

DAY 1 | MEETING IN DUBROVNIK...WINE COUNTRY AWAITS

Welcome! Feel the warm Dalmatian breeze and sun on your face, let it refresh you. Once all our guests arrive (those arriving early will have the chance for a dip in the Adriatic Sea at our host hotel to unwind prior to the arrival of the rest of the guests), we will head out to wine country, a short but amazingly scenic drive along the coastal highway. We will be staying on the Peljesac Peninsula, one of Croatia's most superlative spots for wine sipping and stunning scenery. Our hotel for the stay is the Aminess Grand Azur Hotel, which is a 4 Star property situated along the Adriatic Sea in Orebic <https://www.aminess.com/en/aminess-grand-azur-hotel>. Along the way, we'll stop at The Arboretum, the oldest one in Europe, for a brief tour of the scenery and to indulge in some light bites prepared by a food historian that specializes in keeping the old Dalmatian traditions and recipes alive, before heading to Peljesac (this will be the longest drive of the trip, about 90 minutes). After settling into our hotel, we will gather for a private wine tasting and homemade dinner with one of our favorite winemakers at a beautifully restored villa.

Various Airport Pick Up Times

12 pm Departure from Hotel More for Peljesac and wine country

12:45 Arrival Arboretum and Tour of the Arboretum

1:45 Tastes of Dalmatia

3:00 Departure to Peljesac

4:30 Arrival at Grad Azur and Check-In

6:30 Departure to Villa for Winery Dinner

9:30-10:00 Return

DAY 2 | FROM WATER TO WINE

Today, we will venture through the wine region of Dingač and hop on a couple of boats. The boats will take us out to experience the azure waters of the Adriatic. We will be joined by a local fisherman who doubles as a free-diver and spear-fisherman. After he demonstrates his craft, feel free to jump into the Adriatic, with him and cool yourself down. In addition to fishing, we'll go hunting for delicious sea urchin and other edible Adriatic surprises. After some time exploring the coastline, we will go back to shore and take our spoils to a leafy hidden gem to grill off our catch. We will also receive a cooking lesson on stewed octopus and black risotto, two Dalmatian specialties, and then enjoy a relaxing meal under the trees while sipping on wines produced by the owner and his family. After the meal, we will return back to the hotel to take some free time and refresh before we head to the peninsula's top winery for a sunset toast of bubbly. We will then take part in a tour of the winery. Today concludes with a degustation dinner at the winery's gourmet restaurant, followed by a beautiful surprise.

6:30-8:30 Breakfast

9:00 Departure

9:30 Arrival for boat excursion (swimsuit recommended)

12:30 Lunch

3:30 Departure and return to hotel

4:00 Arrival and down time

6:00 Departure to Winery for tour and dinner

9:30-10:00 Return to hotel

DAY 3 | KRAZY FOR KORCULA...MARCO?

This time we will hop onto a car ferry as we head to the historic island of Korcula, the ancestral home of Marco Polo, and you thought he was Italian! Our adventure in Korcula begins with a guided tour of the city and its narrow streets, followed by lunch at the famed one Michelin starred Demitri Lesic, showcasing the fusion of the finest gastronomic products available in Croatia and the gourmet stylings of one of Croatia's top chefs. We'll also visit a residence that preserves ancient artisanal crafts and take part in an olive oil tasting, as well as trying their jams and preserves, all locally made. After, we will then visit one of the island's most famed wineries for a tasting. Our visit to Korcula concludes with some free time for shopping and grabbing a bite on your own before heading back on the ferry back to the hotel.

6:30-9:30 Breakfast

10:00 Departure to Korcula

11:00 City Tour

12:00 Lunch

2:00 Departure for the historic house

4:00 Arrival to winery

5:30 Departure to Old Town Korcula for free time

7:30 Meet for Sunset and to Ferry

8:00 Ferry to Hotel

8:30 Hotel

DAY 4 | OUR OWN PRIVATE ISLAND ADVENTURE

We begin the day with a visit to Mali Ston, a seaside village that is famed for its oysters and mussels. We will ride on a boat along the pristine waters, taking in the rustic villages and tall craggy mountains, where we will get a demo on oyster farming and production, a tradition that has been happening here since antiquity. The oysters here are so good, even ancient Roman emperors used to put in delivery orders! We will venture out to a private island for a seafood feast prepared by Chef Marc, Chef Richard,

and our local hosts, with loads of free time to frolic in the sea or even a nap. The day is ours to enjoy on our private island.

