



VUKOVAR-SRIJEM COUNTY

# A MAGICAL JOURNEY

THROUGH THE GOLDEN HEART OF CROATIA

*Meeting people, events and space*





VUKOVAR - SRIJEM COUNTY

*To travellers, lovers and researchers*  
**A MAGICAL JOURNEY**

The preparation of the brochure on the cultural and historic heritage of the Vukovar-Srijem County has been a magnificent yet also a very tough task. Being a resident and also a tourist worker in the Vukovar-Srijem County is an honour, inspiration, motivation but, above all, a great challenge. The material in your hands may be the biggest of them all. To live in the oldest settlement in Europe, beside magnificent castles, proud women and men, Šokice and Šokci, to walk through the historic wine cellars, dig in order to make a foundation and then excavate silverware... the question is does all this have an ending; it takes courage to grasp all these reaches into one brochure. A challenge is not a big enough word, if you understand what I mean, because this really is a magical journey, a magical and live organism that can be seen only here and perceived in its completeness only here: through the vineyards on the slopes of Fruška Gora, through ancient fortifications of mediaeval towns, through houses and castles and through healing waters of clear springs and centuries old roadside oaks.

Tourism has its very simple criteria that we can understand only when we ourselves are the demanding travellers who find the known in the unknown, research, ask and in reality enter the enchanted world between dream and reality, between life and love and between hope and realisation. This booklet is intended for those who are passionate and curious: travellers, lovers and researchers



## Eight thousand years of living with the heritage

Located in the South-East of the Pannonian basin, geographically predestined as a meeting point of the East and West, North and South, the area of the Vukovar-Srijem County has in the past 8000 years been a meeting place of the worlds and of the continuity of events, a place where experience has been exchanged, battles fought, but primarily a place where – life has taken place.

All these traces are visible in the rich archaeological heritage, shards of live from the past witnessing of 'small' and 'great' people, their settlements and the eternal resting places. The reconstruction of past life often resembles a detective investigation, full of intrigues and unexpected entanglements; however, more often than that, it results in fantastic findings, such as the oldest Indo-European calendar, better known as Orion [1] that waited hidden in the bowels of the earth for entire 5000 years in order to be 'read' from one clay pot and brought to the light of day.

The area of the Vukovar-Srijem County has a surface of 2,448m<sup>2</sup>; it is located between the Danube, Drava and Sava, with more than 800 archaeological sites with findings. Seventy-five of them have been registered as immovable cultural property of the Republic of Croatia, while there are three eponymous sites after which the pre-historical cultures got their name: **Sopot** for the Neolithic **Sopot culture**, **Vučedol** for the Bronze Age **Vučedol culture** and **Vinkovci** for the Bronze Age **Vinkovci culture**.



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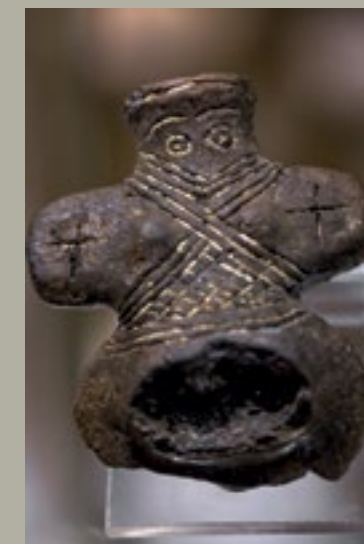
## Vinkovci

At the site where Vinkovci are located nowadays, people have lived incessantly, in continuity, for 8,000 years. Starting from the first Neolithic settlement of the 6th millennium B.C. until today, a continuous sequence of cultures, settlements and cemeteries have been replacing each other. Vinkovci are the only town in which in the settlement of the Bronze Age Vučedol culture a calendar has been found, the only town in Croatia sharing its name with an archaeological culture, in this case this is the Early Bronze Age Vinkovci culture.

Vinkovci had the status of a colony in the ancient times - *Colonia Aurelia Cibalae*. This third town by size in the province of *Pannonia Secunda* was the birth place of two Roman emperors, Valens and Valentinian, and a place of martyrdom and death of two early Christian saints, Eusebius and Polion. In the Middle Ages better known as St. Elias (Szentillye), with a large Gothic church (nowadays the oldest preserved built structure in the town), the town has had its name since 1491, when it was called *Wynkocz*. If you wish to walk through the 8 millennia of the history of Vinkovci, please visit the Vinkovci City Museum.

## Orion

Live through all the seasons in one instant by taking a walk among the stars of the Vinkovci pedestrian zone [2]. The symbols in the oldest Indo-European calendar, the Orion, represent the star constellations of the seasons and are built into the land which we walk on as a reflection of the sky to which we aspire.







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# Vukovar

People have inhabited the high loess plateau above the Danube, an extraordinary strategically important position not far from the confluence of the Vuka and the Danube, far back in the Neolithic. Findings can be sporadically found also from the younger times; however, just like in making puzzles, some key parts may be missing, thus here, too, we still do not have a complete archaeological picture of pre-historic and antique periods. We have many more pieces of information from the Middle Ages, when the Vukovo fort (*Volko, Walk, Walkow*) became one of the first towns to which prince Coloman in 1231 awarded the status of a free royal city. The old Croatian necropolis and Bijelo Brdo necropolis of that time have been researched. It was extremely important also in the Ottoman Empire. *The Vučedol Dove*, (partridge) a vessel in the shape of a bird with rich ornaments and a perfect harmony of forms, has become the symbol of the city of Vukovar and a symbol of peace in the countries of the Danube European circle, as well as the recently found ceramic boot of the same artistic expression. All the findings related to the history of Vukovar can be observed in the Vukovar City Museum.



