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ESPLANADE

VIEW

HOTEL MAGAZINE | **Spring/Summer 2025.** proljeće/ljeto
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IVICA MAX KRIZMANIĆ
General Manager of the
Esplanade Hotel / generalni
direktor Hotela Esplanade

Dear friends, guests, and partners,

As we proudly celebrate the 100th anniversary of Zagreb's grand dame, the Esplanade, I am overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude, pride, and a deep connection to this exceptional place. Back in 1925, a hotel was built with a very special purpose – to offer a luxurious haven for the passengers of the legendary Orient Express. But over the past century, the Esplanade has become much more than just a hotel – it is a living legend, a symbol of Zagreb's elegance, style, and genuine hospitality. For me personally, the Esplanade is not just my workplace – it is a part of my life, my story. Every corner of this hotel holds memories, moments, and people who have made and continue to make it so special. Countless stories have been written here – from love affairs to diplomatic meetings, from family gatherings to cultural and historically significant events. These halls have welcomed kings, actors, artists, presidents – and many dreamers who found inspiration, peace, or simply the comforting feeling of being truly welcome. This milestone anniversary is a perfect opportunity to reflect on our rich history, but also to look toward the future with equal excitement. Our mission remains the same – to offer an experience that is not only luxurious, but also deeply personal, warm, and soulful. We continue to invest in sustainability, innovation, and authenticity, striving to stay ahead while remaining true to the Esplanade's unique story. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible team – the people who, with their smiles, effort, and passion, make a difference every single day. Without them, the Esplanade wouldn't be what it is – a place where every guest feels truly special. A new chapter lies ahead, and I look forward to writing it together with you. Thank you for being with us, for being part of our past, our present, and our future.

Dragi prijatelji, gosti i partneri,

dok s ponosom obilježavamo 100 godina zagrebačke ljepote Esplanade, preplavljuju me osjećaji zahvalnosti, ponosa i duboke povezanosti s ovim iznimnim mjestom. Te davne 1925. godine sagrađen je hotel koji je od samih početaka imao poseban zadatak – pružiti raskošno utočište putnicima slavnog Orient Expressa. No, tijekom proteklog stoljeća, Esplanade je postao puno više od hotela – ovo mjesto živa je legenda, simbol zagrebačke elegancije, stila i istinske gostoljubivosti. Za mene osobno, Esplanade nije samo mjesto gdje radim, već i dio mog života, moje priče. Svaki kutak ovog hotela nosi uspomene, trenutke i ljude koji su ga činili i čine ga posebnim. Ovdje su se ispisivale priče – od ljubavnih do diplomatskih, od obiteljskih do kulturnih, poslovnih i povijesno značajnih. Ovim hodnicima kročili su kraljevi, glumci, umjetnici, predsjednici – ali i brojni sanjari koji su upravo ovdje pronašli inspiraciju, mir ili jednostavno – osjećaj da su dobrodošli. Ova okrugla obljetnica prilika je da se prisjetimo bogate povijesti, ali i da pogledamo prema budućnosti s jednakim entuzijazmom. Naša misija ostaje ista – pružiti iskustvo koje nije samo luksuzno, već i duboko osobno, s topline i dušom. Nastavljamo ulagati u održivost, inovacije i autentičnost, kako bismo bili korak ispred, a pritom ostali vjerni Esplanadinij jedinstvenoj priči. Osobitu zahvalu upućujem našem nevjerojatnom timu – ljudima koji svakodnevno, s osmijehom, trudom i strašću, čine razliku. Bez njih, Esplanade ne bi bio ono što jest – mjesto gdje se svaki gost osjeća posebno. Pred nama je novo poglavlje i radujem se što ga zajedno pišemo. Hvala vam što ste s nama, što ste dio naše prošlosti, sadašnjosti i budućnosti.

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100 Years

as a Symbol of Zagreb and Part of Its Identity

100 godina simbol Zagreba i dio njegova identiteta

Opened in 1925, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel is not only one of the most luxurious hotels in Croatia but also a symbol of the rich history and development of its capital. Marking the hundredth anniversary of the hotel, we will look back at the events, accolades, and people who have shaped it into the emblem of elegance and prestige that it remains today.

Hotel Esplanade Zagreb, otvoren 1925. godine, nije samo jedan od najluk-suznijih hotela u Hrvatskoj, već i simbol bogate povijesti i razvoja njezina glavnog grada. Obilježavajući stotu obljetnicu hotela Esplanade, prisjetit ćemo se događaja, priznanja i ljudi koji su ga oblikovali u simbol elegancije i prestiža kojem danas svjedočimo.

Photo:
ARHIVA HOTELA
ESPLANADE



The Esplanade Hotel project was designed by German architect Otto Rehnig, while the final version was shaped by Dionis Sunko. The hotel's architecture complemented tcity's rich heritage.

Projekt hotela Esplanade osmislio je njemački arhitekt Otto Rehnig, dok je konačnu verziju oblikovao Dionis Sunko. Arhitektura hotela nadovezivala se na bogatu gradsku baštinu.

The Esplanade Hotel project was designed by German architect Otto Rehnig, while the final version was shaped by Dionis Sunko. The hotel's architecture complemented the city's rich heritage, blending seamlessly with landmarks such as the Croatian National Theatre, the Art Pavilion, the Oktogon, and Mirogoj Cemetery. Built on former agricultural land, the hotel was situated next to Zagreb's main railway station, a key stop on the famous Orient Express route. This legendary train carried Europe's elite from Paris to Istanbul, creating a demand for premium accommodation in Zagreb, which the Esplanade perfectly fulfilled.

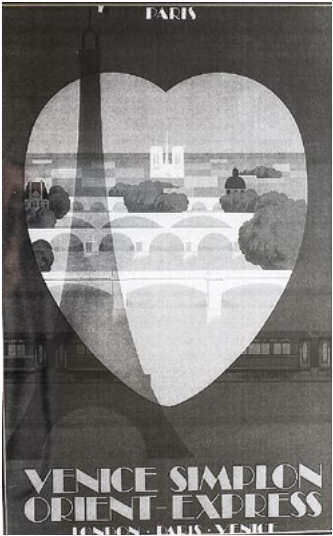
At the turn of the 20th century, Zagreb experienced significant growth. The first tourist map of Zagreb and its surroundings was published in Vienna in 1854, indicating a growing interest in the city, which was duly recognized by the then-mayor of Zagreb, Vjekoslav Heinzel. During Heinzel's tenure, many new city districts were built, and Zagreb gained a radio transmitter, the first telephone exchange system for 7,000 subscribers, two public baths, and a marketplace on a street that now bears his name. The Esplanade Hotel became a central part of this urban development.

The hotel opened in the same year as the celebration of the millennium of the Kingdom of Croatia, and the Esplanade truly offered a royal experience. With two hundred rooms featuring hot and cold water, a telephone in every room, several suites, salons, restaurants, and a bank, the Esplanade Hotel was an architectural and construction masterpiece of its time, as well as an astounding example of then-unimaginable luxury accommodation.

Projekt hotela Esplanade osmislio je njemački arhitekt Otto Rehnig, dok je konačnu verziju oblikovao Dionis Sunko. Arhitektura hotela nadovezivala se na bogatu gradsku baštinu, uklapajući se u niz znamenitosti poput Hrvatskoga narodnog kazališta, Umjetničkog paviljona, Oktogona i Mirogoja. Izgrađen na mjestu nekadašnjih poljoprivrednih zemljišta, hotel se smjestio uz glavnu zagrebačku željezničku postaju, važnu točku na ruti glasovitog Orient Expressa. Taj legendarni vlak prevozio je europsku elitu od Pariza do Istanbula, stvarajući potrebu za vrhunskim smještajem u Zagrebu, koju je Esplanade savršeno ispunio.

Zagreb je krajem 19. i početkom 20. stoljeća doživio procvat. U Beču je 1854. tiskana prva turistička karta Zagreba i okolice, što je ukazivalo na povećano zanimanje posjetitelja za posjet Zagrebu, a to je adekvatno prepoznao tadašnji zagrebački gradonačelnik Vjekoslav Heinzel. U Heinzelovo doba izgrađene su mnoge nove gradske četvrti, a Zagreb dobiva i radiofonijski odašiljač, prvu telefonsku centralu za 7 000 pretplatnika, dva javna kupališta i sajmište na ulici koja danas nosi njegovo ime, a Hotel Esplanade postao je središnja točka tog razvoja.

Naime, Hotel Esplanade otvoren je u godini kad se proslavljala tisućgodišnjica hrvatskog kraljevstva, a Esplanade je zaista nudio kraljevski ugođaj. S dvjesto soba s toplom i hladnom vodom, s telefonom u svakoj sobi, s nekoliko apartmana, sa salonima, restoranima i bankom, Hotel Esplanade bio je vrhunac arhitekture i graditeljstva toga doba, ali i zadivljujući primjer do tada nezamislivoga smještajnog luksuza.



The hotel was situated next to Zagreb's main railway station, a key stop on the famous Orient Express route

Hotel se smjestio uz glavnu zagrebačku željezničku postaju, važnu točku na ruti glasovitog Orient Expressa





The lavish Emerald Ballroom has welcomed numerous balls, weddings, prom nights, and business gatherings

Raskošna Smaragdna dvorana ugostila je brojne balove, vjenčanja, maturalne zabave i poslovne skupove



From the very beginning, the Esplanade Hotel was a prime venue for important events. It hosted the first Miss Yugoslavia pageant and the first Journalists' Ball and played a key role in the 1987 Universiade, a major international sports event. The lavish Emerald Ballroom has welcomed numerous balls, weddings, prom nights, and business gatherings.

Over the decades, the hotel has hosted numerous global celebrities, including Curd Jürgens, Yves Montand, Simone Signoret, Stewart Granger, Tina and Ike Turner, Erroll Garner, Cliff Richard, Clay Regazzoni, Bob Guccione, Sophia Loren, Francis Ford Coppola, Queen Elizabeth II, Richard Nixon, Mario Del Monaco with his wife—who was a friend of Josip Broz Tito—and many others.

Although today more than 90% of Hotel Esplanade's guests are international visitors, the hotel has maintained its connection with the people of Zagreb. Locals see the Esplanade as the "good spirit of the city," a symbol of the preservation of bourgeois cultural values, even in times when such values were not widely favored. The hotel was not immune to political turmoil and scandals, but it always had the ability to rise again, continuing to radiate its unique elegance.

Od samih početaka, hotel Esplanade bio je glavno mjesto okupljanja za važne događaje. U njemu se održao prvi izbor za Miss Jugoslavije kao i prvi Novinarski ples te je bio važan dio velike sportske manifestacije – Univerzijade 1987. godine. Raskošna Smaragdna dvorana ugostila je brojne balove, vjenčanja, maturalne zabave i poslovne skupove.

Tijekom desetljeća hotel je ugostio brojne svjetske uglednike, poput Curda Jürgensa, Yvesa Montanda, Simone Signoret, Stewarta Grangera, Tine i Ike Turnera, Errola Garnera, Cliffa Richarda, Claya Regazzonija, Boba Guccionnea, Sophije Loren, Francis Forda Coppole, britanske kraljice Elizabete II., Richarda Nixona te Mariju Del Monaca sa suprugom, prijatelja Josipa Broza Tita, i mnoge druge.

Iako u hotelu Esplanade danas odsjeda više od 90% stranih gostiju, hotel nije izgubio povezanost sa stanovnicima matičnoga grada. Zagrepčani doživljavaju Esplanade kao „dobri duh grada“, simbol očuvanja vrijednosti građanske kulture u vremenima koja joj nisu bila odviše naklonjena. Naime, hotel Esplanade nije bio imun na politička previranja i skandale, ali je uvijek imao sposobnost ponovno se podići i nastaviti zračiti svojom posebnom elegancijom.



Hotel employees certainly recall some legendary moments. In its early days, many were surprised, to say the least, by the farewell party of an Italian count, during which the ladies ended up in their undergarments. The illegal casino remains a part of hotel lore, as does the birthday of Stewart Granger, when a waiter, a chef, and a receptionist followed him to the train station to wish him a happy birthday and present him with a massive birthday cake. Italian writer Elena Tessadri chose Esplanade as the setting for her novel, describing it as a beautiful and warm hotel.

Miroslav Krleža, the famous Croatian writer, also sought inspiration for his writing at the hotel, where he had a permanently reserved spot on the aforementioned terrace, as did Croatia’s longest-serving poet Dragutin Tadijanović, renowned fashion designer Žuži Jelinek, and legendary chanson singer and composer Arsen Dedić. They all frequented the Esplanade, finding inspiration over a cup of coffee or a delicious meal.

No serious discussion about Zagreb’s coffee culture is complete without mentioning the Oleander Terrace—

Zaposlenici hotela zasigurno neće zaboraviti neke legendarne trenutke. U samim počecima mnoge je, u najmanju ruku, iznenadila oproštajna zabava talijanskoga grofa, na kojoj su dame ostale u donjem rublju, a nije zaboravljen ni ilegalni kasino, kao ni rođendan Stewarta Grangera, kada su konobar, kuhar i recepcionar krenuli za njim na željezničku stanicu gdje su mu čestitali rođendan i darovali ogromnu rođendansku tortu, a Elena Tessadri, talijanska književnica, odabrala je Esplanade za mjesto radnje svojega romana gdje ga je opisala kao prekrasan i topao hotel.

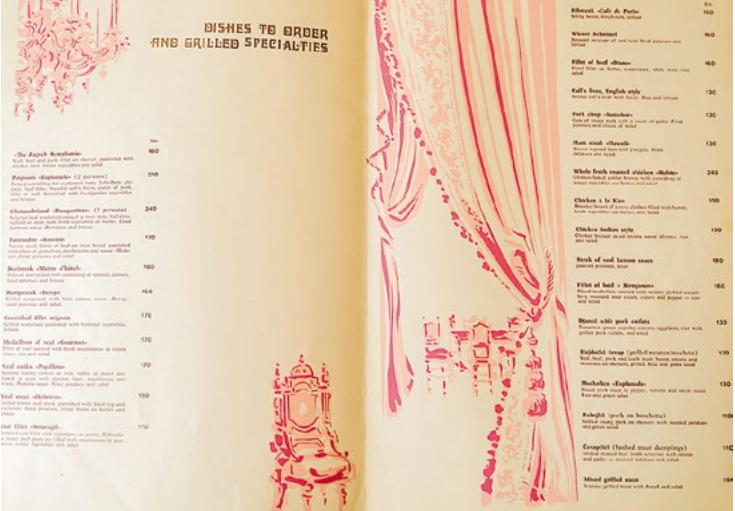
Inspiraciju za pisanje u hotelu je tražio i Miroslav Krleža, poznati hrvatski književnik, koji je imao rezervirano svoje stalno mjesto na spomenutoj terasi, kao i najdugovječniji hrvatski pjesnik, Dragutin Tadijanović, poznata modna kreatorica Žuži Jelinek te najveći hrvatski šansonijer i skladatelj Arsen Dedić. Svi oni bili su česti gosti koji su dolazili u Esplanade po inspiraciju uz šalicu kave ili ukusan obrok.

Nema ozbiljne rasprave o zagrebačkoj kulturi ispijanja kave bez spomena terase Oleander – svojevrsne prethodnice svih zagrebačkih terasa. Oleandri su mediteransko bilje koje asocira na mediteransko uživanje na otvorenome i priskrbљуje osjećaj intimnosti, a ujedno terasa s pogledom na Starčevićev i Tomislavov trg pruža mogućnost promatranja svijeta u prolazu i sudjelovanje u dinamičnome urbanom životu.

Hotel Esplanade bio je pionir u mnogočemu, a šezdesetih godina postao je pravi gastronomski „prozor u svijet“, s ponudom namirnica koje nisu postojale na ondašnjemu jugoslavenskom tržištu i koje su se morale uvoziti, a s kojima se domaća publika susretala prvi put. Ipak, jedno pučko jelo, tradicionalni specijalitet Hrvatskog zagorja, u proteklih šezdesetak godina na jelovniku Hotela Esplanade ima

Over the decades, the hotel has hosted numerous global celebrities

Tijekom desetljeća hotel je ugostio brojne svjetske uglednike



The Esplanade has been a pioneer in many aspects. In the 1960s, it became a true gastronomic “window to the world”.

Hotel Esplanade bio je pionir u mnogočemu, a šezdesetih godina postao je pravi gastronomski „prozor u svijet“

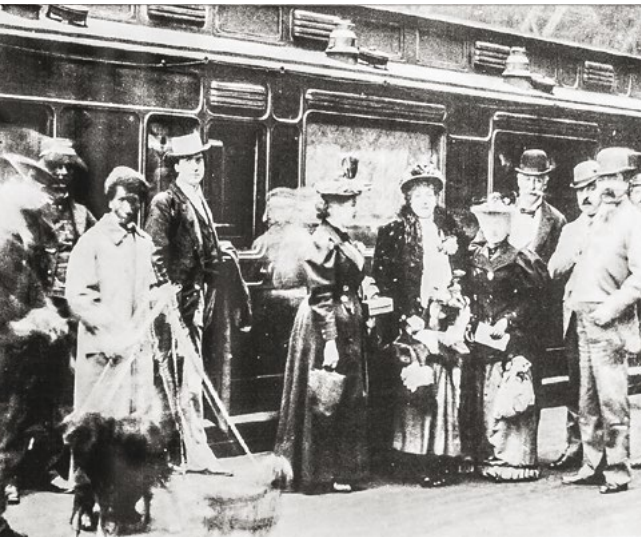
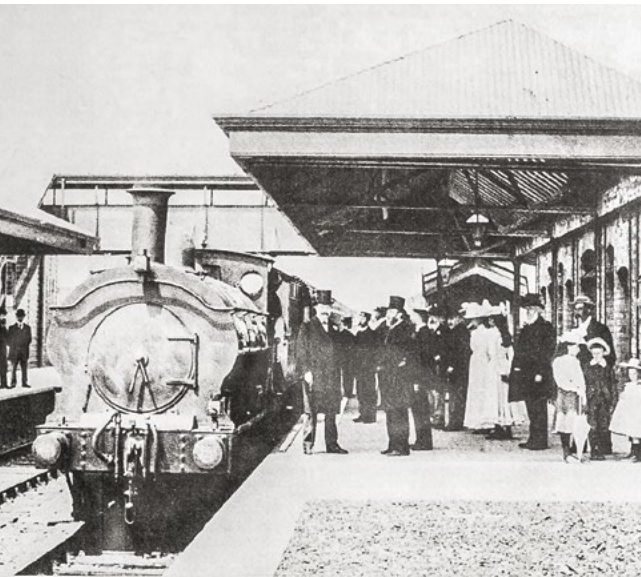
the forerunner of all Zagreb terraces. The oleander plants evoke the Mediterranean way of outdoor relaxation, creating a sense of intimacy. At the same time, with its views of Starčević Square and King Tomislav Square, the terrace offers a chance to observe the world passing by and participate in the dynamic urban life.

The Esplanade has been a pioneer in many aspects. In the 1960s, it became a true gastronomic “window to the world,” offering ingredients that were unavailable on the Yugoslav market at the time and had to be imported, introducing local guests to them for the first time. Yet, one traditional dish from the Hrvatsko Zagorje region has held cult status on the Esplanade menu for over sixty years—*štrukli*, almost a trademark of the hotel’s cuisine.

The hotel has always recognized the right moment to take a step forward. In November 1964, the Esplanade became the first hotel in the former Yugoslavia to sign a franchise agreement with the prestigious InterContinental Hotels chain. In 2004, following an extensive renovation, it became the first Regent Hotel in Europe.

kultno mjesto. Riječ je, naravno, o štruklima, gotovo zaštitnim znakom Esplanadeove kuhinje.

Hotel je uvijek znao prepoznati trenutak za iskorak. U studenom 1964. godine Esplanade je postao prvi hotel u tadašnjoj Jugoslaviji koji je sklopio franšizni ugovor s prestižnim lancem Inter-Continental Hotels, a 2004. godine, nakon opsežne rekonstrukcije,





ZAGREB, Pogled na Mihanovićevu ulicu i Hotel Esplanade



However, Esplanade's true strength has always been its independence—since 2012, it has once again become an independent hotel, maintaining its uniqueness and character while remaining one of the most highly regarded hotels in this part of Europe.

It would be difficult to list all the awards and recognitions that Hotel Esplanade has received in its century-long history for service excellence, innovation, and successfully keeping up with the latest global hospitality trends. Some particularly stand out, including the World Luxury Hotel Awards, Condé Nast Traveller Gold List and Readers' Choice Awards, Expedia Insiders' Select, World Travel Awards, and many more.

The Esplanade Hotel remains a symbol of luxury and refinement. In its hundred years of existence, many generations of employees have passed through its halls, and the hotel has undergone numerous interior, exterior, organizational, and presentational changes. It has been modernized in all aspects of its operations, embraced the advancements of the digital era, and faced the greatest challenges of modern times. However, it has always remained consistent in one thing—preserving tradition. The Esplanade is not just a hotel; it is part of the city's identity and a symbol of continuity between the past and the present.

postao je prvi Regent hotel u Europi. No, prava snaga Esplanadea uvijek je bila u njegovoj neovisnosti, pa je 2012. godine ponovno postao samostalan hotel, zadržavajući svoju posebnost i karakter, a pritom ostajući jedan od najcjenjenijih hotela u ovom dijelu Europe.

Teško bi bilo nabrojiti sve nagrade i priznanja što ih je Hotel Esplanade u svojoj stoljetnoj povijesti dobio za kvalitetu usluge, inovacije i uspješno praćenje najsuvremenijih svjetskih trendova u hotelijerstvu. Neke od njih posebno se ističu: World Luxury Hotel Awards, Condé Nast Traveller Gold List, Readers' Choice Awards, Expedia Insiders' Select, World Travel Awards i još mnoge druge.

Hotel Esplanade ostao je simbol luksuza i profinjenosti. U sto godina postojanja u Esplanadeu su se izmijenili mnogi naraštaji zaposlenika, a hotel je doživio mnoge interijerske, eksterijerske, organizacijske i prezentacijske promjene. Logistički je osuvremenjen u svim segmentima poslovanja te je prigrlio i razvojne domete digitalne ere i najveće izazove modernog doba, ali u jednome je uvijek ostao dosljedan: u očuvanju tradicije. Esplanade nije samo hotel – on je dio identiteta grada i simbol kontinuiteta između prošlosti i sadašnjosti.

It would be difficult to list all the awards and recognitions that Hotel Esplanade has received in its century-long history for service excellence, innovation, and successfully keeping up with the latest global hospitality trends

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INTERVIEW

IVICA MAX KRIZMANIĆ

We're Constantly Evolving, Adapting, and Changing — *AND THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING*

Neprestano se razvijamo, prilagođavamo
i mijenjamo, a to je najvažnije

Ivica Max Krizmanić, one of Esplanade's longest-serving general managers, explains why the Esplanade is more than just a hotel—it's a symbol of history, prestige, and dedication to exceptional service that has lasted for over a century.

Da Esplanade nije samo hotel, već simbol povijesti, prestiža i posvećenosti vrhunskoj usluzi koja traje više od jednog stoljeća, pojasnio nam je Ivica Max Krizmanić, jedan od najdugovječnijih direktora hotela Esplanade

When the Esplanade Hotel opened in 1925, it was born out of a desire to create something extraordinary. At that time, there was no abundance of information or accessible luxury like today. People traveled less, and in that era, travel was a rarity—only a few employees may have had the chance to witness the kind of luxury seen abroad. The rest relied on their own creativity, intuition, and a deep sense of hospitality. "They created something truly special," Ivica Max Krizmanić tells us, and continues: "Over the years, the recognizable Esplanade service took shape, and we continue that legacy today, constantly finding new

Kada je hotel Esplanade otvoren 1925., izrastao je iz želje ljudi da stvore nešto vrhunsko. U to doba nije bilo obilja informacija ni dostupnog luksuza kao danas. Ljudi su rjeđe putovali, a s obzirom na vrijeme, putovanja su bila rijetkost, pa je možda tek poneki zaposlenik imao priliku upoznati luksuz kakav se viđao u inozemstvu. Ostali su se oslanjali na vlastitu kreativnost, intuiciju i duboki osjećaj za gostoprimstvo. „I upravo su tako stvorili nešto uistinu posebno“, govori nam Ivica Max Krizmanić te nastavlja: „Tijekom godina oblikovala se prepoznatljiva Esplanadina usluga, a mi i danas nastavljamo tim putem,

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ways to define luxury. Because luxury is not just the ambiance—it’s a feeling of safety, understanding, attentiveness to the guest, and anticipating their needs before they’re even aware of them. That spirit is what we pass on within our team—because that’s what makes the Esplanade special.”

With a long-standing career in hospitality, Ivica Max Krizmanić has become a key figure in one of Zagreb’s most prestigious destinations. He started working at the hotel door as a student and, over the years, climbed the ranks, gaining vast experience and knowledge. Through his approach, Max managed to overcome many challenges, from the pandemic to earthquakes, all with the goal of transforming the Esplanade into a place where everyone, regardless of status, can enjoy a top-tier experience.

On the occasion of the hotel’s 100th anniversary, he shared his journey at the Esplanade—the changes, the ups and downs he witnessed over more than 30 years of service—and what the Esplanade means to Croatia, the city of Zagreb, and its employees.

This year, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel celebrates its centennial, marking a century since its official opening on April 22, 1925. How will you commemorate this occasion?

The official opening day was a grand event, though it’s likely the doors opened earlier to test final details, feel the rhythm of the space, and breathe life into every corner. On April 22, 1925, about 200 guests, including Mayor Heinzl and other prominent figures important to the city’s development, gathered to mark the opening of the hotel—surely aware they were inaugurating something grand and special. Still, they probably couldn’t have imagined that this elegant building would become a symbol of the city, an institution of great significance to Zagreb and Croatia, and one of the great hotels of the world.

We will celebrate this important anniversary throughout the year with various events. The celebration already began during the Festival of Lights with a glamorous 3D light installation on the hotel’s facade, titled *Circle of Light*. Led by the Zagreb Tourist Board, top Croatian and German artists brought to life the elegance and glamour of past times, illustrating the hotel’s impressive history. Additionally, in the hotel’s Emerald Ballroom, in front of many guests, a ceremonial cake-cutting took place along with speeches from the Minister of Tourism and Sports and the Mayor of Zagreb, under an impressive ceiling light display and dance performances—marking the official opening of the Festival and the hotel’s 100th birthday. We’re also planning an exclusive culinary collaboration with the historic Pera Palace Hotel from Istanbul, connecting two cities and two iconic hotels along the legendary Orient Express route in a gastronomic experience to remember. At the gala dinner, their esteemed chef Ugur Arparslan will showcase a fusion of traditional and contemporary Ottoman cuisine. We’re also planning a large anniversary celebration on our beautiful Oleander Terrace, which will be the central event. In addition, there will be related anniversary activities such as sharing digital memories, hotel tours, an exhi-

znova pronalazeći svoj način definiranja luksuza. Jer luksuz nije samo ambijent – to je osjećaj sigurnosti, razumijevanja, pažnje prema gostu i predviđanja njegovih potreba prije nego što ih i sam postane svjestan. Upravo u tom duhu prenosimo znanje i vrijednosti unutar našeg tima – jer to je ono što Esplanade čini posebnim.”

Svojom dugogodišnjom karijerom u hotelijerstvu Ivica Max Krizmanić postao je ključna osoba u jednom od najprestižnijih odredišta u Zagrebu. Počeo je raditi na vratima hotela kao student, a tijekom godina uspinjao se po hijerarhiji, stekavši bogato iskustvo i znanje. Svojim pristupom, Max je uspio prevladati mnoge izazove, poput pandemije i potresa, a njegov cilj bio je transformirati Esplanade u prostor u kojem svi, bez obzira na status, mogu uživati u vrhunskom iskustvu.

Povodom 100. godišnjice hotela ispričao nam je kako je tekao njegov put u hotelu i kakvim je promjenama, zgodama i nezgodama svjedočio u više od 30 godina rada, ali i što Esplanade znači za njegove zaposlenike, ali i za Hrvatsku i grad Zagreb.

Hotel Esplanade Zagreb ove godine slavi jubilar-nu stotu godišnjicu otvorenja, koje je bilo 22. travnja 1925. Na koji ćete ju način obilježiti?

Dan službenog otvorenja hotela bio je svečani trenutak, no za pretpostaviti je da su vrata hotela bila otvorena i prije same svečanosti – kako bi se provjerili posljednji detalji, osjetio ritam prostora i udahnuo život u svaki njegov kutak. Ipak, 22. travnja 1925., oko dvjesto uzvanika, među kojima su bili i gradonačelnik Heinzl te istaknute osobe važne za razvoj grada, okupilo se kako bi obilježilo otvorenje hotela – tada zasigurno svjesni da otvaraju nešto grandiozno i posebno. No, vjerojatno nisu mogli ni zamisliti da će ta elegantna zgrada s vremenom prerasti u simbol grada, instituciju od izuzetne važnosti za Zagreb i Hrvatsku te postati jedan od velikih svjetskih hotela.

Ovu značajnu obljetnicu obilježit ćemo tijekom cijele godine nizom različitih događaja. Svečano slavlje već je počelo u sklopu Festivala svjetla glamurnom 3D svjetlosnom instalacijom na pročelju hotela Esplanade pod nazivom *Circle of Light*. Pod vodstvom Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba vrhunski hrvatski i njemački umjetnici oživjeli su eleganciju i glamur prošlih vremena i dočarali impresivnu povijest hotela. Osim toga, u Smaragdnoj dvorani hotela pred brojnim uzvanicima svečanim rezanjem torte i obraćanjem ministra turizma i sporta te gradonačelnika uz impresivnu svjetlosnu instalaciju na stropu i plesne performanse svečano je otvoren Festival svjetla te obilježen 100. rođendan hotela. Usto, planiramo ekskluzivno kulinarsko gostovanje povijesnog hotela Pera Palace iz Istanbula kako bismo spojili dva grada i dva kulturna hotela na ruti slavnog Orient Expressa u gastronomski doživljaj za pamćenje. Na gala večeri gostovat će njihov cijenjeni *chef* Uğur Arparslan koji će nas okusima provesti kroz spoj tradicionalne i suvremene osmanske kuhinje. Planiramo i veliku proslavu obljetnice na našoj prelijepoj terasi Oleandar, što će ujedno biti središnji događaj obljetnice. Osim toga, bit će tu još povezanih doga-

We’re also planning a large anniversary celebration on our beautiful Oleander Terrace, which will be the central even

Planiramo veliku proslavu obljetnice na našoj prelijepoj terasi Oleandar, što će ujedno biti središnji događaj obljetnice

My love for hospitality grew spontaneously—I soaked in the hotel’s atmosphere, and the hotel seemed to absorb me in return

Ljubav prema hotelijerstvu rodila se spontano – upijao sam atmosferu hotela, a činilo se da je i hotel upijao mene

tion, and more events that we’re still preparing and finalizing. We’re excited about what’s to come and look forward to creating unforgettable moments!

The hotel was originally privately owned by one family. How did ownership change over time?

Throughout its rich history, the Esplanade Hotel went through various forms of ownership. Initially privately owned, it came under control of German military forces during WWII, serving as the Gestapo and Wehrmacht headquarters. Part of the hotel was used to house high-ranking officers and guests from the Third Reich. Various official receptions, dinners, and meetings were held at the hotel. After the war, it was nationalized and became public property, even serving as a soup kitchen for the needy. In the 1950s, it was renovated and reopened in 1957, marking a new chapter in its history. It remained publicly owned until Croatian independence, when it was converted into a joint-stock company during the privatization process in the early ‘90s. The last major ownership change happened in 2002, when the hotel was sold to the WSF Group, owned by Mag. Herbert Haselbacher’s family—who still own it today.

How did you end up in hospitality, considering you studied mechanical engineering?

My first encounter with the hotel was when I was only three—and it’s a story I remember surprisingly well. As a child from a socialist country with little opportunity to experience luxury, coming to the Esplanade felt like stepping into a fairytale. The Emerald Ballroom, lavish drapes, rich decor... it all felt like a magical castle. I remember my father walking me through the hotel. I was so proud that he worked there. My neighborhood friend was with me, but what stuck with me most was the pride I felt seeing my father in his doorman uniform. He was a striking figure, and because of the uniform, many thought he was a general (laughs).

In 1992, after I returned from the war in August, my father asked me to temporarily fill in as a doorman while someone was on sick leave, and there wasn’t enough staff during the summer. So, through a student job placement service, I started at the Esplanade. I had no idea that month would shape my future. My love for hospitality grew spontaneously—I soaked in the hotel’s atmosphere, and the hotel seemed to absorb me in return. After my temporary role, I stayed on as a doorman. I was good at it, and my superiors recognized that. At that time, not everyone at the Esplanade had formal hospitality education—there were auto mechanics, veterinarians, people from all walks of life. My childhood dream was engineering, but the Esplanade stopped me in my tracks—and I have no regrets.

You climbed the ladder step by step.

I spent more time on some steps than others—especially as a doorman. And although many don’t understand the importance of that position, it’s an extremely responsible and sensitive role. At the time, Croatia was still surrounded by war, and the Esplanade was the central hub for foreign officials, diplomats, and journalists. I had the chance to speak with them, some-

danja u sklopu obljetnice kao što su digitalno dijeljenje uspomena, obilasci hotela, izložba i dodatne aktivnosti koje još pripremamo i dogovaramo. Uzbudeni smo zbog svega što dolazi i veselimo se stvaranju nezaboravnih trenutaka!

Hotel je na početku bio u privatnom vlasništvu jedne obitelji, kako se dalje prenosilo vlasništvo?

Tijekom svoje bogate povijesti, hotel Esplanade prošao je različite oblike vlasništva. U početku je bio u privatnom vlasništvu, sve do Drugoga svjetskog rata kada je došao pod kontrolu njemačkih vojnih snaga te služio kao sjedište *Gestapoa* i *Wehrmachta*. Njemačka vojska upotrebljavala je dio hotela kao svoje sjedište, ali i za smještaj visokih časnika i gostiju iz Trećeg Reicha. Zabilježeno je da su se u hotelu održavali razni službeni prijmovi, večere i sastanci. Nakon završetka rata, hotel je nacionaliziran i postao je društveno vlasništvo te je pretvoren u pučku kuhinju koja je služila hranu potrebitima. Tijekom 1950-ih, hotel je obnovljen i ponovno otvoren 1957. godine, čime je započelo novo poglavlje u njegovoj povijesti. Takav status zadržao je sve do osamostaljenja Hrvatske te je početkom 90-ih u procesu privatizacije pretvoren u dioničko društvo. Posljednja bitna promjena vlasništva dogodila se 2002. godine, kada je hotel prodan Grupi WSF, u vlasništvu obitelji mag. Herberta Haselbachera, koji je i danas vlasnik hotela.

A kako ste vi završili u hotelijerstvu? Školovali ste se za inženjera strojarstva.

Moj prvi susret s hotelom dogodio se kada sam imao samo tri godine – i to je priča koje se i danas iznenađujuće dobro sjećam. Kao dijete iz socijalističke zemlje, gdje nije bilo puno prilika za doživljaj luksuza, dolazak pred hotel Esplanade bio je poput ulaska u bajku. Hotel je na mene ostavio snažan dojam – Smaragdna dvorana, raskošne zavjese, bogati dekor... Sve mi je izgledalo kao čarobni dvorac. Sjećam se da me kroz hotel proveo moj otac i koliko sam bio ponosan što ondje radi. Sa mnom je bio i moj prijatelj iz kvarta, ali ono što mi je najviše ostalo urezano u pamćenje bio je osjećaj ponosa dok sam gledao oca u njegovoj vratarskoj uniformi. Bio je markantan čovjek, a zbog uniforme su mnogi mislili da je general (smijeh). U to vrijeme obitelji nisu često dolazile u hotele poput Esplanade – to je bio luksuz koji su si rijetki mogli priuštiti.

Godine 1992., kada sam se u kolovozu vratio iz rata, otac me zamolio da na mjesec dana uskočim kao vratar – jedan od vratarata otišao je na bolovanje, pa tijekom ljeta nije bilo dovoljno osoblja. Tako sam, preko Student servisa, dobio priliku raditi u Esplanadi. Nisam ni slutio da će mi upravo tih mjesec dana obilježiti budućnost. Ljubav prema hotelijerstvu rodila se spontano – upijao sam atmosferu hotela, a činilo se da je i hotel upijao mene. Nakon završetka toga privremenog angažmana, ostao sam raditi kao vratar. Bio sam u tome jako dobar, a moji su nadređeni to prepoznali. U Esplanadi tada nisu radili samo ljudi s turističko-hotelijerskim obrazovanjem – među nama su bili automehaničari, veterinari, ljudi različitih struka. Moj dječjački san bilo je strojarstvo, ali Esplanade me zaustavio na tom putu – i nimalo ne žalim zbog toga.

times right at the door while they waited for their drivers. I met an incredibly diverse range of people—from taxi drivers to Nobel Prize winners. The job of a doorman was much more than simply opening doors—it required thoughtfulness, discretion, and great attention to detail. Over the years, I’ve held nearly every hotel position—I was a bellboy, then worked as an information clerk, telephone operator, front desk agent, cashier. I worked in the reservations office, and during the hotel renovation, I was part of the security team. Each of those roles gave me valuable experience and insight into the daily operations of the hotel from different perspectives. Over time, I moved into management, holding positions such as Room Division Manager and Revenue Manager, and later Deputy General Manager, where I also took on responsibility for other key departments like Sales, Banquets, and Food & Beverage.

My professional journey was gradual, but a significant step forward came in 2004 when the Regent hotel chain arrived at the Esplanade. At the time, I was working at the front desk, but soon after, my career progression accelerated, ultimately leading me to my current role. Interestingly, I never filled out a single job application—every step forward came as a result of recommendation, trust, and recognition of my efforts by my superiors. Today, I can proudly say that I’ve done it all—from the hotel entrance to the very top of management. And the Esplanade hasn’t just been my workplace—it’s become my second home.

Are you the hotel’s longest-serving general manager?

I’ve held this position since early 2012. Honestly, I never thought I’d become a general manager of a hotel, let alone for this long. I first heard of the hospitality world thanks to my father, but it didn’t interest me much at the time. I was more fascinated by the building—the architecture. I loved working with tools, machines. I wanted to be an inventor, but the Esplanade simply absorbed me into its story. I think both my father and I are still a bit amazed by how it all turned out.

Given all you’ve been through, it must be easier to run the hotel knowing every corner and nearly every job.

Absolutely. Employees know I’ve done those jobs—and that I understand how things can go wrong and how to fix them. That experience helps me be realistic and, I hope, fair. I have to admit I’m quite tolerant. For example, I understand a doorman can’t be at the door constantly—if he is, he hasn’t helped with luggage, assisted with a car, or raised the parking post on time. But it’s awkward when a guest arrives, and no one is there—so we try to strike a balance. The rule is to assess the situation and provide the best possible service in that moment. We constantly evolve, adapt, and change—and I think that’s the most important thing.

You’ve been here for thirty years—how has the Esplanade changed in that time?

The world of hospitality is changing rapidly, and so are we. Throughout my career, I’ve witnessed and participated in many changes, and in the past ten years, I’ve become an active driver of some of them. Changes

Napredovali ste stepenicu po stepenicu.

Na nekim sam se stepenicama zadržao dulje – posebno kao vratar. I premda mnogi ne shvaćaju važnost te pozicije, riječ je o izuzetno odgovornom i osjetljivom poslu. Hrvatska je tada još bila u okruženju rata, a Esplanade je bio središnje mjesto za strane dužnosnike, diplomate, novinare. Imao sam priliku razgovarati s njima, ponekad na vratima dok su čekali vozače. Upoznao sam nevjerovatno šarolik spektar ljudi – od taksista do nobelovaca. Posao vrataru bio je daleko više od otvaranja vrata – zahtijevao je promišljenost, diskretnost i veliku pozornost prema detaljima. Tijekom godina prošao sam gotovo sve hotelske pozicije – bio sam nosač prtljage, zatim informator, telefonist, recepcionar, blagajnik. Radio sam u uredu za rezervacije, za vrijeme preuređenja hotela, u službi sigurnosti. Svaka od tih uloga pružila mi je dragocjeno iskustvo i razumijevanje svakodnevnog funkcioniranja hotela iz različitih perspektiva. S vremenom sam prešao u menadžment i obnašao dužnosti *room division* menadžera i *revenue* menadžera, a kasnije i zamjenika direktora hotela, kada sam preuzeo odgovornost i za ostale ključne odjele poput prodaje, banketa te odjela hrane i pića.

Moj profesionalni put krenuo je postupno, ali značajan korak naprijed dogodio se 2004. godine dolaskom lanca Regent u Esplanade. Tada sam bio na poziciji recepcionara, no ubrzo nakon toga uslijedio je ubrzan karijerni napredak koji me doveo do današnje uloge. Zanimljivo je da nikad nisam ispunio nijednu prijavu za posao – svaki korak naprijed bio je rezultat preporuke, povjerenja i prepoznavanja truda od strane mojih nadređenih. Danas s ponosom mogu reći da sam prošao sve – od vrata hotela do samog vrha menadžmenta. A Esplanade nije bio samo moje radno mjesto – on je postao moj drugi dom.

Najdugovječniji ste direktor ovog hotela?

Na ovoj sam poziciji od početka 2012. godine. Iskreno, nikada nisam ni pomislio da ću postati direktor hotela, a kamoli da ću na toj poziciji biti toliko dugo. Za svijet hotelijerstva prvi sam put čuo zahvaljujući svojem ocu, ali me to tada nije previše zanimalo. Više me fascinirala sama zgrada – arhitektura. Volio sam raditi sa strojevima, alatima. Želio sam biti izumitelj, no Esplanade me jednostavno upio u svoju priču. Mislim da je i mojem ocu, ali i meni, i dalje pomalo nevjerovatno kako se sve to dogodilo.

S obzirom na sve što ste prošli, sigurno vam je lakše upravljati hotelom kada poznajete svaki njegov kutak i gotovo svako radno mjesto.

