to hunt hare in the Konavli range, and in the reed covered marshland of the Neretva estuary, the highly sought after Eurasian coot.

All in all, whether your inclination is to be a lone hunter, or you prefer the company of a dog or a bird of prey, whether silence is your choice, or the cries of a chase get your adrenaline going, whether you are armed with a rifle or a camera – Croatia is the hunter's Eldorado, able to satisfy all wants, a place where your hosts know what hunting is all about, and where a hunter is understood.

**1 & 4** THE ELAFITI ISLANDS were most probably named after the numerous deer inhabiting the area

**2** THE COOT is one of the symbols of the river Neretva delta

**3** FALCONS (lat. *Falconidae*) are a family of the falconets (suborder *Real falconets*). In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, falcons were trained on the Island of Lastovo

**6** COOTS are numerous at the swampy mouth of the river Neretva

#### DUBROVNIK-NERETVA COUNTY HUNTING ASSOCIATION

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#### COMMERCIAL HUNTING

European mouflon (*Ovis aries musimon Pall.*)  
Wild boar (*Sus scrofa L.*)  
Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca Meissn.*)  
Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola L.*)  
Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix L.*)  
Eurasian Coot (*Fulicula atra L.*)  
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos L.*)  
European Hare (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)  
Pheasant (*Phasianus sp. L.*)  
Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus L.*)

#### 5 EUROPEAN HARE (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)

HUNTING: from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> January







## DIVERSITY OF HABITATS, THE WEALTH OF NATURE'S GIFTS

Hunters never doubted their affiliation with nature or their love for it, and particularly for the wildlife in it. Hunters are green brothers, respecting nature in their very soul. They understand their role and place in the circle of the sustainable use of nature, and they act in accordance with it. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1983, Dubrovnik and the Hunting Association of Croatia were host to the General Assembly of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (*Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservations du Gibier*), the CIC. The Croatian Hunting Association will once again host the General Assembly of the CIC, in Dubrovnik and Cavtat in the year 2010.





**ISTRIAN SHORT-HAIRED POINTER**  
**ORIGIN:** ancient native Croatian breed known and used in Istria and Dalmatia, but can be found all over Croatia, as well as in Slovenia and Italy  
**FCI STANDARD:** No. 151/10 April 2002  
**FCI CLASSIFICATION:**  
 Group 6 – pointers and akin breeds  
 Section 1.2 – medium-size pointers  
 With a working exam  
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Croatia

Hunters must show a great deal of caution and care while hunting because the responsibility for the survival of endangered species of ducks in good part rests with them. Each duck hunter must be well prepared and be able to determine the species of the duck with certainty. ▶



**ISTRIAN WIRE-HAIRED POINTER**  
**ORIGIN:** the breed is native to Istria. In Austria this breed was taken as the basis for the creation of a new breed, the Styrian long-legged pointer, while in Italy the breeders used its characteristic of *standing before the quarry* to produce the breed Spinone Italiano  
**FCI STANDARD:** No. 152/10 April 2002  
**FCI CLASSIFICATION:**  
 Group 6 – pointers and akin breeds  
 Section 1.2 – medium-size pointers  
 With a working exam  
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Croatia



**POSAVINA POINTER**  
**ORIGIN:** evolved from the ancient Pannonian pointer that was first bred in the basin of the river Sava, but was subsequently spread throughout the country  
**FCI STANDARD:** No. 154/10 April 2002  
**FCI CLASSIFICATION:**  
 Group 6 – pointers and akin breeds  
 Section 1.2 – medium-size pointers  
 With a working exam  
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Croatia

## PROTECTED SPECIES OF DUCKS



**FERRUGINOUS DUCK** (*Aythya nyroca*) is a species threatened with extinction both worldwide and in Croatia, although here its population is at its largest compared to the rest of Europe, and is regarded as crucial for the survival of the species



**RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*) is a critically endangered species nesting in Croatia, and its numbers are not much larger during migration and wintering



**PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*) is extinct in Croatia as a nesting species. During migration and wintering it can still be found throughout the country, but it is scarce and endangered. Consequently, caution is required and killing must be avoided



**TEAL** (*Anas crecca*) does not nestle in Croatia but is relatively numerous as a migratory bird throughout the country. As a winterer it is scarce and endangered which is why care should be taken not to disturb it from November onwards



**SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*) is extinct in Croatia as a nesting bird. It can still be seen as a migratory bird and a winterer but it is scarce and endangered