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## Vučedol and the Vučedol Culture Museum



The Vučedol Culture Museum [5] is a unique museum in the world dedicated to a pre-historic cultural appearance of the Neolithic/Bronze Age period / 3000 – 2500 B.C. The Vučedol culture got its name according to the Vučedol archaeological site located 5 km from Vukovar, one of the most significant archaeological sites in Europe. This is a culture dating back 3 millennia B.C., that conquered the world and together with the simultaneous civilisations in Mesopotamia, Egypt and Troy it had a strong impact on the formation of modern Europe. Vučedol can be characterised as a European Troy due to the continental significance of the site and its findings.

The contemporary and permanent museum exhibition entirely presents the achievements of the Vučedol culture while the museum building makes a special media connecting the external environment of the Museum with the permanent exhibition inside [6].

### for the lovers

Are you keen to find out more about the life in the past? Are you looking for places where you can for an instant forget the achievements of modern civilisation and live the life of our ancestors? You must then by all means visit the **Sopot Archaeological Park** with reconstructed houses from the Neolithic.

### for the researchers

The visible and easily recognisable forms are not good enough for your curiosity? Then you should by all means visit the following places: a Late Neolithic settlement in Gradac in Bapska, the Bronze Age tumuli in the Spačva forests in the location of Purić Ljubanj, a multi-layer site (pre-historic times, antique, Middle Ages) in Sotin, collect information on, the third most significant finding in the world of antique silverware from Vinkovci, visit the remnants of the largest early Christian complex of continental Croatia in Vinkovci, take a walk along Lijeva Bara in Vukovar and look for a place of a large necropolis of the Bijelo Brdo culture or, if the waters are low, have a look at the Vuka and look for the ancient remnants of the Suleiman bridge in Vukovar. But this is not all. Below the quality Slavonian and Srijem humus, there are many settlements that are still waiting to be discovered.



## Views of Life

Between the sky and the land, on the horizon of the landscape there are both visible and invisible worlds – towns, streets and persons confirming the changes of the day and night, the changes in life and death, birth and life, growing up, departures and arrivals, marking and creating towns that never existed, those that do exist nowadays and also the emerging ones. The time has left its mark in almost any place that you can visit, recognisable perspectives and structures woven into today's settlements, in some places more visible while in some other places noticeable only for a trained eye. It is necessary only to make a small turn, peak into the past and find all those riches that surround us.



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## The Mediaeval Old Town of Ilok

The Ilok Mediaeval core [7] is a protected cultural and historical complex of the highest category. In this tiny space, one can travel far back into the past and take a stroll through centuries.

Imagine a massive, high and long fortress, a princely and royal castle, a highly elevated belfry, a church and a monastery with a tower, seldom Islamic structures such as turbahs and hammams, a lush park and green fences, deeply dug into the old wine cellars, viewpoints with an unforgettable view on the wide Danube and the Bačka Plain – you can see and experience all this in the Mediaeval core of Ilok, on a small hill surrounded by the Danube and the vineyards.

Here one can find valuable findings from the Roman period when Ilok was named Cuccium

and a rich heritage from the Middle Ages: remnants of the St. Peter's Basilica (of 13th century) and a Mediaeval castle, church and monastery of St. Ivan Kapistran that was first built by duke Ugrin (in the 14th century), the fort and walls raised by Nicholas of Ilok (in the 15th century). From the period of the Turkish rule, there are still turbahs [8] and hammams left (of 16th century). The noble family of Odescalchi left a castle and below it old wine cellars (15th to 17th century); there is also the curia of Baron Brnjaković (of 18th century), the Chapel of St. Ivan Nepomuk (of 18th century) and a beautiful park and trees (18th to 19th century). In the very park there are also several busts and monuments of a more recent date.

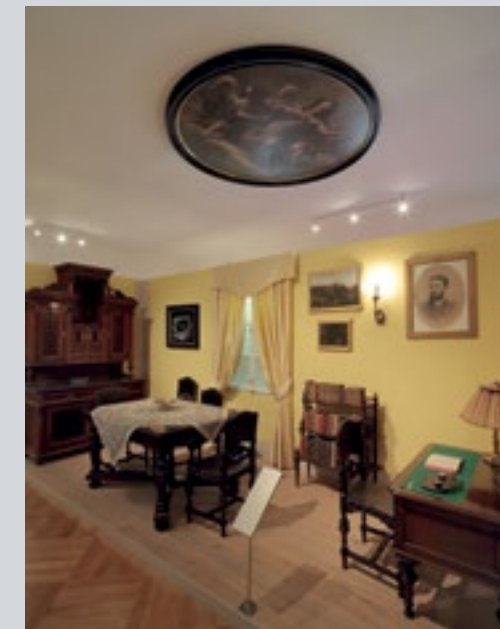


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## Odescalchi Castle

In Ilok, one of the most beautiful towns in this part of Europe, that is picturesquely located between the powerful river Danube and the Srijem vineyards on the slopes of Fruška Gora, there is the Odescalchi castle [9]. The Odescalchi castle is an impressive structure created on the foundations of the castle of King Nicholas of Ilok of 15th century. Namely, as a compensation for assistance in liberating Ilok from the Turks, the emperor Leopold presented as a gift the mediaeval Nicholas' castle with all the Ilok seigniory, that at the time had the larger part of Srijem, to Pope Innocent XI Odescalchi, i.e. to his princely family. The

Pope's nephews, aristocrats from Italy, have been upgrading the castle changing its style several times, eventually in the Baroque Classicist style. Below the castle they organised, exceptionally modern for the time, wine cellars giving a strong impetus to winegrowing and winery. After 1945, Odescalchi left their Ilok seigniory and their descendants are nowadays a part of the Italian nobility living close to Rome. Nowadays, in the Odescalchi castle there is the **Ilok City Museum** with its permanent exhibition.