Apsolutno. Zaposlenici u hotelu znaju da sam prošao te pozicije, da sam ih doživio – i znaju da razumijem kako se neke stvari mogu dogoditi, ali i kako se mogu riješiti. To iskustvo pomaže mi da budem realan i, nadam se, pravedan. Moram priznati da sam prilično tolerantan. Na primjer, razumijem da vratar ne može biti stalno na vratima – ako je stalno ondje, onda nije pomogao gostu s koferom, nije asistirao automobilom, nije podignuo stupić na parkingu na vrijeme. No, nezgodno je kad gost dođe i ne vidi ni-

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that once happened over decades now take place in a single year. The key is knowing how to respond and meet the expectations of new generations of guests. When I first started working, there were two people operating the telephone switchboard, while my father told me that there used to be six—an entire room of operators. Then mobile phones were invented, and now almost no one calls the switchboard anymore. Those kinds of jobs gradually disappeared. The same happened with bellboys—before suitcases had wheels, they had their hands full. Nowadays, most guests carry their own luggage because they travel lighter and usually stay for only two nights. Guests used to be checked in manually, written into a big book, and employees with neat handwriting had an important role at the front desk. That particular skill actually helped me a few years ago when our system crashed – we had to quickly come up with a way to ensure uninterrupted check-in, and we devised a temporary system based on the old methods. It was proof that traditional skills

koga – i tu treba pronaći ravnotežu. Uvijek tražimo načine kako to bolje uskladiti. Pravilo je zapravo da u trenutku procijenimo i pružimo ono što je najbolje moguće. Neprestano se razvijamo, prilagođavamo i mijenjamo – i mislim da je upravo to najvažnije.

Tu ste već trideset godina, koliko se Esplanade mijenjao u tom razdoblju?

Svijet hotelijerstva ubrzano se mijenja, a s njim i mi. Tijekom svoje karijere bio sam svjedok i sudionik mnogih promjena, a u posljednjih desetak godina postao sam i njihov aktivni akter. Nekada su se promjene događale desetljećima, a danas se u jednoj godini dogodi ono što se prije dogodilo u deset. Ključno je znati kako reagirati i zadovoljiti nove generacije gostiju. Kad sam tek počeo raditi, na telefonskoj centrali radile su dvije osobe, dok mi je otac govorio da ih je nekoć bilo šest – cijela soba telefonista. A onda su izumili mobitele, i danas go-

and experience can be invaluable in crisis situations, even in modern hospitality. But if the hotel were to keep doing things the way we used to, and still be proud of it, it wouldn't be a good hotel today. Guest needs have simply changed. Some things have changed in terms of technology—for instance, at the bar we've had a table with charging ports for all types of phones for years, which makes life easier for guests. I'm not sure which other hotel had its own app back when we created ours. We even had a game in it where guests could win a drink at the bar. We were the first hotel to install free electric vehicle chargers in the parking lot. We always try to be different in some way—we don't want to blindly follow everything that's happening in the world.

Your predecessor, during the Regent era, once said he'd never seen a hotel so claimed by its city's citizens—yet he also said it felt like there was a brick wall around it. In other words, the public respected it so deeply that they didn't feel it was meant for them. Do you think that has changed?

He said at the time that his goal was to remove that wall, brick by brick. I think it's not a bad thing to maintain a certain sense of mystique and respect for such a significant place, but sometimes that feeling caused discomfort in some guests, even though they absolutely belonged here. Today, that aura still exists to some extent—but only as much as it should. When I took over managing the hotel, I decided to redefine the role of the doorman—to keep his warmth and availability, but make him less formal and more mobile. Instead of standing statically in front of the hotel, I wanted him to move around more freely, remain discreet, yet always available. From my own experience in that role, I remember standing at the entrance in formal uniform, always trying to be kind and approachable. But I noticed that some guests felt a bit uneasy—sometimes they wondered if they were even allowed to enter, whether they were dressed appropriately, or whether I would let them in. That doesn't mean the previous approach was wrong—times simply changed, and so did guests' expectations. I felt that our relationship with them needed to evolve as well—to stay just as warm, but more approachable and natural for the times we live in. At the same time, we started working intensively on marketing to show people that the Esplanade is *their* hotel. That its doors are wide open to everyone. We began to welcome guests of all ages and walks of life—from students to retirees, young couples, families, curious passersby. We gladly welcomed them, gave them tours of the rooms, restaurants, and ballrooms, talked to them, listened to their impressions. That's how we started building a new connection with the people of Zagreb—those who had walked past the hotel for years but had never stepped inside. We wanted to show them that the Esplanade isn't just for kings and queens—it's for anyone who appreciates beauty, history, and hospitality with soul.

It seems, and please correct me if I'm wrong, that the hotel is fuller than ever, at least in the past 15 or so years.

You're right. The hotel is constantly full. I can't say exactly how it was in 1925, when the Esplanade first opened

tovo nitko više ne zove centralu. Takva radna mjesta s vremenom su nestala. Slično je bilo i s nosačima prtljage – dok koferi nisu dobili kotače, imali su pune ruke posla. Danas većina gostiju sama nosi svoje kofer-e jer putuju s manje prtljage i u prosjeku ostaju samo dvije noći. Nekada su se gosti ručno upisivali u knjigu, pa su oni zaposlenici s lijepim rukopisom imali važnu ulogu na recepciji. Upravo mi je to znanje pomoglo kada nam je sustav prije koju godinu otkazao – morali smo brzo pronaći način da osiguramo nesmetan prijam gostiju i tada smo, na temelju starog sustava, osmislili privremeni način registracije dolazaka i odlazaka. To je bio dokaz da tradicionalne vještine i iskustvo mogu biti neprocjenjivi u kriznim situacijama, čak i u modernom hotelijerstvu. Ali, kada bismo u hotelu danas radili onako kako smo radili prije i na to bili jako ponosni, to više ne bi bio dobar hotel. Jednostavno se mijenjaju potrebe gostiju. Imamo stvari koje su se promijenile tehnički. Na primjer, na baru već godinama imamo stol s punjačima za sve tipove mobitela, gostima to znatno olakšava život. Ne znam koji je hotel imao hotelsku aplikaciju u vrijeme kada smo ju mi napravili. Imali smo igricu u kojoj si mogao osvojiti piće u baru. Prvi smo hotel koji je instalirao besplatne punjače za električne automobile na parking. Gledamo uvijek da na neki način budemo drukčiji, ne želimo slijepo pratiti baš sve što se događa u svijetu.

Vaš prethodnik, dok je hotel pripadao grupaciji Regent, rekao je da nikada nije bio u hotelu kojega građani toliko svojataju, a da ipak ima osjećaj kao je oko hotela zid od cigle. Zapravo je htio reći kako građani imaju veliki respekt prema hotelu i smatraju da je to mjesto samo za bogate goste. Koja je vaša percepcija danas. Mislite li da se to promijenilo?

On je tada rekao da mu je cilj, ciglu po ciglu, maknuti taj zid. Mislim da nije loše zadržati određenu mističnost i poštovanje prema tako znakovitom mjestu, no ponekad je nekim gostima to izazivalo nelagodu, a zapravo su pripadali tu. Danas, to donekle još uvijek postoji, ali u mjeri u kojoj i treba biti. Kada sam preuzeo vođenje hotela, odlučio sam redefinirati ulogu vratara – zadržati njegovu srdačnost i dostupnost, ali ga učiniti manje formalnim i više mobilnim. Umjesto da statično stoji ispred hotela, htio sam da se slobodnije kreće i bude nenametljiv, ali uvijek na raspolaganju. Iz vlastitog iskustva dok sam obavljao tu ulogu, sjećam se da sam u svečanoj uniformi stajao ispred ulaza, uvijek nastojeći biti ljubazan i pristupačan. No, primjećivao sam da se kod nekih gostiju javlja određena nelagoda – ponekad su se pitali smiju li uopće ući, jesu li prikladno odjeveni i hoću li ih ja pustiti unutra. To ne znači da je tadašnji pristup bio loš – jednostavno su se vremena promijenila, a s njima i očekivanja gostiju. Stoga sam smatrao da i naš odnos prema njima treba evoluirati – ostati jednako topao, ali pristupačniji i prirodniji za vrijeme u kojem živimo. Pritom smo počeli intenzivno raditi na marketingu kako bismo ljudima pokazali da je Esplanade – njihov. Da su vrata hotela širom otvorena svima. Počeli su dolaziti gosti svih dobi i životnih pozicija – od studenata do umirovljenika, mladih parova, obitelji, znatizeljnih prolaznika. Svi smo ih s veseljem dočekivali, vodili kroz sobe, restorane i dvorane, razgovarali s njima, slušali njihove dojmove. Na

Esplanade isn't just for kings and queens—it's for anyone who appreciates beauty, history, and hospitality with soul

Esplanade nije rezerviran samo za kraljeve i kraljice – već za sve koji cijene ljepotu, povijest i gostoprimstvo s dušom



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its doors—I wish I could have experienced that. I’m curious how everything worked back then, what the service was like, what sustainability meant at that time... It would certainly be fascinating to see it first-hand. In the 1990s, for example, we didn’t have feedback the way we do today. If a mistake happened, only the guest and the person who made the mistake knew about it. Today, everyone knows everything—reviews are public, available to all, and have become an important tool for evaluating work. There is a space where guests can express their impressions, and it’s up to readers to interpret them however they wish. Of course, we monitor everything and learn from it—we still hold the leading position in Zagreb when it comes to positive comments, but we are also very aware that this could change tomorrow. Feedback today is more detailed, more honest, and more frequent than ever before, which gives us better insight into what we’re doing well and what we can improve. The same has happened with technology—guests used to come to reception several times a day to leave or pick up their room key, which had a heavy keychain, making it awkward to carry around. That was the perfect opportunity for personal contact. We could ask how they were, if they needed anything, and get a sense of their mood. Today, with electronic keys and automation, that moment is often lost. Communication has become more challenging—we don’t want to be intrusive, but we try to recognize when a guest is open to conversation. Personally, I love being among guests, but I pay close attention to the timing and manner—I don’t approach them while they’re having lunch or dinner; I don’t want to disturb them. I prefer to wait for the right moment when I can sense the guest is in the mood for a chat. Some people enjoy attention, others appreciate discretion—it’s important to know the difference. And that’s what makes the difference between a good and an exceptional host.

What else would you like to achieve in this position, something you perhaps haven’t managed to in your 13 years as general manager?

Uh, that’s hard to answer... Honestly, I’m not even sure. We’ve done a lot, and what we maybe haven’t done probably doesn’t make much sense anymore. Time brings its own changes, needs shift, and what may have been a good idea back then, might simply not be relevant today. Instead of looking back, I prefer to look ahead. As we have until now, we’ll continue working on improvements—those that are truly needed, not just trendy or flashy. We try to stay one step ahead of the times, but never at any cost—because the goal isn’t just to impress, but to leave a lasting impression. In a hotel like the Esplanade, the most important thing is knowing the right moment for the right thing. I’m looking forward to upcoming changes, especially the renovation—and to everything that will make the Esplanade even more uniquely its own, yet timelessly the Esplanade. In hospitality, the work is never done, because we don’t work with objects, but with emotions and expectations—and as I’ve mentioned, those constantly change.

In 30 years of working at the Esplanade, you must have experienced many memorable moments, or mishaps. What’s the first that comes to mind when you think of those situations?

taj smo način počeli stvarati novu povezanost s ljudima iz Zagreba – onima koji su godinama prolazili pored hotela, a nikad nisu ušli unutra. Željeli smo im pokazati da Esplanade nije rezerviran samo za kraljeve i kraljice – već za sve koji cijene ljepotu, povijest i gostoprimstvo s dušom.

Čini se, a ispravite me kao griješim, kako je hotel puniji nego ikad, barem u posljednjih 15-ak godina.

U pravu ste. Hotel je stalno pun. Ne mogu reći kako je točno bilo 1925. godine, kada je Esplanade otvorio svoja vrata – volio bih da sam to mogao doživjeti. Zanima me kako je tada sve funkcioniralo, kakva je bila usluga, što je značila održivost u to vrijeme... Sigurno bi bilo fascinantno to vidjeti iz prve ruke. Dvedesetih godina, primjerice, nismo imali povratne informacije kao danas. Ako je došlo do pogreške, znao je to samo gost i osoba koja je pogriješila. Danas svi znaju sve – recenzije su javne, dostupne svima, i postale su važan alat u evaluaciji rada. Postoji prostor gdje gosti izražavaju svoje dojmove, a na čitateljima je da ih interpretiraju kako žele. Naravno, pratimo sve i učimo iz toga – još uvijek držimo vodeće mjesto u Zagrebu po pozitivnim komentarima, ali smo i jako svjesni da se to sutra može promijeniti. Povratne informacije danas su detaljnije, iskrenije i češće nego ikad prije, što nam omogućava bolji uvid u ono što radimo dobro i ono što možemo unaprijediti. Slično se dogodilo i s tehnologijom – nekad su gosti dolazili nekoliko puta dnevno na recepciju ostaviti ili podići ključ svoje sobe koji je imao težak privjesak pa ga je bilo nespretno nositi sa sobom, što je bila idealna prilika za osobni kontakt. Mogli smo ih pitati kako im je, treba li im nešto, osjetiti raspoloženje. Danas, s elektronskim ključevima i automatizacijom, taj se trenutak često izgubi. Komunikacija je postala izazovnija – ne želimo biti nametljivi, ali trudimo se prepoznati kad je gost otvoren za razgovor. Osobno volim biti među gostima, ali pazim na vrijeme i način – ne prilazim dok ručaju ili večeraju, ne želim ih ometati. Radije pričekam pravi trenutak kada mogu osjetiti da je gost raspoložen za razgovor. Neki ljudi vole pažnju, neki cijene diskreciju – važno je znati razliku. I to je ono što čini razliku između dobrog i izvrsnog domaćina.

Što biste još htjeli napraviti dok ste na ovoj poziciji, a što recimo niste uspjeli u ovih 13 godina koliko ste direktor?

Uh, teško je na to odgovoriti... Iskreno, mislim da čak ni ne znam. Puno smo toga napravili, a ono što možda nismo – danas više ni ne bi imalo smisla. Vrijeme nosi svoje, potrebe se mijenjaju, i ono što je tada možda bila dobra ideja, danas jednostavno nije više relevantno. Umjesto da gledam unatrag, više volim gledati prema naprijed. Kao i do sada, nastaviti ćemo raditi na poboljšanjima – onima koja su stvarno potrebna, a ne samo trendovski atraktivna. Trudimo se biti korak ispred vremena, ali nikad pod svaku cijenu – jer nije cilj samo impresionirati, nego ostaviti dojam koji traje. U hotelu poput Esplanade najvažnije je znati prepoznati pravi trenutak za pravu stvar. Veselim se skorim promjenama, pogotovo renovaciji – ali i svemu što će Esplanade učiniti još više svojim, a opet vječno Esplanadom. U hotelijerstvu posao

In a hotel like the Esplanade, the most important thing is knowing the right moment for the right thing

U hotelu poput Esplanadea najvažnije je znati prepoznati pravi trenutak za pravu stvar

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YOU ARE THE JOURNEY



The hotel teaches you that every day is unpredictable, and that in everything, you have to find both a lesson and a laugh. And I believe no school can teach that better.

Hotel te nauči da je svaki dan nepredvidiv, i da u svemu treba pronaći i lekciju i šalu. A to, vjerujem, ni jedna škola ne može bolje naučiti.

But at the end of the day, it's the staff who make the difference and make a hotel special and authentic

Na koncu su zaposlenici ti koji čine razliku i hotel posebnim i autentičnim

Those moments, although unpleasant at the time, are actually the most valuable. They build you, teach you how to stay calm, how to laugh at yourself, and how to keep your dignity even when you fall—literally. The hotel teaches you that every day is unpredictable, and that in everything, you have to find both a lesson and a laugh. And I believe no school can teach that better.

You've met many important people—politicians, singers, actors. Nearly everyone who visited Zagreb stayed at the Esplanade.

Indeed, we've had truly fascinating guests—presidents of major countries, kings, queens, princes, and princesses. I've had the privilege of meeting them, speaking with them, sometimes sharing moments together, and being part of many historic events. During such visits, protocols are key. Meetings are held beforehand to discuss every detail to ensure everything goes smoothly. Even though everything is pre-organized, there are always moments that happen spontaneously and allow for in-the-moment reactions. Those are our favorite moments—they stay in our memories and become anecdotes. I've also met many celebrities I personally admire—singers, actors, bands, world-famous athletes, people I watched on screens, whose records I have on my shelves, whom I listened to in clubs as a teenager, who shaped my youth or influenced my lifestyle. These moments are part of our everyday—that's the Esplanade magic, something that can't be fully described, but can definitely be felt. It's those small yet meaningful moments that make this job special.

Can you name your three favorite hotels?

The Esplanade, the Esplanade and... well, the Esplanade, hahaha. But seriously, it's hard to say. I travel a lot and love staying in special hotels, but there are so many beautiful ones that it's hard to choose just a few. A lot depends on the moment, destination, current needs, the nature of the trip. Sometimes I'm amazed by the architecture or design, sometimes the service, sometimes the offer. And when all of that comes together, I'm happy and satisfied. What matters most to me is feeling genuine service, the authenticity and culture of the place I've arrived at. I don't like predefined, unnecessary standards that treat all guests the same and often don't benefit anyone but are made just to establish some kind of brand identity. That's especially noticeable with large hotel chains. But at the end of the day, it's the staff who make the difference and make a hotel special and authentic.

izlazeći iz lifta, povukao sam kolica prema sebi – i u trenu koferi su se razletjeli na sve strane, ja sam završio na podu, kolica na meni, a lobi je nakratko utihnuo i sve su oči bile uprte u mene, kao da je netko pritisnuo *pause*. U tom trenutku osjećao sam se da bih najradije propao kroz pod – ali srećom, publika je bila vrlo diskretna, a ja sam se vrlo vješto s blagim crvenilom i smiješkom na licu u tren oka spretno podigao, pokupio koferu i blago se naklonio. Danas to prepričavam kao dobar skeč – jedino što mi je nedostajalo bio je aplauz!

Te situacije, iako tada neugodne, zapravo su najvrijednije. One te izgrade, nauče te kako ostati miran, kako se nasmijati sebi i kako zadržati dostojanstvo i kad padneš – doslovce. Hotel te nauči da je svaki dan nepredvidiv, i da u svemu treba pronaći i lekciju i šalu. A to, vjerujem, ni jedna škola ne može bolje naučiti.

Upoznali ste mnogo važnih osoba, političara, pjevača, glumaca. Svi koji su dolazili u Zagreb, više ili manje, uvijek su odsjedali u Esplanadi.

Prošli su tu zaista interesantni gosti – predsjednici velikih država, kraljevi, kraljice, prinčevi i princeze. Imao sam privilegiju susresti ih, razgovarati s njima, ponekad dijeliti zajedničke trenutke, a i biti sudionikom mnogih povijesnih događaja. U tim susretima često sam se osjećao kao svjedok vremena. Kod takvih posjeta važni su protokoli. Organiziraju se sastanci prije dolazaka na kojima se dogovora o detaljima posjeta kako bi sve prošlo besprijekorno. Iako se uvijek sve organizira unaprijed, uvijek ima prilika koje se dogode spontano i u kojima se može reagirati u trenutku. Takve su prilike nama najdraže i ostaju u posebnim sjećanjima i anegdotama. Susreo sam i mnoge meni drage poznate svjetske zvijezde, pjevače, glumce, bendove, sportaše, ljude koje sam gledao na ekranima, čije ploče imam na policama, koje sam slušao kao mlad u klubovima, koji su obilježili moju mladost ili utjecali na moj životni stil. Takvi su trenutci naša svakodnevica – to je ta Esplanade čarolija koja se ne može sasvim opisati, ali se itekako može osjetiti. Te male, ali značajne situacije čine ovaj posao posebnim.

Možete li izdvojiti svoja tri najdraža hotela?

Esplanade, Esplanade i... Pa, Esplanade, hahaha... No, ozbiljno, teško je reći. Puno putujem i volim odsjedati u posebnim hotelima, ali ima ih toliko prekrasnih, pa mi je teško izdvojiti samo neke od njih. Puno toga ovisi o trenutku, destinaciji, trenutačnim potrebama, prirodi posjeta. Ponekad me oduševi arhitektura ili dizajn, ponekad usluga, ponekad ponuda. A kada se sve to spoji, onda sam sretan i zadovoljan. Bitno mi je da osjetim istinsku uslugu, autohtonost i kulturu mjesta u koje sam došao. Ne volim predefinirane nepotrebne standarde koji su za sve goste isti i koji često gostima uopće ne idu u korist, nego su izmišljeni da bi imali nekakvu prepoznatljivost. To je posebno vidljivo kod velikih hotelskih brendova. No, na koncu su zaposlenici ti koji čine razliku i hotel posebnim i autentičnim.

Oh, you could write a hefty book. Many more funny moments than mishaps, but even the mishaps usually ended up being charming and added a special twist to some situations. What's important is knowing how to handle a situation and turn it into something positive.

There's one incident I'll never forget, which happened, I believe, in 1996. We had a reception in the Emerald Ballroom—a classy gathering, full of diplomats, glittering gowns, and that formal silence just before an event begins. At the time, I was working as a bellboy. I had the task of delivering suitcases for a group from their rooms, and as always, I wanted to do it quickly and elegantly. I was quite proud of how I stacked the suitcases on the cart—it was a bit of an art. However, that day, in my attempt to carry everything in one go, I pulled the cart toward me while exiting the elevator—and in an instant, the suitcases flew everywhere, I ended up on the floor, the cart on top of me, and the lobby fell silent, all eyes on me, like someone hit "pause." At that moment, I wished I could disappear—but luckily, the guests were very discreet, and I managed to get up quickly, picked up the luggage with a faint blush and a smile, and gave a slight bow. Today I retell it like a comedy sketch—the only thing missing was applause!

nikad nije gotov, jer ne radimo s predmetima, već s emocijama i očekivanjima – a kako sam već naveo, ona se stalno mijenjaju.

U 30 godina rada u Esplanadi sigurno ste imali mnoge zgode i nezgode. Što vam odmah padne na pamet kada razmišljate o tim situacijama?

Da, mogla bi se podeblja knjiga napisati. Puno više zgoda nego nezgoda, ali i nezgode su na kraju većinom završile simpatično i dodale još malo posebnosti nekim situacijama. Bitno je snaći se u okolnostima i preokrenuti ih u pozitivnom smjeru.

Ima jedna zgoda koju nikada neću zaboraviti, a dogodila se, mislim, 1996. godine. Imali smo prijam u Smaragdnoj dvorani – elegantno okupljanje, sve puno diplomata, svjetlucavih haljina i svečane tišine koja vlada tik prije početka događaja. Ja sam tada radio kao багаžист, nosač prtljage. Dobio sam zadatak da iz soba dostavim koferu jedne grupe i, kao i uvijek, htio sam sve napraviti brzo i elegantno. Bio sam prilično ponosan na način na koji sam slagao koferu na kolica – to je bila mala vještina. Međutim, tog dana, u pokušaju da sve prenesem odjednom,

HISTORY OF THE HOTEL ESPLANADE

POVIJEST HOTELA ESPLANADE

Memory Lane

Vremeplov

Let's embark on a journey through time and recall how the Esplanade became more than just a hotel. Since 1925, when the Esplanade opened its doors to passengers of the Orient Express, bringing global glamour to the heart of Zagreb, through the golden twenties, opulent balls, and the first film stars who stayed here, to the sixties when the hotel entered a new era, and the eighties, after a reconstruction and many innovations that made it the most avant-garde hotel in the country – all the way to today as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. As we travel through the decades, one thing is clear – the Esplanade is not just a hotel, but a witness to history.

Krenimo zajedno na putovanje kroz vrijeme i prisjetimo se kako je Esplanade postao više od hotela. Od 1925. godine, kada je Esplanade otvorio svoja vrata putnicima Orient Expressa donoseći svjetski glamur u srce Zagreba, i zlatnih dvadesetih te raskošnih balova i prvih filmskih zvijezda koje su ondje odsjedale, preko šezdesetih kada je hotel ušao u novu eru i osamdesetih poslije rekonstrukcije i mnogih inovacija koje su ga učinile najavangardnijim hotelom u državi, pa sve do danas kada slavi 100 godina. A dok putujemo kroz desetljeća, jedno je jasno – Esplanade nije samo hotel, već i svjedok povijesti.

1917

1917

An international competition was announced, attracting many outstanding architects of the time, including the famous Austrian Adolf Loos, who, however, did not win. The winner was the German Otto Rehnig, whose original designs were later reworked by Dionis Sunko, who is today considered the architect of this Belle Époque architectural masterpiece.

1925

The construction of the largest hotel in Zagreb lasted only 26 months. The hotel was intended for passengers of the Orient Express and is therefore located next to the main railway station. At the grand opening on April 22, 1925, around 200 distinguished guests gathered, including the mayor of Zagreb, Heinzel. The hotel's first guest was a businessman from Osijek, Mr. Lück, who is believed to have brought good luck to the hotel with his name.

LATE 1920s

Charles Lindbergh, the American aviator, explorer, adventurer, and scientist, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his autobiography, stayed at the Esplanade Hotel. In 1927, he was the first to fly across the Atlantic in the *Spirit of St. Louis*.

JANUARY 1929

Famous Russian actor Vladimir Gaidarov, a long-time member of the Moscow Art Theatre, celebrated for his role in the film *A Woman on the Stake*, stayed at the Esplanade with his wife, film artist Olga Gvoskaya.

1929

The American star Josephine Baker, a famous Charleston dancer and singer who lived in France and was considered the queen of Parisian cabarets, stayed at the Esplanade Hotel.

1940 – 1945

During the war, the hotel served as the headquarters of the Gestapo and Wehrmacht. Curzio Malaparte (1898–1957), born Kurt Erich Suckert (his father was German, his mother Italian), wrote his acclaimed novel *Kaputt* at the Esplanade. Published in 1944, it described the wartime atmosphere in occupied Zagreb. Several waiters spied on the Germans for the Partisans. After being discovered, they were executed by the Germans.

1951

In the bleak post-war years, the Esplanade launched its famous *štrukli* (traditional Croatian pastry dish).

1964

The hotel joined the InterContinental Hotel corporation, founded by PAN AM, and was renamed Hotel Esplanade InterContinental. This marks the introduction of international hotel standards (such as small soaps, marmalades, butter, shampoos, etc.), pushing local producers to improve quality and meet required sizes and quantities.

MID-1960s

English film master Alfred Hitchcock stayed at the Esplanade.

1917

Raspisan je međunarodni natječaj kojem su pristupili brojni izvrsni arhitekti toga vremena, uključujući slavnog Austrijanca Adolfa Loosa koji, međutim, nije pobijedio na natječaju. Pobijedio je Nijemac Otto Rehnig, čije je izvorne nacрте preradio Dionis Sunko, kojega danas smatraju arhitektom ovog remek-djela arhitekture "Belle Époque".

1925

Gradnja najvećeg hotela u Zagrebu je trajala samo 26 mjeseci. Hotel je namijenjen putnicima Orient Expressa i stoga se nalazi pokraj glavnoga željeznickog kolodvora. Na svečanom otvorenju, 22. travnja 1925., okupilo se oko 200 uvaženih uzvanika, među kojima i zagrebački gradonačelnik Heinzel. Prvi gost hotela poslovni je čovjek iz Osijeka, gospodin Lück za kojeg se smatra da je donio (svojim imenom) sreću hotelu.

Potkraj dvadesetih godina 20. stoljeća u hotelu Esplanade odsjeo je Charles Lindbergh, američki zrakoplovac, istraživač, pustolov i znanstvenik, dobitnik Pulitzerove nagrade za autobiografiju, koji je zrakoplovom Duh Saint Louisa 1927. godine prvi preletio Atlantik.

Siječanj 1929.

Slavni ruski glumac Vladimir Gajdarov, dugogodišnji član Hudožestvenog teatra, proslavljen ulogom u filmu „Žena na lomači“, sa svojom suprugom Olgom Gsovskajom, također filmskom umjetnicom, odsjeo je u Hotelu Esplanade.

1929

U hotelu Esplanade odsjela je i američka zvijezda Josephine Baker, slavna plesačica *charlestona* i pjevačica koja je živjela u Francuskoj, gdje su ju smatrali kraljicom pariških kabareta.

1940. – 1945.

Tijekom rata hotel je bio sjedište Gestapa i Wehrmachta. Curzio Malaparte (1898. – 1957), pravog imena Kurt Erich Suckert (otac mu je bio Nijemac, a majka Talijanka), napisao je u hotelu Esplanade hvaljeni roman „Kaputt“, objavljen 1944. godine, u kojem je opisao ratnu atmosferu u okupiranom Zagrebu. Nekoliko je konobara špijuniralo Nijemce za partizane. Nakon što su ih otkrili, Nijemci su ih strijeljali.

1951.

U doba turobnog poraća lansirane su štrukle Esplanade.

1964

Hotel se pridružio korporaciji Inter-Continental Hotel, koju je osnovao PAN AM. Hotel je pritom uveo hotelske standarde, poput malih sapuna, marmelada, maslaca, šampona i dr. i time prisilio lokalne proizvođače da počnu proizvoditi kvalitetno i prema traženim veličinama i količinama.

Sredinom šezdesetih godina

U hotelu Esplanade boravio je engleski filmski velemaštor Alfred Hitchcock.

1967

Cristina Businari, Miss Italy, opened the first casino in the hotel.

1968

The hotel was nominated as the best among 62 Inter-Continental hotels in Europe and the Middle East.

MID-1960s

The renowned American playwright Arthur Miller, famous for *All My Sons*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *The Crucible*, and widely known as Marilyn Monroe's husband, stayed at the Esplanade. Other notable guests during this time included Italian actress and 1950s sex symbol Silvana Pampanini, Russian-American actor Yul Brynner (who starred in *The Battle of Neretva* in 1969), Ukrainian-American actor Jack Palance, Italian actress Rossana Podestà, English actress Belinda Lee, Italian actress Liana Orfei, daughter of the famous circus owner and many others.

1969

The greatest footballer of all time, Brazilian legend Pelé, stayed at the Esplanade.

1975

Italian writer Elena Tessadri published the romantic novel *Esplanade*, set in the Esplanade Hotel.

1981

Ivo Pogorelić, Croatia's greatest pianist, renowned and respected worldwide, gave a concert in the Emerald Ballroom as part of the classical music program *Concerts at the Esplanade*.

DECEMBER 1, 1985

A major renovation of the Esplanade began, carried out in stages to ensure the hotel remained operational throughout.

OCTOBER 9, 1986

The hotel reopened in a grand ceremony following the renovation.

1987

Just a month before the opening of the Universiade, a bistro was opened on the site of the former Snack Bar, modeled after French bistros. The bistro featured hostesses dressed in silk gowns who escorted guests to their tables, and every lady received a rose upon entry. For the first time, champagne and wine were served by the glass, as it was considered inappropriate for ladies at the table to order an entire bottle. A small chocolate was served with coffee. At the time, Bistro Esplanade was the most avant-garde establishment in the entire country. Since it was highly successful, others soon began adopting a similar concept.

MAY 1988

The Esplanade became the first and only hotel from socialist countries to be accepted into The Leading Hotels of the World group.

1989

The popular Italian dessert tiramisu was served at Esplanade's bistro for the first time and soon became widespread in Croatia.

1967.

Cristina Businari, Miss Italije, otvorila je u hotelu prvi casino.

1968.

Bio je nominiran za najbolji hotel među 62 Inter-Continentalova hotela u Europi i na Bliskom Istoku.

Sredinom šezdesetih godina

U hotelu Esplanade boravio je američki dramski pisac Arthur Miller, proslavljen dramama „Svi moji sinovi“, „Smrt trgovačkog putnika“ i „Vještice iz Salema“, široj javnosti poznat po tome što je bio muž filmske dive Marilyn Monroe. U to su doba gosti hotela bili i Silvana Pampanini, talijanska glumica i seks simbol pedesetih; američki glumac ruskog podrijetla Yul Brynner, koji je 1969. glumio u filmu „Bitka na Neretvi“, američki filmski glumac ukrajinskog podrijetla Jack Palance; talijanska glumica Rossana Podesta; engleska glumica Belinda Lee; talijanska glumica Liana Orfei, kći klauna i vlasnika cirkusa Orfei i mnogi drugi.

1969.

U hotelu je odsjeo najbolji nogometaš svih vremena, brazilska nogometna legenda Pelé.

1975.

Objavljen je ljubavni roman „Esplanade“ talijanske književnice Elene Tessadri, čija je romantična priča smještena u prostore hotela Esplanade.

1981.

Ivo Pogorelić, najveći hrvatski pijanist, svjetski poznat i cijenjen, održao je koncert u Smaragdnoj dvorani u sklopu programa klasične glazbe Koncerti u Esplanadi.

1. prosinac 1985.

Započeli su radovi na temeljitoj rekonstrukciji hotela Esplanade, a organizirani su etapno, kako hotel ni jednoga dana ne bi bio izvan funkcije.

9. listopada 1986.

Hotel je svečano otvoren u novom izdanju.

1987.

Samo mjesec prije otvorenja Univerzijade, na mjestu *snack-bara* otvoren je Bistro po uzoru na francuske bistroe. Bistro je imao hostese odjevene u svilene odore koje su goste odvodile do stola, a svaka je dama pri ulasku dobivala ružu. Prvi su se put točili pjenušac i vino na čaše, jer se vodilo računa o tome da je za dame za stolom neprimjereno naručiti cijelu butelju. Uz kavu se posluživala čokoladica. Bistro Esplanade bio je u to doba najavangardniji lokal u cijeloj državi. Budući da je Bistro bio jako uspješan, ubrzo su i drugi počeli koristiti sličan koncept.

Svibanj 1988.

Kao prvi i jedini hotel iz socijalističkih zemalja, Hotel Esplanade primljen je u grupaciju The Leading Hotels of the World.

1989.

Popularna talijanska slastica tiramisu prvi je put poslužena u Bistrou i od tada se servira i u mnogim drugim restoranima u Hrvatskoj.

1967

1980

1989

HYDROSONIC PRO

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APRIL 12, 1989

The Esplanade became independent, operating as a standalone company. InterContinental Zagreb became a separate entity.

1991

A macrobiotic menu was introduced, an innovation that even foreign media reported on, as it was rare at the time.

1993

Alain Finkelkraut, a distinguished French history professor, philosopher, writer, and humanist, stayed at the Esplanade.

1996

The Esplanade Hotel became the first hotel to have its own website.

1998

The Vienna Opera Ball was held at the Esplanade Hotel, preceding the one at the Croatian National Theatre.

1999

The Ministry of Tourism awarded the hotel five stars under the new classification system.

JANUARY 2000

The first deluxe hotel in Croatia, the Esplanade was included in the SRS (Seat Reservation System).

2002

The Esplanade was purchased by the Austrian company WSF Group, based in Vienna, which specializes in hospitality, real estate, and golf course construction. In November of the same year, the hotel closed for a complete renovation.

2002

London-based Greek designer and the founder of the MKV Design studio Maria Katsarou-Vafiadis was entrusted with redesigning the hotel's interior.

END OF 2003

The Esplanade joined the prestigious Regent International Hotels brand, becoming the first Regent hotel in Europe.

MAY 18, 2004

The Esplanade Hotel, in a so-called soft opening, reopened its doors after a complete renovation under the new name The Regent Esplanade Zagreb, featuring the new restaurant Zinfandel's, the Esplanade 1925 cocktail bar, and the renovated Le Bistro.

NOVEMBER 11, 2004

When every detail of the hotel's operations had been perfected and every aspect refined, The Regent Esplanade Zagreb was officially inaugurated.

2006

The Esplanade Hotel became the first hotel to introduce a special VIDog offer for guests arriving with their dogs.

12. travanj 1989.

Esplanade postaje nezavisan i počinje funkcionirati kao jedno poduzeće. Inter-Continental Zagreb postaje odvojena kompanija.

1991.

Uvodi se makrobiotički jelovnik. To su zabilježili i strani mediji, jer je u to doba to bila vrlo rijetka inovacija u svijetu.

1993.

U hotelu Esplanade odsjeda Alain Finkelkraut, ugledni francuski profesor povijesti, filozof, pisac i humanist.

1996.

Hotel Esplanade prvi je hotel s internetskom stranicom.

1998.

U hotelu Esplanade održan je Bečki operni bal, prije onoga u HNK.

1999.

Ministarstvo turizma dodijelilo je hotelu pet zvjezdica prema novoj klasifikaciji.

Siječanj 2000.

Kao prvi *deluxe* hotel u Hrvatskoj, Esplanade ulazi u rezervacijski sustav SRS (*Seat Reservation System*).

2002.

Austrijska tvrtka WSF Group sa sjedištem u Beču koja se bavi hotelijerstvom, nekretninama i gradnjom golf-terena kupila je hotel Esplanade. U studenome iste godine hotel se zatvara radi kompletne obnove.

2002.

Londonskoj dizajnerici grčkog podrijetla i osnivačici studija MKV Design Ltd., Mariji Katsarou-Vafiadis, bilo je povjereno uređenje hotelskog interijera.

Krajem 2003. godine

Hotel Esplanade postaje dijelom prestižnoga međunarodnog brenda Regent International Hotels i prvi Regent hotel u Europi.

18. svibanj 2004.

Hotel Esplanade u tzv. *soft openingu* otvara svoja vrata nakon cjelovite renovacije pod novim nazivom The Regent Esplanade Zagreb, s novim restoranom Zinfandel's, koktel-barom Esplanade 1925. i obnovljenim Le Bistroom.

11. studeni 2004.

Kad su dovedeni do savršenosti svi detalji poslovanja hotela i dotjerana svaka pojedinost, The Regent Esplanade Zagreb svečano je otvoren.

2006.

Hotel Esplanade postaje prvi hotel koji uvodi posebnu ponudu VIDog za goste koji dolaze sa svojim psima.

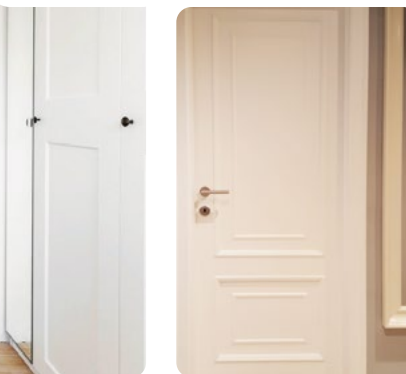
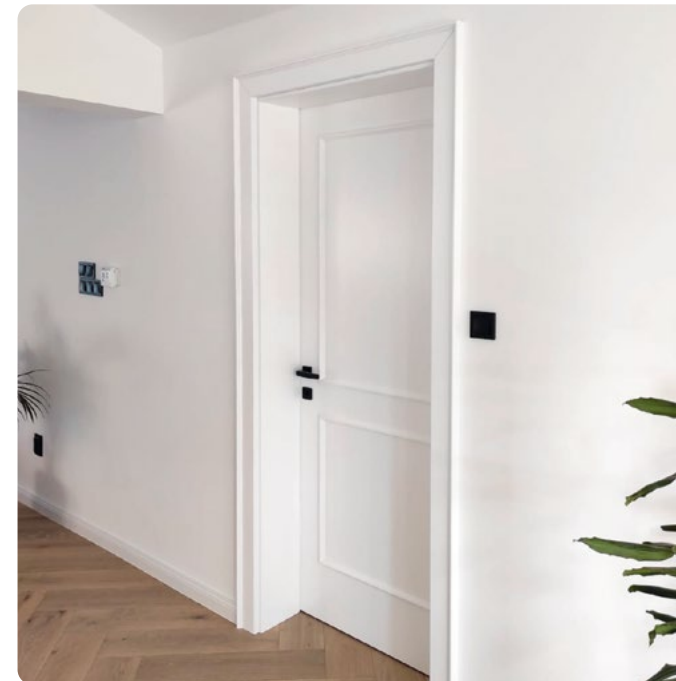
1991

2000

2004

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NOVEMBER 10, 2006

The first edition of the luxury hotel magazine – *Regent Magazine* – was published, later renamed *Esplanade View*.

APRIL 2009

Philip Mahoney took over the role of General Manager. Prince Albert II of Monaco visited Zagreb, while at the same time, the first major Qatari delegation, consisting of around a hundred distinguished guests led by Qatari Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and his wife Moza bint Nasser, stayed at the hotel.

2009

The hotel launched profiles on social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

2009/10

During the Advent season, the impressive *Nice Ice* winter skating rink was installed on the Oleander Terrace, marking another innovative initiative that connected the hotel with the residents of Zagreb while also serving as an attraction for hotel guests.

2010

The printing of the luxury hotel magazine was entrusted to a new publishing house, and it was redesigned and published twice a year under the new name *Esplanade View*.

NOVEMBER 16, 2011

The *World Luxury Hotel Awards* ceremony was held at the Esplanade, bringing together numerous hoteliers from around the world.

JANUARY 23, 2012

After three foreign general managers, Zagreb native Ivica Max Krizmanić took over the role of General Manager of the Regent Esplanade Hotel. At the time, he was the Deputy Manager, Front Office, and Revenue Manager. Krizmanić joined the Esplanade in 1991 upon returning from the battlefield, initially working as a doorman replacement for just one month while still a student. Although he originally planned to study mechanical engineering, he fell in love with the hotel and steadily advanced through the ranks. Interestingly, his first encounter with the Esplanade was as a child when, at the age of three, his father, Ivan Max Krizmanić, who worked at the Esplanade reception for 30 years, took him on a visit to the hotel.

APRIL 2012

The first female Executive Chef in the hotel's history – Ana Grgić, initially applied as a volunteer to gain culinary experience after finishing hospitality school. Through dedication, creativity, and ambition, Ana gradually progressed, and in 2012, following the departure of Maltese chef Jeffrey J. Vella, General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić appointed her as the Executive Chef of the Regent Esplanade.

OCTOBER 2012

Following the owner's decision, the Esplanade parted ways with the Regent group and resumed operations as an independent hotel. Within just ten days, the hotel's management created a new logo and website. Esplanade continued to set world-class hospitality

10. studeni 2006.

Izlazi prvo izdanje luksuznoga hotelskog časopisa „Regent Magazine“, kasnije preimenovana u „Esplanade View“.

Travanj 2009.

Funkciju generalnog direktora preuzima Philip Mahoney. Princ Albert II. od Monaka u posjetu je Zagrebu, a u isto vrijeme u hotelu boravi prva velika katarska delegacija sa stotinjak uvaženih gostiju koje predvodi katarski Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani i supruga Moza bint Nasser.

2009.

Hotel otvara profile na društvenim mrežama kao što su Twitter i Facebook.

2009./10.

U danima Adventa na terasi Oleander instalirano je impresivno zimsko klizalište Nice Ice, što je bila još jedna inovativna inicijativa povezivanja hotela i Zagrepčana, ali i atrakcija za hotelske goste.

2010.

Tisak luksuznoga hotelskog magazina povjerava se novoj izdavačkoj kući te se u redizajniranom formatu tiska dva puta godišnje pod novim nazivom „Esplanade View“.

16. studeni 2011.

Ceremonija *World Luxury Hotel Awards* svečano je održana u hotelu Esplanade te se pritom okupio velik broj hotelijera iz cijeloga svijeta.

23. siječanj 2012.