**WIGEON DUCK** (*Anas penelope*) is active during the day, at dusk and in the night; these ducks are very sociable and can always be encountered on grass- and farmland in large flocks

## HUNTING DUCKS



**POCHARD** (*Anas ferina*) is the most widespread and the most numerous diving duck in Croatia



**TUFTED DUCK** (*Aythya fuligula*) is present in rising numbers, and nests throughout the Croatian lowlands. As a migratory bird it is found in the brackish waters in the coastal areas



**MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*), also known as a wild duck, is the most numerous, the most widespread and the best known duck in Croatia

HUNTING CALENDAR

LARGE GAME



RED DEER (*Cervus elaphus L.*)

Stag  
Hind  
Fawn

from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January



FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama L.*)

Buck  
Dawn  
Fawn

from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January  
from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January



AXIS DEER (*Axis axis H. Smith*)

Buck  
Doe and fawn

when its antlers are mature and the velvet has rubbed off  
when not in advanced stage of pregnancy



EUROPEAN ROE DEER  
(*Capreolus capreolus L.*)

Roebuck  
Doe and fawn

from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September  
from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January



CHAMOIS (*Rupicapra rupicapra L.*)

from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January



MOUFLON (*Ovis aries musimon Pall.*)

Ram  
Ewe and lamb

year round  
from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January



WILD BOAR (*Sus scrofa L.*)

Boar, shoat and boarlet  
Sow

year round  
from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> January



BROWN BEAR (*Ursus arctos L.*)

from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December; from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April

SMALL GAME



EUROPEAN BADGER (*Meles meles L.*)

from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> November



WILDCAT (*Felis silvestris Schr.*)

from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January



BEECH MARTEN (*Martes foina EHR*)

year round except when the female is in advanced pregnancy and nursing its young



EUROPEAN PINE MARTEN  
(*Martes martes L.*)

from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> (29<sup>th</sup>) February



WEASEL (*Mustela nivalis L.*)

no hunting



EUROPEAN BEAVER (*Castor fiber L.*)

no hunting



EUROPEAN HARE (*Lepus europaeus Pall.*)

from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> January



EUROPEAN RABBIT  
(*Oryctolagus cuniculus L.*)

year round



EDIBLE DORMOUSE (*Myoxus glis L.*)

from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September

**SMALL GAME**



PHEASANT (*Phasianus sp. L.*) from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

PARTRIDGE:



ROCK PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris graeca Meissn.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January

CHUKAR (*Alectoris chucar*) from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> January

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December

QUAIL:



COMMON QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> November

VIRGINIA QUAIL (*Coturnix virginiana L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

WOODCOCK:



EURASIAN WOODCOCK

(*Scolopax rusticola L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> (29<sup>th</sup>) February

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January

WILD PIGEON:



WOOD PIGEON (*Columba palumbus L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

ROCK DOVE (*Columba livia Gmelin.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January

GREY GOOSE:



BEAN GOOSE (*Anser fabalis Latham.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE  
(*Anser albifrons Scopoli.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January

WILD DUCK:



MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

COMMON POCHARD (*Aythya ferina L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

COMMON TEAL (*Anas crecca L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

EURASIAN COOT (*Fulicula atra L.*) from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January

**YEAR ROUND HUNTING**

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone cornix L.*) except when nesting and caring for its fledglings

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus L.*) except when nesting and caring for its fledglings

JACKDAW (*Coloeus monedula L.*) except when nesting and caring for its fledglings

COMMON MAGPIE (*Pica pica L.*) except when nesting and caring for its fledglings

EURASIAN JAY (*Garrulus glandarius L.*) except when nesting and caring for its fledglings

RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes L.*) except when the female is in advanced pregnancy and nursing its young

GOLDEN JACKAL (*Canis aureus L.*) except when the female is in advanced pregnancy and nursing its young

EUROPEAN POLECAT (*Mustela putorius L.*) except when the female is in advanced pregnancy and nursing its young

EGYPTIAN MONGOOSE  
(*Herpestes ichneumon L.*) except when the female is in advanced pregnancy and nursing its young