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## *Eltz Castle*

The Count Eltz family arrived in Vukovar from Germany by purchasing the Vukovar estate in 1736. The first owner of the Vukovar estate was Anselmo Kazimir von Eltz whose name is carved in the arch of the lintel of the main courtyard entrance into the castle from the yard which says: ANSELMUS COMES – MDCCL (1750). The family of the Eltz counts resided on their estate in Vukovar from 1736 to 1945.

**The Vukovar castle of the Eltz** [10] counts is one of the largest and most beautiful examples of the feudal secular architecture in the Republic of Croatia. Its late Baroque classicist features, pretty neo-Baroque decorations on the main façade turned to the Danube and the great gardens and the noticeable size of all the buildings of the castle provide the visitor with a sumptuous experience of harmonious architectural congruence of the exterior and the interior.

In the castle there is also an impressive exhibition of the Vukovar City Museum.



## *Vukovar*

The Baroque centre of Vukovar in its architectural and any other, secular and sacral integrity, marks it as a city of mediaeval provenance giving it its main stamp of recognition.

The oldest monuments of the today vanished early Baroque Vukovar are the wooden sacral objects of the picturesque folk features. Nowadays in Vukovar one can see numerous structures of late Maria Theresa Baroque style in the buildings such as: Chapel of St. Ivan Nepomuk, the 'Court' chapel of St. Rochus in New Vukovar, the Orthodox Parish church of St. Nicholas, the prison chapel in the yard of the building of the Vukovar-Srijem County, the Franciscan Monastery and the Church of St. Philip and James, late Baroque corner house with colonnades on the small Baroque square in the Old Vukovar, the building of the Coach Post, the Baroque city one storey house at the 'Bečar crucifix' known as the oldest house in Vukovar, 'the Poić house' (of the former owner Hermina Poić), the Eltz castles, the Vukovar-Srijem County palace of 1777, Grand Hotel [11] and many others.



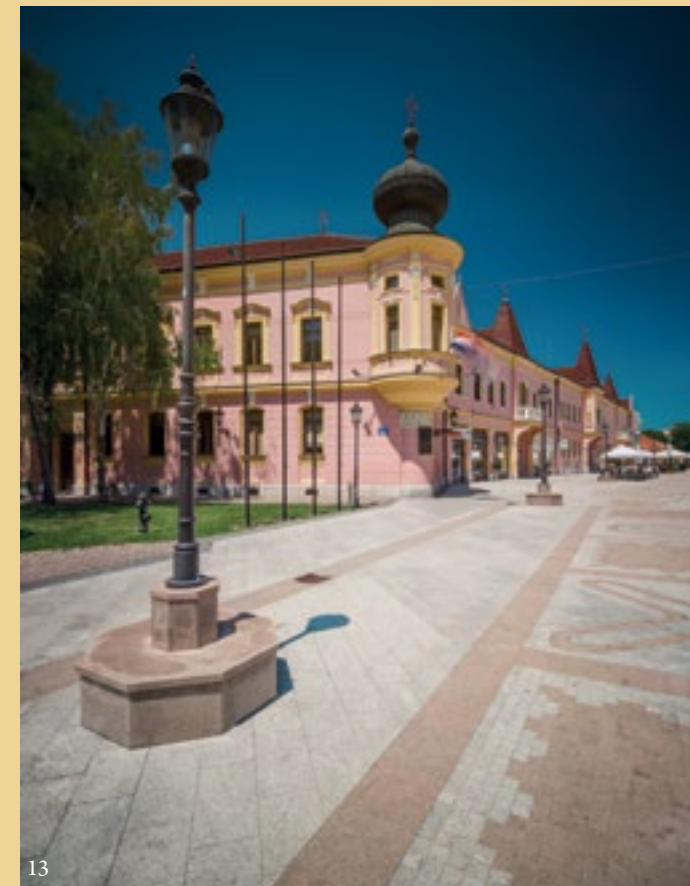
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## Vinkovci

In the last third of the 18th century, around the central Vinkovci city square, there are massive constructed buildings of which the representative ones were on the first floor, while the ground floor had typical porches with arches, whereby the city core is shaped in the features of the military frontier Baroque. The main square or “Paradier-Platz” served for the frontiersmen’s review. On the Northern side of the park, in 1777 a parish church was built, dedicated to St. Ivan Nepomuk. On the Western side of the Park there is the building of the High Command of the Brod regiment or the Great Guard erected in the 1770s (today it houses the Vinkovci City Museum) [12], then the building organised for the needs of the brigade general, apartments and offices of the colonels, captains and other facilities such as the military court and the regimental prison (Stockhaus). The Eastern side of the



park is dominated by the secondary school building built in 1876, one hundred years after the first grammar school in Vinkovci was founded. The Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit was erected in 1794. According to the design of Herman Bolle, in the centre of Vinkovci, from 1908 to 1910 a neo-baroque and neo-renaissance restoration of the *Brod Municipal Assets* [13] was built, which is the largest secular neo-gothic structure constructed on the territory of the Tripartite Kingdom in general. The buildings of the former Brod Municipal assets represent one of the most important monuments of the secular historicist architecture in Slavonia both with its size and its architectural quality.