Nakon tri inozemna direktora, funkciju generalnog direktora hotela Regent Esplanade preuzima Zagrepčanin Ivica Max Krizmanić, tadašnji zamjenik direktora, *front office* i *revenue* menadžer hotela. Krizmanić se u hotelu Esplanade zaposlio po povratku s bojišta 1991. godine kao student kako bi na mjesec dana zamijenio vratara. Nesuđeni student strojarstva zaljubio se u hotel i kontinuirano napredovao. Zanimljivo je spomenuti kako je prvi susret s hotelom Esplanade imao još kao dijete kad ga je kao trogodišnjaka otac Ivan Max Krizmanić, koji je 30 godina radio na recepciji Esplanade, doveo u posjet hotelu.

Travanj 2012.

Prva šefica kuhinje u povijesti hotela – Ana Grgić – nakon završene ugostiteljske škole prijavila se tadašnjem chefu Esplanade kako bi volontirala i prikupila kulinarsko iskustvo. Predanim radom, kreativnim idejama i ambicijama, Ana je tijekom godina napredovala da bi ju 2012., nakon odlaska malteškog chefa Jeffreyja J. Vella, direktor hotela Ivica Max Krizmanić postavio za šeficu kuhinje Regent Esplanade.

Listopad 2012.

Odlukom vlasnika hotel Esplanade rastaje se s grupacijom Regent i ponovno posluje kao samostalni hotel. U svega deset dana uprava hotela kreirala je dizajn s novim logotipom i novu web-stranicu. Esplanade postavlja standarde gostoprimstva svjetske klase, besprijekorno spajajući bogatu tradiciju s odvažnim inovacijama, održivom praksom i nepokolebljivom predanošću zajednici.

2006

2011

2012

EXPERIENCE
THE PERFECT
BLEND OF
LUXURY AND
TRANQUILITY
AT A FIVE STAR
CAMPSITE NEAR
PLITVICE LAKES



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standards, seamlessly blending its rich tradition with bold innovations, sustainable practices, and an unwavering commitment to the community.

2014

This year was marked by two particularly significant events. A meeting between General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić and South Korean Ambassador His Excellency Hyung-Won Suh led to the idea of introducing Korean cuisine to the hotel—an unfamiliar and somewhat exotic culinary experience in Croatia. Five top chefs from the Korean Food Institute, led by Ms. Sook-Ja Joon, the head chef of the Korean royal kitchen, visited the Esplanade for five days, collaborating with the hotel's culinary team to present traditional Korean dishes. Following their visit, guests of Le Bistro had the opportunity to taste authentic Korean cuisine.

AUGUST 2014

Saudi Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, one of the world's wealthiest individuals, arrived in Zagreb on his private jet and stayed at the Esplanade. During his stay, the hotel organized a nighttime city tour for the prince and his entourage of 40 guests using the latest bicycles, a performance, and a gala dinner at Medvedgrad prepared by Executive Chef Ana Grgić Tomić and her team. When the media reported on the prince's visit, the entire Croatian political elite sought to meet the distinguished guest.

MARCH 2020

The hotel temporarily closed its doors following the Zagreb earthquake and the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Renovations were required to repair earthquake damage, while the hotel also faced the challenge of sustaining operations during the pandemic. Despite these difficulties, the Esplanade remained a symbol of stability and resilience. It soon reopened its rooms and renowned restaurants with enhanced safety measures, offering citizens a safe retreat.

DECEMBER 2021

In line with epidemiological measures, the *Fuliranje* Advent event was organized for the first time on Esplanade's Oleander Terrace. As the only such event in the city during the Advent season, it attracted many visitors. Entry was allowed only with a valid COVID-19 certificate, and the interest was so great that queues stretched all the way to King Tomislav Square. Alongside Esplanade's Executive Chef Ana Grgić Tomić, numerous renowned chefs operated culinary stalls, preparing creative street-style dishes for visitors. Throughout the month-long event, guests enjoyed an excellent lineup of musicians and DJs.

2015 – 2025

The past decade has brought numerous accolades, including the titles of Croatian Hotel of the Year and Best European Historic Hotel in 2019. In 2022, *Condé Nast Traveller* ranked Esplanade among the top 10 hotels in Central Europe, while the World Luxury Hotel Awards named Ivica Max Krizmanić the Best General Manager in Southeast Europe. That same year, Executive Chef Ana Grgić Tomić received the prestigious Gault&Millau Chef of the Year in Croatia award. In 2023, Zinfandel's was recognized as Europe's Best Hotel Restaurant, and Ana's commitment to sustainable

2014.

Bila je obilježena dvama iznimno značajnim gostovanjima. Susret direktora hotela Ivica Maxa Krizmanića i južnokorejskog veleposlanika, Njegove Ekselencije Hyung-Won Suha, urodio je idejom da se u hotelu predstavi u nas uglavnom nepoznata i pomalo egzotična korejska kuhinja. Dogovoren je posjet čak pet vrhunskih kuharica iz Instituta korejske hrane, predvođenih gospođom Sook-Ja Joon, šeficom kraljevske kuhinje u Koreji, koje su u Esplanadi gostovale pet dana, kako bi – zajedno s hotelskim kuharima – pripremile prezentaciju korejske kuhinje. Nakon toga gosti Le Bistrea imali su priliku kušati korejska jela.

Kolovoz 2014.

Saudijski princ Al-Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud, jedan od najbogatijih ljudi na svijetu, dolazi svojim privatnim zrakoplovom u Zagreb i boravi u Esplanadi. Tijekom njegova boravka hotel je za princa i njegovu svitu od 40 gostiju organizirao noćni obilazak grada najnovijim biciklima, performans i gala večeru na Medvedgradu koju je pripremala *chefica* Ana Grgić Tomić sa svojim timom. Kada su mediji objavili tko boravi u Esplanadeu, cijeli državni vrh poželio je sastati se s uglednim gostom.

Ožujak 2020.

Hotel zatvara svoja vrata nakon zagrebačkog potresa i globalnog širenja pandemije Covid19. Predstoji renovacija nastalih oštećenja u potresu te borba za opstanak usred izazova pandemije. Esplanade je ostao simbol stabilnosti i otpornosti. Uskoro je ponovno otvorio svoje sobe i poznate restorane uz pojačane sigurnosne mjere, pružajući sugrađanima sigurno utočište.

Prosinac 2021.

Sukladno epidemiološkim mjerama na terasi Oleander hotela Esplanade prvi je put organizirana adventska manifestacija „Fuliranje“ koja je tijekom Adventa kao jedini takav događaj u gradu privukla mnoge posjetitelje. Ulaz je bio moguć isključivo uz važeće Covid-19 potvrde, a zainteresiranih je znalo biti toliko da se red na ulazu formirao sve do Trga kralja Tomislava. Uz Esplanadinu *cheficu* Anu Grgić Tomić, na manifestaciji su svoje kulinarke kućice imali brojni poznati *chefovi* koji su za posjetitelje pripremali kreativna ulična jela. Tijekom mjesec dana „Fuliranje“ posjetitelji su uživali u odličnom programu glazbenika i DJ-eva.

2015. – 2025.

Proteklo desetljeće donijelo je brojna priznanja, uključujući titulu hrvatskog hotela godine i najboljega europskoga povijesnog hotela 2019, dok je *Condé Nast Traveller* 2022. godine Esplanade uvrstio među 10 najboljih hotela u srednjoj Europi. Iste godine, World Luxury Hotel Awards proglasio je Ivicu Maxa Krizmanića najboljim generalnim direktorom Jugoistočne Europe, a glavna *chefica* Ana Grgić Tomić ponijela je prestižnu titulu Gault&Millau Chefa godine u Hrvatskoj. Restoran Zinfandel's nagrađen je kao najbolji europski hotelski restoran 2023. godine, dok je Anina kuhinja iz održivih izvora dobila prvu hrvatsku zelenu Michelinovu zvjezdicu. Njezina uloga veleposlanice WWF-ovog projekta *Fish Forward*

2014

2020

2021

2022



Fotografije: Mladen Ban, Julien Duval, Nino Verdnik, Terra Projekt, Jurinec Photography i Robert Glavak



sourcing earned Croatia's first Green Michelin Star. As an ambassador for WWF's Fish Forward project, she also developed a food waste management program, reinforcing the hotel's dedication to ecological practices. Additionally, PR & Marketing Director Sanda Sokol was honored as PR of the Year at the European Hotel Awards 2024 in Copenhagen. In March 2025, at the Gault & Millau Croatia ceremony, General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić received a special award commemorating Esplanade's 100th anniversary.

2015 – 2025

The Esplanade has hosted numerous global celebrities, including Hollywood actors Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Kevin Spacey, and Kate Beckinsale, musicians Enrique Iglesias, Bryan Adams, Nick Cave, and Michael Bublé, and political leaders such as former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel. King Charles III (then a prince), enchanted by Chef Grgić Tomić's risotto, requested the recipe, while President Emmanuel Macron praised the hotel's cuisine and service after the staff flawlessly executed a four-course lunch for dignitaries in the magnificent Emerald Ballroom. The Danish royal family also commended the hotel's dining experience, even adding their family wine, *Malbec*, to Esplanade's prestigious wine list—making it the only place in Croatia to offer this royal vintage.

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Executive Chef Ana Grgić Tomić was invited to prepare a VIP banquet for the inauguration of President Zoran Milanović at the Presidential Office on Pantovčak, featuring a selection of exquisite dishes showcasing Croatian cuisine, paired with top wines and sparkling selections from renowned Croatian winemakers.

MARCH 19, 2025

In honor of Esplanade's 100th anniversary, the Circle of Light Festival of Lights Zagreb was officially launched with a glamorous light installation on the hotel's façade, created in collaboration with leading Croatian and German artists under the direction of the Zagreb Tourist Board. The spectacular 3D projections brought to life the elegance, glamour, and rich history of the Esplanade.

i razvoj programa zbrinjavanja otpada od hrane dodatno naglašavaju predanost hotela ekološkim praksama. Osim toga, direktorica PR-a i marketinga hotela, Sanda Sokol, nagrađena je titulom PR godine na European Hotel Awards 2024. u Kopenhagenu. Na svečanosti Gault & Millau Hrvatska u ožujku 2025. direktoru hotela Ivici Maxu Krizmaniću uručeno je priznanje povodom 100. obljetnice hotela Esplanade.

2015. – 2025.

Unutar legendarnih zidova Esplanade boravile su brojne svjetske zvijezde, među kojima su holivudski glumci Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Kevin Spacey i Kate Beckinsale, glazbenici Enrique Iglesias, Bryan Adams, Nick Cave i Michael Bublé te politički lideri poput bivšega britanskog premijera Borisa Johnsona, bivšega ukrajinskog predsjednika Petra Poroshenka i bivše njemačke kancelarke Angele Merkel. Britanski kralj Charles III. (u to vrijeme princ), očaran rižotom *chefice* Grgić Tomić, zatražio je recept, dok je francuski predsjednik Emmanuel Macron pohvalio kuhinju i poslugu hotela koji su u kratkom roku prema strogom protokolu uspjeli poslužiti besprijekoran ručak od četiri slijeda u veličanstvenoj Smaragdnoj dvorani. Danska kraljevska obitelj također je pohvalila kuhinju, dodajući svoje obiteljsko vino Malbec na renomiranu vinsku kartu hotela, čime je Esplanade postao jedino mjesto u Hrvatskoj koje je u ponudi nudilo ovu kraljevsku berbu.

18. veljače 2025.

Chefica Ana Grgić Tomić pozvana je da sa svojim timom priprema svečani ručak za VIP uzvanike na inauguraciji predsjednika Zorana Milanovića u Uredu predsjednika Republike na Pantovčaku. Ana je za tu prigodu pripremila selekciju slasnih jela kojima je uzvanike povela na gurmansko putovanje Hrvatskom. Uz jela su prigodno poslužena vrhunska vina i pjenušci poznatih vinara iz raznih hrvatskih krajeva.

19. ožujka 2025.

Povodom obilježavanja 100. obljetnice zagrebačke ikone hotelijerstva, glamuroznom je svjetlosnom instalacijom na pročelju hotela Esplanade, pod nazivom Circle of Light, svečano otvoren Festival svjetla Zagreb. Senzacionalni 3D prikazi nastali u suradnji vrhunskih hrvatskih i njemačkih umjetnika pod vodstvom Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba na povijesnoj arhitekturi Esplanade oživjeli su eleganciju i glamur prošlih vremena te dočarali zadivljujuću povijest hotela.

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Congratulations to the Hotel

Čestitke hotelu

“Congratulations to the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel on an impressive 100 years of existence. A long-standing tradition of top-tier service has left its mark on history—today, the Esplanade is a symbol of luxury, elegance, and Zagreb’s unique hospitality. As early as 1925, the Esplanade became a connection to Europe and the world, welcoming travelers aboard the Orient Express. We are especially pleased to recall personal moments that deepened our love for the Esplanade. Our first visit was in June 1971, during the celebration of the Graduation Ball for medical students—a night forever etched in our hearts. It was our first public outing as a couple—me, a freshman, and my husband Mate, a final-year medical student. We thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of the staff and were enchanted by the beautiful Emerald Ballroom, lavishly set tables with porcelain, crystal, silver, and embroidery. Among the many courses of food and drink, we especially remember the joy of dancing to music, the inevitable waltz, and other classical dances.

New Year’s Eve 1993 was a historic and special moment for our newly independent Republic of Croatia. We rang in the New Year with our first president, Dr. Franjo Tuđman, his wife, and numerous distinguished guests. The atmosphere was exceptionally warm and pleasant thanks to your outstanding staff. As proud parents of our son Luka, a 2010 MIOC high school graduate, we were invited to the “Graduation Dance with Parents” on the beautifully sunlit Oleander Terrace of the Esplanade. That event was particularly emotional for us, as it continued the Zagreb family tradition of celebrating educational milestones. In November 2010, under the name The Regent Esplanade, the hotel showed a sense of solidarity and support by helping to organize a Charity Evening for Dora, raising significant funds for scholarships for underprivileged high school and university students. As president of Dora, I want to thank you on behalf of all of them, and emphasize that, thanks to your support, they have become independent, educated individuals with families of their own. Thank you for all the unforgettable moments throughout our many events and gatherings, both private and official. The Esplanade maintains high standards in bringing together all generations and numerous foreign visitors, tourists, officials, and cultural and public figures, especially from the world of business. The name Esplanade is always fondly recognized and carries its fine reputation across the globe, renowned for its distinctiveness and tradition. We wish the Esplanade much success in the years to come—may it continue to be a symbol of Zagreb and all of Croatia. We truly look forward to every future success and hope it remains a living legend, bridging the past and the future for the benefit of all. Happy 100th birthday!

*Jadranka-Jasminka
Granić
i Mate Granić*
dear guests,
dragi gosti

Čestitamo hotelu Esplanade na uspješnih 100 godina postojanja. Duga tradicija vrhunske usluge ostavila je trag u povijesti. Danas je Esplanada simbol luksuza, elegancije i zagrebačke gostoljubivosti. Već je 1925. Esplanada bila poveznica s Europom i ostatkom svijeta ugostivši putnike Orient Expressa, a posebno nam je zadovoljstvo prisjetiti se osobnih trenutaka koji su učvrstili našu ljubav prema Esplanadi. Naš prvi posjet u lipnju 1971. godine, povodom proslave Apsolventskoga liječničkog bala, ostao je trajno zapisan u našim srcima. To je bio naš prvi zajednički javni izlazak; mene, jedne bruce, i moj suprug Mate, apsolventa pete godine studija Medicine. Neizmjereno smo uživali u gostoljubivosti osoblja i bili očarani prelijepom Smaragdnom dvoranom i raskošno serviranim stolovima s porculanom, kristalom, srebrom i šlingom. Uz brojne sljedove hrane i pića, posebno se sjećamo divnih trenutaka plešući uz glazbu neizostavni valcer i ostale klasične plesove. Nova godina 1993. bila je poseban i povijestan trenutak za našu samostalnu Republiku Hrvatsku. Ispratili smo staru i dočekali novu godinu s našim prvim predsjednikom, dr.

Franjom Tuđmanom, njegovom suprugom i brojnim uzvanicima. Atmosfera je bila iznimno ugodna i topla, zahvaljujući gostoprimstvu vašega vrhunskog osoblja. Kao ponosni roditelji sina Luke, maturanta MIOC-a, godine 2010. bili smo pozvani na maturalni ples na predivnoj osunčanoj terasi Oleander. Taj događaj posebno smo emotivno doživjeli kao nastavak zagrebačke obiteljske tradicije obilježavanja uspješnog školovanja mladih. U studenom 2010. godine, tada pod imenom The Regent Esplanade, hotel je pokazao osjećaj za solidarnost i pomaganje u organizaciji Humanitarne večeri Dore kada su prikupljena značajna sredstva u fond za stipendiranje siromašnih srednjoškolaca i studenata. Kao predsjednica Dore, želim vam zahvaliti u ime svih njih te naglasiti da su, zahvaljujući vašoj pomoći, postali samostalni i školovani ljudi s vlastitim obiteljima. Hvala vam na svim nezaboravnim trenutcima tijekom naših brojnih događanja i susreta, bilo privatnih ili službenih. Esplanada održava visoke standarde okupljanja svih generacija te brojnih stranih posjetitelja, turista, dužnosnika, kulturnih i javnih osoba, posebno onih iz poslovnog svijeta. Ime Esplanade uvijek je rado prepoznato i prenosi dobar glas širom svijeta o svojoj posebnosti i tradiciji. Želimo Esplanadi mnogo uspjeha u budućem radu, da i dalje ostane simbol Zagreba i cijele Hrvatske. Iskreno se radujemo svakom budućem uspjehu sa željom da ostane živa legenda koja spaja prošlost i budućnost na dobrobit svih nas. Sretan vam 100. rođendan!



“I can freely say that the Esplanade is my second home. From the very first day I set foot in it, that feeling of being “at home” was the strongest, thanks to the ever-excellent staff and service—the reason this hotel stands apart from the rest. Words cannot do justice to describe the perfection of its cuisine—it’s something you’d only see in the movies, and that’s no exaggeration. Heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary and for the tradition that upholds supreme quality, raising the bar several steps above other hotels. *Bravissimi!* Stay just as you are for the next 100 years. With love, your forever family member among the guests!

Tony Cetinski
singer, pjevač

“On behalf of the Croatian Medical Association, I wholeheartedly congratulate you on your remarkable milestone—the 100th anniversary of the legendary Esplanade Hotel, beloved by all of us. Over the decades, it has become a true symbol of elegance, tradition, and top-tier hospitality. The Esplanade is not just a place to stay—it is a meeting place for distinguished guests and professionals, including members of our Association. We are especially proud of our long-standing collaboration in organizing the Doctors’ Ball—an event that has brought the medical community together for generations in the magical, elegant setting of the Esplanade. We look forward to continuing this successful partnership, with many new opportunities for gathering that will enrich both our profession and unity. Once again, congratulations on this magnificent milestone—may the same spirit of excellence and tradition guide you for the next hundred years.

Željko Krznarić

Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, President of the Croatian Medical Association, redoviti profesor Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu i predsjednik Hrvatskoga liječničkog zbora

“A blend of top service, gastronomy, elegance, and history is the first thing that comes to mind when I think of that timeless gem in the heart of Zagreb. I wish you many more golden years and satisfied guests, and I will continue to enjoy the beautiful ambiance of your Bistro.

Tereza Kesovija
musician, glazbenica

“We’ve traveled the world, but only a few hotels made us feel especially welcomed and cared for. One of those is undoubtedly the Esplanade! Beyond the ambiance, it’s the staff—from the doorman and coat attendant to the waiters, managers, and chef Ana—who make each visit a true celebration. From the bottom of our hearts, congratulations on your 100th birthday.

Lidija and Nenad Kacian
dear guests, dragi gosti

Slobodno mogu reći da je Esplanada moj drugi dom, od prvog dana kada sam u nju kročio upravo je taj osjećaj doma najjači, zahvaljujući uvijek vrhunskom osoblju i usluzi, zbog čega se ovaj hotel razlikuje od ostalih. O kvaliteti gastronomije nemam dovoljno jake riječi kojima bih opisao to savršenstvo, to se samo u filmovima može vidjeti, bez pretjerivanja. Iskrene čestitke na jubileju i na tradiciji kojom se održava vrhunska kvaliteta, a ljestvica podiže za nekoliko stepenica više od ostalih hotela. *Bravissimi!* Ostanite isti u sljedećih 100 godina. Voli vas vaš stalni član obitelji među gostima!



U ime Hrvatskoga liječničkog zbora, od srca vam čestitam na iznimnoj obljetnici – stotoj godini vašega i našega legendarnog hotela Esplanade, koji je kroz desetljeća postao pravi simbol elegancije, tradicije i vrhunskoga ugostiteljskog umijeća. Hotel Esplanade nije samo mjesto boravka, već je i prostor u kojem se susreću ugledni gosti i stručnjaci, među kojima su i članovi našega Zbora. Osobito smo ponosni na našu dugogodišnju suradnju u organiziranju Liječničkog bala – događaja koji već generacijama okuplja medicinsku zajednicu u svečanom i elegantnom okruženju čarolije hotela Esplanade. S velikim veseljem iščekujemo nastavak ovoga uspješnog partnerstva, uz brojne nove prigode za zajednička okupljanja, koja će zasigurno obogatiti i našu struku i zajedništvo. Još jednom, čestitamo na ovoj veličanstvenoj obljetnici, i neka vas i narednih stotinu godina vodi isti duh izvrsnosti i tradicije.



Spoj vrhunske usluge, gastronomije, elegancije i povijesti prvo je na što pomislim pri spomenu toga bezvremenskog bisera u srcu Zagreba. Želim vam još puno zlatnih godina i zadovoljnih gostiju, a ja ću i dalje uživati u prekrasnom ambijentu vašeg Bistrea.



Puno smo putovali po svijetu, ali samo smo u nekoliko hotela bili počašćeni posebnom ljubaznošću i pažnjom. Jedan od njih svakako je hotel Esplanade! Uz ugođaj, tomu u prvom redu pridonosi sveukupno hotelsko osoblje, od portira i garderobijera do konobara, menadžera i *chefice* Ane, pa im zahvaljujemo što je svaki dolazak za nas posebna svečanost i od srca čestitamo 100. rođendan. Vaši vjerni gosti.



“The Esplanade is a symbol of elegance and tradition, an essential part of Zagreb's social and cultural life for a full century. From the arrival of the first Orient Express guests to the present, its long history speaks volumes about the Esplanade's significance for the city of Zagreb. Congratulations to this legendary hotel on a century of excellence—and may it enjoy many more successful years in the heart of Zagreb.

Tomislav Tomašević
Mayor of Zagreb, gradonačelnik Zagreba

“At the most beautiful location in the city, in my favorite hotel—the Esplanade—every time I walk in, I feel as though I've stepped into a treasure trove of the greatest Croatian and global heritage. I imagine all the great names who once walked these halls, under the same lights, embraced by the same timeless charm. I'm honored to be part of this story, to enjoy the century-old tradition and existence of the Esplanade—a true symbol of elegance, history, and magical hospitality.

Iva Radić
Editor-in-Chief, journal.hr, glavna urednica portala journal.hr

“There are few hotels in Europe that can boast such a long-standing tradition. I am incredibly proud to have witnessed the first 100 years of the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel. I congratulate all hotel employees, led by General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić, on this anniversary, with the wish that they continue to be an example and a beacon of Croatian tourism both at home and abroad!

Dalibor Greganić
Managing Director Profil Klett Hrvatska, direktor Profil Klett Hrvatska

“For me, the Esplanade Hotel was a symbol of my youth, my first nights out, dinners, and memories of my first major fashion show in the Emerald Ballroom when I began my modeling career. The first recipe I ever received from the famous chef Karapandža was for steak tartare. My dear friend Vlado Lisak also worked at the Esplanade; he once ran the hotel's disco and later the Bistro. True Zagreb locals always came to the Esplanade. I have only beautiful memories of that hotel, because there, smiles and kind words are always a must. I've never felt a drop in service quality there, in any respect. Today, I enjoy the culinary delights of Ana Grgić, but even with previous chefs, the cuisine was always excellent. The people who have worked there forever are the reason the Esplanade has been a symbol of the city of Zagreb for 100 years. I love the Esplanade Hotel and always feel amazing there.

Suzy Josipović Redžepagić
dear guest, draga gostica

Hotel Esplanade simbol je elegancije i tradicije, nezaobilazno mjesto zagrebačkoga društvenoga i kulturnog života već punih sto godina. Njegova duga povijest od dolazaka prvih gostiju Orient Expressom do danas, svjedoči o značaju Esplanade za grad Zagreb. Čestitam ovomu legendarnom hotelu na stoljeću izvrsnosti i želim mu još mnogo uspješnih godina u srcu Zagreba.

Na najljepšoj lokaciji u gradu, u mojemu najdražem hotelu Esplanade, svaki put kad kročim unutra, osjećam se kao da sam zakoračila u riznicu najveće hrvatske i svjetske baštine. Zamišljam sva velika imena koja su tuda prolazila i sjedila pod tim svjetlima, u tome bezvremenskom šarmu. Počasćena sam što mogu biti dio te priče, uživati u stogodišnjoj tradiciji Esplanade i njezinu postojanju – simbolu elegancije, povijesti i istinske hotelske magije.

Malo je hotela u Europi koji se mogu pohvaliti dugom tradicijom postojanja. Iznimno sam ponosan što sam mogao svjedočiti prvih 100 godina postojanja hotela Esplanade Zagreb. Čestitam rođendan svim zaposlenicima hotela na čelu s generalnim direktorom Ivicom Maxom Krizmanićem, sa željom da i dalje budu primjer i svjetlo hrvatskog turizma u zemlji i inozemstvu!

Hotel Esplanade za mene predstavlja simbol moje mladosti, mojih prvih izlazaka i večera i sjećanje na moju prvu veliku reviju u Smaragdnoj dvorani, kada sam se počela baviti manekenstvom. Prvi recept koji sam dobila od poznatog kuhara Karapandže bio je za tatarski biftek. U Esplanadi je radio i moj veliki prijatelj Vlado Lisak, koji je neko vrijeme vodio hotelski disko, a kasnije i Bistro. U hotel Esplanade dolazili su uvijek pravi Zagrepčani. Za taj hotel vežu me samo lijepe uspomene jer su ondje osmijeh i lijepa riječ obavezni. Nikada nisam osjetila pad kvalitete usluge, ni u jednom segmentu. Danas uživam u kulinar-skim delicijama Ane Grgić, ali i s bivšim chefovima kuhinja je uvijek bila sjajna. Ljudi koji ondje rade cijelu vječnost čine da hotel Esplanade već 100 godina predstavlja simbol grada Zagreba. Volim hotel Esplanade i ondje se odlično osjećam.

5* RELAIS VILA PLANINKA, JEZERSKO, SLOVENIA

A Perfect Getaway

Potpuno isključenje

Set amid an idyllic alpine landscape only 2 hours' drive from Zagreb, Vila Planinka wows guests with superb accommodation, Michelin-starred cuisine and a selection of exquisite wines. The hotel is also popular with the world's most influential leaders, businessmen and celebrities.

The 5-star Vila Planinka is the perfect choice for getting away from it all and being pampered in nature's embrace. The hotel, surrounded by mountains, a river and a lake, boasts a superb restaurant, as well as a well-stocked wine room, where you can sample some of the finest biodynamic wines in the company of a sommelier. Vila Planinka is a perfect place to recharge your batteries and offers a variety of personalised indoor and outdoor activities, both in summer and winter.



Vila Planinka usred idiličnog alpskog krajolika, samo dva sata od Zagreba, osvaja s vrhunskim smještajem, Michelinovom kuhinjom i prvoklasnom ponudom vina. Relais hotel u Sloveniju privlači i najutjecajnije svjetske lidere, poslovne ljude i zvijezde iz svijeta zabave.

Vila Planinka 5* savršen je izbor za bijeg od gradske vreve i opuštanje usred prirode. Hotel, okružen planinskim vrhovima, rijekom i jezerom, osim vrhunskog restorana oduševljava i s bogato opskrbljenom vinskom sobom, gdje ćete u društvu sommeliera pronaći najprestižnije etikete iz biodinamičke proizvodnje. U Vili Planinki napunit ćete baterije s personaliziranim aktivnostima u zatvorenom i na otvorenom, ljeti i zimi.



“The Esplanade connects desire and the beauty of yesterday with the present moment. Here, beautiful becomes more beautiful, happiness becomes happier. Sadness is less sad, and celebration is most festive. I wholeheartedly congratulate the entire Esplanade team on this grand anniversary and thank you for always making me want to come back. Happy birthday!”

Ana Hanžeković Krznarić

owner and CEO of Hanza Media publishing house,
vlasnica i predsjednica Uprave izdavačke kuće Hanza media

“To the best hotel in Southeast Europe, congratulations on your 100th anniversary and for preserving a tradition that symbolizes one of the greatest architectural and cultural achievements in the history of Zagreb and Croatia. Reaching 100 as a protected cultural monument and a highly valuable part of the national heritage is a rare example—despite historical upheavals—of passing down knowledge, experience, pride, and emotion from one generation to the next. Built in just over two years, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel combines the highest architectural, construction, and artisanal standards of its time and continues to inspire future generations. It marked the time it was born in – seven years after the end of World War I, when the mayor of Zagreb was the legendary Croatian architect Vjekoslav Heinzel, who coined the phrase *bijeli Zagreb grad* (the White City of Zagreb). The Esplanade Zagreb Hotel is a piece of Europe in Zagreb. Celebrated worldwide and a source of pride for its fellow citizens, it has preserved a high level of professionalism and civic culture for a full century. It has retained the loyalty of citizens who love their Esplanade, and the hotel has returned that love for 100 years.”

Željko Žutelija
journalist and publicist,
novinar i publicist

“Congratulations to the oldest hotel in Zagreb on an impressive 100 years! Since opening in 1925, the Esplanade has been more than just a hotel – it has been the center of social and cultural life, a synonym for luxury, tradition, and top-quality service, and an added value to the tourism of Croatia’s capital!”

Tonči Glavina

Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Croatia, ministar turizma u Vladi RH

“Sincere congratulations on the first 100 years to a hotel where I always feel magical and welcome. I truly wish you all the best – and at least another 100 years to come.”

Durdica Vorkapić

fashion designer, Hippy Garden, modna kreatorica, Hippy Garden

Esplanada spaja želju i najljepše od jučer u ovaj trenutak sada. Ovdje je lijepo uvijek ljepše i sretno sretnije. Tužno je manje tužno, a svečano najsvečanije. Od srca čestitam cijelomu Esplanadinu timu veliku obljetnicu i hvala vam na tome što se Esplanadi uvijek želim vraćati. Sretan rođendan!”

Najboljem hotelu u jugoistočnoj Europi čestitam 100. obljetnicu osnutka i očuvanje tradicije koja simbolizira jedan od najvećih arhitektonskih i kulturoloških pothvata u povijesti Zagreba i Hrvatske. Doživjeti stotu, kao zaštićeni spomenik kulture i iznimno vrijedan dio nacionalne baštine, rijedak je primjer – unatoč povijesnim turbulencijama – prenošenja znanja, iskustva, ponosa i emocija s jednog naraštaja na drugi. Hotel Esplanade Zagreb izgrađen je za nešto više od dvije godine, sjedinjenjem najviših arhitektonskih, graditeljskih i umjetničko-zanat-skih dometa onoga doba i trajno je nadahnuće budućim naraštajima. Obilježio je vrijeme u kojem je nastao, sedam godina nakon završetka Prvoga svjetskog rata, kad je gradonačelnik Zagreba bio legendarni hrvatski arhitekt Vjekoslav Heinzel, koji je uveo pojam „Bijeli Zagreb grad“. Hotel Esplanade Zagreb dio je Europe u Zagrebu. Proslavljen u svijetu i ponos svojih sugrađana, cijelo je stoljeće očuvao visoku razinu profesionalnosti i građanske kulture. Zadržao je privrženost građana koji vole svoju Esplanadu, a hotel im već stotinu godina tu ljubav uzvraća.”

Čestitam najstarijem hotelu u Zagrebu na impresivnih 100 godina postojanja! Od svojeg otvorenja 1925. godine pa sve do danas Esplanade nije bio samo hotel, već i središte društvenoga i kulturnog života, sinonim za luksuz, tradiciju i vrhunsku uslugu te dodana vrijednost turizma glavnoga grada Hrvatske!

Najiskrenije čestitke na prvih 100 godina hotelu u kojem se uvijek osjećam čarobno i dobrodošlo. I od srca želim sve najbolje, i najmanje još 100 godina.”

POSTOJNA CAVE PARK, SLOVENIJA

Wonderworld Does Exist!

Svijet čuda postoji

Don't miss out on Slovenia's top attractions and two wonders of the world. Only 2 hours' drive from Zagreb, hop on the legendary cave train to explore the stunning Postojna Cave before visiting Predjama Castle, the largest cave castle in the world.

Ne propustite priliku posjetiti najbolje slovenske atrakcije i dva svjetska čuda. Samo dva sata od Zagreba uskočite u legendarni špiljski vlak kako biste istražili zapanjujuću Postojnsku jamu i najveći špiljski dvorac na svijetu – Predjamski dvorac.



For more than two centuries, Postojna Cave has amazed visitors from all over the world. Europe's largest tourist cave fascinates with majestic halls, stunning cave formations, and a unique underground train. Only Postojna Cave gives you the chance to meet the baby dragon – the world's largest cave-dwelling animal. 9 km away from this natural wonder, visit Predjama Castle, a Guinness World Record holder. Perched on a 132-metre-high cliff, this majestic structure is known as one of the most fairytale-like castles in the world.



Postojnska jama već više od dva stoljeća oduševljava posjetitelje iz cijelog svijeta. Kao najveća turistička špilja u Europi, fascinira veličanstvenim dvoranama, zapanjujućim špiljskim formacijama i jedinstvenim podzemnim vlakom. Samo ovdje imate ekskluzivnu priliku upoznati bebu zmaja – najveću špiljsku životinju. Devet kilometara od ovog prirodnog čuda posjetite Predjamski dvorac, koji je upisan u Guinnessovu knjigu rekorda. Smješten na 132 metra visokoj litici, veličanstven je i poznat kao jedan od najljepših dvoraca na svijetu.



“The Esplanade Hotel has been the most significant hotel in Zagreb and Croatia for 100 years—not only because it was built as a luxury hotel for Orient Express travelers, but because from the very beginning, it has been much more than just a hotel: a center of innovation, social life, and a creative driver of change in hospitality. It is a hotel with a big heart: in 1926 and 1927, it helped a poor student, Dragutin Tadijanović—who later became one of Croatia’s greatest poets—to pay for his studies. The hotel hosted a festive lunch for homeless people, and took in a group of refugees from Vukovar, one of whom lived in the hotel for 12 years. It was the first hotel in Zagreb and Croatia to sign contracts with major international hotel corporations, the first to introduce innovations like serving champagne and fine wine by the glass, complimentary chocolates with coffee, digital menus on tablets, launching a website, opening the first Snack Bar and Bistro—it brought the world to Croatia. The Esplanade is unique. It has its own book, documentary film, TV commercial, and even a song marking its 60th anniversary. It even has its own star in the sky, “Esplanade 2000,” and its own Zinfandel wine, grown on the Oleander Terrace.

Working at the Esplanade has always carried a prestige like nowhere else. Generations of highly skilled professionals were raised here, making the hotel a true incubator of talent. In recent years, the Esplanade has experienced a true renaissance. Excellence is the goal, and it is being achieved at every level, from top-tier gastronomy, elegant service, and world-class design, to extraordinary guest care and attention to the smallest details. The Esplanade is the hotel in Croatia with the most international awards, and likely even beyond. Its value is best illustrated by its distinguished guests: kings, princes, sheikhs, presidents, prime ministers, diplomats, business-people, movie stars, opera legends, and pop icons. Because of all this—and so much more—let me paraphrase the great Swiss hotelier César Ritz: “The Esplanade is a royal hotel and a hotel for royals,” larger than life. My sincere congratulations to General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić and his team. Happy first centenary, dear Esplanade!

“Though it might sound like a cliché, the Esplanade is my second home. Actually, it’s my office — ever since I moved nearby. Since the mid-80s and my concerts with Magazin, I’ve always stayed in “my” hotel. The habit of saying “Let’s meet at Espica” has become a catchphrase for everyone who knows me—and for my family too. Please, don’t renovate too much! That café, bar, and restaurant space is tied to nothing but beauty for me. Here’s to lasting a long, long time...

Tonči Huljić
musician, glazbenik

Hotel Esplanade najznamenitiji je hotel u Zagrebu i Hrvatskoj već sto godina. Ne samo zato što je građen kao luksuzni hotel za putnike Orient Expressa, nego i zato što je od prvog dana i sve do danas mnogo više od hotela: centar inovativnosti, društvenih događanja, kreativni pokretač promjena u ugostiteljstvu. On je hotel velika srca. Davne 1926. i 1927. pomogao je školovanje tada siromašnog studenta Dragutina Tadijanovića, kasnije velikoga hrvatskog pjesnika, ugostio je na svečanom ručku desetak beskućnika, prihvatio je grupu prognanika iz Vukovara, od kojih je jedna prognanica živjela u hotelu punih 12 godina. Prvi je hotel u Zagrebu i Hrvatskoj koji je potpisao ugovore s važnim međunarodnim hotelskim korporacijama te prvi hotel u Hrvatskoj koji je uveo mnoge inovacije: šampanjac i odabrano vino na čaše, prve čokoladice uz kavu, jelovnike na tabletima, vlastite internetske stranice, *Snack* bar i *Bistro*. Doveo je svijet u Hrvatsku. Hotel Esplanade jedinstven je, ima svoju knjigu, svoj dokumentarni film, svoj TV spot i pjesmu za 60. godišnjicu, svoju zvijezdu na nebu – „Esplanade 2000” i svoje vino Zinfandel od grožđa koje se uzgaja na terasi Oleander. Moglo bi se navesti još mnogo razloga zašto je hotel Esplanade tako poseban, no samo bih dodala da je raditi u hote-

lu Esplanade oduvijek bilo pitanje prestiža kao nigdje drugdje. Ovdje su sustavno formirane generacije iznimno kvalitetnih djelatnika te se hotel smatrao pravim rasadnikom visoko stručnih kadrova. Hotel posljednjih godina doživljava istinsku renesansu – izvrsnost je cilj koji se uspješno realizira na svim razinama – od vrhunske gastronomije, elegantnog servisa, sofisticiranog dizajna svjetske klase do brige oko gosta i pažnje koja se posvećuje i najmanjim detaljima. Esplanade je hotel u Hrvatskoj s najviše međunarodnih priznanja, vrlo vjerojatno i šire. O kvaliteti i značaju možda najbolje govore ugledni gosti – kraljevi, prinčevi, šepici, predsjednici, premijeri, diplomati, poslovni ljudi, filmske zvijezde, operne zvijezde, pop-zvijezde. Zbog svega toga i još mnogo toga drugog, da na kraju parafraziram velikoga švicarskog hotelijera Césara Ritz-a: „Hotel Esplanade kraljevski je hotel i hotel za kraljeve”, veći od života. Iskrene čestitke generalnom direktoru Ivici Maxu Krizmaniću i njegovu timu i sretna ti ova prva stogodišnjica, dragi Esplanade!

Iako će zvučati stereotipno, Esplanada je moj drugi dom. Zapravo ured, otkada sam se i preselio u neposrednu blizinu. Još od sredine 80-ih godina i koncerata s Magazinom redovito sam odsjedao u „svojem” hotelu. Navika dogovora „u Espici” ostala je i danas poštapalica za obitelj i sve koji me znaju. Molim vas, nemojte preuređivati. :) Taj prostor kavane, bara i restorana vezujem samo uz ljepotu. Ajmo tražiti još dugo...

“

“The Esplanade Zagreb Hotel is unique in so many ways – not just in Zagreb, but throughout Croatia: its architecture, amenities, gastronomy, events, and the general feel! Built in 1925 for travelers on the Paris-Istanbul route of the Orient Express, it captured the imagination of crime queen Agatha Christie, and it still captures the imagination a hundred years later. The Esplanade is a hotel with a historical story and has always been the heart of Zagreb’s social life and entertainment. In my 55 years of journalism, I had the opportunity to talk with many notable people who stayed at the hotel – including a one-hour interview with Mrs. Nevenka Kirchner, the wife of the hotel’s builder from Vienna, and an interview with Tina Turner. I’ve followed the hotel’s journey through its ups and downs: ownership changes, earthquakes, the pandemic, and now excellent results in recent years. I remember the Esplanade managers who became legends of Croatian hospitality: Branko Jakopović, Čedo Vojnić, Đuro Miladin, Amelija Tomašević, chef Stevo Karapandža, and many others. In recent years, the hotel’s renaissance is thanks to the whole team led by General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić, PR and Marketing Director Sandra Sokol, and Executive Chef Ana Grgić. From the Emerald Ballroom, the Oleander Terrace, the Zinfandel’s Restaurant to Le Bistro—each space is special, but the people make them shine. There, you’re welcomed with a smile, as if entering your own home. Because of all this, FIJET (World Federation of Travel Journalists and Writers) awarded the Esplanade the title of FIJET Partner Hotel, marked with a plaque on the hotel’s facade. The Esplanade has hosted the FIJET “Marco Polo – Famous Travel Writer” awards for a decade. To the Esplanade, I wish continued success in its second century. Good luck!

“To that beautiful centenarian, the Esplanade Hotel, I first wish hundreds more years of existence, always remaining the most “Zagreb” of all hotels—the spirit of the Zagreb I, like many others, fell in love with. It’s the corner of our city where I feel the most relaxed and at home when I’m not actually in my home, thanks in large part to the staff who still nurture the soul of Zagreb—the soul that has partly faded, but one we all still nostalgically remember. All of us who love this city will keep trying to ensure it never disappears.

Tarik Filipović
actor, glumac

Hotel Esplanade Zagreb po mnogočemu je drukčiji od svih drugih u Zagrebu, pa i u Hrvatskoj: po arhitekturi, sadržajima, gastronomiji, manifestacijama i po dobrom osjećaju! Izgrađen 1925. godine za putovanje od Pariza do Istanbula vlakom nazvanim „Orient Express”, zagolicao je i maštu kraljice krimića Agathe Christie, a golica ju i danas, sto godina kasnije. Esplanade je hotel s povijesnom pričom i oduvijek je bio središte događanja i zabava hrvatske metropole. U mojih 55 novinarskih godina imala sam priliku razgovarati s mnogim poznatim osobama koje su boravile u hotelu. Izdvojila bih jednosatni razgovor sa suprugom graditelja hotela u Beču, gđom Nevenkom Kirchner te intervju s Tinom Turner. Mnogo sam godina pratila sva događanja, bila sam i jesam svjedok Esplanadinih uspona, ali i nekih pa-

dova tijekom promjene vlasništva, potresa, pandemije, ali i sve boljih rezultata u nekoliko posljednjih godina. Pamtim Esplanadine menadžere koji su legende hrvatskog hotelijerstva: Branko Jakopović, Čedo Vojnić, Đuro Miladin, Amelija Tomašević, *chef* Stevo Karapandža i mnogi drugi. Ipak, posljednjih godina za Esplanadin uzlet zaslužna je cijela ekipa koju čine direktor hotela Ivica Max Krizmanić, direktorica PR-a i marketinga Sandra

Sokol i *chefica* Ana Grgić. Od Smaragdne dvorane i terase Oleander do restorana Zinfandel’s i Bistrea svaki je prostor po nečemu prepoznatljiv, ali za sve su zaslužni ljudi. Ondje vas dočekuju uz osmijeh, kao da dolazite u svoju kuću. Zbog svega je toga FIJET (Svjetsko udruženje turističkih novinara, putopisaca i pisaca o turizmu) odabrao hotel Esplanade za *FIJET Partner Hotel*, čemu svjedoči natpis na njegovu pročelju. Hotel Esplanade već je deset godina domaćin dodjele nagrada FIJET-a za putopisce i do-sege u medijima i kulturi „Marko Polo – slavni putopisac”. Esplanadi želim i u drugom stoljeću puno uspjeha, sretno!