## HUNTING ACCOMMODATION

## ■ HUNTING IN THE LOWLANDS

## ■ HUNTING BY THE RIVER

### SOUTH-EASTERN SLAVONIA – SPAČVA

*Winter hunting of wild boar and royal stag in mating*



#### SPAČVA HUNTING MANOR

*A comfortable hunting lodge serving delicious Slavonian specialities*  
LOCATION: south-eastern Slavonia, between the Sava and Danube rivers  
TERRAIN: lowlands criss-crossed with water areas, altitude 77–90m  
SPAČVA, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 25,018 ha  
QUARRY: stag, wild boar, roebuck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)32 331 655  
mob: +385(0) 98 441 928  
e-mail: usvin@hrsume.hr

#### ŽIVAČINE HUNTING LODGE

### EASTERN SLAVONIA – BREZNICA AND KUJNJAK

*The pearl of Croatian hunting opportunities*



#### MAČKOVAC HUNTING LODGE

BREZNICA, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 11,892 ha  
LOCATION: in the vicinity of Đakovo, in the eastern part of the Republic of Croatia  
KUJNJAK, BREEDING FARM: 763 ha  
QUARRY: stag, fallow deer buck, wild boar, roebuck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)31 211 199,  
+385(0)31 750 187  
mob: +385(0)98 439 810  
e-mail: usosi@hrsume.hr

### NORTH-WESTERN CROATIA – ZELEN DVOR

*Partridge, pheasant, quail, snipe*



#### ZELEN DVOR HUNTING LODGE

*Surrounded by park woods, offers comfortable rooms, a restaurant serving both national and hunting cuisine*  
ZELEN DVOR, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 8,500 ha  
LOCATION: Petrijanec, 10 kilometres from Varaždin  
TERRAIN: Pannonian-type lowlands without any distinct relief forms, almost completely flat and fully negotiable  
HUNTING: individual with dogs, in a group with beaters or drovers and professional guide  
QUARRY: partridge, pheasant, quail, snipe, hare and rabbit

### POSAVINA – RADINJE

*Well organised hunting*



#### RADINJE HUNTING LODGE

*Located within the hunting ground, offers 7 rooms with a total of 14 beds, and a restaurant with a lounge*  
RADINJE, ENCLOSED HUNTING GROUND: 4,135 ha  
LOCATION: along the river Sava  
TERRAIN: plains, oak and ash-tree forests  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar, hare, quail, pheasant, wild duck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)35 361 966  
mob: +385(0)98 439 386  
e-mail: usngr@hrsume.hr

### SOUTH-EASTERN SLAVONIA – KUNJEVCI

*Prize specimens of fallow deer and mouflon*



#### KUNJEVCI HUNTING LODGE

*The finely appointed Lodge, located 4 km from Vinkovci, offers accommodation in 4 double bedrooms and 2 apartments and a restaurant serving typical Slavonian cuisine*  
KUNJEVCI, BREEDING FARM: 1,304 ha  
LOCATION: south-eastern Slavonia  
TERRAIN: typical Slavonian oak woods with well maintained paths  
HUNTING: lying in wait, stalking, driving in with a vehicle, in the company of professional hunters  
QUARRY: fallow deer buck, mouflon, wild boar, roebuck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)32 331 655  
mob: +385(0)98 441 928  
e-mail: usvin@hrsume.hr

### CENTRAL SLAVONIA – LACIĆ – GLOŽĐE

*Stag, doe, wild boar*



#### LACIĆI HUNTING LODGE

HUNTING GROUND: Lacić–Gložđe  
LOCATION: south of the river Drava, close to Našice  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)31 618 050  
mob: +385(0)98 445290  
e-mail: usnas@hrsume.hr

#### BOLJARA HUNTING LODGE

### PODUNAVLJE-PODRAVLJE – BARANJA

*Rated as one of the most important and outstanding hunting grounds in Europe*



#### MONJOROŠ HUNTING LODGE

LOCATION: north-eastern Croatia  
TERRAIN: The hunting ground, which is especially rich in red deer and wild boar, spreads through the alluvial forests along the Danube and Drava rivers  
HUNTING: lying in wait, stalking, driving in with a vehicle  
GROUP HUNT: a kill of up to one hundred heads of wild boar  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar, wild goose and duck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)31 211 199,  
+385(0)31 750 187  
mob: +385(0)98 439 810  
e-mail: usosi@hrsume.hr

#### ZLATNA GREDA HUNTING LODGE

*One of the most beautiful hunting lodges in the Podunavlje-Podravlje hunting ground*