The visit to the Baroque centre of Vinkovci, i.e. the Ban Josip Šokčević Square is best to start from the Tourist Board Office residing in the building that can be qualified as one of the oldest structures in the town.





## *The Watchtower in Županja*

Županja, a traditional frontier town with a unique rural architecture, centuries old oak forests and the river Sava has its determinant, a frontier watchtower, the only such preserved sample of defence architecture of the military frontier on a very long limes along the Sava, on the former border between Austria and Turkey. The watchtower was built at the beginning of the 19th century as a central border point, i.e. as a guardhouse on the border toward Turkey. By abolishing the Military Frontier, it became the property of the municipality; English businessmen have organised their club there after having built the *Tannin Factory* in Županja in 1883. As a rare cultural and historic monument and an architectural monument, the frontier watchtower in Županja has been protected and registered as an A category cultural monument. From 1907 to 1957 the watchtower served as a residential facility; in 1964 it was purchased for the needs of the Museum that is still housed there acting under the name the Stjepan Gruber Local History Museum.



## *Suvara – dry drive mill in Otok*

In the youngest town, Otok, there is the Suvara – an extraordinary monument of traditional architecture, the only preserved horse mill in Croatia and in South-Eastern Europe. **The Otok Suvara** is a registered monument of the highest cultural value that classifies Otok among the 13 locations in the Republic of Croatia with a status of an ethno-museum in the open. The offer from the mill is a special attraction for numerous lovers of natural and healthy food from flour obtained from wheat ground by turning grindstones. The Suvara mills were constructed by the so-called home unions, basic family and social organisational form in the past. The construction of a suvara was a major construction undertaking so that they were built either by richer home unions or by several of them together. If a suvara was constructed by several home unions, the right of use was established according to their contributions in the construction, i.e. the right of milling expressed in days and hours. For the construction of a suvara, it was necessary to obtain an approval of the military authority that established an appropriate location and approved the necessary amounts of forest material (oak, hornbeam, hawthorn, elm and fir). The oak was always the basic material. What is impressive in a suvara is the precision and accuracy of the wooden mechanism performance that had to be perfectly balanced.



## *for the lovers*

Do the massively visited and generally known architectural monuments not quench your appetite? Then take your camera and mark the visits to the following sites: a representative house 'Kurija Brnjaković' in Ilok built in the 18th century, a country estate Principovac in Ilok, the historicist Grand hotel (Workers' home) in Vukovar, the late Baroque Palace of the Srijem County in Vukovar, the villa Knoll in Vukovar, the birth house of the Nobel laureate Lavoslav Ružička in Vukovar, the building of the Croatian Home with the features of art deco in Vukovar, the Bata industrial settlement in Borovo, the birth house of Ivan Kozarac in Vinkovci, the historicist court building in Vinkovci, the secession building of the girl school in Vinkovci, the villa Gross built in the modern style in Vinkovci, etc.

## *for the researchers*

The yet uncovered architectural pearls, or as would better fit the region, the ducats, are waiting for you in the complex of the Khuen Belasi Castle in Nuštar; look for the places at which the proud Jewish synagogues in Ilok, Vukovar and Vinkovci were standing, watch the family mausoleums of count, craftsmen's and trading families in Vukovar and Vinkovci or find out why a colourful building in Vinkovci carries the title the Hungarian School and why some streets of our towns are called the 'villa streets'.





## Thoughts, words and spiritual actions

Relying on God's word and the peace of God's presence preserved the spiritual strength of the inhabitants of the region; it is deeply woven into the way of life and thinking about the world in which we tread. The connectedness with the Spirit is reflected in every step of this area, while material and immaterial goods are its witness.

### *Mediaeval churches and sanctuaries*

The area of the Vukovar-Srijem County is rich in valuable mediaeval churches but also those from the later times. From the Middle Ages, preserved are the church of St. Mary in Bapska, the church of St. Peter and Paul in Šarengrad, the church of St. Ivan Kapistran with a monastery in Ilok, the church of St. John the Baptist in Ivankovo, the church of St. Lawrence (Lučica) in Lipovac, the Church of the Blessed St. Catherine the Martyr in Nijemci, St. Barth's Church in Mikanovci, the shrine of the Holy Virgin Mary of the Rosary in Prkovci, Meraja in Vinkovci and the Rokovac walls.

The oldest sanctuary of this part of Croatia dates back from the 14th century and is located along the edge of the magnificent oak forest and is called The Sanctuary of the Mother of Good Hope

in Šumanovci [14]. The most visited shrine is the Shrine of the Lady on Water in Ilača. What Lourdes is for France, Ilača is for Srijem. The miraculous spring in Ilača has opened seven years after the one in Lourdes, in 1865, and the apparitions of Our Lady did not take place anywhere else but in Lourdes and Ilača with water miraculously springing out from the earth.

The sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is in Prkovci, while the sanctuary of St. Mary the Help of Christians is in Sotin.