”

Tomu predivnom stogodišnjaku, hotelu Esplanade, najprije želim još stotine i stotine godina postojanja te da uvijek ostane onaj „najzagrebačkiji” hotel – duh onog Zagreba u koji sam se ja, kao i mnogi drugi, zaljubio. To mi je najljepši i najugodniji kutak našega grada izvan vlastitoga doma, za što je zaslužno i osoblje hotela, koje i dalje njeguje onaj duh Zagreba koji „Zagreb čini Zagrebom”, onaj duh koji je djelomično iščeznuo, ali ga se još uvijek nostalgično sjećamo i svi mi koji volimo ovaj grad nastaviti čemo se truditi da on nikada ne nestane.

”

HISTORY OF THE HOTEL ESPLANADE

POVIJEST HOTELA ESPLANADE

Famous Guests

Slavni gosti

Celebrating a century of existence is no small feat – and when it comes to the legendary Esplanade Zagreb Hotel, a symbol of hospitality, top-tier service, and elegance, its story has been written by many famous names. Over the past hundred years, the Esplanade has served as a stage that film icons, political leaders, sports legends, nobility, and other global elites. Who has walked its lavish hallways, toasted in the Emerald Ballroom, or enjoyed the famous *štrukli* on the terrace? Josephine Baker, Orson Welles, Elizabeth Taylor, Louis Armstrong... the list of renowned guests is as long as the hotel's history.



Orson Welles



Ike and Tina
Turner

Zaokružiti cijelo stoljeće postojanja nije malo – a kada je riječ o legendarnome zagrebačkom hotelu Esplanade, simbolu gostoprimstva, vrhunske usluge i elegancije, to je priča koju su ispisala mnoga slavna imena. Ovih sto godina Esplanade je bio pozornica na kojoj su se izmjenjivale filmske ikone, politički vođe, sportske legende, plemstvo i ostala svjetska elita. Tko je sve šetao raskošnim hodnicima, nazdravljao u Smaragdnoj dvorani ili uživao u slavnim štruklima na terasi: Josephine Baker, Orson Welles, Elizabeth Taylor, Louis Armstrong... Lista slavnih gostiju duga je gotovo koliko i povijest hotela.

King Charles III
and Queen Camila
Parker Bowles



Hans Genscher



Edson Arantes do
Nascimento - Pelé



Ursula von der Leyen

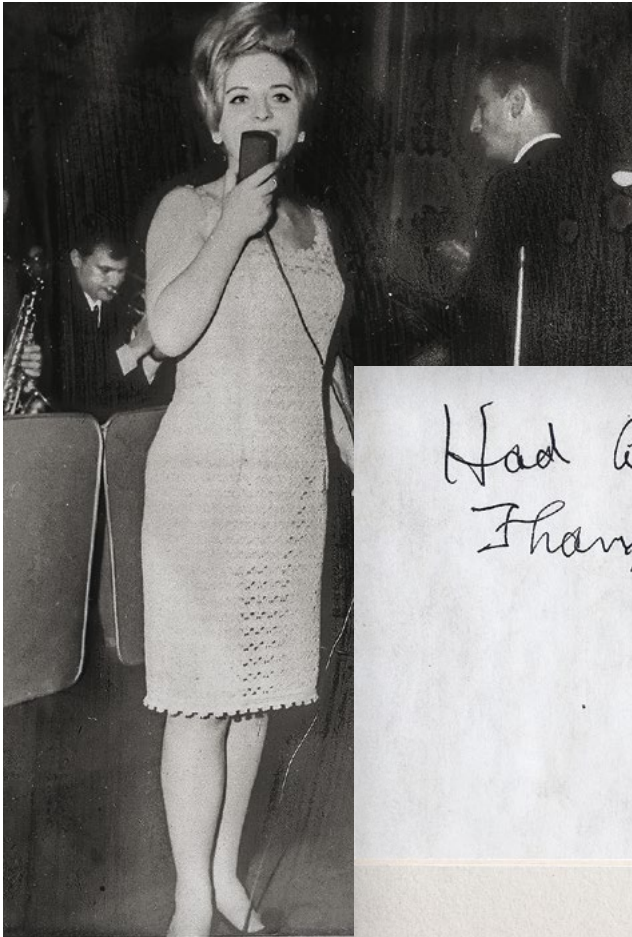




Angela Merkel



Paco de Lucía



Gabi Novak



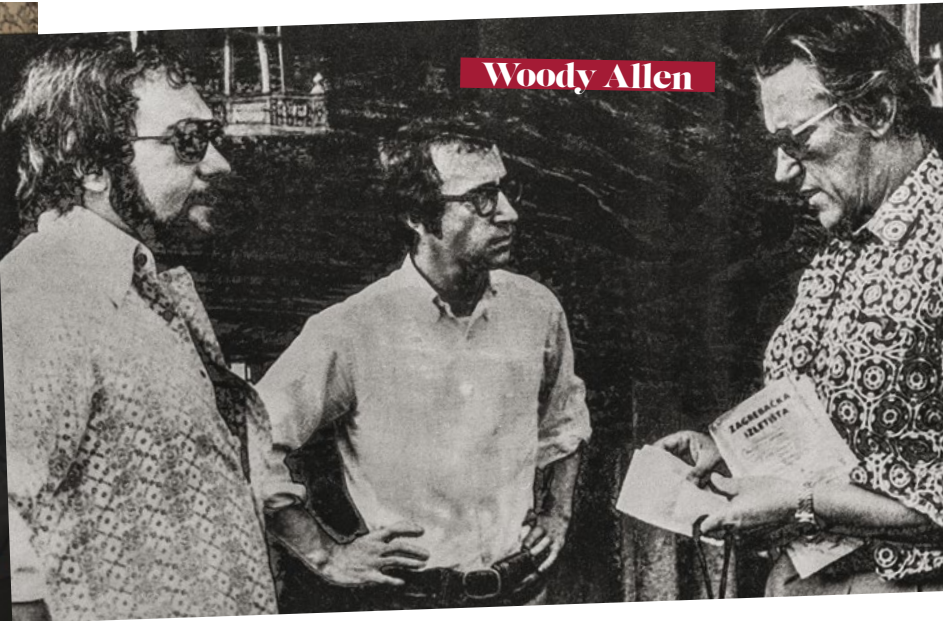
Mario del Monaco

Had a Grand Stay here
Thanks for everything
(Satchmo)
Louis Armstrong
1965

Louis Armstrong Satchmo



Bryan Adams



Woody Allen



Dennis Weaver



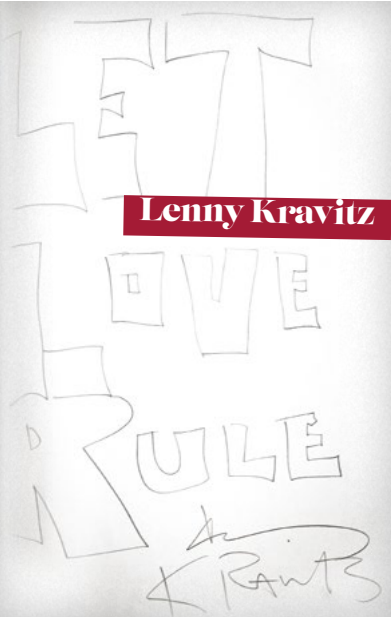
Orlando Bloom



Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife



Hillary Clinton



Lenny Kravitz



Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik



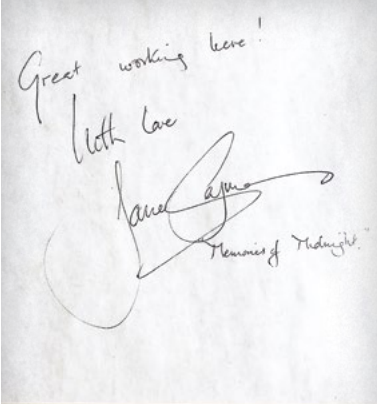
Vivian Leigh
Laurence Olivier



Ciri Ullmann



Moira Orfei



Jane Seymour



Ennio Morricone

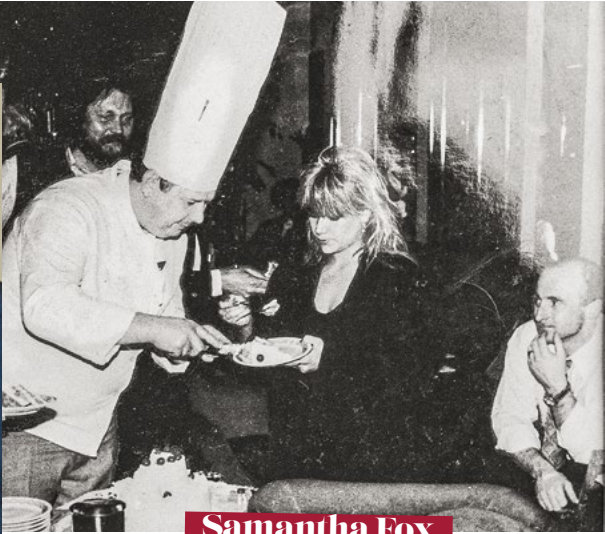


Recep Tayyip Erdoğan



Cliff Richard

José Carreras



Samantha Fox



Beba Lončar



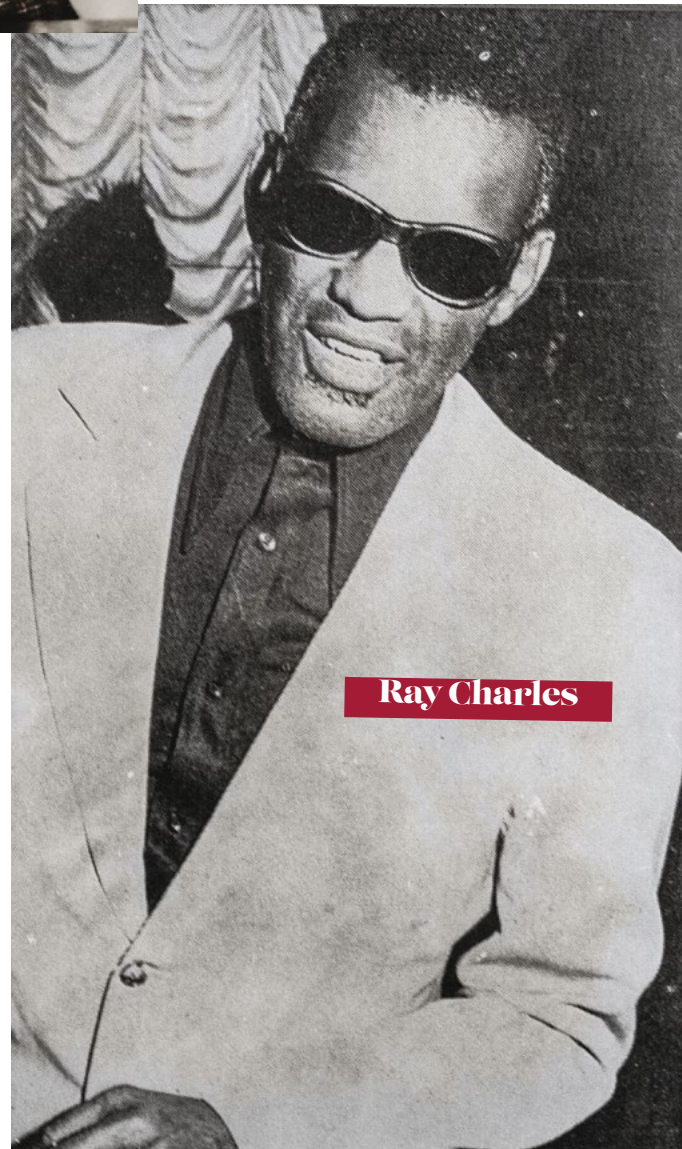
Albert II, Prince of Monaco



Karim Rashid



Arthur Rubinstein



Ray Charles

NEW MODELS 2025

Novi satovi 2025

Imagination in Movement

Mašta u pokretu

Rolex unveils its new watches, conceived by the perpetually active imagination that imbues the entire manufacture.

Rolex predstavlja svoje nove satove, proizašle iz neprekidno aktivne mašte koja prožima cijelu manufakturu.

From the movements to cases and bracelets, from design to the choice of materials, the latest creations offered by Rolex attest to visionary achievements in watchmaking that pave the way to new horizons.

THE LAND-DWELLER OPENING NEW HORIZONS

Rolex begins a new chapter in its history with the Oyster Perpetual Land-Dweller. This watch is powered by a revolutionary calibre – a movement that was designed to beat at the high frequency of 5 hertz and be highly performant.

THE GMT-MASTER II THE PERFECT MATCH

Rolex introduces its very first ceramic dial on an 18 ct white gold version of the Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II. In the same material, with the same green colour and the same lustre, this Cerachrom dial and the daytime half of the green and black bezel insert echo each other perfectly.

Explore the magical world of Rolex watches and their latest models at the boutique Mamić 1970, located in the center of Zagreb, Frane Petrića 7 Street.

Od mehanizama do kućišta i narukvica, od dizajna do izbora materijala – najnovije kreacije svjedoče o vizionarskim dostignućima u urarstvu koja otvaraju vrata novim horizontima.

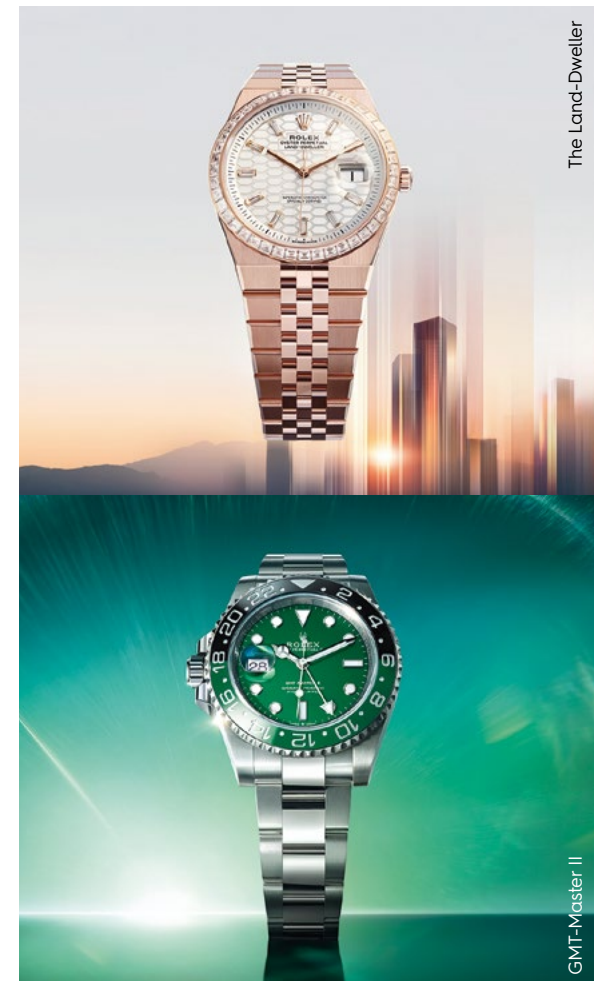
LAND-DWELLER Otvaranje novih horizonata

Rolex započinje novo poglavlje svoje povijesti s modelom Oyster Perpetual Land-Dweller. Ovaj sat pokreće revolucionarni kalibar – mehanizam koji je konstruiran da radi na visokoj frekvenciji od 5 Hz, osiguravajući izuzetnu učinkovitost.

GMT-MASTER II Savršeni spoj

Rolex predstavlja svoj prvi keramički brojčanik na verziji modela Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II u 18-karatnom bijelom zlatu. Od istog materijala, iste zelene boje i istog sjaja, ovaj brojčanik Cerachrom i zeleno-crni umetak prstena savršeno se nadopunjuju.

Istražite čarobni svijet Rolex satova i njihovih najnovijih modela u butiku Mamić 1970 u centru Zagreba, u Ulici Frane Petrića 7.



The Land-Dweller

GMT-Master II

Roger Federer wears a Land-Dweller 40 in a white Rolesor version
Roger Federer nosi model Land-Dweller 40 u bijeloj Rolesor verziji



INTERVIEW

MARIA VAFIADIS

THE RENOVATION OF ESPLANADE Was a Challenge for Us, But Also a Great Source of Inspiration

Renovacija hotela Esplanade za nas
je bio izazov, ali i velika inspiracija

On the occasion of the hotel's centenary, we asked Maria Vafiadis to recall the year 2002, when the hotel underwent a complete renovation, carried out by her London-based studio, MKV Design.

Povodom stogodišnjice hotela zamolili smo Mariju Vafiadis da se prisjeti 2002. godine kada je hotel krenuo u potpunu renovaciju, koju je odradio njezin studio MKV Design iz Londona.

Born and raised in Greece, Maria Vafiadis earned her degree in architecture in Milan, where she began her career. She then moved to Vienna with her husband, spending five years there before settling in London, which remains their home to this day. In 1999, Maria founded her own studio, MKV Design, marking a significant shift in her career. She specialized in hotel interior design, which has been her exclusive focus ever since.

Rođena i odrasla u Grčkoj, Maria Vafiadis fakultetsku je diplomu inženjerke arhitekture stekla u Milanu, gdje je i započela karijeru u svojoj branši. Zatim je s mužem otišla u Beč, gdje je provela pet godina. Nakon toga preselili su se u London koji je i danas njihov dom. U Londonu je Maria 1999. godine otvorila svoj studio MKV Design te napravila veliki zaokret u karijeri. Naime, specijalizirala se za interijere u hotelskoj industriji čime se otada isključivo bavi.

Author:
ANA GRUDEN
Photo:
PRIVATE ARCHIVE
KORIDOR 27

One of the most significant projects at the beginning of her entrepreneurial journey was the renovation of the Esplanade Hotel in Zagreb in 2002. Before that, she had collaborated with the Esplanade's owner on the renovation of the Almanac X Alcron Hotel in Prague, making the choice of her studio for the Esplanade's renovation a logical one. "Almanac X Alcron is also an Art Déco building, but completely different from the Esplanade. What makes the Esplanade special is the fact that it is a so-called grand hotel. There aren't many grand hotels left in the world today. These are the kinds of buildings that truly transport you to another time, another era. That is the beauty of such hotels," explains Maria.

Maria Vafiadis' MKV Design studio specializes in hotel interior design worldwide, and from the very beginning, their philosophy has been to avoid having a signature style. They do the exact opposite, as Maria explains: "We look at the project in front of us and think about which design would suit it best. We strive to create the best possible design, depending on the nature of the project, its history, location, and culture. In other words, we create tailor-made designs that are fully integrated into their surroundings." To mark the Esplanade's centenary, we asked Maria to recall what it was like back in 2002 when the hotel underwent its complete renovation, with her studio leading the project.

What are your memories of working on the complete renovation of the Esplanade Hotel in 2002?

Working on a project like the Esplanade was an incredible opportunity for us. We found a great deal of inspiration to draw from. It was also extremely inspiring that the hotel was originally built to accommodate guests of the Orient Express, embodying the pinnacle of luxury at the time. Today, the style of glamorous travel is making a comeback, making it even more relevant. The fact that the hotel was built for Orient Express passengers raised the bar significantly—it was ahead of anything else that existed at the time.

When working on historic projects like the Esplanade, it's fascinating to take a journey back in time, dive into archives, and learn about how the hotel was built. It was incredibly advanced for its era. Back then, the Esplanade represented the epitome of luxury—not just in terms of its appearance but also its details, such as the size of the wardrobes, bathrooms, and rooms, as well as the presence of elevators, which were rare at the time. Some of these grand hotels were among the first buildings in their cities to have elevators.

For designers like us, such facts serve as an endless source of inspiration. Not because we want to copy the past, but because we need to understand what made this hotel special and what set it apart at the time. We also need to understand the lifestyle it represented and how we can translate that into the present day—because that is precisely the experience guests are looking for. That's why they choose to stay in such a hotel.

When you look at the Esplanade from the outside, even before stepping in, you already have certain expectations. It's a stunning building on a beautiful

Jedan od značajnijih projekata na početku njezina poduzetničkog puta bila je renovacija hotela Esplanade u Zagrebu 2002. S vlasnikom Esplanadea surađivala je prije toga na renovaciji hotela Almanac X Alcron u Pragu pa je tako odabir njezina studija za renovaciju hotela Esplanade bio više nego logičan.

„Alamac X Alcron također je *art déco* građevina, ali potpuno drukčija od Esplanade. Ono što je kod hotela Esplanade posebno jest činjenica da je riječ o tzv. *grand* hotelu. Nema baš mnogo *grand* hotela na svijetu danas. To su vrste zdanja koji vas zaista transportiraju u neko drugo vrijeme, u drugu eru. U tome i jest ljepota takvih hotela“, pojašnjava Maria.

MKV Design studio čija je Maria Vafiadis vlasnica bavi se uređenjem interijera hotela diljem svijeta i njihova je filozofija od prvoga dana da nemaju svoj prepoznatljivi stil. Oni rade upravo suprotno, pojašnjava Maria: „Promatramo projekt koji je pred nama i razmišljamo o tome koji bi mu dizajn najbolje pristajao. Nastojimo napraviti najbolje moguće, ovisno o prirodi projekta, povijesti, lokaciji, kulturi, dakle radimo tzv. *tailor made*, ali opet da je apsolutno integriran u lokaciju na kojoj se nalazi.“ Povodom stogodišnjice hotela zamolili smo Mariju da se prisjeti kako je izgledalo te 2002. kada je hotel krenuo u potpunu renovaciju, koju je odradio studio MKV Design s njom na čelu.

U kakvu vam je sjećanju ostao rad na cjelokupnoj renovaciji hotela Esplanade 2002. godine?

Raditi na projektu kao što je hotel Esplanade za nas je bila sjajna prilika. Tu smo pronašli jako mnogo inspiracije iz koje smo mogli crpiti ideje. Bila je izuzetno inspirativna i sama činjenica da je hotel rađen za potrebe vlaka Orient Express, tj. njegove goste, kao utjelovljenje najluksuznijeg načina života tog vremena. Danas se ponovo vraća taj stil glamuroznog načina putovanja pa je to opet aktualno. Dakle, ta činjenica da je to bio hotel izgrađen za goste vlaka Orient Express podigla je letvicu jako visoko, više od svega što je postojalo u to doba.

Kada radite na povijesnim projektima kao što je hotel Esplanade, fascinantno je to putovanje unatrag, kopanje po arhivu, saznanje o tome kako je hotel građen, bio je jako napredan za svoje vrijeme. U ono je vrijeme taj hotel predstavljao nešto najluksuznije što je postojalo. Ne samo po izgledu, već i po detaljima kao što su veličina ormara, veličina kupaonice, sobe, postojanje dizala i sl. Neki od takvih hotela prvi su koji su imali dizala u svojem gradu.

To su sve činjenice koje predstavljaju nepregledan izvor inspiracije za nas dizajnere. Ne zbog toga što bismo željeli kopirati prošlost, nego zbog toga što nam je važno da razumijemo što je taj hotel činilo posebnim i što ga je odvajalo od ostalih u ono doba i što je taj stil života tada značio i kako ga mi možemo prenijeti u današnje vrijeme, jer gosti žele upravo to iskustvo. Zato su došli u takav hotel.

Kada pogledate hotel Esplanade izvana, bez ulaska u njega, već imate nekakva očekivanja. Naravno, jer je to predivna građevina na predivnom trgu

One of the most significant projects at the beginning of her entrepreneurial journey was the renovation of the Esplanade Hotel in Zagreb in 2002

Jedan od značajnijih projekata na početku njezina poduzetničkog puta bila je renovacija hotela Esplanade u Zagrebu 2002.

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square, standing out with its grandeur and exuding luxury. As designers, we have to take all of this into account to understand the essence of the building—what it represented in its time—and then bring that essence into the present.

This is not about replication; rather, it’s about understanding the most important characteristics that need to be preserved because they still tell the story of the building. At the same time, we must adapt them to modern-day life—how we live, what makes us comfortable, and what suits our lifestyle today. It’s a delicate balance between the old and the new. The challenge is in identifying what should be preserved and what new elements should be added to complete the story while preserving the essential spirit of the past.

When you started working on the renovation and arrived in Zagreb, was it your first time in the city and at the hotel?

No, and I have a wonderful story related to that. Not only had I been to Zagreb before, but I had also stayed at the Esplanade. That was back in Yugoslavia, in the early 1980s. I remember the restaurant vividly—it had red curtains, the food was fantastic, and the service was excellent. The public areas of the hotel were phenomenal, but the rooms were in poorer condition—they felt tired, I would say.

When we were commissioned to renovate the hotel, I was thrilled because I had experienced it as a guest and knew what it was about. A particular challenge with the Esplanade was that from the time it first opened until our renovation, it had undergone several modifications, not all of which were well executed. Our task was to disregard those changes, strip away the layers that didn’t work, and return to the original.

How did you approach the renovation based on what you encountered? What did you preserve, and what did you change?

The lobby area, the marble, the arches, and the staircase remained as they were. We renovated them but didn’t alter their layout. The floor is a replica of the original, respecting the original design. The same goes for the Emerald Ballroom—it remains untouched. The glasswork, ceiling, and paintwork were all restored. We studied photographs and conducted research to recreate the past in a way that brings its spirit into the present.

When you enter the lobby and walk towards the bar, the marble and mirrors seem like they’re from that era, even though they are new. That was our goal—to beautifully revive the past. The same applies to the bar and Zinfandel’s restaurant, which, in my opinion, is the most beautiful space in the entire hotel. It is a modern interpretation of what the hotel represents. Everything in Zinfandel’s is new, yet it feels like it has been there for 100 years.

On all floors and in all rooms, everything was stripped down and rebuilt from scratch. We retained only the façade walls and the atrium walls, while all the rooms

koja se ističe svojom veličinom i snagom i odiše luksuzom. Mi dizajneri moramo sve to uzeti u obzir kako bismo razumjeli esenciju te građevine i što je ona svojedobno značila te prenijeti to u sadašnjost.

Dakle, to nikako nije kopiranje, već naprotiv, razumijevanje najvažnijih značajki koje moramo zadržati jer one i dalje pričaju istu priču tog zdanja, ali ih moramo prevesti na današnji način života, način na koji živimo, što nam čini komfor i ugodu i što pristaje našem životnom stilu danas. To je, dakle, vrlo fini balans između staroga i novog. Treba točno znati pronaći što je to što će se sačuvati iz prošlosti i zadržati, a što je to, tj. koji su to detalji kojima će se cijela priča upotpuniti, naravno, čuvajući tu važnu esenciju prošlosti.

Kada ste krenuli raditi na renovaciji hotela i stigli u Zagreb, je li to bio vaš prvi susret s tim gradom i tim hotelom?

Nije, i imam baš sjajnu priču vezano uz to vaše pitanje. Ne samo da sam već bila u Zagrebu prije toga nego sam i odsjela upravo u Esplanadi. To je bilo još za vrijeme Jugoslavije, početkom osamdesetih godina prošlog stoljeća. Vrlo se jasno sjećam restorana koji je imao crvene zavjese, hrana je bila sjajna, servis također. Javni prostori u hotelu bili su fenomenalni, dok su sobe bile u nešto lošijem stanju. Umorne, rekla bih.

Kada smo dogovarali uređenje hotela, bila sam presretna jer sam upoznala hotel kao gošća i znala o čemu je riječ. Poseban mi je izazov kod Esplanade bio to što je taj hotel, od svojeg otvaranja pa do trenutka kada smo ga mi preuređivali, imao nekoliko preinaka, koje nisu bile baš sjajno napravljene. Tako da je naš zadatak bio da, tako reći, zanemarimo te preinake, tj. „ogulimo“ te slojeve koji nisu bili dobri i vratimo se originalu.

Kako ste koncipirali renovaciju s obzirom na ono što ste zatekli? Što ste zadržali, a što izmijenili?

Predio lobija, mramor, lukovi i stepenice ostali su kao nekada. Mi smo ih, jasno, renovirali, ali nismo ulazili tlocrtno u njih. Pod je replika originalnog poda i morali smo poštovati originalni dizajn. Ista je stvar i sa Smaragdnom dvoranom. Ona je ostala netaknuta. Staklo u dvorani, strop, način na koji je oličena, sve je original koji smo restaurirali. Gledali smo fotografije i istraživali kako je to nekada bilo i trudili se napraviti to što bolje kako bi se osjećao taj dašak prošlosti i originala, ali opet prenesen u današnje vrijeme.

Kada uđete u lobi i krenete prema baru, mramor i ogledala djeluju kao da su iz onog doba, a nisu. To je naša inspiracija i recimo da smo nastojali na lijep način oživjeti prošlost. Ista je stvar i s barom, kao i s restoranom Zinfandel’s koji je po mojem mišljenju najljepša prostorija u čitavom hotelu. To je, rekla bih, moderna interpretacija onoga što taj hotel nudi. Sve je u Zinfandel’su napravljeno novo, a djeluje kao da se ondje nalazi već 100 godina, koliko hotel postoji.

Na svim katovima i u svim sobama sve je bilo ogođeno i rađeno ispočetka. Zadržali smo samo zidove

When we were commissioned to renovate the hotel, I was thrilled because I had experienced it as a guest and knew what it was about

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The Art Déco era placed great importance on materials and finishes, and we adhered to that principle to ensure everything fit harmoniously and authentically recreated the glamour of that time

Art déco doba je u kojem su bili jako važni materijali i završeci i držali smo se toga kako bi sve odgovaralo i bilo dobro uklopljeno te kako bismo rekreirali glamur onog vremena

and their layouts were redesigned entirely. So, from the first floor upwards, everything is completely new.

The hotel had a large collection of paintings, all of which we preserved. Some only needed to be re-framed. Thus, we kept the paintings in all the rooms and public spaces of the hotel. In the bar and lobby, we retained and restored the original chandeliers, as well as some pieces of furniture that we preserved and renovated. Everything we could save and restore, we did. We then complemented these retained elements with new pieces that blended seamlessly with the existing ones.

For example, the chandelier in Zinfandel's, along with everything created for that restaurant, was our design. This approach was applied throughout the hotel. We specifically designed certain pieces just for the Esplanade—modern interpretations of classic designs. We believed that a simpler approach, combined with high-quality materials, would work well.

The Art Déco era placed great importance on materials and finishes, and we adhered to that principle to ensure everything fit harmoniously and authentically recreated the glamour of that time. This meant using the finest materials: the best leather, the finest glass, wood, and all the other top-quality elements of the era.

fasade i zidove atrija, dok smo sve sobe i njihove tlo-crte napravili iznova. Dakle, od prvog kata nagore, sve je potpuno novo.

Hotel je imao veliku kolekciju slika, koje smo sve zadržali. Neke smo morali samo ponovo uramiti. Dakle, u svim sobama i javnim prostorima hotela ostavili smo slike. U baru i lobiju ostavili smo originalne lustere koje smo renovirali, kao i neke dijelove namještaja koje smo zadržali i renovirali. Sve što smo mogli spasiti i obnoviti, obnovili smo. Pa smo onda to što smo zadržali, nadopunili novim komadima koji su se uklopili u postojeće.

Primjerice, luster u Zinfandel'su i sve što je rađeno u tom restoranu naš je dizajn. I tako smo radili u cijelom hotelu. Dakle, specifične komade dizajnirali smo baš za Esplanade. I to su nešto modernije izvedenice klasičnog dizajna. Smatrali smo da će dobro funkcionirati ako napravimo nešto jednostavnije, ali uz prave materijale.

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How long did you work on that project?

We worked on the design for two years, and the construction lasted about a year and a half. Altogether, the entire project took nearly four years.

We made sure to pay attention to every detail—the entrance doors, wardrobe doors, and so on. I remember walking around Zagreb, observing the entrance doors of buildings. We studied photographs of building interiors in the city because we wanted the design to feel like a part of Zagreb, not like a palace in Vienna or anywhere else. Our goal was for the hotel to truly reflect the character of your city and its atmosphere. Many details in the rooms were designed with that in mind. We conducted extensive research—not to copy but to extract elements that would blend in naturally.

When working on projects like this, you have to operate on two levels. You need to have a broad vision of everything while simultaneously paying attention to every single detail. These two aspects are, in my opinion, the essence of a project’s simplicity. You must never lose sight of the overall image of the story, but at the same time, you can’t overlook even the smallest detail.

What was the biggest challenge?

In projects of this type, there are two major challenges. The first is that these buildings are deeply embedded in the local community, meaning that people feel a strong sense of ownership and attachment to them. Everyone has their own idea of how the hotel should look. I wouldn’t say we tried to cater to the local community, but we certainly aimed to show respect for what this hotel means to people—whether they got married there, baptized their children, or had family lunches. So, one challenge was to honor that connection while at the same time breathing new life into the building.

The second challenge emerged during construction. We can design and draw whatever we want, but once construction begins, unexpected things start to appear, and you have to react quickly and make fast decisions to stay true to the original vision. It’s very easy to abandon an idea and say, “Okay, we can’t do this, so let’s come up with something else.” But the real challenge is finding a way to execute what was envisioned, even if it has to be done differently, so that the original concept remains intact. That might actually be the biggest challenge.

We faced several such situations during the project, but we always found a way to overcome them. That’s the nature of working with historic buildings like the Esplanade—you never know what’s hidden behind the walls. Sometimes, though, you get pleasant surprises, discovering things you never knew existed.

You recently visited Zagreb and stayed at the Esplanade again.

Yes, and I was delighted to be there. It had been at least ten years. The greatest satisfaction for me is seeing that, 23 years after the renovation, the hotel still looks fantastic. Beautiful! For me, the Esplanade feels

Koliko ste dugo radili na tom projektu?

Na dizajnu smo radili dvije godine. I gradnja je trajala oko godinu i pol. Sve skupa, cijeli projekt trajao je skoro četiri godine.

Nastojali smo voditi računa o svim detaljima, ulaznim vratima, vratima ormara i sl. Sjećam se da smo hodali Zagrebom i gledali ulazna vrata zgrada. Gledali smo fotografije interijera zgrada u gradu, jer smo željeli da to bude dio Zagreba, a ne da to bude palača u Beču ili negdje drugdje. Željeli smo da hotel zaista bude odraz vašega grada i njegove atmosfere. Jako smo puno detalja u sobama na taj način dizajnirali. Radili smo veliko istraživanje, ne kako bismo kopirali, već kako bismo izvukli elemente nečega što će se dobro uklopiti.

Kada radite na takvim projektima, morate raditi na dvjema razinama. Morate imati široku sliku svega, ali u isto vrijeme paziti na svaki detalj. Te su dvije stvari esencija, rekla bih, jednostavnosti projekta. Ne smijete nikada izgubiti imidž cijele priče, ali u isto vrijeme ni najmanjeg detalja.

Što je za vas bio najveći izazov tog projekta?

U takvim tipovima projekata dva su važna izazova. Jedan je taj da su to zdanja koja su, tako reći, ugrađena u lokalnu zajednicu, što znači da ih zajednica jako svojata, tj. ima osjećaj privrženosti prema njima. I svatko ima ideju kako bi taj hotel trebao izgledati. Ne bih rekla da smo nastojali podilaziti lokalnoj zajednici, ali rekla bih da smo nastojali pokazati poštovanje prema tome što ljudi osjećaju prema tom hotelu, u kojem su se možda vjenčali ili krstili svoju djecu, odlazili na obiteljske ručkove i sl. Dakle, jedan je izazov pokazati poštovanje prema lokalnoj zajednici, a u isto vrijeme unijeti novi život u tu građevinu.

Drugi se izazov pokazao za vrijeme građenja hotela. Mi, naime, možemo nacrtati i dizajnirati što god želimo, ali kad krene gradnja i počnu radovi, počinju se otkrivati stvari koje niste očekivali i tada morate brzo reagirati i brzo donositi odluke kako ne biste odstupili od originalne ideje. Jako je lako odustati od neke ideje i reći – OK, to ne možemo izvesti pa ćemo smisliti nešto drugo. No, ipak treba pronaći način da se napravi ono što je zamišljeno, pa možda i na neki drugi način, kako biste ostali vjerni originalnoj ideji. To je možda čak i veći izazov.

I imali smo ih nekoliko tijekom radova, ali smo uvijek pronašli način da tomu doskočimo i da to riješimo. To je uvijek problem s takvim povijesnim zgradama poput Esplanade jer nikada ne znate što se skriva iza tih zidova. Može čak biti i ugodnih iznenađenja, jer katkada otkrijete nešto za što niste znali da postoji.

Bili ste nedavno u Zagrebu i odsjeli ponovo u hotelu.

Jesam i jako mi je bilo drago da sam bila. Nisam bila sigurno 10 godina. Najveće mi je zadovoljstvo kada vidim da, 23 godine nakon renovacije, hotel i dalje izgleda sjajno. Prekrasno! Za mene je Espla-

We studied photographs of building interiors in the city because we wanted the design to feel like a part of Zagreb. Our goal was for the hotel to truly reflect the character of your city and its atmosphere.

Gledali smo fotografije interijera zgrada u gradu, jer smo željeli da to bude dio Zagreba. Željeli smo da hotel zaista bude odraz vašega grada i njegove atmosfere.

The greatest satisfaction for me is seeing that, 23 years after the renovation, the hotel still looks fantastic. Beautiful! For me, the Esplanade feels like home.

Najveće mi je zadovoljstvo kada vidim da, 23 godine nakon renovacije, hotel i dalje izgleda sjajno. Prekrasno! Za mene je Esplanade poput doma.

like home. I have a deep fondness for that hotel. I truly love it.

Which of your other projects are you most proud of?

We continue to work on many historic hotels. Three years ago, we completed a hotel in Budapest called Matild Palace—a stunning historic hotel. It’s large, but in a way, it still has a boutique feel.

What I love about our work is the variety of projects we take on. For example, we have also done modern projects, like the Bürgenstock Hotel on Lake Lucerne, which we finished seven years ago. That’s not just a resort—it’s a full destination consisting of two hotels, apartments, a large spa, restaurants, sports facilities, and more.

Right now, back home in Greece, we’re renovating a hotel in Costa Navarino, which originally opened 12 years ago—we’re now redesigning all the rooms. We’re also working on a hotel in Marbella and another one in Mykonos. It’s a great mix of projects that keeps us constantly engaged.

I enjoy working on different types of hotels. Personally, I love city hotels, but I also appreciate resorts and historic properties. This variety allows me to experience different styles and continuously learn how to integrate them, which makes this job both exciting and truly rewarding.

nade poput doma. Jako mi je drag taj hotel. Veoma ga volim.

Na koje ste svoje druge radove najviše ponosni?

Radimo jako mnogo povijesnih hotela i dalje. Prije tri godine završili smo hotel u Budimpešti, zove se Matild Palace, prekrasan povijesni hotel. Velik je, ali na neki je način i boutique hotel.

Ali u našem poslu volim to da radimo vrlo različite projekte. Radili smo tako i moderne projekte poput hotela Bürgenstock u na jezeru Lucerne prije sedam godina. To nije samo resort nego i destinacija koja se sastoji od dva hotela, apartmana, velikog spa centra, restorana, sportskih sadržaja i ostalog.

Doma u Grčkoj trenutačno preuređujemo hotel na Costa Navarino koji se otvorio prije 12 godina i sada preuređujemo sve sobe. Također, radimo hotel u Marbelli i hotel na Mikonosu. To je odličan miks jer nas drži stalno u pogonu. Radimo različite stvari.

Osobno jako volim gradske hotele, ali volim i resorte, kao i povijesne hotele. Na taj način doživljavam sve stilove te još i danas učim kako ih implementirati jedan u drugi, što ovaj posao čini zanimljivim i prekrasnim.



Timeless taste:

100 years of Esplanade's Culinary Excellence

*Bezvremenski okus:
100 godina Esplanadine kulinarske izvrsnosti*



For an entire century, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel has been at the heart of Zagreb's culinary journey, blending timeless elegance with warm hospitality and legendary service that feels like home

Cijelo stoljeće, Esplanade Zagreb Hotel bio je u samom srcu zagrebačke kulinarske priče, gdje se bezvremenska elegancija isprepliće s toplom gostoljubivošću i legendarnom uslugom koja pruža osjećaj doma

Photo:
GORAN JAKUŠ
RAJAN MILOŠEVIĆ
LILI BAŠIĆ
ŠIME EŠKINJA
DANIJEL BERKOVIĆ
BRUNO FANTULIN



From the outset, the Esplanade has been a pioneer, placing Zagreb alongside culinary capitals like Vienna and Budapest while celebrating the city's unique flavours

Od samog početka Esplanade hotel je bio pionir, pozicionirajući Zagreb uz bok kulinarским prijestolnicama poput Beča i Budimpešte, slaveći jedinstvene okuse grada

Since 1925, its stunning Art Deco interiors have set the stage for memorable culinary experiences — intimate dinners, lavish banquets and dreamy weddings — each elevated by superb gastronomy and a touch of glamour.

From the outset, the Esplanade has been a pioneer, placing Zagreb alongside culinary capitals like Vienna and Budapest while celebrating the city's unique flavours. Its history brims with extraordinary stories — from caviar and champagne at an Italian count's extravagant party, once a rarity reserved for royalty, to hosting modern-day royals and Hollywood A-listers, all mingling with locals on a quest for a taste of luxury and romance. Through it all, the Esplanade has remained a symbol of culinary excellence and a beloved destination for those who seek life's finest pleasures.

Today, it's a hub of creativity, where international chefs collaborate with Croatian talent, new flavours emerge and the finest local ingredients — wines, olive oils and artisanal delicacies — shine in the spotlight. At the helm since 2012, head Chef Ana Grgić Tomić continues the legacy, overseeing the hotel's two award-winning restaurants — Zinfandel's, with its refined elegance, and Le Bistro, which brings a touch of Parisian charm to the heart of Zagreb. In addition, the hotel's high-end catering service extends Esplanade's culinary excellence beyond its iconic walls. Whether dining in the hotel or at an exclusive event, guests are treated to world-class cuisine that keeps Esplanade firmly at the forefront of Croatia's vibrant dining scene.