#### ČOŠAK ŠUME HUNTING LODGE

*Annex with additional beds*

### POSAVINA – POSAVSKE ŠUME

*Renowned for duck, snipe and quail hunting*



#### BREZOVICA HUNTING LODGE

*Located 10 km from Sisak; menu with local gastronomy and the best wines of Moslavina*

#### ŠAŠ HUNTING LODGE

*Located within the hunting ground, offers 8 rooms with a total of 20 beds, local cuisine*  
POSAVSKJE ŠUME, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 14,074 ha  
LOCATION: in Posavina (the river Drava basin)  
TERRAIN: low-lying wetland forests with well maintained paths and hunting facilities  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar, snipe, wild duck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)44 559 111  
mob: +385(0)98 440 917  
e-mail: ussis@hrsume.hr

#### CEROVLJANI HUNTING LODGE

*Located 60 km from Sisak, at the edge of the forest within the hunting ground; serves local cuisine*



■ HUNTING IN THE HILLS

POSAVINA – OPEKE AND LIPOVLJANI  
*Stag, wild boar, roebuck and countless flocks of wild duck*



**LIPOVLJANI HUNTING LODGE**  
OPEKE, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 3,519 ha  
LIPOVLJANI, BREEDING FARM: 728 ha  
LOCATION: between the river Sava and the motorway  
TERRAIN: low-lying forests of common oak and ground ash criss-crossed with plains and ponds  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar, coot, wild duck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)1 4821 075  
i +385(0)1 6546 316  
mob: +385(0)98 209 750  
e-mail: uszag@hrsume.hr  
**OPEKE HUNTING LODGE**

PODRAVINA – PESKI  
*One of the largest pheasant breeding farms*



**PESKI HUNTING LODGE**  
PESKI, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 14,192 ha  
LOCATION: Podravina, in the vicinity of Đurđevac  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar, hare, pheasant, quail, wild duck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)98 250 902  
mob: +385(0)98 451 66  
e-mail: uskop@hrsume.

PODRAVINA – REPAŠ  
*Royal stag, wild boar, roebuck*



**ČAMBINA HUNTING LODGE**  
REPAŠ, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 6,313 ha  
LOCATION: Podravina, in the vicinity of Đurđevac  
TERRAIN: backwaters of the river Drava, fertile meadows  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)48 250 900  
mob: +385(0)98 451 661  
e-mail: uskop@hrsume.hr

BILOGORA – PISANIČKA BILOGORA  
*Prize trophy stag, roebuck, roe deer*



**BABINAC HUNTING LODGE**  
*Located 20 km from Bjelovar, one of the most modern and best equipped facilities providing services for hunters*  
PISANIČKA BILOGORA, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 10,480 ha  
LOCATION: on the slopes of Bilogora, north of Velika Pisanica  
TERRAIN: hill country  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)43 247 111  
mob: +385(0)98 353 099  
e-mail: usbj@hrsume.hr

BILOGORA – ŽABLJAČKI LUG – ČESMA  
*Stag, roebuck, wild boar*



**ŽABLJAČKI LUG – ČESMA**  
OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 7,117 ha  
LOCATION: in the valley of the river Česma, between the slopes of the mountains of Bilogora, Moslavačka gora and Kalnik  
TERRAIN: lowlands hunting ground surrounded by a wide belt of meadows and grazing land, in its southern part covered with common oak and hornbeam forests  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar, pheasant, hare  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)43 247 111  
mob: +385(0)98 353 099  
e-mail: usbj@hrsume.hr

POKUPSKI BAZEN AND PETROVA GORA  
*Golden wild boar, the best wild boar hunting*



**MULJAVA HUNTING LODGE**  
*Located 30 km from Karlovac, offers accommodation in rooms and apartments, large conference hall, open-type restaurant, hunting salon*  
POKUPSKI BAZEN, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 8,183 ha  
PETROVA GORA, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 14,010 ha  
LOCATION: between the Zagreb-Karlovac motorway and the river Kupa  
TERRAIN: lowlands, hunting ground Pokupski bazen  
TERRAIN: hill country, hunting ground Petrova gora  
QUARRY: roebuck, wild boar, wild duck, snipe  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)47 843 200  
mob: +385(0)98 348 016  
e-mail: uskar@hrsume.hr