### *The St. Ivan Kapistran Church with a monastery, Ilok*

Life is rich in potentially magical events, regardless if one is a religious person or not, but only if we are ready to recognise them as such. Sometimes it suffices to start walking to the sanctuary, the





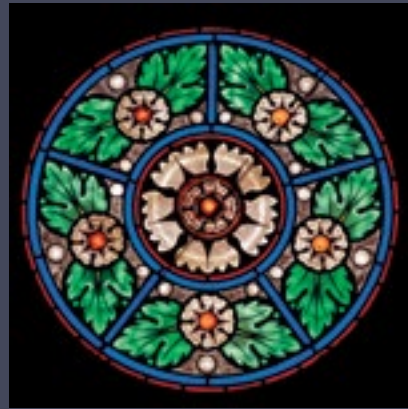


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spiritual legacy of a saint, toward the story of his or her life and it already makes us spiritually richer, touched, inspired... This was precisely one of the wishes and intentions of St. Ivan Kapistran; in Ilok, at the edge of the Christian divisions, Eastern military and religious temptations, he wanted to confront these not by attack but simply by dying there and invoking a protective blessing remaining forever! He built his great morale and faith in the divine providence into eternity. Kapistran and his miraculous presence in the Ilok Church [15] can be a lighthouse and a path to all those who attempt to strengthen their faith and also a spiritual blessing for all those who have faith into somewhat mystic, never sufficiently researched cult of Kapistran. Therefore, each visit is a potentially miraculous event!

### *The Church of St. Philip and James with monastery, Vukovar*

The basic stone of the church, devoted to the apostles St. Philip and James and the monastery on the high [16], picturesque position above the Danube, that remained the symbol and dominant point of the very town during the past centuries, was placed back in 1723, while the church was built and consecrated in 1733. The church has obtained its final shape by the Viennese architect Richard Jordan after a major historicist renewal and expansion at the end of the 19th century. The thus expanded church, 58 meters long, with two side aisles, a new semi-circular sanctuary and an external silhouette, became an impressive collection and the most striking structure of the Baroque Vukovar and the third church in Croatia by size.



### *for the lovers*

Are you very much interested in church history, art and Baroque, Classicist and Neo-Gothic architecture? Do not miss to make a stop in any of the places of the County and visit the not yet revealed pearls of parish churches and chapels. We would like to single out: The Mausoleum of the Eltz family – the chapel of Christ's Ascension in Vukovar, the Holy Trinity sculpture in Vinkovci, the church of St. John the Baptist in Županja and the Turkish Mausoleum (Turbe) in Ilok.

### *for the researchers*

Are you more interested in the mediaeval settlements of the Vukovar County? Research the remnants of the mediaeval fortresses, settlements and churches in the following locations: Antin Hermangrad, Antin Bačino, Borovo Gradac, Bošnjaci-Otok Virgrad, Cerna Gradac, Ivan-kovo Bedemgrad, Slakovci Gradina, Soljani Zvizdangrad, Tordinci Leva, Šarengrad Utrvrda.



### *The Beauty of Heritage*

The devotion with which the people here respect and nurture their heritage is almost incredible. The customs, the songs and dances, attire, traditional hairstyles, cuisine, creation of garments from leather, rolled wool, creation of traditional ornaments, souvenirs that are nowadays widely known such as gold embroidery and other kinds of handmade embroidery, painted squash, licitars, making hats, traditional attire, traditional coats, *opanak* shoes, traditional tambura ... All this used to be produced here and is still produced. Everything was created and it grew here, while the hands of the *Šokice* i *Šokci* created unrepeatable autochthonous, original and traditional products that are nowadays admired by everyone who visits us, in fact, by those who visit us because of them. The known Slavonian and Srijem hospitality has always been a part of the tradition here that may be felt in the tourist rural farms created similar to the Slavonian and Srijem houses of *Šokci*, estates, meadows but also family farms. We preserve everything but not selfishly. "Today the *traditional culture of the Vukovar-Srijem County* is a modern Croatian brand in its original or reconstructed form."





## *Walking through the past*

You can enjoy the beauty of our heritage in museums, viewing the fragments of all the riches in one place and you may also venture another, a different story. Be with us and a part of us and walk through our story. In the area of the Vukovar-Srijem County there are several topical organised tourist routes on which you can get to know the region in a new way, participating in activities with the hosts.

### *The Road of the Golden Thread*

takes you through Županja and the surrounding places, enter the hosts' yards, bake your own bread, paint your own squash, pull your own golden thread in your own embroidery. Enjoy the food and beverage, the horseback riding and the wheat... The Road of the Golden Thread hides many interesting things, among them being the monument to the first football ball that was hit in 1880 in the very Županja. In order to have a memory, make your own 'first football ball' and return to Županja on the Road of the Golden Thread again and again.

### *The natives*

of this region are the people who left a trace for everyone. We have presented them through their work and read the message that they left us. Find out more on the life and the work of the Nobel laureate Lavoslav Ružička in his birth house in Vukovar. Find out more about the poetry of Ivan Kozarac in the City Café in Vinkovci. What Nicholas of Ilok and St. Ivan Kapistran have in common is presented in the St. Ivan Kapistran Monastery in Ilok. Find out about the life and work of Melita Lorković, Mladen



Pozajić, Srećko Albini and Ivo Balentović in the City Library in Županja. Our natives have a message for you and you may leave yours to them; these are people whose work and devotion you may always discuss as well as their love, communion and friendship, music and local history. Get to know them.