Od 1925. godine, njegovi zapanjujući *art déco* interijeri postavili su pozornicu za nezaboravna kulinarska iskustva — intimne večere, raskošne bankete i bajkovita vjenčanja — svaki obogaćen vrhunskom gastronomijom i dodirima glama.

Od samog početka Esplanade hotel je bio pionir, pozicionirajući Zagreb uz bok kulinarским prijestolnicama poput Beča i Budimpešte, slaveći jedinstvene okuse grada. Njegova povijest puna je izvanrednih priča — od kavijara i šampanjca na ekstravaganthnoj zabavi talijanskog grofa, nekada rijetke ponude rezervirane za kraljevske osobe, do današnjih susreta modernih vladara i holivudskih zvijezda s lokalnim gostima u potrazi za daškom luksuza i romantike. Uz sve to, Esplanade je ostao simbol kulinarske izvrsnosti i omiljeno odredište za sve koji traže najfinije užitke života.

Danas je to središte kreativnosti, gdje vrhunski međunarodni chefovi surađuju s hrvatskim talentima s ciljem stvaranja novih okusa, a najfiniji lokalni sastojci — vina, maslinova ulja i artistske kreacije — sjaje u središtu pozornosti. Na čelu od 2012. godine, *chefica* Ana Grgić Tomić nastavlja naslijeđe, nadgledajući dva nagrađivana hotelska restorana — Zinfandel's, s njegovom rafiniranom elegancijom, i Le Bistro, koji donosi dašak pariškog šarma u samo srce Zagreba. Osim toga, visokokvalitetna hotelska usluga *cateringa* proširuje kulinaršku izvrsnost Esplanade izvan njegovih kulturnih zidova. Bilo da objedujete u hotelu ili na ekskluzivnom događaju, Esplanade će uvijek pružati gastronomski užitak svjetske klase koji hotel čvrsto pozicionira u sami vrh hrvatske živahne scene blagovanja.



LE BISTRO: A TASTE OF PARIS WITH A ZAGREB SOUL

Step into Le Bistro, and you're instantly transported to a world where Parisian charm and Croatian heritage blend with ease. Since 1986, this culinary landmark has been enchanting diners and setting trends with a string of firsts — introducing wine and champagne by the glass, pioneering Valentine's Day celebrations and elevating the simple pleasure of coffee with a side of fine chocolate. But Le Bistro's true claim to fame? The Esplanade štrukli — the irresistible baked cheese-and-cream masterpiecé that has become a local legend.

Le Bistro's inventive à la carte menu moves in tune with the seasons, celebrating the best of locally sourced ingredients. French classics dance hand in hand with Croatian delicacies — earthy Istrian truffles, crisp sea asparagus and sun-ripened produce, elevating each dish into a work of art. With an exquisite selection of wines and champagnes, and a tempting array of delicate desserts and pastries, every visit to Le Bistro is an invitation to indulge.

The ambience is a perfect blend of nostalgia and sophistication — effortless Art Deco elegance, a sun-dappled terrace and a warm lively atmosphere make it the ideal spot for a leisurely breakfast, a refined business lunch or a candlelit dinner for two. Timeless yet ever-evolving, Le Bistro is where tradition meets innovation, Zagreb meets Paris and every bite tells a story.

Le Bistro: okus Pariza s dušom Zagreba

Zakoračite u Le Bistro i uronite u svijet u kojem se pariški šarm i hrvatska baština skladno stapaju u jedinstvenom gastronomskom doživljaju. Od 1986. godine taj kulinarški *landmark* očarava posjetitelje i postavlja trendove i prvi u zemlji nudi vina i šampanjac na čaše, obilježava Valentinovo i podiže razinu uživanja u kavi uz finu čokoladicu. No ono po čemu je Le Bistro prepoznatljiv su Esplanade štrukli — ručno rađena poslastica punjena svježim sirom i zapečena finim vrhnjem — ovo neodoljivo jelo postalo je lokalna legenda.

Kreativni *à la carte* meni Le Bistrea prati ritam godišnjih doba, slaveći najbolje od lokalnih sastojaka. Francuski klasici stapaju se s hrvatskim delicijama — zemljanim istarskim tartufima, hrskavim morskim šparogama i plodovima dozrelih na suncu, izdižući svaki tanjur u gastronomsko remek-djelo. Uz izvanrednu kolekciju vina i šampanjaca te primamljivu ponudu delikatnih deserata i kolača, svaki posjet Le Bistrou poziv je na uživanje.

Ambijent je savršena kombinacija nostalgije i sofisticiranosti — nenametljiva *art déco* elegancija, obasjana sunčana terasa i živahna, topla atmosfera čine ga idealnim mjestom za opušajući doručak, rafinirani poslovni ručak ili večer uz svijeće za dvoje. Bezvremenski, a uvijek u trendu, Le Bistro je mjesto gdje se tradicija susreće s inovacijom, Zagreb s Parizom, a svaki zalogaj priča svoju priču.

Step into Le Bistro, and you're instantly transported to a world where Parisian charm and Croatian heritage blend with ease

Zakoračite u Le Bistro i uronite u svijet u kojem se pariški šarm i hrvatska baština skladno stapaju



Dining at Zinfandel's is nothing short of extraordinary — a symphony of flavours, textures and artistry

Blagovanje je u Zinfandel'su ništa manje nego izvanredno — simfonija okusa, tekstura i umjetnosti

ZINFANDEL'S: THE PINNACLE OF FINE DINING IN ZAGREB

Dining at Zinfandel's is nothing short of extraordinary — a symphony of flavours, textures and artistry set within the refined elegance of the Esplanade. Stylish and sophisticated, this fine dining destination captures the essence of haute cuisine, where every dish is meticulously crafted with passion and expertise.

Named after the Zinfandel grape, which journeyed from Dalmatia to California's vineyards, the restaurant embodies a meeting of cultures — a smooth fusion of local tradition and global culinary touches. At the helm, Chef Ana Grgić Tomić curates an à la carte menu that marries playful creativity with culinary excellence. Seasonal ingredients meet innovative techniques, transforming classic Croatian dishes with bold, daring flavours and international flair. Each plate is a masterpiece —visually striking, exquisitely balanced and remarkable.

The restaurant features an exceptional wine list, showcasing over 200 labels, predominantly from Croatia and France, alongside standout selections from Italy, Spain, California and beyond. Every bottle is expertly paired to boost the menu's flavours, ensuring a dining experience that lingers long after the last sip. For those who like dining under the stars, the enchanting Oleander terrace offers an alfresco setting perfect for an elegant evening in the heart of Zagreb. Zinfandel's is a true celebration of culinary artistry, where craftsmanship, daring innovation and elegance come together in perfect harmony.



Zinfandel's: Vrhunski fine dining u Zagrebu

Blagovanje u Zinfandel'su nije ništa manje nego izvanredno — simfonija okusa, tekstura i umjetnosti smještena unutar rafinirane elegancije Esplanade. Stilski i sofisticiran, taj *fine dining* restoran oslikava srž *haute cuisine*, gdje je svako jelo pažljivo oblikovano sa strašću i stručnošću.

Nazvan po lozi Zinfandel, koje je putovalo od Dalmacije do kalifornijskih vinograda, restoran utjelovljuje susret kultura — glatku fuziju lokalnih tradicija i globalnih kulinarskih dodira. Na čelu sa *cheficom* Anom Grgić Tomić, restoran nudi à la carte meni koji spaja igru kreativnosti s kulinarskom izvrsnošću. Sezonski sastojci susreću inovativne tehnike, transformirajući klasična hrvatska jela u hrabre, odvažne okuse s međunarodnim šarmom. Svaki je tanjur umjetničko djelo — vizualno upečatljivo, izuzetno balansirano i nevjerovatno.

Restoran se ponosi izvanrednom vinskom kartom koja uključuje više od 200 etiketa, uglavnom iz Hrvatske i Francuske, uz izvanredne selekcije iz Italije, Španjolske, Kalifornije i šire. Svaka je boca stručno usklađena s jelima, podižući okuse u jedinstveni doživljaj obroka koji ostaje dugo nakon posljednjeg gutljaja. Za one koji vole blagovati pod zvijezdama, očaravajuća Oleander terasa nudi savršen ambijent za elegantnu večeru u srcu Zagreba. Zinfandel's je pravi festival kulinarske umjetnosti, gdje se majstorstvo, hrabra inovacija i elegancija spajaju u savršenoj harmoniji.



CHEF ANA GRGIĆ TOMIĆ: A VISIONARY IN THE KITCHEN

Leading the Esplanade's culinary scene since 2012, Chef Ana Grgić Tomić is a trailblazer — the first woman to head the hotel's prestigious kitchen, bringing together exceptional talent, creativity and a passion for innovation. With a deep respect for fresh local ingredients and a commitment to sustainability, she crafts dishes that are both exquisite and environmentally conscious.

Ana honed her expertise through years of hard work and cooking with top chefs like Yves MATTAGNE Christian LOHSE, Xavier MATHIEU and Pascal TINGAUD. Her work with Korea's Royal Cuisine expert SOOK-JA JOON, inspired the introduction of a Korean menu at Le BISTRO. Her repertoire spans Mediterranean and classic French fare, the best of traditional Croatian cuisine and cutting-edge global trends, seamlessly merging tradition with innovation.

Chefica Ana Grgić Tomić: Vizionarka u kuhinji

Od 2012. godine *chefica* Ana Grgić Tomić predvodi kulinarску scenu hotela Esplanade, upisavši se u povijest kao prva žena na čelu ove prestižne kuhinje, Ana je spoj izuzetnog talenta, kreativnosti i strasti za inovacijama. Uz njezino duboko poštovanje prema svježim lokalnim sastojcima i posvećenost održivosti, nastaju izvrsna i ekološki osvježena jela.

Ana je svoje znanje i vještine usavršavala kroz godine predanog rada, kuhajući uz rame svjetski priznatim chefovima poput Yvesa MATTAGNEA, Christiana LOHSEA, Xaviera MATHIEUA i Pascala TINGAUDA. Suradnja s korejskom stručnjakinjom za kraljevsku kuhinju, Sook-ja JOON, rezultirala je uvođenjem autentičnog korejskog menija u ponudu Le BISTRA. Njezin kulinarški opus obuhvaća mediteranske i klasične francuske specijalitete, bogatstvo tradicionalne hrvatske kuhinje te najnovije globalne trendove, vješto stapajući tradiciju i inovaciju.

Ana honed her expertise through years of hard work and cooking with top chefs like Yves MATTAGNE Christian LOHSE, Xavier MATHIEU and Pascal TINGAUD

Ana je svoje stručnosti izbrusila tijekom godina napornog rada i kuhanja s vrhunskim chefovima poput Yvesa MATTAGNEA, Christiana LOHSEA, Xaviera MATHIEUA i Pascala TINGAUDA



For a century, the Esplanade has been at the forefront of Zagreb's culinary journey — constantly innovating while staying rooted in the traditions that make the city so unique

Cijelo stoljeće Esplanade je bio na čelu zagrebačke kulinarske priče — stalno inovirajući, a istovremeno ostajući ukorijenjen u tradicijama koje čine grad tako jedinstvenim

Her culinary artistry has captivated royalty, world leaders and global icons alike. King Charles III, so impressed by her risotto, personally requested the recipe. Meanwhile, a string of celebrities, including Hillary Clinton, Cristiano Ronaldo, Sting and Shakira, to name just a few, have all enjoyed her masterful creations, solidifying her reputation as a chef of international acclaim.

Her accolades speak for themselves — Gault&Millau Chef of the Year 2022 and the prestigious honour of earning Croatia's first Michelin Green Star for Zinfandel's, a testament to her dedication to excellence and sustainability. Chef Ana Grgić Tomić and her team are not only preserving Esplanade's legacy, they're transforming the landscape of fine dining in Croatia and beyond.

ESPLANADE'S CATERING: A TASTE OF LUXURY FOR EVERY OCCASION

Beyond its restaurants, Esplanade's high-end catering service extends its culinary excellence to private events. Its offer includes bespoke menus for a spectrum of occasions, from intimate business lunches to glamorous gala dinners. Whether hosting an event in the hotel's iconic spaces or at some of the city's most notable venues, Esplanade's seasoned team crafts magnificent menus designed to elevate every occasion, from exclusive gatherings and birthday parties to weddings and high-profile conferences.

For a century, the Esplanade has been at the forefront of Zagreb's culinary journey — constantly innovating while staying rooted in the traditions that make the city so unique. More than just a hotel, it stands as a symbol of top-notch service and exceptional dining, where every meal is a celebration and every moment becomes a treasured memory.

Njezino kulinarско umijeće očaralo je kraljeve, svjetske lidere i globalne ikone. Kralj Charles III., impresioniran njezinim rižotom, osobno je zatražio recept, dok je niz poznatih ličnosti, uključujući Hillary Clinton, Cristiana Ronalda, Stinga i Shakiru, uživalo u njezinim majstorskim kreacijama, čime je Ana dodatno učvrstila svoj status chefa s međunarodnim ugledom.

Njezine nagrade govore same za sebe — titula Gault&Millau Chef godine 2022. i prestižna čast osvajanja prve Michelinove zelene zvijezdice za Zinfandel's dokaz su njezine posvećenosti izvrsnosti i održivosti. *Chefica* Ana Grgić Tomić i njezin tim ne samo da čuvaju Esplanadino naslijeđe, već i transformiraju kulinarški krajolik Hrvatske i šire.

Esplanade Catering: Okus raskoši u svakoj prilici

Esplanade proširuje svoju kulinaršku izvrsnost i izvan svojih restorana, na privatne događaje kroz visokokvalitetnu uslugu *cateringa*. Ponuda uključuje prilagođene menije za širok spektar prilika, od intimnih poslovnih ručkova do glamuroznih gala večera. Bilo da organizirate događaj u kulturnim prostorima hotela ili na nekim od najpoznatijih zagrebačkih lokacija, Esplanadin iskusni tim stvara veličanstvene menije osmišljene kako bi uzdigli svaku priliku, od ekskluzivnih okupljanja i rođendanskih proslava do vjenčanja i visokoprotivnih konferencija.

Cijelo stoljeće hotel Esplanade je bio na čelu zagrebačke kulinarske priče — neprestano uvodeći inovacije, a istovremeno ostajući duboko ukorijenjen u tradicijama koje čine grad tako jedinstvenim. Više od hotela, Esplanade je simbol vrhunske usluge i izuzetne kuhinje, gdje je svaki obrok proslava, a svaki trenutak postaje dragocjeno sjećanje.





Inspired by the atmosphere and style of the Brontë sisters's novels, the Max Mara collection skillfully blends classic elegance with modern elements. Coats remain the centerpiece – from tailored redingotes with detachable linings to luxurious capes and military-style cuts. Short blazers with structured shoulders, wide jodhpur trousers, and vests worn over coats bring a contemporary twist to classic silhouettes.

The color palette draws inspiration from nature – Max Mara's exclusive Cascia shade is complemented by warm tones of moss, berry red, and autumnal browns. Rich textures such as tweed, cashmere, and double-weave fabrics enhance the sense of luxury and comfort, while black velvet adds sophistication to evening looks.

With this collection, Max Mara stays true to its signature style – classic pieces designed for the modern woman who values quality, elegance, and timeless design. Available in Zagreb, Frane Petrića 5.



Nadahnuta atmosferom i stilom romana sestara Brontë, kolekcija Max Mare vješto spaja klasičnu eleganciju s modernim elementima. Kaputi su i dalje u središtu – od strukturanih redingot modela s odvojitim podstavama do raskošnih ogrtača i vojničkih krojeva. Kratki sakoi s naglašenim ramenima, široke jahaće hlače i prsluci koji se nose preko kaputa unose suvremeni karakter u klasične krojeve.

Boje su inspirirane prirodom – ekskluzivna Max Marina nijansa Cascia nadopunjena je toplim tonovima mahovine, bobičastog crvenila i jesenskih smeđih tonova. Tvid, kašmir i dvostruko tkanje daju osjećaj luksuza i udobnosti, dok crni baršun unosi sofisticiranost u večernje kombinacije.

Ovom kolekcijom Max Mara ostaje vjerna svom prepoznatljivom stilu – klasični komadi prilagođeni suvremenoj ženi koja cijeni kvalitetu, eleganciju i bezvremenski dizajn. Kolekcija je dostupna u Zagrebu, Ulica Frane Petrića 5.

Photo:
DUBRAVKO MILOSLAVIĆ

INTERVIEW

MARTINA BIENENFELD

THE ESPLANADE is a Synonym for the Timeless Elegance of Zagreb

Esplanade je sinonim za
bezvremensku eleganciju Zagreba

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Esplanade Hotel, we spoke with the director of the Zagreb Tourist Board about the city's evolving tourism offerings, new attractions, the most frequent visitors, and the significance of our hotel for the city of Zagreb

Povodom 100. obljetnice hotela Esplanade razgovarali smo s direktoricom Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba o razvoju turističke ponude, novim atrakcijama, najčešćim posjetiteljima, ali o značenju našeg hotela za grad Zagreb

Author:
SARA DAKIĆ

Martina Bienenfeld graduated in Romance Languages and Information Science from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, and completed a post-graduate degree in International Tourism at the Faculty of Economics in 2004. Before becoming the head of the Zagreb Tourist Board in 2014, she was the head of the Tourism Department at the City Office for Economy. She is the person most responsible for designing and organizing the Advent in Zagreb, which has been named the best in Europe three times. Her work has significantly contributed to the tourist recognition of Zagreb.

Martina Bienenfeld diplomirala je romanistiku i informatologiju na Filozofskom fakultetu u Zagrebu, a 2004. završila poslijediplomski studij iz međunarodnog turizma na Ekonomskom fakultetu, dok je 2019. godine doktorirala, također, na području turizma. Prije dolaska na čelo Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba (TZGZ) 2014., bila je voditeljica Odjela za turizam u Gradskom uredu za gospodarstvo. Najzaslužnija je za osmišljavanje i organizaciju Adventa Zagreb, koji je tri puta proglašen najboljim u Europi. Njezin rad značajno je doprinio turističkoj prepoznatljivosti Zagreba.

You have been at the helm of the Zagreb Tourist Board for over 10 years. How would you describe Zagreb as a tourist destination today, compared to previous years?

Over the last decade, Zagreb’s tourism has undergone significant development, achieving continuous growth in the number of visitors and overall tourism revenue. For example, compared to 2014, the number of overnight stays increased from 1,563,851 to 2,690,085, a remarkable 72% growth. New hotels have opened, the capacities of existing accommodation facilities have been expanded, and considerable attention has been given to improving public transportation, pedestrian zones, and cultural content. Specifically, the number of hotels increased from 53 to 70, while the total capacity of all accommodation units grew from 11,969 to 21,855 beds. This boom is the result of systematic investments in the development of tourism infrastructure, diversification of the offer, and modernization of services. The Zagreb Tourist Board played a key role in creating innovative promotional campaigns and developing content that further enriched the city’s offer. These excellent results would not have been possible without the dedicated work of all stakeholders in the tourism sector, as well as our citizens, whose warmth and hospitality make Zagreb even more attractive to visitors from all over the world.

What makes Zagreb different from other European metropolises? What are the key strengths in attracting tourists?

Zagreb stands out for its preservation of authentic local culture and tradition, making it a special destination with a unique blend of Mediterranean lifestyle and Austro-Hungarian heritage. We pay particular attention to creating unique experiences and atmospheres through events such as the Festival of Lights Zagreb, Zagreb Classica, Advent, and other happenings that nurture the local character, while also attracting an increasing number of foreign performers and visitors. Sustainability, authenticity, a high level of service, and safety are the core values that guide Zagreb, and we adapt our offer based on the needs of visitors and our citizens. Moreover, Zagreb also stands out as a destination offering excellent value for money, making a top-tier experience accessible and available to visitors of all profiles.

Zagreb is known for numerous events. Which festivals and cultural events are important for the city’s tourist identity?

As a year-round destination, Zagreb offers a variety of events every month that attract visitors from all over the world. In addition to the aforementioned key events like the Festival of Lights Zagreb, Zagreb Classica, and Advent, there are many other events that shape the city’s identity and make it recognizable internationally. Throughout the year, the city pulsates with numerous events held in squares, streets, parks, cultural institutions, and concert halls, offering a diverse range of content – from music and theater performances to film screenings, art exhibitions, and design events. Zagreb stands out as a city that combines tradition and modernity, providing visitors with the opportunity to expe-

Na čelu ste TZGZ-a više od 10 godina. Kako biste opisali Zagreb kao turističku destinaciju danas u usporedbi s proteklim godinama?

Tijekom posljednjeg desetljeća zagrebački turizam doživio je znatan razvoj, ostvarivši kontinuirani rast u broju posjetitelja i ukupnome turističkom prometu. Primjerice, u usporedbi s 2014. godinom, broj noćenja povećao se s 1 563 851 na 2 690 085, što je rast od impresivnih 72 %. Otvoreni su novi hoteli, prošireni su kapaciteti postojećih smještajnih objekata, a značajna pažnja posvećena je unaprjeđenju javnog prijevoza, pješačkih zona i kulturnih sadržaja. Konkretno, broj hotela povećao se s 53 na 70, dok je ukupan kapacitet svih smještajnih jedinica narastao s 11 969 na 21 855 postelja. Taj uzlet rezultat je sustavnih ulaganja u razvoj turističke infrastrukture, diversifikaciju ponude i modernizaciju usluga, a Turistička zajednica grada Zagreba odigrala je ključnu ulogu u kreiranju inovativnih promotivnih kampanja i osmišljavanju sadržaja koji su dodatno obogatili ponudu grada. Ti izvrsni rezultati ne bi bili mogući bez predanog rada svih dionika u turističkom sektoru, ali i naših sugrađana, čija srdačnost i gostoljubivost čine Zagreb još privlačnijim za posjetitelje iz cijelog svijeta.

Po čemu se Zagreb razlikuje od drugih europskih metropola? Koji su ključni aduti u privlačenju turista?

Zagreb prednjači u očuvanju autentične lokalne kulture i tradicije, što ga čini posebnom destinacijom s jedinstvenim spojem mediteranskog načina života i austrougarskog nasljeđa. Posebnu pozornost posvećujemo stvaranju jedinstvenih doživljaja i ambijenta uz manifestacije poput Festivala svjetla Zagreb, Zagreb Classica, Adventa i drugih događanja koja njeguju lokalni karakter, a istovremeno privlače sve veći broj stranih izvođača i posjetitelja. Održivost, autentičnost, visoka razina usluge, kao i sigurnost, glavne su vrijednosti u kojima Zagreb vodi i prema kojima prilagođavamo svoju ponudu, osluškujući potrebe posjetitelja, kao i naših sugrađana. Uz sve to, Zagreb se ističe i kao destinacija koja nudi izvanrednu vrijednost za novac, čineći vrhunski doživljaj pristupačnim i dostupnim posjetiteljima svih profila.

Zagreb je poznat po mnogim manifestacijama. Koji su festivali i kulturna događanja bitni za turistički identitet Zagreba?

Kao cjelogodišnja destinacija, Zagreb svakog mjeseca nudi raznovrsna događanja koja privlače posjetitelje iz cijelog svijeta. Uz već spomenuta ključna događanja poput Festivala svjetla Zagreb, Zagreb Classica i Adventa, tu su i mnoge druge manifestacije koje oblikuju identitet grada i čine ga prepoznatljivim u međunarodnom kontekstu. Tijekom cijele godine, grad pulsira uz brojne manifestacije koje se odvijaju na trgovima, ulicama, parkovima, kulturnim institucijama i koncertnim dvoranama, nudeći raznolik spektar sadržaja – od glazbenih i kazališnih izvedbi do filmskih projekcija, umjetničkih izložbi i dizajnerskih događanja. Zagreb se ističe kao grad koji spaja tradiciju i suvremenost, pruža-

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Izvrсни rezultati ne bi bili mogući bez predanog rada svih dionika u turističkom sektoru, ali i naših sugrađana, čija srdačnost i gostoljubivost čine Zagreb još privlačnijim za posjetitelje iz cijelog svijeta



Tourists today seek authenticity, sustainability, and symbiosis with the local community, which is key to their satisfaction

Turisti danas traže autentičnost, održivost i simbiozu s lokalnom zajednicom, što je ključno za njihovo zadovoljstvo

ience authentic local culture through various events promoting art, literature, dance, fashion, and innovative forms of creative expression. Special emphasis is placed on outdoor events, which, with the arrival of warmer days, breathe life into urban spaces and create a unique atmosphere of socializing and interaction with the local community. In addition to enriching the city’s cultural life, such programs play a key role in positioning Zagreb as an attractive destination that offers top experiences and a welcoming atmosphere for all who visit. It is precisely this diversity and adaptability to trends that contribute to its recognition and long-term success on the European tourist map.

How is the tourism offer adapting to new trends and visitor expectations?

Tourists today seek authenticity, sustainability, and symbiosis with the local community, which is key to their satisfaction. Zagreb’s tourism offer increasingly integrates the principles of authenticity and sustainability, which guests recognize and appreciate. The local community actively participates in creating tourism programs, allowing visitors to experience authentic local customs and culture. The Tourist Board is happy to support and promote such programs, and a recent example is our project “Museums, Maybe.” It is our new promotional

jući posjetiteljima priliku da dožive autentičnu lokalnu kulturu uz razne manifestacije koje promoviraju umjetnost, književnost, ples, modu i inovativne oblike kreativnog izražavanja. Poseban naglasak stavlja se na događanja na otvorenom, koja s dolaskom toplijih dana oživljavaju gradske prostore i stvaraju jedinstvenu atmosferu druženja i interakcije s lokalnom zajednicom. Osim što obogaćuju kulturni život grada, takvi programi igraju ključnu ulogu u pozicioniranju Zagreba kao atraktivne destinacije koja nudi vrhunske doživljaje i gostoljubivo ozračje za sve koji ju posjećuju. Upravo ta raznolikost i prilagodljivost trendovima doprinose njegovoj prepoznatljivosti i dugoročnom uspjehu na turističkoj karti Europe.

Kako se turistička ponuda prilagođava novim trendovima i očekivanjima posjetitelja?

Turisti danas traže autentičnost, održivost i simbiozu s lokalnom zajednicom, što je ključno za njihovo zadovoljstvo. Zagrebačka turistička ponuda sve više integrira principe autentičnosti i održivosti, a gosti to prepoznaju i cijene. Lokalna zajednica aktivno sudjeluje u kreiranju turističkih programa, što omogućuje posjetiteljima da dožive autentične lokalne običaje i kulturu. Turistička zajednica takve

campaign and platform, which we launched to focus on innovative collections and interesting concepts that provide a different cultural experience. Since 2010, when the Museum of Broken Relationships found its permanent home in the Upper Town, and 2015, when the first Museum of Illusions in the world opened, Zagreb has become known for these authentic projects. The great international success of these unique Zagreb projects has inspired many others to implement their ideas and present them to the wider public. Therefore, recognizing the creativity, enthusiasm, and tourism potential behind all these private initiatives, we decided to create "Museums, Maybe" to provide them with a platform for even better connection with the audience. With this initiative, we are not only supporting these unique projects but also giving them greater visibility on the European and global level through a special website and promotional film.

What are the main strategies for developing Zagreb's tourism product?

Our strategic plans include continued investment in cultural, sports, and gastronomic events, which have proven to be key in attracting visitors year-round, as well as in the business and health tourism segments. We are also working on improving marketing strategies to create innovative and noticeable campaigns that will highlight Zagreb's unique aspects, with additional attention being paid to developing sustainable solutions that enhance the guest experience, with the goal of further promoting Zagreb as a desirable destination in Europe. Our main focus is on long-term sustainable growth and the development of the tourism sector in Zagreb. This includes improving existing tourism products and developing new ones, with an emphasis on long-term competitiveness and the attractiveness of the city at the international level. We are particularly focused on developing Zagreb as an inclusive and sustainable destination, taking into account the interests of the local community and preserving cultural heritage.

Zagreb records excellent tourist results year-round. Where do most of our visitors come from?

The structure of Zagreb's visitors is different from the rest of Croatia. In 2024, the top foreign guests were from the USA, Germany, Italy, South Korea, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the top overnight stays were from the USA, followed by guests from Germany, Italy, the UK, and Serbia. Guests from the USA have been in the leading position in terms of overnight stays for several years, confirming the growing interest of the American market in Zagreb as a tourist destination. This demand is the result of our promotional activities and collaborations with organizations like USTOA, Virtuoso, the Smithsonian platform, etc., which have contributed to increased interest from American tourists. Along with them, guests from Germany and Italy are traditionally among the most loyal to Zagreb, which is the result of strong business, cultural, and family connections. The recovery after the COVID pandemic is also reflected in the steady increase in guests from South Korea and other Asian countries, whose interest in Zagreb is growing thanks to the popularity of Cro-

programe rado podržava i promovira, a recentni je primjer naš projekt „Museums, Maybe“. Riječ je o našoj novoj promotivnoj kampanji i platformi, koju smo pokrenuli kako bismo dodatno skrenuli fokus na inovativne zbirke i zanimljive koncepte koji pružaju drukčije kulturno iskustvo. Naime, od 2010. godine, kada je Muzej prekinutih veza pronašao svoj stalni dom na Gornjem gradu te od 2015., kada je otvoren prvi Muzej iluzija u svijetu, Zagreb je postao prepoznatljiv po tim autentičnim projektima. Njihov veliki međunarodni uspjeh nadahnua je, zatim, i mnoge druge da realiziraju svoje ideje i predstave ih široj javnosti. Stoga smo, prepoznajući kreativnost, entuzijazam i turistički potencijal koji stoji iza svih tih privatnih inicijativa, odlučili kreirati „Museums, Maybe“ kako bismo im omogućili platformu za još bolje povezivanje s publikom. Tom inicijativom ne samo da pružamo podršku ovim jedinstvenim inicijativama, već im i dajemo veću vidljivost i na europskoj i svjetskoj razini preko posebne internetske stranice i promotivnog filma.

Koje su glavne strategije razvoja turističkog proizvoda Zagreba?

Naši strateški planovi uključuju nastavak ulaganja u kulturne, sportske i gastronomske manifestacije, koje su se pokazale kao ključne za privlačenje posjetitelja tijekom cijele godine, ali isto tako i u segment poslovnoga i zdravstvenog turizma. Također, radimo na unaprjeđenju marketinških strategija kako bismo stvorili inovativne i uočljive kampanje koje će istaknuti jedinstvene aspekte Zagreba, a dodatna pažnja bit će posvećena razvoju održivih rješenja koja unaprjeđuju iskustvo gostiju, s ciljem daljnje afirmacije Zagreba kao poželjnog odredišta u Europi. Naš je glavni fokus na dugoročnome održivom rastu i razvoju turističkog sektora u Zagrebu. To uključuje unaprjeđenje postojećih turističkih proizvoda i razvoj novih, s fokusom na dugoročnu konkurentnost i privlačnost grada na međunarodnoj razini. Posebno smo usmjereni na razvoj Zagreba kao inkluzivne i održive destinacije, uz uvažavanje interesa lokalne zajednice i očuvanje kulturne baštine.

Zagreb cijele godine bilježi sjajne turističke rezultate. Odakle nam dolazi najviše posjetitelja?

Zagrebačka struktura gostiju drukčija je u odnosu na ostatak Hrvatske. Tako su u 2024. godini od stranih gostiju po dolascima bili najbolji gosti iz SAD-a, Njemačke, Italije, Južne Koreje te BiH. Po noćenjima su na prvom mjestu gosti iz SAD-a, a slijede ih gosti iz Njemačke, Italije, Velike Britanije i Srbije. Gosti iz SAD-a već nekoliko godina zauzimaju vodeće mjesto u broju noćenja, što potvrđuje rastući interes američkog tržišta za Zagreb kao turističku destinaciju. Ta potražnja rezultat je naših promotivnih aktivnosti i suradnji s USTOA-om, Virtuosom, platformom Smithsonian itd., što je doprinijelo povećanom zanimanju američkih turista za Zagreb. Uz njih, gosti iz Njemačke i Italije tradicionalno su među najvjer-nijima Zagrebu, što je rezultat snažne povezanosti s gradom poslovnim, kulturnim, ali i obiteljskim vezama. Oporavak nakon pandemije COVID-a vidimo i u stalnom porastu gostiju iz Južne Koreje, kao i ostalih

Our strategic plans include continued investment in cultural, sports, and gastronomic events, which have proven to be key in attracting visitors year-round

Naši strateški planovi uključuju nastavak ulaganja u kulturne, sportske i gastronomske manifestacije, koje su se pokazale kao ključne za privlačenje posjetitelja tijekom cijele godine

Guests from the USA have been in the leading position in terms of overnight stays for several years, confirming the growing interest of the American market in Zagreb as a tourist destination

Gosti iz SAD-a već nekoliko godina zauzimaju vodeće mjesto u broju noćenja, što potvrđuje rastući interes američkog tržišta za Zagreb kao turističku destinaciju



Photo: DUBRAVKO MILOSLAVIĆ

Through “Museums, Maybe” project, unique collections and attractions that offer an original cultural experience are coming into focus

Preko projekta „Museums, Maybe“ u središte pozornosti dolaze jedinstvene zbirke i atrakcije koje pružaju originalno kulturno iskustvo

atian destinations in Asia, especially after the positive coverage Zagreb received in numerous Korean travel journals and TV shows. On a regional level, in addition to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zagreb is traditionally visited by tourists from Serbia and Slovenia, confirming that the city remains an attractive destination for weekend trips and city break arrangements.

What are the expectations for summer 2025?

Based on current results, expectations for the summer of 2025 are optimistic. This optimism is based on the ongoing positive trends, increased interest in the city as a tourist destination, a rich offering of cultural and entertainment content, and continuous efforts to improve tourism infrastructure. Of course, the key factor in achieving these expectations is a stable and favorable global situation. If no significant disruptions occur at the global level, Zagreb could achieve record results in terms of arrivals and overnight stays, further solidifying its position as one of the leading tourist destinations in the region.

What are the latest attractions in Zagreb that you would recommend to tourists?

Zagreb is constantly enriching its tourism offer with new attractions that provide unique experiences for visitors of all interests. Among the newest additions is the renovated Croatian Natural History Museum, which, after thorough reconstruction, has become one of the most modern and attractive cultural-scientific centers in the region. Also, through our previously mentioned “Museums, Maybe” project, unique collections and attractions that offer an original cultural experience are coming into focus. Among them are the always-popular Museum of Broken Relationships and the Museum of Illusions, as well as newer museums such as the House of Caricature Ota Reisinger, Cravaticum Boutique Museum, the Museum of Forgotten Stories, and others.

Additionally, new urban spaces and concepts are constantly being developed in the city, combining culture, art, and social gatherings. Innovative museum and gallery projects, contemporary multimedia installations, and newly renovated public spaces are creating new points of interest for visitors. Special attention is drawn to content that allows for interactive participation and deeper connection with the local community, from specialized museum exhibitions to innovative themed tours offering a new perspective on the city’s history and modernity. One of the newer attractions generating interest is the Medvedgrad Visitor Center, which offers an educational exploration of the medieval fortress with innovative multimedia content, as well as the Sljeme 360 viewpoint, offering beautiful views of Zagreb on one side, and Hrvatsko Zagorje and Slovenia on the other.

azijskih zemalja, čiji interes za Zagreb raste zahvaljujući popularnosti hrvatskih destinacija u Aziji, osobito nakon pozitivnog odjeka koji je Zagreb imao u brojnim korejskim putopisima i TV emisijama. Na regionalnoj razini, uz BiH, Zagreb tradicionalno posjećuju turisti iz Srbije i Slovenije, što potvrđuje da grad ostaje atraktivna destinacija za vikend-putovanja i city break aranžmane.

Koja su očekivanja za ljeto 2025.?

Sudeći prema dosadašnjim rezultatima, očekivanja su za ljeto 2025. optimistična. Taj optimizam temelji se na dosadašnjim pozitivnim trendovima, povećanom interesu za grad kao turističku destinaciju, bogatoj ponudi kulturnih i zabavnih sadržaja te kontinuiranim naporima u poboljšanju turističke infrastrukture. Naravno, ključni faktor u ostvarivanju tih očekivanja stabilna je i povoljna globalna situacija. Ako se ne dogode značajni poremećaji na globalnoj razini, Zagreb bi mogao zabilježiti rekordne rezultate u broju dolazaka i noćenja, čime bi se dodatno učvrstila njegova pozicija kao jedne od vodećih turističkih destinacija u okruženju.

Koje su najnovije atrakcije u Zagrebu koje biste preporučili turistima?

Zagreb kontinuirano obogaćuje svoju turističku ponudu novim atrakcijama koje pružaju jedinstvena iskustva posjetiteljima svih interesa. Među najnovijim sadržajima ističe se obnovljeni Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, koji je nakon temeljite rekonstrukcije postao jedno od najmodernijih i najatraktivnijih kulturno-znanstvenih središta u regiji. Isto tako, preko našega ranije spomenutoga projekta „Museums, Maybe“ u središte pozornosti dolaze jedinstvene zbirke i atrakcije koje pružaju originalno kulturno iskustvo. Među njima su uvijek popularni Muzej prekinutih veza i Muzej iluzija, ali i noviji muzeji poput Kuće karikature Ota Reisinger, Cravaticum boutique muzeja, Muzeja zaboravljenih priča i drugih.

Uz to, u gradu se neprestano razvijaju novi urbani prostori i koncepti koji povezuju kulturu, umjetnost i društvena okupljanja. Inovativni muzejski i galerijski projekti, suvremene multimedijske instalacije te novouređene javne površine stvaraju nove točke interesa za posjetitelje. Posebnu pozornost privlače sadržaji koji omogućuju interaktivno sudjelovanje i dublje povezivanje s lokalnom zajednicom, od specijaliziranih muzejskih postava do inovativnih tematskih tura koje nude novi pogled na povijest i suvremenost grada. Jedna od novijih atrakcija koja izaziva interes jest i Centar za posjetitelje Medvedgrad, koji nudi edukativno istraživanje srednjovjekovne utvrde uz inovativne multimedijske sadržaje, a tu je i vidikovac Sljeme 360 s predivnim pogledom na Zagreb s jedne strane, kao i na Hrvatsko Zagorje i Sloveniju s druge strane.

Celebrating this great anniversary is an opportunity to honor its centennial story, but also to look to the future with pride and excitement, a future in which I am sure Esplanade will continue to be a synonym for the timeless elegance of Zagreb

Proslava 100. obljetnice Esplanade nije samo priznanje njegovoj bogatoj prošlosti, već i potvrda njegove trajne vrijednosti u identitetu Zagreba

What significance does the Esplanade Hotel have in Zagreb’s tourist offer? What is its role, considering the 100th anniversary we are celebrating this year?

The Esplanade Hotel is an irreplaceable part of Zagreb’s tourist and cultural heritage, a symbol of timeless elegance, luxury, and top service. Located in the heart of the city, this legendary hotel has captivated guests for a century with its unparalleled charm and sophistication, creating unforgettable memories for celebrities, government officials, artists, and travelers from around the world. The celebration of Esplanade’s 100th anniversary is not just a recognition of its rich history, but also a confirmation of its lasting value in the identity of Zagreb. Over the decades, Esplanade has witnessed and hosted some of the most important social and cultural events in the city, it has been a meeting place for visionaries, artists, and world travelers, and still remains an indispensable epicenter of elegance, from business conferences and gala dinners to exclusive events. With its top culinary offerings led by the Zinfandel’s restaurant and dedication to innovation and sustainability, Esplanade continues to shape the future of the hotel industry, combining classic opulence with modern standards. Celebrating this great anniversary is an opportunity to honor its centennial story, but also to look to the future with pride and excitement, a future in which I am sure Esplanade will continue to be a synonym for the timeless elegance of Zagreb.

Koje značenje ima hotel Esplanade u turističkoj ponudi Zagreba? Koja je njegova uloga, s obzirom i na stotu obljetnicu koju ove godine slavimo?

Hotel Esplanade nezamjenjiv je dio zagrebačke turističke i kulturne baštine, simbol bezvremenske elegancije, luksuza i vrhunske usluge. Smješten u srcu grada, taj legendarni hotel cijelo stoljeće očarava svoje goste nenadmašnim šarmom i sofisticiranošću, stvarajući nezaboravne uspomene za slavne osobe, državne dužnosnike, umjetnike i putnike iz cijelog svijeta.

Proslava 100. obljetnice Esplanadea nije samo priznanje njegovoj bogatoj prošlosti, već i potvrda njegove trajne vrijednosti u identitetu Zagreba. Desetljećima, Esplanade je bio svjedok i domaćin nekih od najvažnijih društvenih i kulturnih događanja u gradu, mjesto susreta vizionara, umjetnika i svjetskih putnika, a i danas ostaje nezaobilazan epicentar elegancije, od poslovnih skupova i gala večera do ekskluzivnih manifestacija.

Uz vrhunsku gastronomsku ponudu predvođenu restoranom Zinfandel’s te predanost inovacijama i održivosti, Esplanade nastavlja oblikovati budućnost hotelske industrije, spajajući klasičnu raskoš s modernim standardima. Obilježavanje te velike obljetnice prilika je da se oda priznanje njegovoj stoljetnoj priči, ali i da se s jednakim ponosom i uzbuđenjem gleda u budućnost, u kojoj će, sigurna sam, Esplanade nastaviti biti sinonimom za bezvremensku eleganciju Zagreba.



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SHIFTING INTO HIGH GEAR
Ubacivanje u višu brzinu

The Ultimate Racing Chronograph is Back

Ultimativni trkaći kronograf se vraća



Engines roar, tires grip the road, and Breitling's Top Time is back in the race – this time with a full-throttle return to its boldest 1960s designs. The newly unveiled Top Time Racing and Top Time Martini Racing® chronographs revive the era's most unconventional details: a striking cushion case, squircle subdials, and the unmistakable dashboard dial. Two models capture the thrill of rally, while a third, created in partnership with Martini Racing, channels the high-speed energy of the track. Each is limited to just 750 pieces – built for those who live life at full speed.

Motori urlaju, gume prijanjaju uz asfalt – Breitlingov Top Time vraća se u utrku, ovaj put s punim gasom i hrabrom reinterpretacijom svojih najodvažnijih dizajna iz 1960-ih. Novo predstavljeni kronografi Top Time Racing i Top Time Martini Racing® oživljavaju najdarskije detalje tog doba: upečatljivo kućište jastučicastog oblika, podbrojčanike u obliku "squircle" (između kruga i kvadrata) i prepoznatljiv brojčanik inspiriran instrument pločom. Dva modela hvataju uzbuđenje relija, dok treći – nastao u suradnji s Martini Racingom – donosi na zapešće brzinu i energiju trkaće staze. Svaki je ograničen na samo 750 primjeraka – stvoren za one koji žive život punom brzinom.