■ HUNTING IN THE MOUNTAINS

MOUNTAINS OF SLAVONIA – PAPIK  
*Stag, roebuck, wild boar*



**DEDOVICA HUNTING LODGE**  
*Located within the hunting ground, offers accommodation in 6 rooms with a total of 12 beds, a lounge for rest and refreshments after a hunt*  
PAPUK, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 10,837 ha  
LOCATION: in the centre of Slavonia, on the homonymous mountain  
TERRAIN: furrowed by deep gullies and valleys, rich in varied vegetation of mixed forests, altitude up to 1,000 m  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wild boar  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)31 618 050  
mob: +385(0)98 445 290  
e-mail: usnas@hrsume.hr

MOUNTAINS OF SLAVONIA – PAPIK  
*Stag, roebuck, wild boar*



**LEŠTAT HUNTING LODGE**  
ZVEČEVO, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 5,481 ha  
LOCATION: on the southern slopes of Papuk, not far from Požega  
QUARRY: stag, roebuck, wildboar  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)34 312 381  
mob: +385(0)98 442 465  
e-mail: uspoz@hrsume.hr  
**JANKOVAC MOUNTAIN LODGE**  
*Located in a romantic mountain glen, this facility has two terraces, a balcony and a large dining room with a conservatory*  
**BRZAJA HUT**  
*A facility for a short break during or after a hunt*

## HUNTING ACCOMMODATION

## ■ HUNTING IN THE MOUNTAINS

## ■ HUNTING BY THE SEA

### GORSKI KOTAR – BJELOLASICA

*The area is a habitat for the prized brown bear and it gave the national champion*



#### SMREKOVA DRAGA HUNTING LODGE

*Located on an idyllic clearing surrounded by spruce forests, at an altitude of 1,125 m, appointed in the hunting style*

BJELOLASICA, OPEN-TYPE  
HUNTING GROUND: 30.458 ha  
SMREKOVA DRAGA, OPEN-TYPE  
HUNTING GROUND: 18.098 ha  
LOCATION: in the centre of Gorski kotar, along the boundary of the Risnjak National Park  
QUARRY: brown bear, stag, roebuck, wild boar, snipe  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)51 812 188  
mob: +385(0)98 447 946  
e-mail: usdel@hrsume.hr

### GORSKI KOTAR – BJELOLASICA

*The area is a habitat for the prized brown bear and it gave the national champion*



#### TUČKA PLANA HUNTING LODGE

*Located some 15 km from Mrkopalj, altitude 110 m above sea level, ideal for hunters and mountaineers*

LIVIDRAGA HUNTING LODGE  
Located 9 km from Gerovo (accessible by asphalt road), 39 km from Delnice, on a hill with a lovely view, offers a number of sports grounds  
TERRAIN: mountain slopes, coniferous forests, in the immediate vicinity of the Risnjak National Park (1,582 m), at an altitude of 928 m

#### LITORIĆ HUNTING LODGE

*Located along the route of the old road Zagreb–Rijeka (7 km by asphalt road from Presika)*

TERRAIN: forested area, easily accessible due to the proximity of the main road

#### DELNICE HUNTING LODGE

*Located in Delnice, close to the ski jump, this is a motel-type facility*

### VELEBIT – CENTRAL VELEBIT

*Bear and prize specimens of the mountain wild boar*



#### CENTRAL VELEBIT

OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 12,352 ha  
LOCATION: on Velebit, along the Štirovača forest and the small mountain lake of Sunder  
TERRAIN: mountainous with mixed forests of beech and fir  
QUARRY: brown bear, stag, roebuck, wild boar, snipe, quail  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)53 575 530  
mob: +385(0)98 446 450  
e-mail: usgos@hrsume.hr

### VELEBIT – RIČIČKO BILO

*Prize specimens*



#### MIŠKOVIĆA HUNTING LODGE

*Located in the centre of the small village of Krasno, offers accommodation in rooms and apartments*

RIČIČKO BILO, OPEN-TYPE  
HUNTING GROUND: 22,669 ha  
LOCATION: on Velebit mountain  
TERRAIN: native forests of beech, fir and juniper tree interspaced with glorious meadows and rocky tracts, altitude 1,200–1,400 m  
QUARRY: brown bear, stag, roebuck, wild boar, snipe, quail  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)53 881 022  
mob: +385(0)98 439 714  
e-mail ussen@hrsume.hr

#### MUSEUM OF FORESTRY IN KRASNO

*The facility serves a dual purpose: it houses the Museum of Forestry, but also offers accommodation in rooms and apartments appointed in a contemporary style*