6:30-9:30 Breakfast

10:00 Departure to Mali Ston

11:00 Boat trip for oyster experience and private island day (swimsuit recommended)

6:00 Departure and drive to surprise stop

6:45 Surprise Stop

8:00 Departure to Hotel

DAY 5 | SALT OF THE EARTH

We will make a quick stop for coffee before we head to the nearby Ston Sea salt beds, the oldest still operational salt pools in the world. This area is also known for the Walls of Ston, said to be the longest in the world outside of China's Great Wall. and come back to the hotel, where you can dream about what tomorrow has in store for you. We will be staying at the famed Hotel More, which is a boutique 5 Star property built on the seaside of Lapad Bay, just outside of the walled Old Town of Dubrovnik. <http://www.hotel-more.hr/> The Hotel More is special in several ways, it has a Cave Bar that was voted one of the top 50 bars in the world and I happened to spend my summers just down the street at our family house and the area is very near and dear to me. We will gather for a drive to the Konavle Valley just south of Dubrovnik and experience the Balkan specialty of meats cooked under the Peka or dome. This is a mouth-watering meal that we will enjoy in a renovated stone homestead, that has views that will take your breath away. Those that wish, can join us in the cave bar after our return for a nightcap.

6:30-9:30 Breakfast

10:00 Check-Out and Departure

11:15 Ston Visit for Coffee break and/or wall walk

12:30 Departure to Dubrovnik and Hotel More

1:30 Arrival and Check-In to Hotel More

3:00 Departure to the Konavle Valley and late lunch/early dinner

3:45 Arrival for Peka

6:00 Departure for another Surprise Stop

7:30 Arrival at Hotel More

8:00 Nightcap at the Cave Bar (swimsuit optional)

DAY 6 | KING'S LANDING BECKONS

Today is all about Dubrovnik, the “Pearl of the Adriatic”, as our day starts with a walk along Dubrovnik’s famous walls, seen in shows like Game of Thrones. This is the perfect photo opportunity, with some wonderful views. Afterward, you will get to experience another project of Chef Richard Gruica on his “Sights and Bites” food/history walking tour. You will be expertly guided through a tasting of the Old Town of Dubrovnik. Prepare to be seriously wowed by the city’s fairytale-like setting: its shiny white limestone streets, enchanting narrow alleyways, and imposing medieval walls feel otherworldly, where you will stop and eat, drink and explore some of the best places in Dubrovnik. Feel free to enjoy some free time after the tour to explore Dubrovnik further on your own and explore the city.

6:30-9:30 Breakfast

10:00 Departure

10:30 Walk on the Walls

12:00 Sights and Bites Food and Wine Walking Tour

3:00 Free Time in Dubrovnik

Day 7 | THE GYPSY TABLE...SECRET POP-UP EVENT

Today the first half of the day is more relaxed and carefree. We have arranged for you to either just relax at the hotel and explore the area on your own or to meet up with Alexandra, your host who will take you on a short boat trip to the island of Lokrum (also known as the Island of Kings) for a gourmet picnic lunch with a view of the ancient monastery built-in 1023. After lunch, take some free time to explore this leafy island, hiking or relaxing on the beach, or experiencing one of the special attractions on the island: the Mrtvo More (Dead Sea) where you can take a dip. Delight in the view of the famous peacocks walking freely all around this magical island. After getting back to the hotel, we will arrange for transportation to take you to the secret location to join us for the Gypsy Table and prepare for a late afternoon/evening of amazing food, drink, and ambiance with Chef Marc and Chef Richard and other Croatian chefs.

6:30-9:30 Breakfast

10:00 Departure for those going to Lokrum

3:00 Return to hotel

5:30 Departure for the Gypsy Table

DAY 8 | TILL THE NEXT TIME...

Guests will gather for breakfast at their own leisure, before departing for the Dubrovnik Airport (DBV) via private transfer to the airport.

Assorted Times

-As with any trip of this nature, we are at the discretion of Mother Nature and the schedule might change based on weather or other variables outside of our control. Captivating Croatia strives to give all guests the best possible experience, so rest assured that even if things happen you are in very capable hands.

-Please note that for the better parts of Day 6 and 7, Chef Marc and Chef Richard will be unavailable as they are prepping for the Gypsy Table and will be busy handling those details and you will be in the capable hands of our local hosts. We have left those days more open to free time for you to enjoy as you wish. We will be providing a list of our favorite places of all sorts in Dubrovnik that you can use as a reference while on your own.

I look forward to hosting you alongside Chef Marc...

Culinarily yours,

Chef Richard Gruica