Motorsports have been part of Breitling's story since the earliest days of the automobile. Whether on a winding rally course or a high-speed circuit, the pursuit has always been the same – shaving seconds, chasing records, and pushing limits. Now, Breitling introduces three limited-edition **Top Time** chronographs built for racing enthusiasts: two dedicated to the adventure of rally and one created in partnership with Martini Racing. Each features a sleek **38 mm** case, striking the perfect balance between heritage proportions and modern performance.



Motorsport je oduvijek bio dio Breitlingove priče, još od samih početaka automobilske industrije. Bilo da se radi o zavojitim relijaškim stazama ili brzim trkaćim pistama, cilj je uvijek isti – hvatati sekunde, rušiti rekorde i pomicati granice. Danas Breitling predstavlja tri limitirana izdanja kronografa **Top Time**, osmišljena za istinske ljubitelje utrka: dva modela posvećena reliju i jedan nastao u suradnji s Martini Racingom. Svi modeli dolaze u elegantnom kućištu promjera **38 mm**, koje savršeno spaja klasične proporcije i suvremene performanse.

You are kindly invited to explore Breitling watches at Malalan, authorised retailer in Zagreb, Augusta Cesarca 6-8.

Pozivamo vas da istražite Breitling satove u Malalan draguljarnici, ovlaštenom prodavaču u Zagrebu, Augusta Cesarca 6-8.

THE ESPLANADE 1925 LOUNGE & COCKTAIL BAR

A Century of Stories and Sips

Stoljeće priča i gutljaja

The Esplanade Zagreb Hotel has long been the beating heart of the city's social life, a place where history, elegance and timeless charm come together

Hotel Esplanade Zagreb već dugo vremena predstavlja srce društvenog života grada i mjesto gdje se povijest, elegancija i bezvremenski šarm spajaju u jedno

Photo:
GORAN JAKUŠ
RAJAN MILOŠEVIĆ
LILI BAŠIĆ
SANDRO SKLEPIĆ



The Esplanade Bar offers a timeless experience in one of the city's most treasured and illustrious destinations

Esplanade Bar nudi bezvremensko iskustvo u jednome od najdragocjenijih i najpoznatijih odredišta u gradu



Since its opening in 1925, the hotel has been a gathering place for locals and international visitors alike. Its legendary bar, in particular, has served as the city's true cosmopolitan hub and the backdrop to events big and small, from the arrival of the Orient Express passengers to the quiet discussions by some of the country's greatest minds.

For a century, the Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar has been the place where people meet to make deals, toast to success and celebrate milestones, all within the timeless elegance of its classic Art Deco interiors. Over the years, some of the most iconic figures of the 20th century have crossed its threshold. The bar has also served as a backdrop in several films and advertisements, further bolstering its place in both cinematic history and the city's cultural fabric. Richard Gere, for example, filmed a pivotal scene here for a renowned Hollywood production, adding to the bar's storied legacy.

But it's not just movie stars who have found inspiration here. The renowned Croatian writer Miroslav Krleža made the bar his second home, and it was here he famously declared that "the Oleander terrace represents the border of Europe with the Balkans." For Krleža and other luminaries, the Esplanade was not just a place for a drink, but a sanctuary for thought and conversation. Today, the very same terrace where Krleža once sat still offers a magnificent view of the city, where guests can sit and imagine the many stories that have unfolded within these walls.

Otvoren 1925. godine, hotel je postao okupljalište domaće elite i međunarodnih gostiju, posebice njegov kulni bar, bio je i ostao istinski kozmopolitski centar grada, pozadina za velika i mala događanja, od dolaska putnika Orient Expressa do tih razgovora najvećih umova zemlje.

Cijelo stoljeće, Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar bio je mjesto gdje su se ljudi sastajali kako bi sklapali poslove, nazdravljali uspjesima i slavili važne trenutke, sve unutar bezvremenske elegancije njegovog impresivnog *art déco* interijera. Tijekom godina, prag toga bara prešle su neke od najkoničnijih figura 20. stoljeća. Bar je također predstavljao scenu u nekoliko filmova i reklama, dodatno učvršćujući svoje mjesto u filmskoj povijesti i kulturnoj baštini grada. Richard Gere, primjerice, upravo je tu snimio ključnu scenu za poznatu holivudsku produkciju, čime je dodatno obogatio povijest bara.

No, nisu samo filmske zvijezde ovdje nalazile inspiraciju. Poznati hrvatski pisac Miroslav Krleža učinio je bar svojim drugim domom, a upravo je tu nastala njegova poznata izjava da "Oleander terasa predstavlja granicu Europe s Balkanom." Za Krležu i druge uglednike, Esplanade bar nije bio samo mjesto za piće, već i utočište za razmišljanje i razgovor. Danas, na istoj terasi na kojoj je Krleža sjedio, i dalje se pruža veličanstven pogled na grad, a gosti mogu zamišljati brojne priče koje su se odvijale na njoj.





The bar's offerings have evolved over the years, but its commitment to excellence has never wavered

Ponuda bara razvijala se kroz godine, ali njegovu predanost izvrsnosti nikada nije poljuljala

The Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar continues to be a popular place of rendezvous for both locals and guests from across the globe. Business leaders, politicians, celebrities and creatives come together to discuss, celebrate, brainstorm and unwind. In its intimate and sophisticated atmosphere, it's easy to see why the bar remains so beloved. From the elegant Art Deco interior to the impeccable service, the Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar is the perfect place for everything from high-profile business meetings to more personal moments of connection.

The bar's offerings have evolved over the years, but its commitment to excellence has never wavered. While cocktails remain the bar's crown jewel, there's so much more to explore. Premium spirits, fine wines and craft beers are also on the menu, alongside freshly squeezed juices, Illy coffee and a variety of fine teas.

The food offerings are equally impressive, featuring a range of snacks and signature dishes from the hotel's head chef, Ana Grgić Tomić. The famous Club Sandwich, a delicious burger with homemade fries, crispy tataki tuna and the iconic Esplanade štrukli (also available gluten-free) are just a few of the standout options. For those with a sweet tooth, the hot chocolate cake with vanilla cream and fruit is a must-try.

To mark the hotel's 100th anniversary, the Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar has introduced a new collection of signature cocktails, each representing a different decade of the hotel's storied past. Crafted by Vjenceslav Madić, the legendary Master Kishoni, these cocktails honour the Esplanade's legacy while showcasing contemporary flair. From the Paradise Garden, with its blend of Hennessy Cognac, sherry wine, Brazilian coffee and saffron, to the classy Esplanade Royal, each drink reflects the bar's eminent status. Even non-drinkers are in for a treat, with creative mocktails like the Smoked Margarita and Green Bloody Mary, along with new non-alcoholic offerings such as gin & tonic and ACALA sparkling tea.

Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar i dalje je popularno mjesto susreta kako za lokalne goste, tako i za posjetitelje iz svih krajeva svijeta. Poslovni lideri, političari, slavne osobe i kreativci okupljaju se kako bi razgovarali, proslavili, razmjenjivali ideje i opušitali se. U njegovoj intimnoj i sofisticiranoj atmosferi jasno je zašto je bar još uvijek omiljen. Od elegantnoga *art déco* interijera do besprijekorne usluge, Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar savršeno je mjesto za sve — od visokoprotivnih poslovnih sastanaka do osobnih trenutaka povezivanja.

Ponuda bara s godinama se mijenjala i razvijala, no njegova predanost izvrsnosti ostala je nepokolebljiva. Iako kokteli ostaju kruna ponude bara, tu je mnogo više za istraživanje. *Premium* žestoka pića, fina vina i *craft* piva također su na meniju, uz svježe cijeđene sokove, kavu Illy i razne fine čajeve. Ponuda hrane također je impresivna, s raznovrsnim zaloga-jima i jelima s potpisom glavne *chefice* hotela, Ane Grgić Tomić. Poznati Club Sandwich, ukusni burger s domaćim pomfritom, hrskava tataki tuna i kulturni štrukli Esplanade (dostupni i u bezglutenskoj verziji) samo su neki od istaknutih opcija. Za ljubitelje slatkoga, nezaobilazan je topli čokoladni kolač s vanilin kremom i voćem.

Kako bi proslavio 100. godišnjicu hotela, Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar predstavio je novu kolekciju koktela, od kojih svaki predstavlja jedno desetljeće slavne prošlosti hotela, s potpisom Vjenceslava Madića – legendarnog Master Kishonija. Kokteli odaju počast Esplanadinu naslijeđu, dok istovremeno prikazuju suvremeni šarm. Od Paradise Gardena, koji spaja Hennessy konjak, šeri vino, brazilsku kavu i šafran, do elegantnog Esplanade Royala, svaki napitak odražava istaknuti status bara. Čak će i oni koji ne piju uživati u kreativnim *mocktailima* poput Smoked Margarite i Green Bloody Mary, uz nove bezalkoholne ponude poput *gin & tonica* i pjenušavog čaja ACALA.



To mark the hotel's 100th anniversary, the Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar has introduced a new collection of signature cocktails

Kako bi proslavio 100. godišnjicu hotela, Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar predstavio je novu kolekciju autorskih koktela

The Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar is more than just a spot to enjoy a drink; it's a living story, woven from the countless moments shared within its walls over the past century. A beacon of Zagreb's rich cultural heritage, it continues to unite people across generations. Whether you're savouring Orient Express Afternoon tea on the terrace, sipping a quiet drink at the bar or celebrating a special occasion, the Esplanade Bar offers a timeless experience in one of the city's most treasured and illustrious destinations.

Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar više je od mjesta za uživanje u piću; to je živa priča, ispletana od brojnih trenutaka podijeljenih unutar njegovih zidova tijekom posljednjeg stoljeća. Svjetionik bogate kulturne baštine Zagreba, Esplanade 1925 Bar nastavlja spajati ljude svih generacija. Bilo da uživate u Orient Express popodnevnom čaju na terasi, pijuckate mirno piće u baru ili slavite poseban trenutak, Esplanade Bar nudi bezvremensko iskustvo u jednome od najdragocjenijih i najpoznatijih odredišta u gradu.



Boho is Back at Twinset

Boho se vratio u Twinset

The new collection has arrived in Twinset stores, bringing a “feel-good” vibe with irresistible boho-inspired dresses, knitwear, shirts, jeans, and jewelry. Signature Twinset feminine cuts with a delicate boho touch will be the go-to style this spring and summer for various occasions.

U Twinset trgovine stigla je nova kolekcija i unijela „dobar osjećaj“ uz neodoljive haljine, pletiva, košulje, jeans i nakit boho estetike. Prepoznatljivi Twinset ženstveni krojevi s nježnim boho naglaskom će se nositi ovog proljeća i ljeta u raznim prigodama.

The return of boho aesthetics introduces iconic leather pieces, large and rich handbags, and oversized belts worn low on the hips. Statement jewelry takes center stage, with layered necklaces of different lengths standing out. Boldly mix different textures and patterns, add colors, embellishments, and decorative details. Key materials include suede, denim, and knitwear—don't be afraid to go all out with lurex. And don't just wear florals on your clothes—put them in your hair, too! Enjoy feminine silhouettes with voluminous sleeves, ruffles, and playful layering.



Find Twinset boutique in Gundulićeva 18 and accessories in Karla stores in Frankopanska 26 and Kaptol centar. www.karla.hr

Pronadite Twinset butik u Gundulicevoj 18, a modne dodatke u Karla trgovinama Frankopanska 26 i Kaptol centar. Web: www.karla.hr



Povratak boho estetici donosi ikonične kožne komade, velike i bogate torbice i predimenzionirano remenje koje se nosi nisko na bokovima. Nakit je upečatljiv i posebno se ističu naslagane ogrlice različitih dužina. Odvažno se kombiniraju razne tekture i uzorci, dodaju se boje, aplikacije i ukrasni detalji. Od materijala je u fokusu gamoš, jeans, pletivo, a slobodno pretjerujte s lureksom. Cvijeće, osim na odjeći, nosite i u kosi. Uživajte u ženstvenim krojevima s voluminoznim rukavima, volanima i slojevitom kombiniranju istih.



TWINSET ZAGREB - GUNDULIĆEVA 8
TWINSET SPLIT - TC JOKER
www.karla.hr

TWINSET

MILANO

Reserve Time
for Yourself

Rezervirajte vrijeme za sebe

Surrender yourself to the hands of professionals and treat yourself to soul and body treatments. Get your body into shape, train with a personal instructor or on your own, and finish your workout by relaxing in premium saunas. Entrust your facial care to the expert staff at Esplanade's Health Club, where you will receive top treatments that tone, deeply cleanse, visibly rejuvenate, and dramatically firm the skin. If you desire complete body care, choose the Anti-Cellulite Massage aimed at reducing fat cells or the Mediterranean Massage, and experience the benefits of the sea with aromas of olive oil, lavender, and sea salt. Choose your perfect blend of exercise and relaxation and indulge in small moments of hedonism.

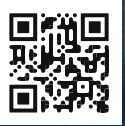
Preпустite se rukama profesionalaca i nagradite tretmanima za duh i tijelo. Dovedite tijelo u željenu formu, vježbajte s osobnim instruktorom ili samostalno, a trening zaokružite opuštanjem u vrhunskim saunama. Njegu lica prepustite stručnom osoblju Esplanade Health Cluba uz vrhunske tretmane koji toniraju, dubinski čiste, vidljivo obnavljaju i dramatično učvršćuju kožu. Poželite li kompletnu njegu tijela, odaberite Anticelulitnu masažu, koja ima za cilj smanjiti količinu masnih stanica, ili Mediteransku masažu i doživite blagodat mora uz arome maslinova ulja, lavande i morske soli. Odaberite svoj spoj vježbanja i relaksacije i prepustite se malim trenucima hedonizma.



News
Novosti



FOTOGRAFIJA ANTE MANDIĆ



fabuspot.hr

POSJETI NAS U NAŠIM PARFUMERIJAMA:
Zagreb, Ilica 26 | **Split**, Put Brodarice 6 (Joker) | **Dubrovnik**, Stradun 20

A GOURMET JOURNEY THROUGH THE STATIONS OF THE ICONIC TRAIN
GURMANSKO PUTOVANJE POSTAJAMA KULTNOG VLAKA

Orient Express
Afternoon Tea

Popodnevni čaj Orient Express

Embark on a journey aboard the legendary train that, in the 1920s, connected Paris, Venice, and Istanbul. On its route, the train also stopped in Zagreb, which is why the city was honored with the prestigious Esplanade Hotel in 1925, now celebrating its milestone 100th anniversary. To mark this occasion, Esplanade's traditional Orient Express afternoon tea has been enhanced with a lavish selection of treats specially created by Chef Ana Grgić Tomić and her team. Allow yourself to be delighted by the flavors of Paris, Venice, Zagreb, and Istanbul in the cosmopolitan ambiance of the Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar, or indulge in the slow enjoyment of aromatic sips during the tea ceremony on the famous Oleander Terrace, surrounded by great company and views of impressive Art Nouveau buildings and a park with a fountain. Choose from a selection of the finest herbal and fruit teas, and Esplanade 1925 Bar staff will serve your favorite in an elegant teapot, accompanied by a collection of tempting mini bites, mini štrukli and an assortment of handmade sweets served on a tiered stand for an authentic gourmet experience. Add a glass of premium bubbly, raise a toast in good company, and immerse yourself in the tradition of afternoon tea. The Orient Express afternoon tea is a special experience not to be missed. *Joie de vivre* at its finest.

Otisnite se na putovanje legendarnim vlakom koji je dvadesetih godina prošlog stoljeća povezivao Pariz, Veneciju i Istanbul. Na svojoj ruti vlak je tada stao i u Zagrebu, a upravo je zbog toga grad 1925. godine dobio prestižni hotel Esplanade koji danas slavi svoj okrugli stoti rođendan. Tim povodom Esplanadin tradicionalni popodnevni čaj Orient Express dobio je novu raskošnu ponudu zalogaja koje je prigodno kreirala chefica Ana Grgić Tomić sa svojim timom. Dopustite da vas oduševi okusi Pariza, Venecije, Zagreba i Istanbula u kozmopolitskom ozračju Esplanade 1925 Lounge & Cocktail Bar, ili se pak prepustite polaganom uživanju u ceremoniji ispijanja aromatičnih gutljaja na poznatoj terasi Oleander uz dobro društvo i pogled na impresivne secesijske građevine i park s fontanom. Odaberite iz selekcije najfinijih biljnih i voćnih čajeva, a osoblje Esplanade 1925 Bara servirat će vam onaj omiljeni u otmjenom čajniku uz kolekciju zavodljivih zalogaja, zapečenu mini štruklu te izbor ručno rađenih slastica posluženih na etažeru za istinski gurmanski užitek. Dodajte tomu čašu vrhunskog pjenušca, nazdravite u dobrom društvu i prepustite uz tradiciji ispijanja popodnevnog čaja. Popodnevni čaj Orient Express predstavlja poseban doživljaj koji se ne propušta. *Joie de vivre* u najboljem formatu.



Photo: LILI BAŠIĆ



OTKRIJTE LUKSUZ

Jana Nails je brend koji već više od desetljeća nudi vrhunsku njegu za nokte, kožu i make-up, s naglaskom na inovativne formule i besprijekoran dizajn. Naša ponuda proizvoda, od njege noktiju do ekskluzivnih spa tretmana i preparata za kožu, podiže standarde u industriji i pruža iznimno iskustvo njege. **Jana Nails** je odabir za one koji traže kvalitetu i jedinstvenost u svakom detalju.

DISCOVER LUXURY

*Jana Nails is a brand that has been offering premium nail, skincare, and makeup products for over a decade, with a focus on innovative formulas and impeccable design. Our product range, from nail care to exclusive spa treatments and skincare products, sets new standards in the industry and provides an exceptional self-care experience. **Jana Nails** is the choice for those who seek quality and uniqueness in every detail.*



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JANA NAILS -
Edukacije & Prodaja



The VICTORIA Ring by FREYWILLE

FREYWILLE prsten VICTORIA



FREYWILLE's VICTORIA ring is a stunning fusion of luxury and artistry. Crafted from 18kt yellow gold and featuring a brilliant diamond, this exquisite piece is a celebration of the brand's signature hand-enameled technique. The vibrant, hand-painted cabochon beautifully complements the diamond's brilliance, creating a timeless design that is both elegant and unique. A true masterpiece, perfect for those who appreciate exceptional craftsmanship and understated luxury. FREYWILLE.COM



FREYWILLE prsten VICTORIA predstavlja inspirativnu sintezu umjetnosti, luksuza i ljepote ručnog rada. Izrađen od 18kt zlata i sjajnog dijamanta, ovo umjetničko djelo odražava svu složenost jedinstvene FREYWILLE tehnike finog emajliranja. Srce kompozicije čini živopisni cabochon od emajla, ručno oslikan kolorističnim motivima, stvarajući harmoniju s blistavim dijamantom. Prsten VICTORIA je savršen izbor za one koji cijene izvanredan ručni rad i bezvremensku eleganciju. FREYWILLE.COM



HOMMAGE À BOTTICELLI THE BIRTH OF VENUS




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FAVOURITE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION OF THE SEASON: Jacadi Paris SS25 Parc Floral!

Omiljena dječja kolekcija sezone:
Jacadi Paris SS25 Parc Floral!

Jacadi Paris welcomes spring with the Parc Floral '25 collection, a fusion of the sixties, Parisian charm, and ultimate comfort. Floral patterns, vibrant colours, and playful sky-inspired motifs bring a sense of freshness, while airy fabrics ensure freedom of movement. This collection transforms children's wardrobes into a whimsical garden filled with colour and creativity.

Jacadi Paris slavi proljeće uz Parc Floral '25 kolekciju, spoj šezdesetih, pariškog šarma i vrhunske udobnosti. Cvjetni uzorci, živopisne boje i razigrani motivi inspirirani bojom neba donose svježinu, dok prozirani materijali omogućuju slobodu pokreta. Kolekcija pretvara dječju garderobu u bajkoviti vrt pun boja i kreativnosti.

FOR GIRLS: A SPRINGTIME FAIRYTALE IN COLOUR

A palette of pink, red, and orange evokes the beauty of a spring meadow, while Liberty fabrics and retro cuts showcase Jacadi's signature style. Dresses with glossy details can be paired with sneakers or dainty shoes in white and pink, while lightweight vests provide comfort for chilly mornings.

Za djevojčice: Proljetna čarolija u bojama

Paleta ružičaste, crvene i narančaste podsjeća na proljetnu livadu, dok Liberty tkanine i retro krojevi donose prepoznatljiv Jacadi stil. Haljine s lakiranim detaljima mogu se nositi uz tenisice ili cipele u bijeloj i ružičastoj boji, dok lagani prsluci pružaju udobnost za prohladna proljetna jutra.



FOR BOYS: THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Shades of blue, white, and orange, combined with playful patterns, add a touch of adventure. Lightweight, movement-friendly clothing ensures both comfort and style, while breathable jackets and shorts allow for unrestricted play and exploration.

Za dječake: Nebo je granica

Plava, bijela i narančasta u kombinaciji s razigranim uzorcima unose dozu pustolovine. Lagana odjeća prilagođena pokretu osigurava udobnost, dok prozirne jakne i kratke hlače omogućuju nesmetanu igru.

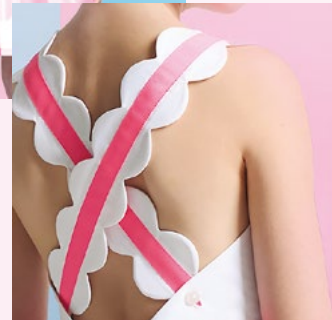


Svečana kolekcija za posebne prilike: Jacadi Paris Cérémonie

Kolekcija Cérémonie donosi profinjene krojeve, delikatan vezove i bezvremensku eleganciju. Geometrijski uzorci, cvjetni detalji i besprijeorna bjelina odražavaju klasičnu sofisticiranost, idealnu za svečane trenutke.

CEREMONIAL COLLECTION FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS: JACADI PARIS CÉRÉMONIE

The Cérémonie collection features refined tailoring, delicate embroidery, and timeless elegance. Geometric patterns, floral accents, and pristine white hues embody classic sophistication, making them perfect for memorable celebrations.



Jacadi obuća: Udobnost u svakom koraku

Jacadi Proljeće/Ljeto '25 kolekcija obuće spaja klasiku s modernim detaljima, nudeći svečane cipele i sportske tenisice s udobnim ulošcima i sigurnim kopčama. Mekana koža i prozirnost osiguravaju lakoću kretanja i praktičnost za svaku prigodu.



JACADI FOOTWEAR: COMFORT IN EVERY STEP

The Jacadi Spring/Summer '25 footwear collection blends classic designs with modern details, offering elegant patent shoes and sporty sneakers with cushioned insoles and secure fastenings. Soft leather and breathable materials ensure effortless movement and practicality for any occasion.



ABOUT JACADI PARIS

For 40 years, we have been dressing generations of children in inspiring clothing that sparks imagination. We accompany their first steps, their first experiences, and create joyful and bold clothes for both big and small occasions. Jacadi brings to life the idea of the French way of living: from simplicity comes elegance, from creativity comes boldness, from attention to detail comes flawless finishing, and from dedication comes value and heritage. This is what we aim to convey with our clothing—we want them to radiate freshness, joy, and care for children.

Visit us at our stores:

Zagreb - Jacadi Paris, Masarykova 14 (Tel: 01/2079-635)
Split - Jacadi Paris, City Center one (Tel: 021/666-685)

Or take advantage of our personal delivery service to your room at the Esplanade Hotel.

O Jacadi Paris

Već 40 godina Jacadi oblikuje djetinjstvo kroz odjeću koja spaja francusku eleganciju i odvažnu kreativnost. Svaki komad pažljivo je izrađen s ljubavlju prema detaljima, odražavajući radost, svježinu i brigu za djecu. Jacadi je više od odjeće – to je priča o ljepoti djetinjstva i posebnim trenucima koji ostaju u sjećanju.

Posjetite nas u poslovnicama:

Zagreb - Jacadi Paris, Masarykova 14 (tel.: 01/2079-635)
Split - Jacadi Paris, City Center one (tel.: 021/666-685).

Ili iskoristite uslugu osobne dostave u Vašu sobu Esplanade hotela.



100 YEARS OF THE ZAGREB ZOO
100 GODINA ZOOLOŠKOG VRTA GRADA ZAGREBA

From a Small Island to a Modern Oasis of Wildlife

Od malog otočića do moderne oaze divljeg svijeta

Alongside our hotel, which proudly celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, another important landmark in Zagreb shares this significant jubilee: the Zagreb Zoo, located in the heart of Maksimir, which has been attracting visitors and contributing to nature conservation for a century. Over the decades, the zoo has continuously evolved, introducing innovations and creating a unique experience for all generations.

Osim našeg hotela, koji ove godine s ponosom slavi svoju 100. obljetnicu, još jedna važna zagrebačka znamenitost slavi taj značajan jubilej. Riječ je o Zoološkom vrtu Grada Zagreba, smještenu u srcu Maksimira, koji već stotinu godina privlači posjetitelje i doprinosi očuvanju prirode. Desetljećima se vrt neprestano razvijao, uvodeći inovacije i stvarajući jedinstveno iskustvo za sve generacije.

The Zagreb Zoo was first opened on a small island in Maksimir, and its first residents were three foxes and three tawny owls. Soon after, they were joined by leopards, lions named Buršl, Paša, and Olga, the first polar bears Nikola and Selma, and a zebra named Venus. Before long, the "Oriental Villa" was built for camels and zebras—a structure that still stands today as a reminder of the zoo's rich history.

Zoološki vrt Grada Zagreba otvoren je na prvom otočiću u Maksimiru, a ubrzo su mu se pridružili prvi stanovnici – tri lisice i tri šumske sove. Nešto kasnije stigli su leopardi, lavovi Buršl, Paša i Olga, prvi polarni medvjedi Nikola i Selma te zebra Venus. Ubrzo je sagrađena i „Orientalna vila“ za deve i zebre, građevina koja i danas stoji kao podsjetnik na bogatu povijest vrta.

Author:
SARA DAKIĆ

Photo:
ARHIVA ZOOLOŠKOG VRTA
GRADA ZAGREBA



Over time, new attractions were added, including the Lion Bridge, the Monkey Pavilion, and two Egyptian sculptures created by Jozo Turkalj, all of which remain recognizable features of the zoo today. One of the more interesting events was a camel walking through Zagreb as zoo keepers led it to a check-up at the Veterinary Faculty, drawing great attention from citizens.

Throughout the years, the zoo welcomed new species, including penguins, vultures, giraffes, and tapirs. A new indoor area for hippopotamuses was also built. A significant milestone was the birth of the black rhinoceros, Eva, which marked a major success for the zoo.

Over time, the Zagreb Zoo became not only a home to many species but also an educational center. It opened its first educational hall, launched programs to raise awareness about endangered species, and joined the European and World Associations of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA and WAZA). Additionally, the Zagreb Zoo received an EAZA award for raising awareness about the conservation of European carnivores and primates.

Ivan Cizelj, director of the Zagreb Zoo Institution, explains: “Through changes in the zoo’s landscape, we can also see how our mission has evolved. In the beginning, the zoo was primarily a place where citizens could marvel at the magnificent world of animals. A hundred years ago, people could learn about animals from books, newspapers, and films, but only zoos provided a real glimpse into the wonders of wildlife from different corners of the world. As transportation improved, people began to travel more easily, and advancements in television, telecommunications, and information technology allowed them to learn about animals from even the most remote places on Earth. At the same time, zoos, including ours, became increasingly aware of their new key roles. Today, in addition to educating citizens, our main focus is on research and wildlife conservation. The species we house are not chosen based on their size or attractiveness—we must have a clear purpose for each one. Our goal is to contribute to wildlife conservation and educate visitors about the importance of protecting animal species.”

In recent decades, the zoo has continued modernizing and expanding its themed areas, including Rainforest Africa, African Village and Lemur Island, Trapper’s Hut as part of the North American zone, the Bird and Fish Pavilion, the Elephant and Tapir Enclosure, Kidepo Lion Rock (a new habitat for lions and African animals), and a new rehabilitation center for wild animals. “In zoos, we breed endangered species like red pandas, creating a backup population outside the wild. Individuals from zoos can help strengthen wild populations. Some species, like the scimitar-horned oryx, became extinct in the wild but were successfully reintroduced thanks to captive breeding programs supported by humans,” Cizelj emphasizes.

Changes have also been made to enhance the visitor experience. Initial visual barriers were removed, and herbivores were placed in open spaces separated by moats. For the first time in history, Swan Island was

S vremenom su dodavane nove atrakcije: Lavljí most, Paviljon za majmune i dvije egipatske skulpture koje je izradio Jozo Turkalj, a sve su te građevine i danas prepoznatljivi dijelovi vrta. Jedan od zanimljivijih događaja bio je šetnja deve kroz Zagreb, kada su timaritelti vodili devu na pregled na Veterinarski fakultet, što je izazvalo veliku pažnju građana.

S godinama su u vrt stizale nove vrste – pingvini, supovi, žirafe i tapiri, a otvoren je i novi unutarnji prostor za patuljaste vodenkonje. Važan trenutak bio je i rođenje crne nosorogice Eve, što je bio značajan uspjeh za zoološki vrt.

Tijekom godina, Zoološki vrt postao je ne samo dom mnogim vrstama, već i edukativni centar. Otvorena je prva edukacijska dvorana, pokrenuti su programi podizanja svijesti o zaštiti ugroženih životinja, a vrt se pridružio Europskoj i Svjetskoj organizaciji zooloških vrtova (EAZA i WAZA). Usto, Zagrebački Zoološki vrt dva puta je dobio i nagradu Europske asocijacije zooloških vrtova i akvarija (EAZA) za podizanje svijesti o zaštiti europskih zvijeri i očuvanju primata.

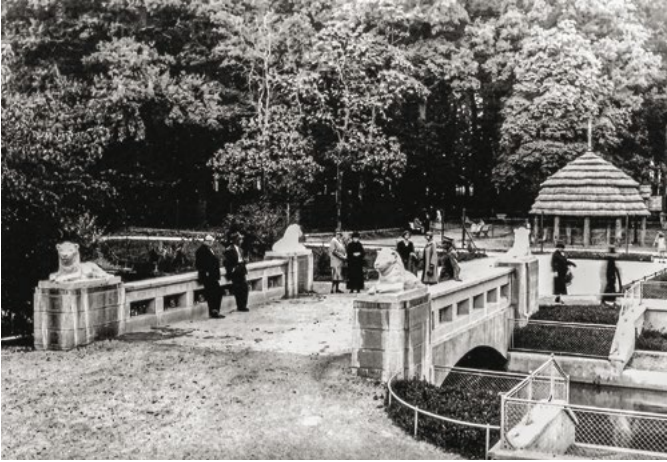
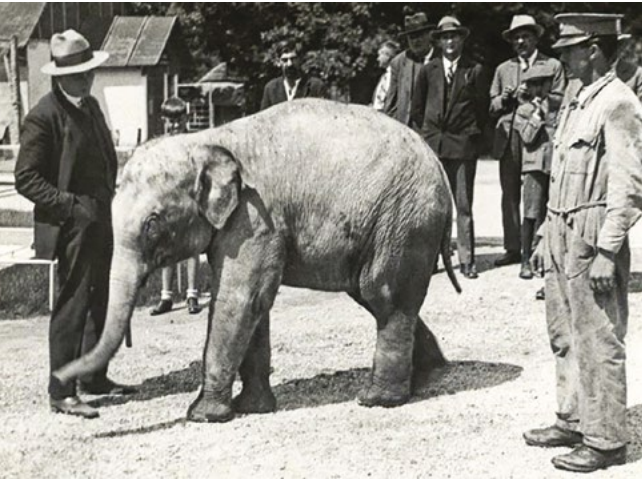
Ivan Cizelj, ravnatelj Ustanove Zoološki vrt Grada Zagreba, objašnjava: „Promjene u vizurama Zoološkog vrta pokazuju kako se mijenjala naša misija. U početku je Zoološki vrt bio mjesto gdje se građanima u prvom redu predstavljao veličanstven svijet životinja. Prije stotinu godina ljudi su nešto o njemu mogli saznati iz knjiga, novina i filmova, no tek su im zoološki vrtovi dali pravu sliku o čudesnim vrstama životinja iz raznih kutaka svijeta. Unaprijeđenjem prijevoza ljudi su počeli sve lakše putovati, a televizjska, telekomunikacijska i informatička tehnologija omogućile su im da upoznaju životinje čak i s najnedostupnijih mjesta na Zemlji. Istodobno su zoološki vrtovi, među kojima je i naš, osvježavali neke svoje nove ključne uloge. Uz edukaciju građana, u ovom se stoljeću najveći naglasak stavlja na istraživanje i zaštitu životinjskog svijeta. Životinjske vrste koje u Zoološkom vrtu Grada Zagreba možete upoznati ne biramo po veličini ni atraktivnosti. Za svaku moramo znati jasnu svrhu zašto je ondje. Važno nam je da se time doprinosi očuvanju životinjskog svijeta i edukaciji građana o važnosti njegove zaštite.”

Posljednjih desetljeća, Zoološki vrt nastavio je s modernizacijom i otvaranjem novih tematskih područja: Posljednjih desetljeća Zoološki vrt nastavio je s modernizacijom, otvaranjem novih tematskih područja i nastambi za životinje: Kišne Afrike, Afričkog sela, Traperske kolibe, Lavlje stijene Kidepo, volijere za afričke ptice močvarice i prostrane nastambe za smeđe medvjede. Otvoreno je i novo oporavilište za divlje životinje. „U zoološkim vrtovima uzgajamo ugrožene vrste životinja poput crvenih pandi. Tako se stvara rezervna populacija neke životinjske vrste izvan divljine. Jedinkama iz zooloških vrtova moguće je ojačati njihove populacije u divljini. Postoje i životinjske vrste poput sabljorogih oriksa koje su izumrle u divljini, a koje su upravo zahvaljujući jedinkama uzgojenima uz potporu ljudi, uspješno reintroducirane u prirodu,” ističe Cizelj.

Također, napravljene su promjene kako bi se poboljšao doživljaj posjetitelja – uklonjene su početne

The Zagreb Zoo is one of three zoos in Croatia, covering an area of seven hectares, and not many zoos can boast such a long tradition

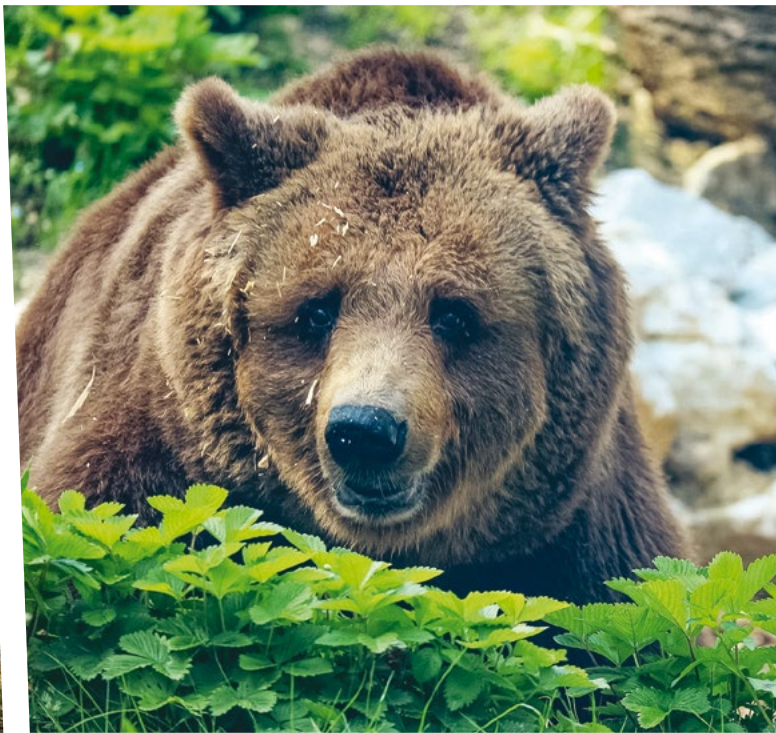
Zagrebački zoološki vrt jedan je od tri zoološka vrta u Hrvatskoj, prostire se na površini od sedam hektara i nema puno zooloških vrtova s tako dugom tradicijom



Over time, the Zagreb Zoo became not only a home to many species but also an educational center

Tijekom godina, Zoološki vrt postao je ne samo dom mnogim vrstama, već i edukativni centar





The people of Zagreb have always shown their love for animals. Many families keep cherished photos with exotic animals in their albums.

Zagrepčani nikada nisu skrivali svoju ljubav prema životinjama. Mnogi u obiteljskim albumima čuvaju svoje fotografije kraj egzotičnih životinja.

connected to the zoo, offering visitors an even richer experience, and an exhibition space called “Microworld of Maksimir Forest” was opened.

The Zagreb Zoo is covering an area of seven hectares, and not many zoos can boast such a long tradition.

Director Ivan Cizelj is excited to announce: “The main celebration of the zoo’s 100th anniversary for the public will take place on Saturday, June 28, 2025. Visitors can look forward to educational and entertaining programs that will connect our past, present, and future.” However, he encourages visitors not to plan their visit exclusively for that day. “Since it’s essential for both people and animals to feel comfortable in the zoo, we welcome visitors all year round. We are open every day, and almost every weekend, visitors can participate in engaging educational programs. We encourage them to talk to our educators, explore exhibits, join creative workshops, walk along our paths, and meet the animal species in our pavilions. We extend a special invitation to the youngest visitors! A love for animals begins at an early age, and from that love, responsibility and a desire to protect wildlife are born.”

The people of Zagreb have always shown their love for animals. Many families keep cherished photos with giraffes, elephants, and other exotic animals in their albums. However, the Zagreb Zoo is not just a place for family entertainment—it is a center for nature conservation and education. Over the past century, it has transformed from a small island in Maksimir into a modern wildlife oasis and remains one of the most beloved places for Zagreb residents and their guests.

The director reveals the Zoo’s plans for the future. “As part of the LIFE for Mauremys project, we have built an enclosure for river turtles and are involved in their ex-situ breeding program. Zagreb’s turtles will help strengthen wild populations in the south of the country. By the end of next year, we plan to breed 40 hatchlings that will be released into the restored and secured river turtle habitat in the Dubrovnik-Neretva County. So far, our breeding efforts have been successful—we have already raised 38 hatchlings. Additionally, we are currently constructing a new enclosure for gray wolves and renovating the habitat for griffon vultures.

The Zagreb Zoo Institution also manages the City of Zagreb Animal Shelter in Dumovec, where we are beginning the construction of a shelter for cats. This will finally provide proper accommodation for sick and injured cats, as well as litters of kittens abandoned by irresponsible owners,” adds Cizelj.

“We look forward to meeting citizens in this milestone year as we celebrate our first century!”

vizualne barijere te su biljojedi smješteni u otvorene prostore odvojene rovovima. Prvi put u povijesti, Labuđi otok povezan je sa Zoološkim vrtom, omogućujući posjetiteljima još bogatiji doživljaj te je otvoren izložbeni prostor pod nazivom „Mikrosvijet Maksimirske šume”.

Zagrebački zoološki vrt prostire se na površini od sedam hektara i nema puno zooloških vrtova s tako dugom tradicijom.

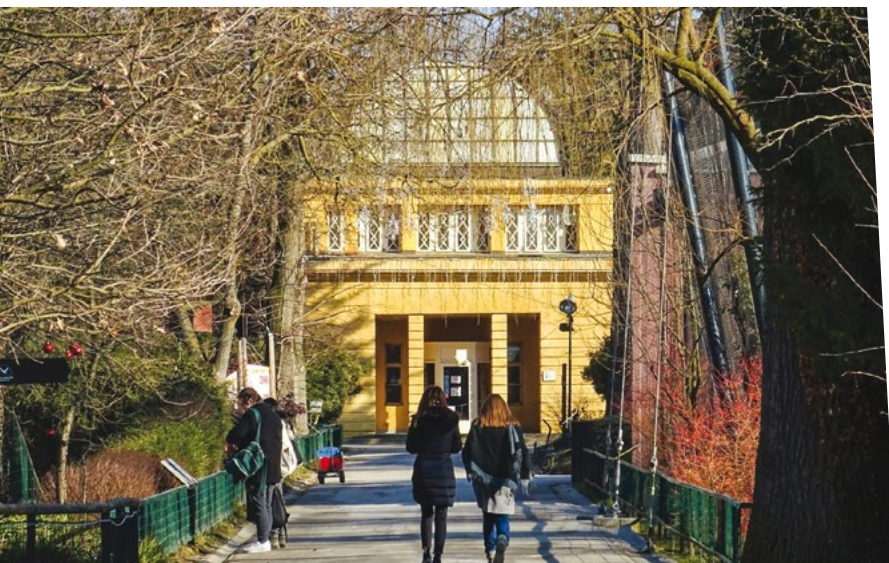
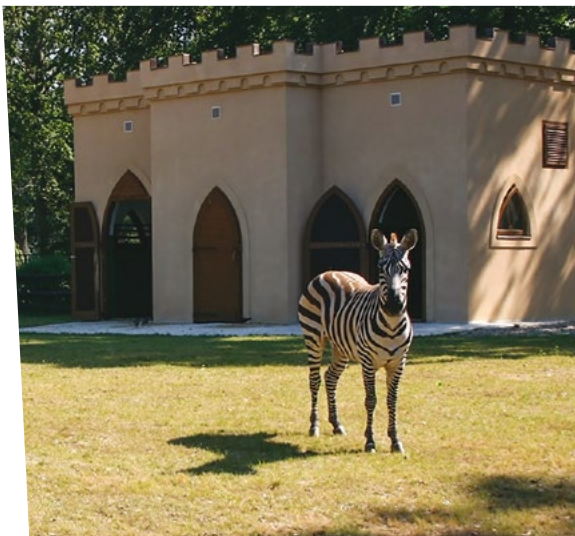
Ravnatelj Ivan Cizelj s veseljem najavljuje: „Središnju proslavu 100. godišnjice osnutka Vrtu za građane pripremamo u subotu 28. lipnja 2025. Posjetitelje očekuju edukativni i zabavni sadržaji kojima ćemo povezati našu prošlost, sadašnjost i budućnost.” Pritom posjetitelje poziva da dolazak ne planiraju isključivo taj dan. „Budući da nam je izuzetno važno da se u Vrtu dobro osjećaju i ljudi i životinje, građani mogu doći tijekom cijele godine. Otvoreni smo baš svaki dan, a gotovo svakog vikenda posjetitelje ovdje očekuju zanimljivi edukativni programi. Potičemo ih na razgovor s našim edukatorima, razgledavanje preparata, sudjelovanje u kreativnim radionicama, šetnje našim šetnicama, ali i upoznavanje životinjskih vrsta koje žive u našim paviljonima. Posebnu pozivnicu upućujemo najmlađima! Ljubav prema životinjama gaji se od malih nogu, a iz te ljubavi stvaraju se i odgovornost te želja za zaštitom životinjskog svijeta!”