### VELEBIT – NORTHERN VELEBIT

*Stag and bear*



#### HUNTING LODGE IN KRASNO

OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 28,557 ha  
LOCATION: central part of the mountain massif of Velebit  
TERRAIN: native forests of beech, fir and juniper tree interspaced with glorious meadows and rocky tracts, altitude 1,200–1,400 m  
QUARRY: brown bear, stag, roebuck, wild boar, snipe, quail  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)53 881 022  
mob: +385(0)98 439 714  
e-mail: ussen@hrsume.hr

### ISTRIA – UBAŠ



#### UBAŠ HUNTING HUT

UBAŠ, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 344 ha  
LOCATION: in the eastern part of Istria, right by the sea  
TERRAIN: thick forests of holly oak and other Mediterranean vegetation criss-crossed with aisles and meadows  
QUARRY: fallow deer and roebuck  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)52 695 150, +385(0)52 855 513  
mob: +385(0)98 439 880  
e-mail: usbuz@hrsume.hr  
KONTIJA HUNTING LODGE  
KORNARIJA HUNTING LODGE  
PEČE HUNTING LODGE  
PILARNA HUNTING LODGE

### ISLANDS – CRES



#### CRES HUNTING LODGE

LOCATION: island of Cres, the largest island on the Adriatic, 80 km long and 13 km wide  
TERRAIN: natural woods of bay oak and yolk elm, thickets, the evergreen woods of holly oak and Mediterranean macchia  
QUARRY: mouflon and wild boar

### THE LITTORAL – SENJ



#### SENJ HUNTING LODGE

LOCATION: close to Senj on the way to Žuta Lokva  
TERRAIN: karstic slopes, rock-bound ground and Mediterranean vegetation  
QUARRY: mouflon  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)53 884 141

DALMATIA – BOKANJAČKO BLATO



**BOKANJAČKO BLATO**

MUSAPSTAN-BOKANJAČKO BLATO,  
OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 2,529 ha  
LOCATION: in the hinterland of Zadar  
TERRAIN: Mediterranean vegetation  
with organised hunting tracks and paths  
HUNTING: individual, with drovers,  
with the use of trained bird dogs  
QUARRY: hare, pheasant, par-  
tridge, quail, snipe  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)21 482 950  
mob: +385(0)98 445 665  
e-mail: usspl@hrsume.hr

**OŠTRICA**

DALMATIA – SV. ILIJA OREBIĆ

*One of the best mouflon  
hunting grounds in Europe*



**SV. ILIJA OREBIĆ**

OPEN-TYPE HUNTING GROUND: 3,749 ha  
LOCATION: on the peninsula of Pelješac  
OŠTRICA BREEDING FARM: 261 ha  
TERRAIN: movement through the area  
only along the hunting tracks with the use  
of draught animals, altitude up to 960 m  
LOCATION: in the immediate  
vicinity of Šibenik  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)21 482 950  
mob: +385(0)98 445 665  
e-mail: usspl@hrsume.hr

DALMATIA – BOKOVO



**BOKOVO**

*One of the best hunting grounds for  
chamois in this part of Europe*

LOCATION: mountain of Biokovo  
TERRAIN: typical mountainous hunting  
ground, altitude 380–1,750 m  
BOKOVO, OPEN-TYPE HUNTING  
GROUND: 11,320 ha  
QUARRY: chamois, mouflon, wild boar  
CONTACT: tel: +385(0)21 482 950  
mob: +385(0)98 445 665  
e-mail: usspl@hrsume.hr

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL  
THE HUNTING GROUNDS UNDER  
MANAGEMENT OF HRVATSKE ŠUME:



HRVATSKE ŠUME TOURS

Lj. F. Vukotinovića 2,  
10000 Zagreb, Hrvatska  
ID COD: HR-AB-01-080251008  
tel: +385(0)1 4804 231  
fax: +385(0)1 4804 241  
e-mail: tours@hrsume.hr  
LEADER: Vesna Poljak  
EXPERT ASSOCIATE: mr. spc.  
Marin Tomaić, dipl. ing. šum.  
web: www.hrsume.hr

HRVATSKE ŠUME

*In the hunting grounds, extending to  
a total area of 301,594 ha, of which  
294,059 ha account for open-type hunt-  
ing grounds, and 4,135 ha are occupied  
by breeding farms and enclosed hunting  
grounds, all of which are managed by  
Hrvatske šume, almost all kinds of game  
are available for hunting. A very special  
experience is lying in wait for stags during  
the mating season, a group hunt for the  
wild boar and the hunt for the brown bear.*