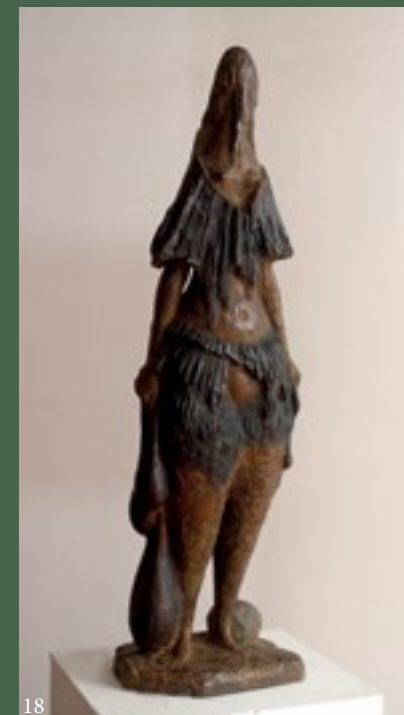
### *‘Šokčević Ban’s Old Vinkovci’ and ‘Slavonian blood of the writers of Vinkovci’*

The ‘living history’ programme are stories about the history of Vinkovci. ‘The Šokčević Ban’s old Vinkovci’ is a story of important events, eminent literates and cultural workers, on the love toward the Homeland and the city. A narrator will take you through the story, presenting Šokčević Ban, M.A. Reljković and its Satyr; it all ends in a poem by Ivo Kozarac ‘I caressed...’

The Vinkovci literates present their work and their main characters with their ‘Slavonian blood’- spite, pride, love toward life and the plain – by words of Ivo and Josip Kozarac, Joze Ivakić and their most known characters: Đuka Begović, master Ruža and Tena.



## Speaking Beauty



### Artistry

The holdings of the Slavko Kopač Art Gallery in Vinkovci keep major donations of artistic opus of eminent artists who are related to the region of Vinkovci either by origin or by their work. One of them is Ivan Domac [17], a painter and a representative of the Croatian intimist painting who created numerous portraits, still life art and scenery painted by a dust-colour pallet in a gloomy atmosphere. Vanja Radauš [18], a sculptor, significant for his expressive modelling and surreal Panopticum Croaticum cycles and the Bloody Carnival, apart from casts and public sculptures, left numerous drawings, graphics, aquarelles and literary texts presenting an interdisciplinary complement to his artistic work. Very important for the city is the donation of Slavko Kopač [19], a painter and sculptor, a representative of French art brut who merged the poetic expression and the raw approach to the topic and aesthetics, as well as the rich inheritance of Antun Babić [20], a sculptor and a graphic artist, who raised above the fashionable and the formal academic expression and found his place in an archetypal and almost naively simple expression. Apart from them, Albert Kinert, a painter and a graphic artist, also left his work

in an expression that encompassed both the surreal and erotic topics in the city of Vinkovci; Branko Ružić, who in his simplicity merged the primordial and modern, and Rudolf Sabljic, a painter of a lyric abstraction recognised by his feeling for material and colour. Of course, Vinkovci have also nurtured many artists who have devoted their entire opus to the motives of the landscape and Slavonian land such as Joza Mataković and Božo Kopic as well as numerous other authors. In the public domain, beside Vanja Radauš, the sculptor, and Antun Babić and Branko Ružić, there are also the tombstones of Ivan Rendić, a sculptor, at the Roman-Catholic cemetery in Vinkovci and sculptures devoted to famous persons such as Ivan Križanac and Dejan Duraković. We can also boast that the Vinkovci region created also the great comic painters, Krešimir Zimonić and Dubravko Mataković, who in their peculiar way left a mark in the creation of this popular form.

The Ilok City Museum houses the stone reliefs of tombstones of the Ilok dukes Nicholas (1477) and Lovre (Lawrence) (1525), who provide a major material to be researched in terms of heraldic motives and of the political and economic status of the city. Plaster relief casts of Ivan Meštrović, a sculptor, are also kept; Meštrović marked the beginning of the Croatian sculpture in the first half of the 20th century. The gallery col-

lection is mostly comprised of work, mostly small plastic and terracotta, of the sculpting art colony 'IN SIGNO TERRAE – In the sign of the land' which is oriented toward the primal connection of man and his land as the primary material.

The City of Vukovar keeps the traces of artistic activity within its permanent Bauer Collection and the Vukovar City Museum exhibiting paintings and sculptures created in the period from 18th century to the first half of the 20th century. One can see the art work of top Croatian painters of the 'Colourful School of Zagreb' gathered around Vlaho Bukovac, the representatives of the Munich circle and the Group Three who marked the development of the modern Croatian painting bringing influences from Europe. The most important names of the Croatian sculpture are represented as well; we can single out Ivan Meštrović, R. Frangeš Mihanović, Ivan Rendić, Vanja Radauš and Branko Ružić. Especially interesting are the medallist works of Ivan Kerdić with which he has reached his acme and affirmed this art discipline in the region. Of special importance is also the work of the painters, sculptors, medallist Branko Crlenjak who worked in Vukovar from his birth and all of his life leaving an indelible trace on the cultural life of the region. In the gardens of the complex of the Eltz Castle there is also the Oranžerija Gallery covering modern art movements and organising exhibitions for the younger generation of artists.