Zagrepčani nikada nisu skrivali svoju ljubav prema životinjama. Mnogi u obiteljskim albumima čuvaju svoje fotografije kraj žirafa i slonova te drugih egzotičnih životinja, ali Zoološki vrt Zagreb nije samo mjesto za obiteljsku zabavu – to je centar za očuvanje prirode i edukaciju. Tijekom proteklih sto godina razvio se iz malog otočića u Maksimiru u modernu oazu divljeg svijeta i nastavlja biti jedno od omiljenih mjesta Zagrepčana i njihovih gostiju.

Ravnatelj nam otkriva i planove zoološkog vrta za budućnost: „U sklopu projekta *LIFE for Mauremys* u Vrtu smo izgradili nastambu za riječne kornjače i uključeni smo u njihov ex-situ uzgojni program. Zagrebačkim će se kornjačama tako ojačavati njihova populacija u prirodi – na jugu zemlje. Do kraja iduće godine trebamo uzgojiti 40 mladunaca koji će biti pušteni u obnovljeno i osigurano stanište riječne kornjače u Dubrovačko-neretvanskoj županiji. Za sada nam uzgoj riječnih kornjača ide jako dobro. Već smo uzgojili 38 mladunaca. Također, u Zoološkom vrtu Grada Zagreba trenutačno gradimo novu nastambu za sive vukove i uređujemo nastambu za bjeloglave supove.

U sklopu Ustanove Zoološki vrt Grada Zagreba djeluje i Sklonište za nezbrinute životinje Grada Zagreba u Dumovcu. Ondje počinje izgradnja skloništa za mačke. Time Sklonište konačno dobiva odgovarajuće smještajne kapacitete za bolesne i ozlijeđene mačke te legla mačića koje neodgovorni građani, nažalost, odbacuju”, i dodaje:

„Veselim se susretima s građanima u godini u kojoj slavimo svojih prvih sto godina!”





Lisboa Diary

Lisabonski dnevnik

Ease, laughter and lightheartedness flow throughout the new Weekend Max Mara advertising campaign for SS2025, starring model Grace Valentine, photographed by Sean Thomas in the pulsating heart of Lisbon, Portugal.

Bathed in soft sunlight, the imagery reflects the lively buzz of Lisbon's streets overflowing with life, where the bittersweet scent of oranges mingles with the fresh breeze from the Atlantic Ocean.

Lakoća, smijeh i bezbrižnost protječu kroz novu kampanju Weekend Max Mara za ovo proljeće i ljeto 2025. U glavnoj ulozi je model Grace Valentine fotografirana od strane Seana Thomasa u pulsirajućem srcu Lisabona u Portugalu.

Okupane blagim sunčevim svjetlom, fotografije odražavaju živahni žamor lisabonskih ulica punih života; dok se gorko slatki miris naranče miješa sa svježim povjetarcem Atlantskog oceana.



Illuminated by the city's warm glow, the Weekend Max Mara woman is ready for a warm-weather getaway, embarking on a journey of effortless elegance that celebrates history, beauty, and the joy of exploring Lisbon's more authentic off-the-beaten-path sites.

Trench coat and the Pasticcino Bag in rusty and earthy hues, embody a relaxed and versatile elegance.

Striped shirts and tees peeking out from leather jackets or soft blousons, roomy pantsuits, sporty toppers, jumpsuits, denim in all forms, and printed silk skirts are the ideal pieces to browse through the city's vibrant markets, local artisanal shops, quaint bakeries, and picturesque streets soaked in rich traditions.

Weekend Max Mara Zagreb store: Masarykova 17 street.

Obasjana toplim sjajem grada; Weekend Max Mara žena spremna je za bijeg, kreće na putovanje bezvremenske elegancije koja slavi povijest, ljepotu i radost istraživanja jedinstvenih, neutabanih lisabonskih staza.

Mantil od gabardina i Pasticcino torba u boji cigle i ostalim zemljanim tonovima pružaju joj opuštenu i svestranu eleganciju.

Košulje na pruge, maje koje izviruju ispod kožnih jakni ili mekanih kaputa, prostrana odijela, sportski gornji dijelovi, kombinezoni, denim u svim oblicima ili svilene suknje sa printom idealni su odjevni predmeti za istraživanje gradskih tržnica, lokalnih radionica, neobičnih pekarnica i pitoreskni ulica bogate tradicije.

Weekend Max Mara Zagreb: Masarykova 17.

PROMO

KVARNER European Region of Gastronomy

Kvarner, Europska regija gastronomije

The Kvarner region has long been known for its high-quality gastronomy and excellent wines, making it a favourite destination for gourmands

Kvarner je oduvijek bio regija vrhunske gastronomije i izvrsnih vina, a time i omiljena destinacija za ljubitelje kulinarskih doživljaja

In every season, Kvarner offers countless stories within a relatively small area. The region encompasses the Opatija Riviera, the Crikvenica-Vinodol Riviera, the city of Rijeka and its surroundings, the islands of Krk, Cres, Lošinj and Rab, as well as the mountainous Gorski Kotar, which are all geographically well-located, with excellent transport links.

Kvarner is a destination with a vibrant gastronomic scene, stunning beaches, and plenty of opportunities for an active holiday. The combination of wind, sea, and Mediterranean herbs, with more than 200 sunny days a year, creates a natural outdoor aromatherapy experience, which promotes easier breathing and enhances both physical and spiritual well-being. Tourism in the region dates back to the 19th century, when Opatija—and later the island of Lošinj and Crikvenica—were declared climatic health resorts by imperial decree.

The Kvarner region has long been known for its high-quality gastronomy and excellent wines, making it a favourite destination for gourmands. Thanks to its rich history at the crossroads of cultures and civilizations, its unique blend of sea, islands, and mountains, and the interweaving of maritime and continental climates, Kvarner boasts an abundance of top-quality, distinctive ingredients. Its gastronomic heritage continues to evolve through the cuisines of the coast, islands, and Gorski Kotar, while the experience of authentic flavours is further enriched by local wines made from indigenous grape varieties. Due to these unique characteristics and its highly developed dining scene, Kvarner's restaurants and wineries carry regional quality labels such as "Kvar-

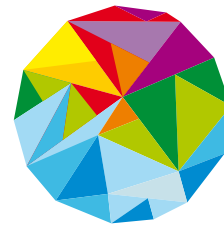
U svako godišnje doba Kvarner nudi mnogo priča na relativno malom području, gdje su zemljopisno i prometno odlično smještene Opatijska rivijera, Crikveničko-vinodolska rivijera, zatim grad Rijeka s okolicom, kao i otoci Krk, Cres, Lošinj i Rab, te brdski Gorski kotar. Destinacija je to s uzbudljivom gastro-scenom, s magičnim plažama, ali prepuna i izazova za aktivan odmor. Aromaterapija na otvorenom zahvaljujući kombinaciji vjetrova, mora i mediteranskog bilja, uz više od 200 sunčanih dana godišnje, olakšava disanje i pridonosi dobrom fizičkom i duhovnom stanju. Vrata turizmu otvorena su još u 19. stoljeću, kada su carskim dekretom Opatija, a zatim otok Lošinj i Crikvenica proglašeni klimatskim lječilištima.

Kvarner je oduvijek bio regija vrhunske gastronomije i izvrsnih vina, a time i omiljena destinacija za ljubitelje kulinarskih doživljaja. Zahvaljujući bogatoj povijesti na raskrižju kultura i civilizacija, jedinstvenom spoju mora, otoka i gorja, te ispreplitanju maritimne i kontinentalne klime, regija Kvarner obiluje vrhunskim i prepoznatljivim namirnicama. Gastronomsko nasljeđe stalno se nadograđuje u jelima primorske, otočne i goranske kuhinje, a potpun doživljaj autentičnih okusa zaokružuju lokalna vina od autohtonih sorti. Zbog ovih posebnosti i izvrsnosti ugostiteljske ponude kvarnerski restorani i vinarije obilježeni su regionalnim oznakama kvalitete

Photo: PAVELA DIGITAL



Photo: LILI BAŠIĆ



KVARNER REGION TOURIST BOARD
KVARNER
Diversity is beautiful



It is a destination with a vibrant gastronomic scene, stunning beaches, and plenty of opportunities for an active holiday
Destinacija je to s uzbudljivom gastro-scenom, s magičnim plažama, ali prepuna i izazova za aktivan odmor

ner Gourmet” and “Kvarner Wines” and are regularly featured in prestigious international guides such as Michelin, Gault&Millau, JRE, Falstaff, and others.

In addition, Kvarner—the only region in Croatia to hold the title of European Region of Gastronomy for 2026—proudly welcomes visitors from all over the world.

„Kvarner Gourmet” i „Kvarner Wines” te već godinama uvršteni u svjetske vodiče kao što su Michelin, Gault&Millau, JRE, Falstaff i drugi.

Uza sve to, Kvarner kao jedini hrvatski nositelj titule Europske regije gastronomije za 2026. godinu s ponosom poziva posjetitelje iz cijelog svijeta.



Challenge All Your Senses in Kvarner Region!



Authentic Flavors and Finest Ingredients

Autentični okusi i vrhunski sastojci



Located in the heart of Rovinj, right by its stunning coast, Al Dente Rovinj offers a unique gastronomic experience that blends Italian and Mediterranean cuisine with the local charm of Istria. Our philosophy is rooted in fresh, authentic flavors and the finest ingredients. The restaurant's specialty lies in its handmade pasta, crafted daily from organic eggs and durum wheat, preserving a homemade taste that evokes childhood memories. Al Dente brings a fine dining experience where every plate becomes a work of art, carefully created by our chefs who combine exceptional technique with creativity and a passion for food. The menu is enriched with seasonal Istrian ingredients such as fish, truffles, and cheeses, creating a harmony of flavors that delights the palate. With a spacious terrace overlooking the sea and Rovinj's charming architecture, Al Dente is the perfect spot for a leisurely lunch or a sunset dinner.

For reservations, visit us at www.aldenterovinj.hr and surrender to the art of taste.

Restoran Al Dente Rovinj smješten je u srcu Rovinja, uz predivnu obalu, nudeći jedinstveno gastronomsko iskustvo koje spaja talijansku i mediteransku kuhinju s lokalnim istarskim šarmom. Naša filozofija temelji se na svježim, autentičnim okusima i vrhunskim sastojcima. Posebnost restorana leži u ručno rađenoj tjestenini koja se priprema svakodnevno od organskih jaja i durum pšenice, zadržavajući domaći okus koji vraća u djetinjstvo. Al Dente donosi fine dining iskustvo u kojem svaki tanjur postaje umjetničko djelo, pažljivo kreiran od strane naših kuhara koji spajaju vrhunsku tehniku s kreativnošću i strašću za hranom. Jelovnik obogaćujemo sezonskim istarskim namirnicama poput ribe, tartufa i sireva, stvarajući harmoniju okusa koja oduševljava nepca. Prostrana terasa s pogledom na more i šarmantnu arhitekturu Rovinja čini Al Dente idealnim mjestom za uživanje u laganoj ručki ili večeri uz zalazak sunca.

Rezervirajte svoje mjesto na www.aldenterovinj.hr i prepustite se umjetnosti okusa.



MILAN, SS25

What Makes You, You?

Što te čini svojim?

Present with 235 stores in more than 61 countries, Boggi Milano brand has affirmed worldwide as an undeniable icon of Italian men's style. Building on solid roots in formal, the company has recently consolidated its market leadership by focusing on innovation, technology and sustainability, with an eclectic proposal of Italian (Life)style that embraces casual/informal, active, all the way to contemporary fashion. The SS25 campaign aims to mark an important evolutionary step in the Brand's vision, and highlights its identity at the convergence point between heritage and innovation. The new chapter in the company's communication empowers its beating heart - individuals, who have always been at the core of

Boggi Milano brand prisutan je na 235 prodajnih mjesta, u više od 61-e države svijeta; gdje je afirmiran kao neosporna ikona talijanske muške mode. Izgrađen na čvrstim korijenima formalnog, a od nedavno učvršćuje svoj vodeći položaj na tržištu fokusirajući se na inovacije, tehnologiju i održivost; sa eklektičnom ponudom talijanskog stila i života koji obuhvaća casual i neformalno, sve od aktivnog stila do klasične, suvremene mode. Kampanja SS25 ima za cilj označiti bitan evolucijski korak u viziji brenda koji naglašava njegov identitet koji spaja naslijeđe i inovaciju. Novo poglavlje u komunikaciji brenda naglašava i osnažuje vlastitu srž- pojedinca koji je uvijek u središtu kreativnosti i strasti; i njegov odnos sa povije-



creativity, passion, the history of Boggi Milano and the unique style that the brand has exported to the world. With an original narrative, SS25 explores Boggi Milano's universe through the faces of its community, the mirror of its essence: different personalities, interests and lifestyles that find in the brand's unique style the common space to express themselves. Boggi Milano is a welcoming place for passions and emotions, as eclectic as brand styles. It is a positive dimension, where people are united by the pleasure of being together. It is a community without limits of age or gender where you can feel, and be, yourself.

šću brenda Boggi Milano i jedinstvenog stila koji prezentira svijetu. Ova jedinstvena priča kroz kolekciju SS25 i svemir brenda Boggi Milano spaja protagoniste unutar zajednice: različite osobnosti, interese i stilove života koji u prepoznatljivom stilu brenda pronalaze zajednički prostor za izražavanje. Boggi Milano mjesto je dobrodošlice za strast i emociju, baš kao što je što je i stil brenda. Glavna misao je ujedinjena pozitivna dimenzija u kojoj su na jednom mjestu ljudi spojeni kroz zadovoljstvo zajedničkog bivanja. Boggi Milano je zajednica u kojoj ne postoje ograničenja u dobi, spolu; jedini uvjet jest biti i osjećati se svoj.

BOGGI

M I L A N O

www.boggi.com

Location of Boggi Milano store in Zagreb: Teslina street 8, Zagreb

Lokacija zagrebačkog prodajnog mjesta Boggi Milano: Ulica Nikole Tesle 8, Zagreb

MUSEUM MUZEJ

HaHaHouse

the World's First Museum of Laughter

HaHaHouse, prvi muzej smijeha u svijetu

Zagreb holds the title of the city with the highest number of galleries and museums per capita in Europe. Following the Museum of Broken Relationships and the Museum of Illusions, another venue has opened its doors—one predicted to have an equally bright future: the Museum of Laughter!

Zagreb nosi titulu grada s najvećim brojem galerija i muzeja po stanovniku u Europi, a nakon Muzeja prekinutih veza i Muzeja iluzija otvoren je još jedan kojemu predviđamo jednako uspješnu budućnost – Muzej smijeha!

On World Laughter Day, January 10th, HaHaHouse, the world's first museum dedicated to laughter, officially opened its doors. That weekend, laughter echoed through the very heart of the city as more than 2,000 visitors joined in the fun.

In today's fast-paced, unpredictable world, enjoying the moment can be difficult, but many would agree that everyday tasks become much easier with laughter. Among the most intriguing exhibits is the animated character Mr. H., an eccentric museum guide who humorously critiques the seriousness of modern society with his sarcastic remarks. Joining him is a smartphone that takes on the role of a "virtual comedian"

Na Svjetski dan smijeha, 10. siječnja, otvoren je HaHaHouse, prvi muzej smijeha u svijetu. Tog se vikenda u samom centru grada orio smijeh preko 2 000 posjetitelja.

U suvremenome, užurbanome i nepredvidivom svijetu teško je uživati u trenutku, ali mnogi će se složiti kako su uz smijeh svakodnevne obaveze puno jednostavnije. Među najzanimljivijim eksponatima zasigurno je animirani lik Mr. H., osebujni vodič kroz muzej koji sarkastičnim komentarima duhovito kritizira ozbiljnost suvremenog društva. Uz njega, tu su i pametni telefon koji preuzima ulogu „virtualnog komičara“ i „vječnog objašnjavača šala“ te jedna

Author:
SARA DAKIĆ
Photo:
LUKŠA MAROTTI





On World Laughter Day, January 10th, HaHaHouse, the world's first museum dedicated to laughter, officially opened its doors

Na Svjetski dan smijeha, 10. siječnja, otvoren je Ha-HaHouse, prvi muzej smijeha u svijetu

and "eternal joke explainer," along with a charming hen who takes a little longer to get the punchlines than everyone else. Through humorous scenes, these characters bring everyday situations to life, offering a fresh and cheerful perspective on everyday experiences.

The saying "laughter is the best medicine" exists for a reason—scientific research confirms that regular laughter provides numerous health benefits. When we laugh, various muscles in our body are activated, improving circulation and helping to reduce stress while relaxing the body. Additionally, laughter encourages deeper breathing and increases oxygen intake, stimulating the heart, brain, and lungs. It also enhances mood, alleviates symptoms of anxiety and depression, and boosts self-confidence.

Thus, in addition to uplifting visitors' spirits, the museum is also dedicated to health and education. Through fun and interactive installations, visitors will learn about the history of laughter and explore the most famous humor styles and cultural references.

This unique idea is the brainchild of Andrea Golubić, the museum's founder, who, along with local and international designers, architects, and artists, created a space that fuses humor, art, and modern technology to provide an unforgettable experience filled with laughter and positive vibes for visitors of all generations. Plans include special guest appearances, birthday celebrations for adults, team-building events, and specially organized tours for those who need a laughter boost the most. More than three years passed from idea to realization, but despite numerous challenges, Andrea remained committed to her mission: making humor an integral part of Zagreb's cultural scene.

simpatična koka koja fore kopča malo sporije od svih ostalih. Svi ti likovi humorističnim prizorima oživljavaju svakodnevne situacije i donose novu i veselu perspektivu na poznate životne trenutke.

Izreka „smijeh je najbolji lijek“ postoji s razlogom – znanstvena istraživanja potvrđuju da redovito smijanje donosi brojne zdravstvene koristi. Kada se smijemo, aktiviramo različite mišiće u tijelu, što poboljšava cirkulaciju i pomaže u smanjenju stresa te opuštanju organizma. Osim toga, smijeh potiče dublje disanje i unos veće količine kisika, čime se stimulira rad srca, mozga i pluća. Dodatna je prednost poboljšanje raspoloženja, smanjenje simptoma anksioznosti i depresije te jačanje samopouzdanja.

Dakle, osim podizanja raspoloženja posjetitelja, muzej je posvećen i brizi o zdravlju te edukaciji. Uz zabavne i interaktivne instalacije posjetitelji će moći naučiti više o povijesti smijeha i upoznati se s najpoznatijim stilovima humora i primjerima iz popularne kulture.

Za ovu jedinstvenu ideju zaslužna je Andrea Golubić, osnivačica muzeja koja je uz domaće i inozemne dizajnere, arhitekte i umjetnike osmislila prostor u kojem su spojili humor, umjetnost i suvremenu tehnologiju kako bi posjetiteljima svih generacija pružili nezaboravno iskustvo prepuno smijeha i dobrih vibracija. U planu su posebna gostovanja, ali i organizacija rođendana za odrasle, *team buildinga* i posebno organiziranih tura za one kojima je doza smijeha trenutačno najpotrebnija. Od ideje do realizacije prošlo je više od tri godine, ali brojne prepreke nisu zaustavile Andreu u onome što je naumila: da humor postane dio zagrebačkog života.



In addition to uplifting visitors' spirits, the museum is also dedicated to health and education

Osim podizanja raspoloženja posjetitelja, muzej je posvećen i brizi o zdravlju te edukaciji

We believe that a visit to this museum, located at Gajeva 7, can brighten even the gloomiest days, leaving even the pickiest humor enthusiasts with a smile on their faces. Forget about the traffic jams on your way here and leave all your worries at the door. To help with that, the museum even offers a "rinse zone" and a slide in the "Centrifuge of Life," symbolically washing away all negative thoughts. Once you slide down, you'll enter the permanent exhibition of HaHaHouse, where even more surprises await!

Vjerujemo kako posjet tom muzeju, na adresi Gajeva 7, može razvedriti i najtmurnije dane te kako će i oni najzahtjevniji što se humora tiče iz njega izići s osmijehom na licu. Zaboravite gužvu u kojoj ste zapeli na putu ovamo i ostavite sve probleme na pragu. Oko toga će vam dodatno pomoći zona „ispiranja“ te tobogan smješten u „Centrifugi života“ kojim simbolično ispiramo sve ono loše što je ostalo u našim mislima, a kad se spustite, naići ćete na stalni postav HaHaHousea gdje ćete otkriti što vas još čeka.



The Art of Indulgence: fine wines, wine workshops and gourmet delights in the heart of Zagreb

*Umjetnost uživanja: fina vina, vinske radionice
i gourmet užiteci u centru Zagreba*

Moments Wine & Fine Shop, located at 9 Masarykova St., is an absolute must-visit for connoisseurs of exquisite wines and gourmet delights. With an abundance of renowned wine labels from around the world alongside the Croatian wine scene, it's a place where you can embark on a sensory journey.

Picture yourself holding a glass of champagne in your hand and travelling to the sun-kissed French vineyards in one moment, and in the next sip, you feel the spirit of Plešivica, a prestige local wine region. "Moments" is exactly as it sounds like - a place for creating your unforgettable moments.

Moments vinoteka i kušaonica, smještena u Masarykovo 9, nezaobilazna je destinacija za poznavatelje vrhunskih vina i gastronomskih užitaka. S obiljem renomiranih vinskih etiketa iz cijelog svijeta uz hrvatsku vinsku scenu, mjesto je gdje se možete upustiti u istinsko osjetilno putovanje.

Zamislite kako s čašom šampanjca u ruci u jednom trenutku putujete u osunčane francuske vinograde, a u sljedećem gutljaju osjećate duh Plešivice, prestižne vinske regije. "Moments" je upravo onakav kako i zvuči - mjesto za stvaranje vaših nezaboravnih trenutaka.



ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Discover personalized wine workshops led by expert sommeliers from Moments Wine & Fine Shop. All your expectations will be exceeded with endless possibilities; tasting accompanied by a violin, private wine gatherings, themed workshops, tasting delicacies from the world scene and much more!

Moments Wine & Fine Shop is more than a wine store; it is an immersive eno-gastro experience that fulfills your every wish, turning moments into unforgettable memories.

Otkrijte personalizirane vinske radionice vođene timom stručnih sommeliera iz Moments vinoteke. Vaša očekivanja bit će nadmašena beskrajnim mogućnostima; kušanja u pratnji violine, privatna vinska okupljanja, tematske radionice, kušanje delikatesa sa svjetske scene i mnogo više!

Moments vinoteka i kušaonica više je od vinoteke; to je impresivno eno-gastro iskustvo koje ispunjava svaku vašu želju, pretvarajući trenutke u nezaboravne uspomene.



SURPRISE YOUR PALATE

Surprise your palate with our custom-made menus with the finest delicacies and fresh ingredients. Enjoy your morning with our Hot cheese, a combination of warmed Le pico chevre cheese, bread, spices and more surprises, or indulge in a real french combination of goose liver Rougie, bread, butter, Chutney and spices, called Pâte moment.

Iznenadite svoje nepce s našim posebnim jelovnicima s najfinijim delikatesama i svježim namirnicama. Uživajte u svojem jutru uz Hot cheese, kombinaciju zagrijanog Le pico chevre sira, kruha, začina i drugih iznenađenja ili se upustite u pravu francusku kombinaciju gušćje jetre Rougie, kruha, Chutneya i začina, nazvanih Pâte moment.



TERRA FALCONIS

The house sparkling wine of Moments wine & fine shop, Terra Falconis, honors the noble Erdödy family's tradition and the craft of fine bubbles. The Extra Brut blend, mainly Chardonnay with three Pinots, hails from Plešivica vineyards, from Borička and Polak areas which give the wine a unique touch of terroirs.

Aged 15 months on the lees and 5 months in the bottle, it offers freshness, maturity and just 2 g/L dosage. With a vibrant aroma and a balanced structure, it's perfect as an aperitif or paired with diverse dishes.

Kućni pjenušac vinoteke i kušaonice Moments, Terra Falconis, oдаje počast tradiciji plemenite obitelji Erdödy i zanatu finih mjehurića. Blend Extra Brut, većinski je od sorte Chardonnay i podržan s tri Pinot-a, potječe s plešivičkog vinogorja, s područja Borička i Polak koji vinu daju jedinstvenu notu terroira.

Odležao je 15 mjeseci na talozima, te još 5 mjeseci u boci, a nudi svježinu, zrelost i samo 2 g/L dosage-a. Terra Falconis Extra Brut pjenušac je uravnotežene i ugodne strukture s izuzetno bogatom aromom i odličan je kao aperitiv, ali i uz širok raspon jela.



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PROMO

Discover Vila Kumrovec – A Hidden Gem of Zagorje

Otkrijte Vilu Kumrovec –
Skriveni dragulj Zagorja

Vila Kumrovec
is one of the
most valuable
cultural
treasures of this
region

Vila Kumrovec
jedno je od
najvrjednijih
kulturnih blaga
ovog kraja



Nestled on a picturesque hill above the Staro Selo Kumrovec Museum, **Vila Kumrovec** is one of the most valuable cultural treasures of this region. This architecturally flawless building, surrounded by 8 hectares of beautiful arboretum, was placed under the management of the Municipality of Kumrovec in 2023, which is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing this historical landmark.

Built in 1947 as hotel Kumrovec, the villa was transformed in 1962 into a presidential residence, becoming a witness to key moments in the history of our country. Today, the villa offers a unique opportunity for tours with expert guidance, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the history, architecture, and cultural heritage of Kumrovec.

Smještena na slikovitom brežuljku iznad Muzeja Staro selo Kumrovec, **Vila Kumrovec** jedno je od najvrjednijih kulturnih blaga ovog kraja. Ova arhitektonski savršena građevina, okružena s 8 hektara predivnog arboretuma, u 2023. godini prešla je u upravljanje Općine Kumrovec, koja je posvećena očuvanju i revitalizaciji ovog povijesnog objekta.

Izgrađena 1947. godine kao hotel Kumrovec, vila je 1962. godine preuređena u predsjedničku rezidenciju, čime je postala svjedok ključnih trenutaka povijesti naše zemlje. Danas, vila nudi jedinstvenu priliku za razgledavanje uz stručno vodstvo, koje posjetiteljima omogućuje duboko uranjanje u povijest, arhitekturu i kulturnu baštinu Kumrovca.

Built in 1947 as
hotel Kumrovec,
the villa was
transformed
in 1962 into a
presidential
residence

Izgrađena
1947. godine
kao hotel
Kumrovec, vila
je 1962. godine
preuređena u
predsjedničku
rezidenciju





With its rich history and enchanting ambiance, Vila Kumrovec perfectly blends the past and the present

Svojom bogatom poviješću i očaravajućim ambijentom, Vila Kumrovec savršeno spaja prošlost i sadašnjost

With its rich history and enchanting ambiance, **Vila Kumrovec** perfectly blends the past and the present. The lush arboretum, rich in plant species typical of the area, provides a peaceful space for relaxation and enjoying nature, while the architectural details of the villa tell the story of life and cultural customs from times gone by.

For lovers of history, culture, and nature, **Vila Kumrovec** is an unmissable destination that brings the past of Kumrovec to life, offering an unforgettable experience. Plan your visit with prior notice and enjoy discovering this cultural gem.

Vila Kumrovec – Discover the beauty of the past in the heart of Zagorje!

Svojom bogatom poviješću i očaravajućim ambijentom, **Vila Kumrovec** savršeno spaja prošlost i sadašnjost. Zeleni arboretum, bogat biljnom florom tipičnom za ovo područje, pruža miran prostor za opuštanje i uživanje u prirodi, dok arhitektonski detalji vile pričaju priču o životu i kulturnim običajima iz prošlih vremena.

Za ljubitelje povijesti, kulture i prirode, **Vila Kumrovec** je nezaobilazna destinacija koja oživljava prošlost Kumrovca i nudi neponovljiv doživljaj. Planirajte svoj posjet uz prethodnu najavu i uživajte u otkrivanju ovog kulturnog dragulja.

Vila Kumrovec – Otkrijte ljepotu prošlosti u srcu Zagorja!



Skriveni dragulj Zagorja

VILA KUMROVEC

Izgrađena 1947. godine kao hotel Kumrovec, vila je 1962. godine preuređena u predsjedničku rezidenciju, čime je postala svjedok ključnih trenutaka povijesti naše zemlje.

Otkrijte ljepotu prošlosti u srcu Zagorja!



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Za ljubitelje povijesti, kulture i prirode, Vila Kumrovec je nezaobilazna destinacija koja oživljava prošlost Kumrovca i nudi neponovljiv doživljaj.



Ivica Max Krizmanić Named European Hotel Manager of the Year 2025

Ivica Max Krizmanić proglašen Europskim
hotelijskim menadžerom godine 2025.

At a prestigious awards ceremony in the Polish capital, the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA) honored Ivica Max Krizmanić, General Manager of the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel, with the title of European Hotel Manager of the Year 2025.

Na svečanoj dodjeli održanoj u poljskoj prijestolnici prestižno Europsko udruženje hotelijerskih menadžera (EHMA) proglasilo je Ivicu Maxa Krizmanića, generalnog direktora hotela Esplanade Zagreb, Europskim hotelijerskim menadžerom godine 2025.

This is the most prestigious individual recognition awarded by EHMA to its members. In a highly competitive field of top European hoteliers - representing renowned establishments, Krizmanić earned this award due to his years of dedication, outstanding leadership, continuous growth at one of Croatia's most prestigious hotels, strategic planning, staff development, and active contributions to both the local community and the hospitality industry.

The award ceremony coincided with a major milestone—100 years of the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel, which first opened in 1925 to accommodate travelers on the legendary Orient Express and has since become a symbol of luxury tourism in the region.

"It is a great honor to receive this recognition, especially from colleagues and experts from Europe's top

Riječ je o najprestižnijemu individualnom priznanju koje EHMA dodjeljuje svojim članovima. U snažnoj konkurenciji vrhunskih hotelijera iz cijele Europe, Krizmanić je osvojio ovu nagradu zahvaljujući dugogodišnjoj predanosti tom poslu, iznimnim rezultatima u vođenju jednoga od najprestižnijih hrvatskih hotela, ostvarenju kontinuiranog rasta hotela, strateškom planiranju, razvoju zaposlenika te aktivnom doprinosu lokalnoj zajednici i hotelijerskoj struci.

Dodjela priznanja poklopila se i s velikom obljetnicom - 100 godina postojanja hotela Esplanade, koji je 1925. godine otvoren za putnike legendarnog Orient Expressa, a danas slovi kao ikona luksuznog turizma u regiji.

„Velika je čast primiti ovo priznanje, posebno kada dolazi od kolega i stručnjaka iz vrhunskih europskih

Photo:
EHMA ARCHIVE



hotels who share my passion for luxury hospitality. This prestigious award is a testament to the dedication of the entire Esplanade team, who continuously elevate standards of excellence and hospitality. In the year we celebrate a century of the Esplanade, this award further confirms its immense value and influence in European and global hospitality," said Ivica Max Krizmanić.

Founded in 1974 in Rome, the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA) today unites nearly 500 top professionals managing over 1,200 of the most luxurious hotels across 24 European countries. EHMA presents this award annually at its flagship gala event, bringing together leading hoteliers and industry partners. EHMA President and General Manager of Ella Resorts in Greece, Panos Almyrantis, emphasized that Krizmanić's career embodies the association's core values—excellence, leadership, and innovation in hospitality: "Ivica is raising hospitality standards through his work while successfully combining modern leadership with deep respect for tradition. Under his management, the Esplanade Zagreb Hotel has become a symbol of local culture and world-class service at the European level."

hotela koji dijele moju strast prema luksuznom hotelijerstvu. Ova prestižna nagrada predstavlja priznanje predanosti cijelog tima hotela Esplanade koji svakodnevno podiže standarde izvrsnosti i gostoprimitstva. U godini kada obilježavamo stoljeće Esplanade, ova nagrada dodatno potvrđuje njegovu neizmjerenu vrijednost i utjecaj u europskom i svjetskom hotelijerstvu", izjavio je Ivica Max Krizmanić.

Osnovano 1974. godine u Rimu, Europsko udruženje hotelijerskih menadžera (EHMA) danas okuplja gotovo 500 vrhunskih profesionalaca koji upravljaju s više od 1200 najluksuznijih hotela u 24 europske države. EHMA ovu nagradu dodjeljuje svake godine na središnjemu svečanom događaju koji okuplja brojne uzvanike, hotelijere i partnere. Predsjednik EHMA-e i direktor hotela Ella Resorts u Grčkoj, Panos Almyrantis, istaknuo je da Krizmanićeva karijera utjelovljuje vrijednosti udruženja - izvrsnost, liderstvo i inovaciju u hotelijerstvu: „Ivica svojim radom podiže hotelijerske standarde, ali i uspješno spaja suvremeno vodstvo s dubokim poštovanjem tradicije. Hotel Esplanade pod njegovim je upravljanjem postao simbol lokalne kulture i vrhunske usluge na europskoj razini."



A Century of Tradition Illuminated by a Spectacular Light Show

*Sto godina tradicije obasjano
svjetlosnim spektaklom*

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Zagreb's iconic hotel, the Esplanade, the Festival of Lights Zagreb was officially opened with a glamorous light installation on the hotel's façade, titled the Circle of Light.

Povodom obilježavanja 100. obljetnice zagrebačke ikone hotelijerstva glamuroznom je svjetlosnom instalacijom na pročelju hotela Esplanade, pod nazivom „Circle of Light“, svečano otvoren Festival svjetla Zagreb.

Photo:
GORAN JAKUŠ,
BRUNO FANTULIN



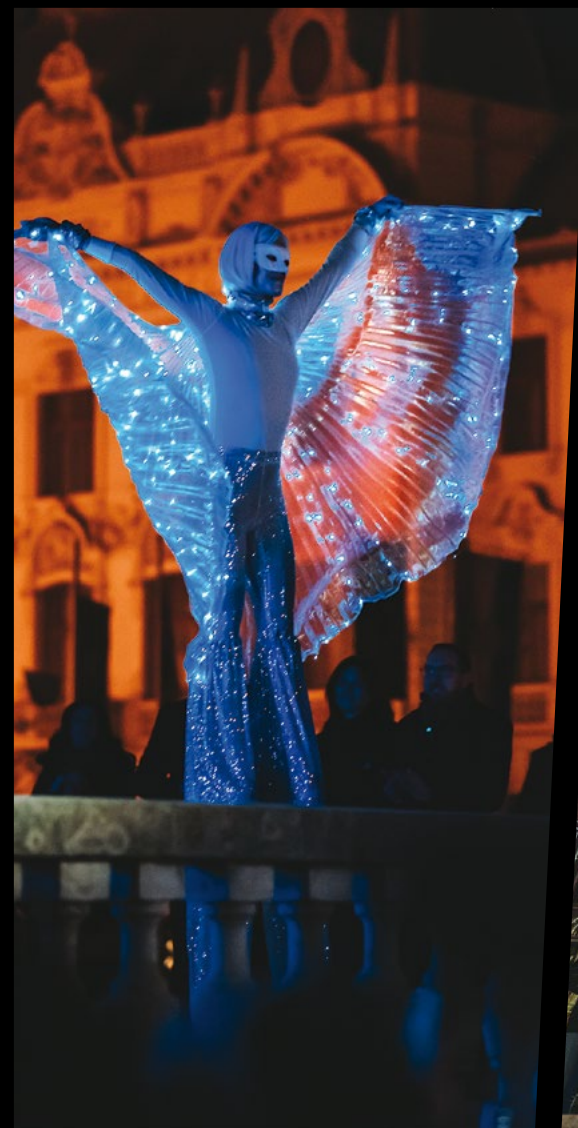
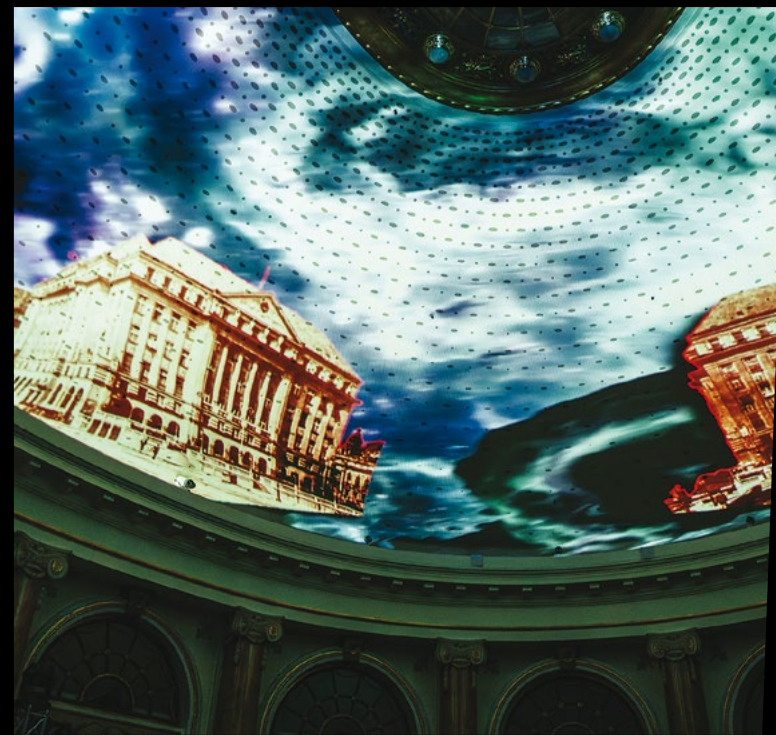


Sensational 3D projections, created through a collaboration between top Croatian and German artists under the leadership of the Zagreb Tourist Board, brought the elegance and glamour of past eras to life on the historic architecture of the Esplanade. These breathtaking visuals illustrated the remarkable history of the hotel, which first opened its doors on April 22, 1925, originally built for passengers of the legendary Orient Express.

The Festival of Lights Zagreb, which Forbes included among the top 10 must-visit festivals in Europe in 2025, was officially inaugurated at Ante Starčević Square before a large audience by Minister of Tourism and Sports Tonči Glavina, Mayor of Zagreb Tomislav Tomašević, and Director of the Zagreb Tourist Board Martina Bienenfeld.

Senzacionalni 3D prikazi nastali u suradnji vrhunskih hrvatskih i njemačkih umjetnika pod vodstvom Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba na povijesnoj arhitekturi Esplanade oživjeli su eleganciju i glamur prošlih vremena te dočarali zadivljujuću povijest hotela koji je izgrađen za putnike legendarnog Orient Expressa i otvoren 22. travnja davne 1925. godine.

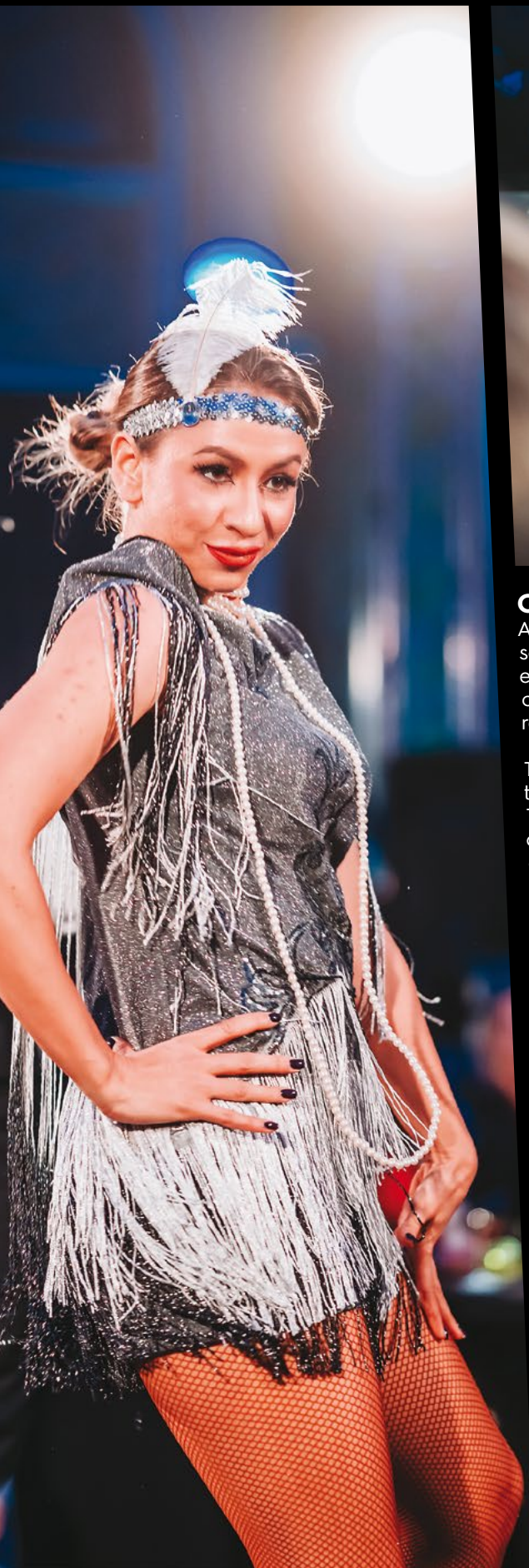
Festival svjetla Zagreb, koji je magazin Forbes uvrstio među 10 nezaobilaznih festivala u Europi u 2025. godini, svečano su na Trgu Ante Starčevića pred mnogobrojnim posjetiteljima otvorili ministar turizma i sporta Tonči Glavina, zagrebački gradonačelnik Tomislav Tomašević i direktorica Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba Martina Bienenfeld.



During the five-day festival, the city shone in its full glory, and visitors had the opportunity to enjoy diverse light installations, artistic projections, and 3D mapping at as many as 25 locations in addition to the Esplanade.

Tijekom pet dana trajanja festivala grad je zasjaao u punom sjaju, a posjetitelji su osim Esplanade, mogli uživati u raznolikim svjetlosnim instalacijama, umjetničkim projekcijama i 3D mappingu na čak 25 lokacija.





CAKE AND BUBBLY FOR THE 100TH BIRTHDAY

As part of the festival's opening, distinguished guests from Zagreb's social scene gathered in the magical ambiance of the Esplanade to experience a magnificent light projection and an exclusive historical showcase on the ceiling of the Emerald Ballroom. Together, they raised a toast to the hotel's milestone 100th birthday.

The event, inspired by the extravagant 1920s Great Gatsby-style parties, transported guests back to the golden era of the Orient Express. The elegance and decadence of the time were reflected in the exquisite creations of Chef Ana Grgić Tomić, the sensational glowing cocktails crafted by renowned mixologist Vjenceslav Madić – Master Kishoni, and a spectacular dance and music program.