HUNTING ACCOMMODATION

HUNTERS ASSOCIATIONS



HUNTING LODGE JELEN

Donji Daruvar

CONTACT: Miroslav Božić  
mob: +385 (0) 91 5409 870



HUNTING LODGE BILOGORA

Kapela

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## THROUGH THE EYES OF THE HUNTER

Seen through the eyes of the hunter, Croatia offers a comprehensive hunting experience—leisurely and silent walks through the hunting grounds, or stalking of an old roebuck or a fox, when the heart throbs in the throat. Or the occasional noisy hunt for a wild boar or pheasants, with the obligatory hunter's followers and the hounds, followed by a meeting with friends around a camp fire at the edge of the forest, and the exchange of stories, in short—a rest for the soul.

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FIRST CLASS HUNTING TROPHIES  
IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Verified by the *ad hoc* CIC Commission for the evaluation of trophies and exhibitions

STAG, *antlers*, Garjevica hunting ground, hunter Ivica Todorić, 261,81 CIC t, 2003.  
FALLOW DEER, *antlers*, Garjevica hunting ground, hunter Ivica Todorić, 212,34 CIC t, 2004.  
AXIS DEER, *antlers*, Brijuni hunting ground, hunter Ivan Krajačić, 309,70 CIC t, 1966.  
ROEBUCK, *antlers*, Podravlje hunting ground, hunter Hubert Kišpal, 196,98 CIC t, 2008.  
MOUFロン, *antlers*, Kalifront hunting ground, hunter Ante Lušić, 237,25 CIC t, 2008.  
CHAMOIS RAM, *horns*, Sveti Juraj hunting ground, hunter Damir Vrhovnik, 120,13 CIC t, 2007.  
CHAMOIS CHE-GoAT, *horns*, Jablanac hunting ground, hunter Božidar Šegota, 118,92 CIC t, 2004.  
WILD BOAR, *tusks*, Perušić hunting ground, hunter Mirko Hećimović, 149,25 CIC t, 1995.  
BROWN BEAR, *bearskin*, Risnjak hunting ground, hunter Pavo Balatinac, 488,11 CIC t, 2004.  
BROWN BEAR, *skull*, Risnjak hunting ground, hunter Pavo Balatinac, 62,20 CIC t, 2004.  
BROWN BEAR, *skull*, Višnjevica hunting ground, hunter Ivica Vugrinec, 62,60 CIC t, 2008.  
WILD CAT, *pelt*, Ravna Gora hunting ground, hunter Nikola Hibler, 70,00 CIC t, 1991.  
WILD CAT, *skull*, Velika kapela hunting ground, hunter Milan Pavelić, 20,00 CIC t, 1977.  
BADGER, *skull*, Dalj hunting ground, hunter Antonio Kovčaliija, 23,51 CIC t, 2007.  
FOX, *skull*, Prelog hunting ground, hunter Mladen Mezga, 25,00 CIC t, 2001.  
JACKAL, *pelt*, Opeke II hunting ground, hunter Marijan Grubešić, 47,38 CIC t, 2006.  
JACKAL, *skull*, Banovci hunting ground, hunter Zvonimir Medverec, 26,49 CIC t, 2009.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Museum of Archaeology, Split  
Dioces of Đakovo and Osijek, Đakovo  
Generalić Gallery, Hlebine  
Gallery of Fine Arts, Osijek  
City Museum, Varaždin  
City Museum, Vinkovci  
Hunting Museum (HLS), Zagreb  
Museum of Međimurje, Čakovec  
Museum of Turopolje, Velika Gorica  
Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb  
County Museum of Konavle, Čilipi  
Stjepan Gruber County Museum, Županja  
County Museum, Vela Luka

CROATIAN HUNTING  
ASSOCIATION



THE HUNTING ASSOCIATIONS OF THE CROATIAN COUNTIES AND THE CITY OF ZAGREB form the Croatian Hunting Association, their umbrella organisation, which has a membership of 55,000 hunters. They take care of the breeding programmes, make sure that hunting is carried out in the proper way, and through this—and in various other ways—they protect the nature. The Croatian Hunting Association was founded in Zagreb in 1925, and became a member of the CIC, the *Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservations du Gibier* in 1992.