### Literature

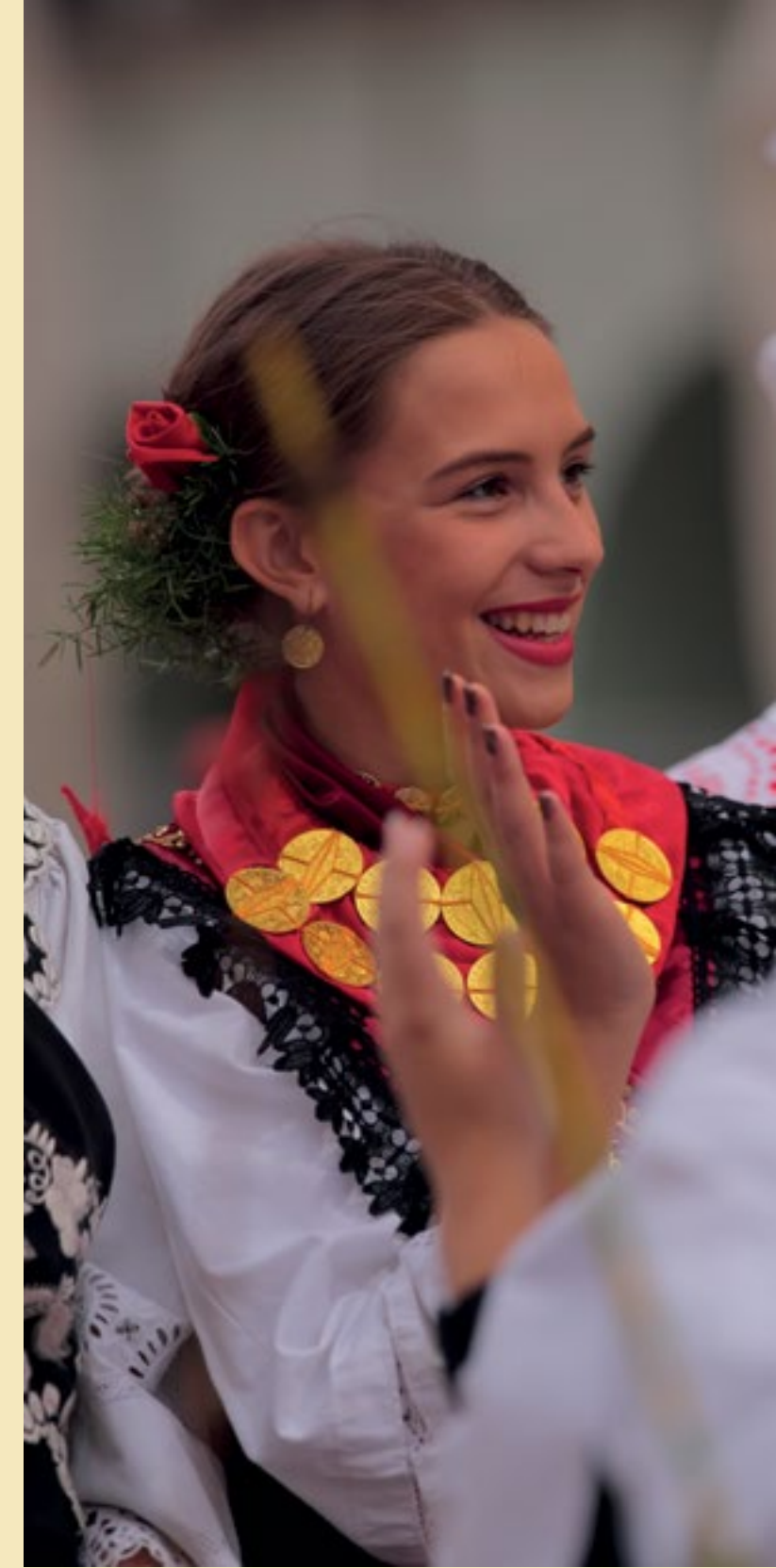
The destiny of the local homeland and the beauty of the landscape was also sung about by our writers: from Matija Antun Reljković, who was the first one to point out the beauty of Slavonia and its 'white towns on the four waters', through Josip and Ivan Kozarac, whose literature work are a sort of an education on the riches and possibilities of the life in our County, Antun Gustav Matoš, who never forgot that by descent he was from Srijem, up to the modern artists Miroslav Slavko Mađer and his lyrical perceptions of the historic duration and authors of the Slavonian hymn, Siniša Glavašević, due to whose voice we will never forget the war tragedy, or Pavao Pavličić with his stories on growing up in the pre-war Vukovar and his perception of the strong and powerful Danube.



# Events

In honest respect, with luck and hedonism, in this extraordinary area, the inhabitants of the region create numerous events at the centre of which there are various riches listed on these pages. Something for every taste and for every time. We single out:

	<i>for travellers</i>	<i>for lovers</i>	<i>for researchers</i>
<i>January</i>		<b>St. Vinko's Day in Ilok</b> traditional	<b>Winter preparation</b> Antin, traditional
<i>February</i>	<b>Šokačko sijelo</b> (a traditional event), Županja, traditional		<b>Youth and Beauty of Slavonia</b> Stari Mikanovci, traditional
<i>March</i>		<b>Puppet spring</b> all towns, cultural	
<i>April</i>			
<i>May</i>	<b>Roman days</b> , Vinkovci, historic <b>The Actor's Festival</b> , all towns, cultural	<b>Otok spring</b> , traditional <b>Bono fest</b> , Vukovar, sacral and music	<b>Majpan</b> , Ilok, traditional
<i>June</i>		<b>White horses (Konji bijelci)</b> Babina Greda, traditional <b>Ethno-weekend in an ethno-town</b> Vinkovci, cultural and entertainment	<b>In horses' fires</b> (Kod konjarskih vatri) Županja, cultural
<i>July</i>	<b>Harvest and threshing in the past</b> Županja, traditional		
<i>August</i>	<b>Vukovar film festival</b>	<b>DORF – Festival of Documentary Rock Film and Antique film evenings</b> , Vinkovci	<b>Folklore seminar of the Pannonian zone</b> Vinkovci, traditional
<i>September</i>	<b>Ilok vintage</b> , culture and entertainment <b>Autumn in Vinkovci</b> , traditional		
<i>October</i>		<b>Vukovar chamber music festival</b> , cultural and music	<b>The days of Josip and Ivan Kozarac</b> Vinkovci, cultural
<i>November</i>			<b>Šokačka rič (The word of Šokci)</b> Vinkovci, cultural
<i>December</i>		<b>Vukovar Advent festivities</b> , cultural <b>Advent in Vinkovci</b>	