The celebration reached its peak with a ceremonial cake-cutting and bubbly toast, accompanied by speeches from Minister of Tourism and Sports Tonči Glavina, Mayor Tomislav Tomašević, Zagreb Tourist Board Director Martina Bienenfeld, and Esplanade's General Manager Ivica Max Krizmanić. This unforgettable evening marked a century of excellence for one of Zagreb's most legendary hotels.



Torta i pjenušac za 100. rođendan

U sklopu otvorenja Festivala svjetla brojni uzvanici iz društvenog života grada okupljeni u čarobnom ozračju hotela Esplanade imali su priliku uživati u veličanstvenoj svjetlosnoj projekciji i jedinstvenom prikazu povijesnih trenutaka hotela na stropu. Smaragdne dvorane te zajedno u dobrom raspoloženju nazdraviti 100. rođendanu hotela.

Događaj u duhu 20-ih godina prošlog stoljeća u stilu zabava velikog Gatsbyja vratio je uzvanike u doba slavnoga Orient Expressa. Eleganciju i dekadenciju toga vremena dočarale su delicije chefice Ane Grgić Tomić, kao i senzacionalni svjetleći kokteli koje je kreirao vrsni miksolog Vjenceslav Madić – Master Kishoni, ali i fantastični plesni i glazbeni program.

Prigodnim govorom ministra turizma i sporta Tončija Glavine, zagrebačkoga gradonačelnika Tomislava Tomaševića, direktorice Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba Martine Bienenfeld i generalnog direktora hotela Esplanade Ivica Maxa Krizmanića uz svečano rezanje rođendanske torte i pjenušavu zdravicu obilježeno je cijelo stoljeće postojanja toga kultnoga zagrebačkog hotela.







Photo:
DM

The Emerald Ballroom hosted the launch of dm's new campaign, *#bašja*, celebrating diversity and authenticity. The event featured the premiere of a video spot, a light projection on the hotel's façade, and a fashion show by the local design house Hippy Garden. Models showcased a variety of styles promoting self-acceptance and authenticity, creating a positive and inspiring atmosphere.

U Smaragdnoj dvorani predstavljena je nova kampanja dm-a, *#bašja*, koja slavi različitost i autentičnost. Osim premijere videospota i svjetlosne projekcije na pročelju hotela, održana je i modna revija domaće dizajnerske kuće Hippy Garden na kojoj su modeli predstavili različite stilove koji slave prihvaćanje vlastite jedinstvenosti i autentičnosti. Čitav događaj odisao je pozitivnim i inspirativnim porukama žena.



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Focus on Sustainability

Naglasak na održivost

A conference organized by Hanza Media, titled The Vision of Croatia's Energy Future, took place in the elegant Emerald Ballroom, bringing together representatives of leading Croatian energy companies and experts in the field. The event sparked key discussions on the direction of Croatia's energy future.

Konferencija u organizaciji Hanza medije pod nazivom "Vizija energetske budućnosti Hrvatske" održana u ambijentu Smaragdne dvorane okupila je predstavnike vodećih hrvatskih energetskih kompanija i stručnjake iz područja energije koji su pokrenuli ključne rasprave o smjeru energetske budućnosti Hrvatske.

Photo:
CROPIX
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Photo:
ADRIA D.O.O.

One of the most significant events in the TV industry, NEM Zagreb, brought key figures from the world of film and TV production to Esplanade. The event aimed to advance the television industry through content acquisitions and investments in original European productions while fostering new projects, job creation, networking, and industry dialogue.

Jedan od najvažnijih događaja u televizijskoj industriji – NEM Zagreb – okupio je u Esplanade ključne ljude iz industrije filmske produkcije i TV serija. Cilj je događaja unaprijediti televizijsku industriju akvizicijama sadržaja i ulaganjima u originalni europski sadržaj. Osim toga, potiče se razvoj novih projekata, stvaranje novih radnih mjesta, umrežavanje i dijalog među industrijskim liderima.



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Musical Stories

Photo:
MARIO POJE

The new season of *Musical Stories* by Matea Leko began with a spectacular performance in the magnificent Emerald Ballroom. Internationally acclaimed Croatian pianist Matea Leko captivated the audience in a packed hall, receiving standing ovations. Her guests—violin virtuosos Maya Levy, Hrachya Avanesyan, and Yuriy Revich—delighted the audience with breathtaking performances on Guarneri and Stradivari violins. Through their joint virtuoso performances, they once again enriched the cultural and musical scene of Zagreb and Croatia.

Nova sezona *Musical Stories* by Matea Leko započela je nastupom u veličanstvenoj Smaragdnoj dvorani. Hrvatska pijanistica međunarodnog priznanja, Matea Leko, nastupom u prepunoj dvorani izazvala je ovacije prisutnih. Oduševljenje izvedbom na violinama Guarneri i Stradivari izazvali su i njezini gosti, violinstičke zvijezde Maya Levy, Hračja Avanesjan i Jurij Revič. Zajedničkim virtuosnim nastupima još su jednom obogatili kulturnu i glazbenu scenu Zagreba i Hrvatske.



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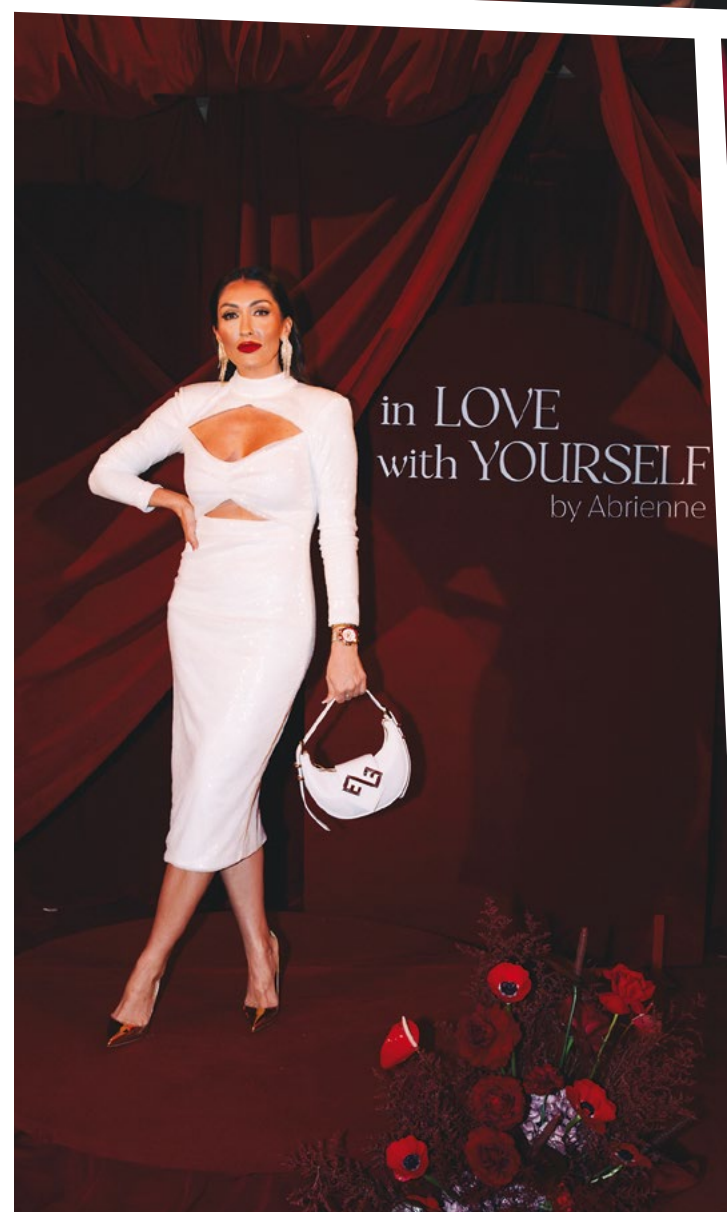
Valentine's Day in the Spirit of Inner Glow

Valentinovo u znaku unutarnjeg sjaja

Photo:
DINO NINKOVIĆ

Ahead of Valentine's Day, 100 influential women gathered in the magical Emerald Ballroom for the *In Love With Yourself* event, organized by the agency Abrienne. The evening featured a musical performance by singer-songwriter Lu Jakelić, the unveiling of Experience Zones, and exquisite delicacies prepared by Chef Ana Grgić Tomić. Red flowers and elegant decorations symbolized love and strength, while host Iva Šarić and DJ Matheew Bee added to the unforgettable ambiance.

Uoči Valentinova, 100 utjecajnih žena okupilo se u čarobnoj Smaragdnoj dvorani na događaju „In Love With Yourself“ u organizaciji agencije Abrienne. Glazbeni nastup kantautorice Lu Jakelić, otkrivanje Experience zona i pomno kreirane delicije chefice Ane Grgić Tomić učinili su večer jedinstvenom. Crveni cvjetovi i elegantni dekori simbolizirali su ljubav i snagu, a uz moderaciju Ive Šarić i nastup DJ -a Matheewa Beeja, čitava večer bila je nezaboravan doživljaj za goste koji su uživali u odličnoj atmosferi slaveći ljubav i vlastitu jedinstvenost.





Čarobna večera uz humanitarni karakter



The first charity gala dinner organized by *Gloria* magazine and the Marin Čilić Foundation was held right before Christmas Eve in the magnificent Emerald Ballroom, bringing together numerous distinguished guests and beautifully marking the holiday celebration. The organizers allocated the funds raised to scholarships for young and talented musicians, artists, and athletes, helping them achieve their dreams. Tennis player Marin Čilić emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for young individuals aspiring to succeed in music, the arts, and sports. The evening was enriched by musical performances by Nina Badrić, Matija Cvek, and other top artists, while attendees wholeheartedly supported the charitable cause.

Prva humanitarna gala večer u organizaciji magazina *Gloria* i Zaklade Marin Čilić održana uoči Badnjaka u veličanstvenoj Smaragdnoj dvorani okupila je mnoge poznate goste i na najljepši način obilježila proslavu blagdana. Organizatori su prikupljena sredstva namijenili za stipendije mladim i talentiranim glazbenicima, umjetnicima i sportašima kako bi im se pomoglo da ostvare svoje snove. Tenisač Marin Čilić pritom je istaknuo važnost pružanja prilike mladima koji žele ostvariti svoje snove u glazbi, umjetnosti i sportu. Nina Badrić, Matija Cvek i brojni drugi vrhunski glazbenici uveličali su glazbenim nastupom ovu gala večer, dok su prisutni uzvanici podržali humanitarni cilj večeri.



Fashion and Friends

The Gold décor and glamorous atmosphere transformed Zinfandel's restaurant into the perfect setting for an elegant gathering of guests from the Fashion and Friends brand. A fusion of style, fashion, and gastronomy, complemented by outstanding performances, a surge of positive emotions, a festive ambiance, and exquisite culinary creations by Chef Ana Grgić Tomić, made this enchanting evening truly unforgettable.



Zlatni dekor i glamurozna atmosfera transformirali su restoran Zinfandel's u savršen prostor za elegantno okupljanje uzvanika modnog brenda *Fashion and Friends*. Spoj stila, mode i gastronomije uz odlične nastupe, naboj pozitivnih emocija, blagdansko ozračje i vrhunske kulinarske delicije chefice Ane Grgić Tomić obilježili su ovu čarobnu večer.



Photo: BOJAN ZIBAR



Businessperson of the Year

Gospodarstvenik godine



The grand ceremony for the Businessperson and Business Event of the Year awards, organized by *Večernji list* and *Poslovni dnevnik*, was held in the magnificent Emerald Ballroom. This prestigious annual recognition highlights key economic achievements and leaders who have significantly contributed to business growth in the last year. The Businessperson of the Year award went to Gordan Kolak, CEO of Končar, while the Business Event of the Year was the opening of Jabil's production facility in Osijek.



Photo:
PIXSELL,
LUKA STANZIĆ,
SANDRA ŠIMUNOVIĆ

Svečano proglašenje gospodarstvenika i gospodarskog događaja godine održano je u organizaciji Večernjeg lista i Poslovnog dnevnika u veličanstvenom ambijentu Smaragdne dvorane. Ovo tradicionalno priznanje ističe ključne ekonomske uspjehe i poslovne lidere koji su znakovito pridonijeli razvoju gospodarstva u protekloj godini. Titula gospodarstvenika godine pripala je predsjedniku Uprave Končara Gordanu Kolaku, dok je gospodarski događaj godine bilo otvaranje proizvodnog pogona tvrtke Jabil u Osijeku.



M O P A R

modern parquet



Photo:
DORA ŠARIĆ

Kering Eyewear once again presented its latest Spring/Summer 2025 collection in the sumptuous setting of the Emerald Ballroom. The event provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships with clients and brand representatives, attracting attendees from 15 Eastern European countries.

Kering Eyewear i ove je godine u raskošnoj Smaragdnoj dvorani predstavio novitete za proljeće/ljeto 2025. godine. Kampanja je bila izvrsna prilika za jačanje odnosa s klijentima i predstavnicima brenda, a okupila je klijente iz 15 zemalja istočne Europe.



photo by Nika Mokos

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Chaîne des Rôtisseurs



In the festive ambiance of the Emerald Ballroom, members and friends of Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Croatia gathered for a grand gala dinner, celebrating yet another unforgettable tribute to haute cuisine. The evening featured the formal induction of 18 new members, followed by a meticulously curated menu by Chef Ana Grgić Tomić, paired with select wines from local winemakers. This elegant event was a true reflection of the values upheld by Chaîne des Rôtisseurs—promoting gastronomy, preserving culinary traditions, and fostering camaraderie among its members.

U blagdanskom ozračju Smaragdne dvorane članovi i prijatelji udruge Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Hrvatska okupili su se na svečanoj gala večeri koja je obilježila još jednu nezaboravnu proslavu vrhunske gastronomije. Tijekom večeri svečano je inaugurirano novih 18 članova, nakon čega su gosti uživali u pomno kreiranom jelovniku chefice Ane Grgić Tomić uz odabrana vina domaćih vinara. Ova svečana večer bila je odraz vrijednosti koje Chaîne des Rôtisseurs njeguje – promicanje gastronomije, očuvanje kulinarke tradicije i poticanje prijateljstva među članovima.



Photo: CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS CROATIA



Rotary Club 120th Anniversary Celebration

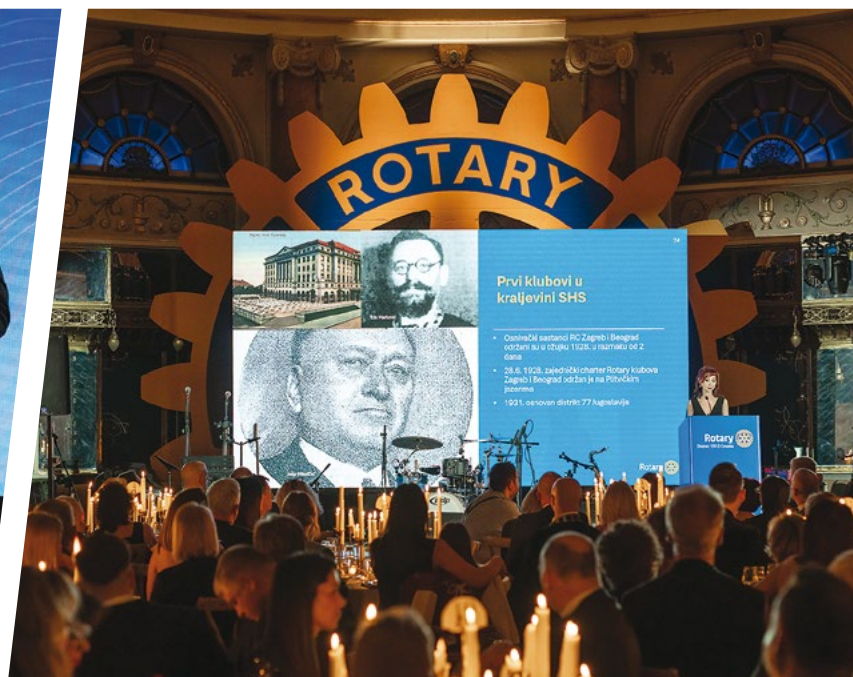
*Proslava 120 godina
kluba Rotary*



Photo:
JOHN PAVLISH, MATEJ REBERNIŠAK

In the elegant ambiance of the Emerald Ballroom, it was once again affirmed that Rotary is not just an organization but a global movement of people united by shared values—community service, humanity, and selfless support for those in need. The celebration of the 120th anniversary, in the spirit of Rotary tradition, provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on remarkable achievements and inspire future generations of Rotarians. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Avenues of Service Award.

U svečanom ozračju Smaragdne dvorane još je jednom potvrđeno da Rotary nije samo organizacija, već globalni pokret ljudi ujedinih zajedničkim vrijednostima – služenjem zajednici, humanošću i nesebičnom pomoći onima kojima je to najpotrebnije. Proslava 120. godišnjice, u duhu rotarijanske tradicije, bila je izvrsna prilika za osvrt na iznimna postignuća, kao poticaj budućim generacijama rotarijanaca. Vrhunac večeri bila je dodjela prestižnih priznanja „Avenues of Service Award“.





Medical Ball Celebrating the 151st Anniversary of HLZ

Liječnički bal povodom 151. obljetnice HLZ-a

Photo:
K-L PHOTO STUDIO

The humanitarian Medical Ball, organized by the Croatian Medical Association (HLZ), marked the institution's 151st anniversary. Held in the Emerald Ballroom, the event brought together distinguished guests from various social spheres. Hosted by Ivan Vukušić, the evening featured a special performance by singer Danijela Martinović, who added to the unforgettable atmosphere. HLZ President, Prof. Dr. Željko Krznarić, welcomed guests alongside his wife Suzana and members of the Executive Board of HLS, celebrating over a century and a half of rich medical tradition.

Humanitarni liječnički bal u organizaciji Hrvatskoga liječničkog zbora održan je povodom 151. obljetnice osnutka te ugledne institucije. Svečanost se održala u Smaragdnoj dvorani, uz brojne uglednike iz različitih segmenata društvenog života. Program je vodio Ivan Vukušić, a glazbena zvijezda večeri bila je Danijela Martinović, koja je svojom izvedbom upotpunila nezaboravnu atmosferu ove posebne obljetnice. Predsjednik Hrvatskoga liječničkog zbora, prof. dr. sc. Željko Krznarić, ugostio je brojne uzvanike zajedno sa suprugom Suzanom i članovima Izvršnog odbora HLZ-a, obilježavajući tako više od stoljeća i pol bogate liječničke tradicije.





Big Deal



Photo:
IVAN PAVLIĆ, KARLA JURIĆ

L'Oréal Paris gathered beauty enthusiasts and brand ambassadors in the cosmopolitan ambiance of the Emerald Ballroom to celebrate the launch of its new Paradise BIG DEAL Mascara. The glamorous setting was elevated by a live performance from Matija Cvek, whose hits perfectly complemented the glamorous atmosphere, making the evening truly unforgettable.

L'Oréal Paris okupio je u kozmopolitskom ozračju Smaragdne dvorane brojne ljubitelje ljepote i brend-ambasadorice kako bi zajedno proslavili dolazak novog *make up* proizvoda, maskare *Paradise BIG DEAL*. Atmosferu je dodatno podignuo Matija Cvek, čiji su hitovi savršeno upotpunili glamurozni ambijent, stvarajući nezaboravan doživljaj.





The Culinary Oscars Night

Noć kulinarских Oscara

The annual Gault&Millau gala dinner, held in the vibrant atmosphere of the Emerald Ballroom to mark the release of the 2025 guide, brought together an impressive 101 chefs from across Croatia. Among the distinguished guests was Tonči Glavina, Croatia's Minister of Tourism and Sports, who presented Gault&Millau plaques to the coun-

Godišnja gala večera Gault&Millau u odličnoj atmosferi Smaragdne dvorane povodom izlaska novog vodiča za 2025. godinu okupila je čak 101 chefa iz cijele Hrvatske. Među uzvanicima je bio i Tonči Glavina, ministar turizma i sporta RH, koji je uručio plakete Gault&Millau najboljim hrvatskim restoranima, među kojima se i

Photo:
ROBERT GAŠPERT, GORAN JAKUŠ, DAMIRA KALAŽIĆ



try's top restaurants, including Esplanade's Zinfandel's, which once again earned its place on the prestigious list. A special award was presented to the hotel's General Manager, Ivica Max Krizmanić, in honor of Esplanade's 100th anniversary. Chefs Ana Grgić Tomić and guest chef Marko Đurašević from the Zrno Soli restaurant prepared an exquisite dinner that delighted all in attendance.

ove godine našao Esplanadin Zinfandel's. Posebno priznanje uručeno je generalnom direktoru hotela Ivici Maxu Krizmaniću u povodu obilježavanja 100. obljetnice Esplanade. Chefovi Ana Grgić Tomić i gostujući chef Marko Đurašević iz restorana Zrno soli pripremili su večeru koja je oduševila sve prisutne.





Hippy Garden Fashion Spectacle

Modni spektakl Hippy Gardena

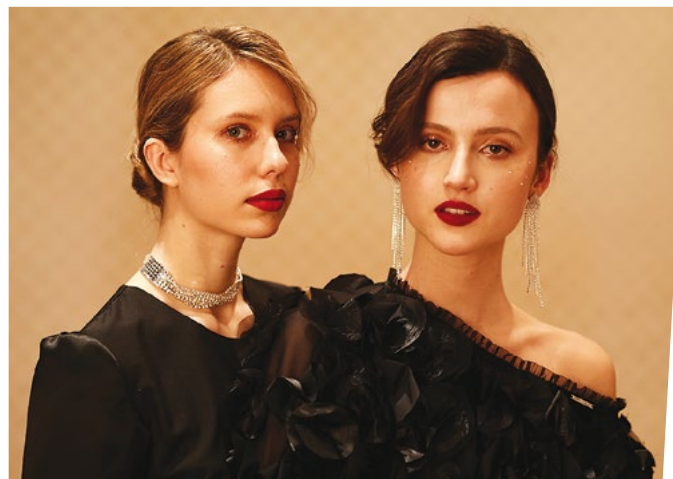
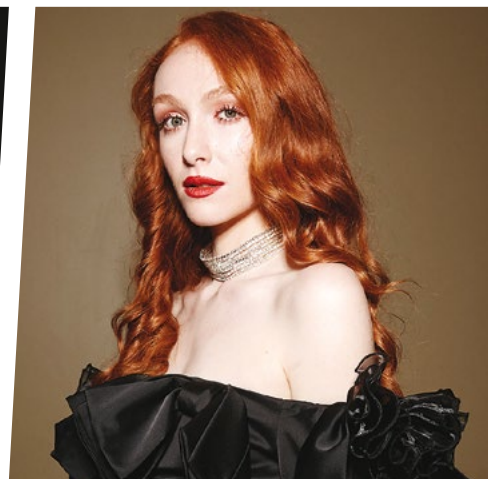
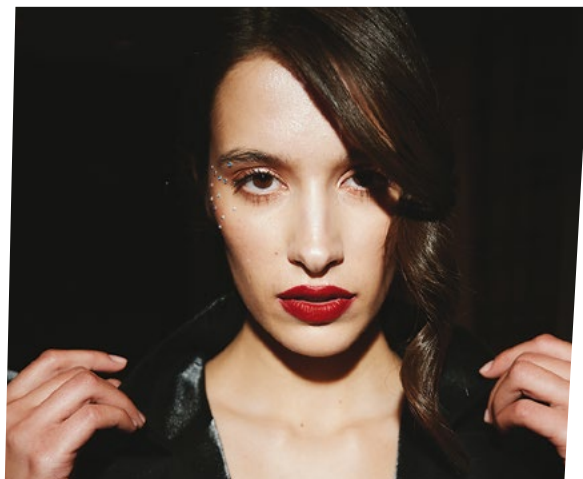
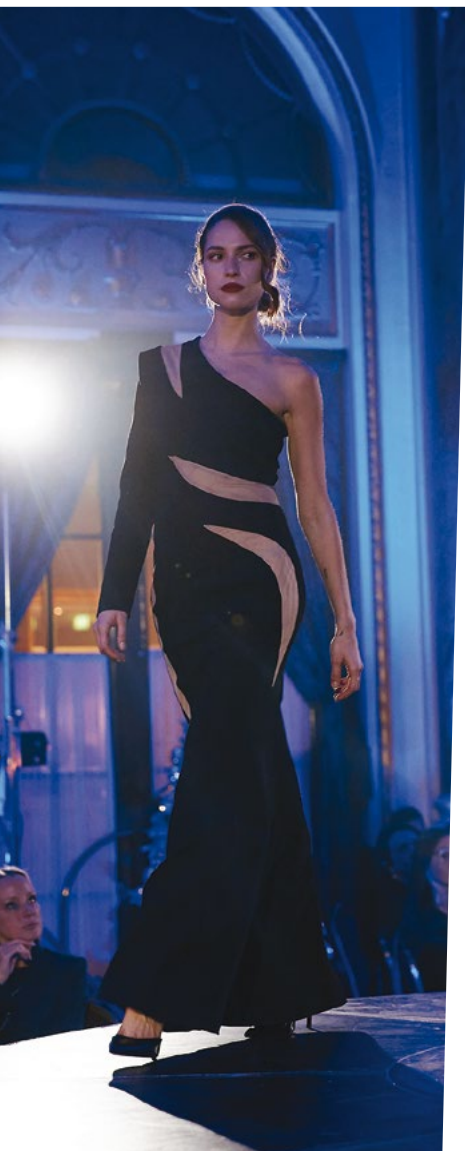
Photo:
ZVONIMIR FERINA



As a tradition, Hippy Garden invited its guests on an extraordinary adventure, crafting a magical atmosphere that combined sophistication, passion, and creativity. The *It All Starts with a Choice* collection captivated attendees with its innovative designs. The evening opened with an emotional dance performance by Ante Ukušić, followed by a musical experience with Vortex Strings. In the elegance of the Emerald Ballroom, guests admired fashion pieces blending urban and retro aesthetics. Chef Ana Grgić Tomić curated a special menu that complemented the refined ambiance. Once again, Hippy Garden reaffirmed its status as a leader on the domestic fashion scene, while the hotel once again proved to be the perfect setting for such a highly sophisticated fashion spectacle.

Već tradicionalno, Hippy Garden svoje je uzvanike uveo u nevjerovatnu pustolovinu, stvarajući čarobnu atmosferu koja je spojila sofisticiranost, strast i kreativnost. Kolekcija „It All Starts with a Choice“ oduševila je prisutne kreativnošću. Događaj je započeo emotivnim plesnim performansom Ante Ukušića, a slijedio je glazbeni doživljaj uz Vortex Strings. U eleganciji Smaragdne dvorane, gosti su uživali u modnim komadima koji su spajali urbanu i retro estetiku. Chefica Ana Grgić Tomić osmislila je specijalni jelovnik u skladu s atmosferom događanja. Hippy Garden opet je dokazao da je aposlutni lider na domaćoj modnoj sceni, dok je hotel ponovno bio savršen ambijent za tako visoko stilizirani modni spektakl.





Your Forever Starts Here

Istraži bogatu ponudu zaručničkog prstenja

Prahir is a company dedicated to crafting engagement rings that blend tradition, elegance, and the personal touch of every couple. Our mission is to create a ring that not only captivates with its design but also carries profound meaning for those who wear it. Each piece of jewelry is meticulously handmade using the finest materials, with carefully thought-out details that reflect the uniqueness of your love story. Whether you prefer a classic style, a modern aesthetic, or a fully customized design, **Prahir** offers a wide range of options to help you find the perfect engagement ring for your special moment. Visit our website at www.prahir.com and discover how we can turn your dreams into reality, creating a memory that will last a lifetime.

Tvrtka **Prahir** specijalizirana je za izradu zaručničkih prstenja koja spajaju tradiciju, eleganciju i osobni pečat svakog para. Naša misija je stvoriti prsten koji ne samo da očarava svojim dizajnom, već i nosi duboko značenje za one koji ga nose. Svaki komad nakita ručno je izrađen od najkvalitetnijih materijala, uz pažljivo osmišljene detalje koji odražavaju jedinstvenost vaše ljubavne priče. Bilo da preferirate klasičan stil, modernu estetiku ili personalizirani dizajn, **Prahir** nudi širok izbor mogućnosti kako biste pronašli savršen zaručnički prsten za vaš poseban trenutak. Posjetite našu web stranicu www.prahir.hr i otkrijte kako možemo pretvoriti vaše snove u stvarnost, stvarajući uspomenu koja će trajati vječno.

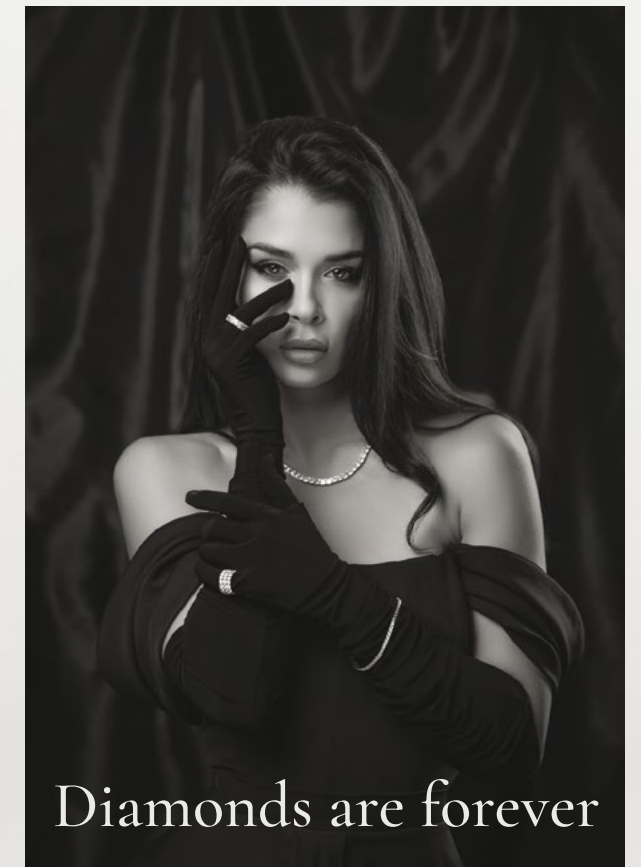


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Dijamantni nakit oduvijek je bio sinonim za luksuz, sofisticiranost i trajnu vrijednost. Svaki dijamant, pažljivo brušen kako bi njegov sjaj došao do punog izražaja, priča jedinstvenu priču o prirodi i ljudskoj vještini. Od prstena i ogrlica do naušnica, dijamantni nakit nije samo ukras, već i izraz osobnog stila te često nosi emocionalnu vrijednost, poput uspomena na posebne trenutke u životu. Njihova rijetkost i postojanost čine ih dragocjenim nasljeđem koje se prenosi s generacije na generaciju. **Prahir**, obiteljska manufaktura iz Zagreba, već više od pola stoljeća spaja tradiciju i modernu tehnologiju, nudeći vrhunski dizajn i kvalitetu. U **Prahiru** ćete pronaći pažljivo odabrane dijamante i personaliziranu uslugu koja svaki komad čini jedinstvenim, uz jamstvo autentičnosti i trajnosti.



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A Wedding

Filled with Unforgettable Moments

Vjenčanje ispunjeno
nezaboravnim trenutcima

Many couples dream of a fairytale wedding, impeccable service, and an atmosphere that takes your breath away. The Emerald Ballroom of the Esplanade Hotel is one of the most sought-after venues for celebrating this special day, as confirmed by newlyweds Dora and Albert Kajtazi, who will cherish every detail forever.

Mnogi mladenci sanjaju o bajkovitom vjenčanju, besprijekornoj usluzi i dojmu koji ostavlja bez daha. Smaragdna dvorana hotela Esplanade jedno je od najpoželjnijih mjesta za proslavu toga posebnog dana, što je potvrdio i mladi bračni par Dora i Albert Kajtazi koji će svaki detalj pamtit i zauvijek.

Dora revealed that it was the wedding she had always dreamed of, but with even more magic than she could have ever imagined. The planning process went smoothly, and what impressed her the most was her then-fiancé, Albert. "He was by my side every step of the way. Honestly, he could have competed with the best wedding planners—choosing flowers, selecting music—he was truly my 'partner in crime.' If this was a test for marriage, he passed with flying colors!" she said with a smile.

She also emphasized how important flowers were to both of them, as they wanted to create an atmosphere of romance and elegance. "Even though the Esplanade Hotel is already stunning, the floral arrangements added a special touch and tied all the other

Dora je otkrila kako je to bilo vjenčanje kakvo je oduvijek željela, ali s puno više čarolije nego što je ikad mogla sanjati. Organizacija je išla glatko, a najviše ju je oduševio njezin tadašnji zaručnik Albert. „Bio je tu uz mene na svakom koraku organizacije. Ustvari, mogao je konkurirati i najboljoj svadbenoj organizatorici – od biranja cvijeća do odabira glazbe, doslovce je bio moj 'partner u zločinu'. Ako je ovo bio test za brak, prošao je s odličnim!" nasmiješeno je izjavila.

Također, istaknula je kako je cvijeće oboma bilo vrlo važan element vjenčanja jer su željeli stvoriti atmosferu romantike i elegancije. „Iako je hotel Esplanade već sam po sebi prekrasan, cvijeće je dodalo posebnu notu i povežalo sve ostale detalje u savršenoj

Author:
SARA DAKIĆ
Photo:
NORIK UKA





Dora revealed that it was the wedding she had always dreamed of, but with even more magic than she could have ever imagined

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The floral arrangements added a special touch and tied all the other details together in perfect harmony

Cvijeće je dodalo posebnu notu i povezalo sve ostale detalje u savršenoj harmoniji



Esplanade Hotel is renowned for its high culinary standards

Hotel Esplanade poznat je po visokom standardu kada je u pitanju gastronomija

details together in perfect harmony. We opted for lush floral decorations because we wanted the space to feel vibrant yet sophisticated. It was one of those details that truly elevated the entire experience."

Aside from the ambiance, an essential element of any celebration is the menu, and the Esplanade Hotel is renowned for its high culinary standards. "We were beyond satisfied with the food—it did not disappoint. As for the drinks, we selected a diverse range, from premium wines to cocktails, ensuring our guests could enjoy a relaxed and festive atmosphere," Dora explained.

One of the biggest challenges, she admitted, was choosing the perfect wedding dress. "I wanted to feel elegant yet comfortable and relaxed. The most important factor was the feeling I had when I put on the one. It was an incredibly exciting moment."

In the end, she chose two dresses, each for a different part of the day. The first gown needed to carry the weight of the ceremony, exuding elegance and formality while reflecting the gravity of the moment—perfect for the ceremony and first dance, where every detail mattered, and the dress itself embodied grandeur and dignity. The second dress, shorter and more modern, was the perfect choice for the rest of the day—ideal for dancing and fully enjoying every moment.

On the wedding day, unexpected rain altered their plans, forcing them to move the guest reception from

harmoniji. Odlučili smo se za bogate cvjetne aranžmane jer smo željeli da prostor bude živahno, a opet sofisticirano ukrašen. To je bio jedan od onih detalja koji su zaista podigli cijeli doživljaj."

Osim ambijenta, iznimno bitan element svake proslave jest jelovnik, a hotel Esplanade poznat je po visokom standardu kada je u pitanju gastronomija. "Bili smo izuzetno zadovoljni hranom, nije nas razočarala. Što se tiče pića, izabrali smo raznoliku ponudu, od vrhunskih vina do koktela koji su gostima omogućili da uživaju u opuštenoj atmosferi", objasnila je Dora.

Jedan od najvećih izazova, priznaje, bio je izbor vjenčаницe. „Željela sam se osjećati elegantno, a opet udobno i opušteno. Najbitniji faktor bio je osjećaj koji sam imala kad sam obukla onu pravu. To je bio nevjerojatno uzbudljiv trenutak."

Na kraju se ipak odlučila za dvije vjenčаницe, svaka za svoj trenutak. Prva je haljina morala imati onu posebnu težinu ceremonije, biti elegantna i formalna te reflektirati ozbiljnost trenutka. Idealno za misu i prvi ples, gdje je svaki detalj važan, a sama haljina donosi osjećaj veličanstvenosti i dostojanstva. A druga haljina, kraćeg kroja i modernija, bila je briljantna odluka za ostatak dana, odlična za ples i uživanje u svakom trenutku.

Na sam dan vjenčanja neočekivana kiša promijenila im je planove, pa su tako doček gostiju s očaravaju-



the enchanting Oleander Terrace to the Emerald Ballroom. Dora says that, in the end, it made the atmosphere even more intimate, and they were assisted by the staff of the Esplanade Hotel, who truly exceeded all their expectations.

"From the very start of planning to the wedding day itself, every member of the team was exceptionally professional, attentive, and dedicated to making our wedding perfect. We felt like we were in the hands of people who genuinely cared about every detail. It was also incredibly important to us that our guests felt comfortable and that everything ran smoothly, and the staff made sure of that at all times. From greeting guests upon arrival to taking care of every table, everything was flawless." Dora couldn't hide her excitement, and her husband, Albert, agreed, adding that the guests' reactions were overwhelmingly positive.

Music, dancing, laughter, the scent of flowers, unexpected rain, and joyful tears. "All those little moments with family and friends came together into one incredible whole," Dora concluded.

To wrap things up, they shared how they first met. "We met on a summer vacation. It was one of those moments when everything just clicked at first sight. It was relaxed, fun, and spontaneous. We spent a lot of time together, talking, laughing, and simply enjoying the moment." May every day of their life together be filled with laughter, love, and unforgettable moments!

će terase Oleander morali premjestiti u Smaragdnu dvoranu. Dora kaže kako je to na kraju bilo još intimnije, a pomagalo im je osoblje hotela Esplanade koje je zaista premašilo sva njihova očekivanja.

"Od početka planiranja do samog dana vjenčanja, svaki član tima bio je izuzetno profesionalan, pažljiv i posvećen tomu da naše vjenčanje bude savršeno. Osjećali smo se kao da smo u rukama ljudi koji se zaista brinu o svakom detalju. Također nam je bilo izuzetno važno da se naši gosti osjećaju ugodno i da sve ide glatko, a osoblje je to ispunjavalo u svakom trenutku. Od pozdravljanja gostiju pri dolasku do toga kako su se brinuli o svakom stolu, sve je bilo besprijekorno." Dora nije skrivala oduševljenje, a s njom se slažio i njezin suprug Albert koji je rekao kako su reakcije gostiju bile nevjerovatno pozitivne.

Glazba, ples, smijeh, miris cvijeća, neplanirana kiša i suze radosnice. „Svi ti mali trenutci s obitelji i prijateljima slagali su se u jednu nevjerovatnu cjelinu“, zaključila je Dora.

Za kraj, otkrili su nam kako su se upoznali. „Upoznali smo se na ljetovanju. Bio je to jedan od onih trenutaka kada je sve kliknulo na prvi pogled. Bilo je opušteno, zabavno i spontano. Proveli smo mnogo vremena zajedno, razgovarali, smijali se i jednostavno uživali u tom trenutku.“ Neka im svaki dan zajedničkog života bude ispunjen smijehom, ljubavlju i nezaboravnim trenucima!

Staff of the Esplanade Hotel truly exceeded all their expectations. "We felt like we were in the hands of people who genuinely cared about every detail."

Osoblje hotela Esplanade zaista je premašilo sva njihova očekivanja. "Osjećali smo se kao da smo u rukama ljudi koji se zaista brinu o svakom detalju."



DESSANGE

PARIS

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City Guide

Gradski vodič

FROM SWING TO POP, FROM BIG BAND TO BIG HITS – A Musical Journey Through Time OD SWINGA DO POPA, OD VELIKOG ORKESTRA DO VELIKIH HITOVA – Putovanje kroz vrijeme u glazbi
May 24, 2025 - Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall
Koncertna dvorana Vatroslav Lisinski

Experience an unforgettable concert spectacle with the University of Notre Dame (USA) and the vocal group Freevoices (Italy)! The Notre Dame Orchestra and the Freevoices choir will take you on a journey through American musical heritage—from the golden age of jazz to the global pop stage, from Glenn Miller and *Fly Me to the Moon* to ABBA, Lady Gaga, and rock legends. The Notre Dame Orchestra, with a long-standing tradition and performances at Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House, blends music and movement into a one-of-a-kind experience.

Doživite nezaboravni koncertni spektakl Sveučilišta Notre Dame (SAD) i vokalne grupe Freevoices (Italija)! Orkestar Notre Dame i zbor Freevoices vode vas američkom glazbenom baštinom, od zlatnog doba jazza do globalne pop-pozornice, od Glenna Millera i *Fly Me to the Moon* do Abbe, Lady Gage i legendi rocka. Orkestar Notre Dame, s dugom tradicijom i nastupima u Carnegie Hallu i Sydneyjskoj operi, spaja glazbu i pokret u jedinstveni doživljaj.



DISCO OPERA ON TOUR 2025

October 25, 2025 - Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall
Koncertna dvorana Vatroslav Lisinski

After sold-out performances of “Rock Opera” at Lisinski, the grandest sympho-disco spectacle is coming – “Disco Opera on Tour 2025”! A spectacular fusion of symphony orchestra, big band, top soloists, and the Opera choir embarks on a Croatian tour, bringing an unforgettable musical evening to Zagreb. With forty musicians on stage, 22 iconic disco hits, and electrifying energy, you’ll be transported back to the golden era of disco!

Nakon rasprodanih koncerata „Rock Opere” u Lisinskom, stiže najveći simfo-disko spektakl – „Disco Opera on Tour 2025”! Spektakularni spoj simfonijskog orkestra, *big banda*, vrhunskih solista i zbora Opere kreće na turneju po Hrvatskoj, donoseći nezaboravnu glazbenu večer u Zagreb. Čak četrdeset glazbenika na pozornici, izvedbe 22 kulturna diskohita i energija koja vas vraća u zlatnu eru diska!



MATTEO BOCELLI - SUMMER NIGHTS

June 21, 2025 - Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall
Koncertna dvorana Vatroslav Lisinski

Matteo Bocelli performs at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall as part of his European tour “Summer Nights.” From his 2018 duet *Fall On Me* with his father Andrea Bocelli to performing at the 2024 Oscars, Matteo has steadily built his musical career. His debut solo album *Matteo* (2023) brought him international fame, with sold-out tours in prestigious venues across the globe.

Matteo Bocelli nastupa u Koncertnoj dvorani Vatroslav Lisinski u sklopu europske turneje „Summer Nights”. Od dueta *Fall On Me* s ocem Andreom Bocellijem 2018. do nastupa na dodjeli Oscara 2024., Matteo je nezaustavljivo gradio svoju glazbenu karijeru. Njegov prvi solo album *Matteo* (2023) donio mu je svjetsku slavu, a turneje su rasprodale prestižne dvorane diljem svijeta.



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