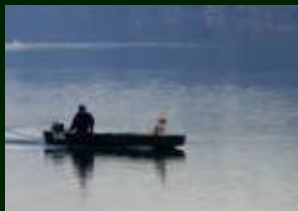
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**THE JELAS ĐOL HUNTING GROUND** is well known in the history of hunting; on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1894, in the Crnac hunting ground area, near Orahovica, the German hunter Adolf Kosmack killed a capital deer whose antlers could have been classified among the highest ranked examples in the world. However, only in 1958, thanks to Karl Loze, were the antlers officially graded at 257.92 CIC points, though at the time of the kill they would have been rated at an impressive 259.06 CIC points. Unfortunately, the Kosmacks were late for the world exhibition, but had they made it on time, the antlers would undoubtedly be one of the strongest trophies in the world.



## REGULATIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN HUNTERS



For foreign persons, a hunting exam or the authorisation to carry hunting weapons issued according to the regulations of their country of provenance is recognised (Regulations on the Conditions and Methods of Hunting, Official Gazette, n.62/06.). On the basis of these documents, the Croatian Hunters Association will issue to foreign hunters a hunting card, issued on the request of the game warden in whose hunting ground the foreign person hunts for the first time in that calendar year. The hunting card so issued is valid until the end of the calendar year and is valid in all Croatian hunting grounds. A foreign person or group of persons intending to hunt game in Croatia is obliged to first obtain a written invitation to hunt by the game warden. Foreign persons must obtain the hunting card through the game warden upon first entering Croatia for the purpose of hunting. The hunting card is valid from the date of issue to the end of the calendar year in which it is issued and is valid in the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia. Upon obtaining the hunting card, the game warden may issue the foreign persons with a written consent to hunt on the legal form (Authorisation to hunt game), without which hunting is not permitted. The game warden or person practicing hunting tourism is obliged to acquaint foreign hunters with all duties and laws issuing from the Regulations of the Hunting Laws (Official Gazette, n.140/05) and subordinate legislation before the killing of game.

## WEAPONS



Foreign persons transiting through or coming to Croatia for the purpose of hunting may take across a national border crossing weapons and the appropriate ammunition if they are entered in their travel documents. Weapons and ammunition are entered into the travel documents by the diplomatic mission, that is the consular office of the Republic of Croatia, if the foreign person is authorised to carry those weapons according to the regulations of their country of residence. If the weapons and ammunition are not entered into the travel documents, the border police will issue an authorization for the import of the weapons if the foreign person possesses the authorization to carry those weapons according to the regulations of their country of residence. Foreign persons importing hunting weapons into Croatia must have a written invitation from the game warden of the hunting ground in which they will be hunting. Game may be killed only with hunting weapons and hunting cartridges appropriate to the strength and resistance of the species of game hunted. Hunting weapons are considered to be hunting rifles, guns and revolvers. Big game may be killed only with grain from long hunting weapons with grooved barrels, and wild boar with grain also from hunting weapons with smooth 10, 12, 16 or 20 calibre barrels. It is forbidden to kill game with automatic weapons and semi-automatic weapons with smooth or grooved barrels if the magazine can contain more than two cartridges (Hunting Laws).

## EXPORT OF TROPHIES



Game trophies may be taken out and exported from hunting grounds and from Croatia with a legal trophy list and a certificate stating the origin of the game, issued by the game warden of the hunting ground where the trophy was acquired, and with the veterinary certificate HVI 32-5A EU for bird and even-toed ungulate trophies comprised of whole, untreated parts, and the veterinary certificate HVI 32-4A EU for treated trophies of birds or even-toed ungulates. Trophies of game within the group of five points less than the national champion may be exported from Croatia if they have a grading by the Trophies and Exhibitions Committee of the CIC. With a certificate stating the origin of the game, the hunter may export from Croatia for personal use up to 10kg of game (products of animal origin for personal use). (Regulations on the conditions of export of personal parcels of products of animal origin, Official Gazette, n.56/09 and EU 206/2009).

## HUNTING DOGS



Foreign citizens hunting on Croatian territory may use hunting dogs registered in the countries from which they arrive, having passed the relevant exams according to the regulations of those countries. When crossing the border, the owner or guide of the hunting dog must possess a passport for the dog. (Regulations on the breeds, number and methods of using hunting dogs for hunting, Official Gazette, n.62/06)

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