## Museums

### Vukovar City Museum – Castle Eltz

Županijska 2  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/ 441-271  
Fax: 032/441-274  
gmv@muzej-vukovar.hr  
www.muzej-vukovar.hr

### Vučedol Culture Museum

Vučedol 252  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/ 373-930  
Fax: 032/ 373-937  
info@vucedol.hr  
www.vucedol.hr

### Vinkovci City Museum

Trg Bana J. Šokčevića 16  
32100 Vinkovci  
Phone: 032/ 332-504, 032/ 332-884,  
032/ 332-885  
Fax: 032/337-701  
muzej@muzejvk.hr  
www.muzejvk.hr

### Local History Museum ‘Stjepan Gruber’

Savska 3  
32270 Županja  
Phone: 032/837-101  
Fax: 032/838 - 977  
zavicajni.muzej.stjepan.gruber@vu.t-com.hr  
www.zavicajnimuzejstjepangruber-zupanja.hr

### City Museum in Ilok – Odescalchi Castle

Šetalište o. Mladena Barbarića 5  
32236 Ilok  
Phone: 032/ 827-410  
Fax: 032/ 827-418  
info@mgi.hr  
www.mgi.hr

### Forest Museum Bošnjaci

Fra T.B. Leakovića 2  
32275 Bošnjaci  
Phone: 032/ 846-902  
Antun.Leakovic@hrsume.hr  
www.hrsume.hr/sumarski-muzej-bosnjaci

### Local History Museum “Luka Natali” in Nijemci

Župa Sv. Katarine, Trg Kralja Tomislava 12  
32245 Nijemci  
Phone: 032/ 280-000  
Fax: 032/ 280-000  
branimir013@gmail.com

## VUKOVAR MEMORIAL – PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE:

### Place of Remembrance –

#### Vukovar Hospital 1991

Županijska 35  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 091/ 4521 222  
mjesto-sjecanja@ob-vukovar.hr  
www.ob-vukovar.hr/mjesto-sjecanja/  
mjesto-sjecanja.htm

### Memorial Home and Mass Grave Ovčara

Ovčara bb  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/ 512-345  
spomendom@hdlskl.hr  
www.hdlskl.hr/spomendom/

### Memorial Cemetery of the Victims of the Homeland War

J. Jelačića 147  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/ 412-980  
info@mcdrvu.hr  
www.mcdrvu.hr/

### Memorial Home of Croatian defenders (Trpinjska Street)

Trpinjska cesta 80  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 099/ 4417 467  
info@mcdrvu.hr  
www.mcdrvu.hr

### Memorial Centre of Homeland War

Ive Tijardovića bb  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/638-567  
Fax: 032/ 638-570  
info@mcdrvu.hr  
www.mcdrvu.hr

## Theatres

### City Theatre ‘Joza Ivakić’

Hrv. žrtava 2  
32100 Vinkovci  
Phone: 032/ 338-751  
Fax: 032/ 441-274  
marketing@kazaliste-vinkovci.hr  
www.kazaliste-vinkovci.hr

### Municipal Amateur Theatre of Županja

Ul. Josipa Jurja Strossmayera 51  
32270 Županja  
Phone: 032/ 831-628  
kazaliste.zupanja@gmail.com

### Croatian Centre Vukovar

J. J. Strossmayera 20  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/ 450-697  
Fax: 032/ 443-163  
hrvatski.dom.vukovar@vu.t-com.hr  
www.hrvatskidomvukovar.hr

## Galleries

### Oranžerija Gallery

(Vukovar City Museum)  
Županijska 2  
32000 Vukovar  
Phone: 032/ 441- 271  
Fax: 032/ 441-274  
gmv@muzej-vukovar.hr  
www.muzej-vukovar.hr

### Art Gallery ‘Slavko Kopač’

(Vinkovci City Museum)  
Duga ulica 3  
32100 Vinkovci  
Phone: 032/ 331- 062  
Fax: 032/ 337-701  
muzej@muzejvk.hr  
www.muzejvk.hr

### Veliki Kraj Gallery

Veliki kraj 73  
32270 Županja  
Phone: 032/ 831-388  
Fax: 032/ 831-388  
galerija@veliki-kraj.hr  
www.veliki-kraj.hr

### Ivan Kozarac’s Birth House

Josipa Kozarca 48  
32100 Vinkovci  
Phone: 091/ 3300 400  
katarina.stanic@boso.hr  
www.ivankozarac.com

## Tourist Boards

### Tourist Board - Vukovar

J. J. Strossmayera 15  
32 000 Vukovar  
Phone/Fax: 032/ 442 889  
tz-vukovar@vu.t-com.hr  
www.turizamvukovar.hr

### Tourist Board - Vinkovci

Trg bana Josipa Šokčevića 4  
32 100 Vinkovci  
Phone/Fax: 032/ 334 653  
info@tz-vinkovci.hr  
www.tz-vinkovci.hr

### Tourist Board - Županja

Veliki kraj 66  
32 270 Županja  
Phone: 032/ 830 299  
Fax: 032/ 832 711  
tz-zupanja@vk.t-com.hr  
www.tz-zupanja.hr

### Tourist Board - Ilok

Trg sv. Ivana Kapistrana 5 – Kurija Brnjaković  
32 236 Ilok  
Phone: 032/ 590 020  
Fax: 032/ 592 966  
tourismilok@gmail.com  
www.turizamilok.hr

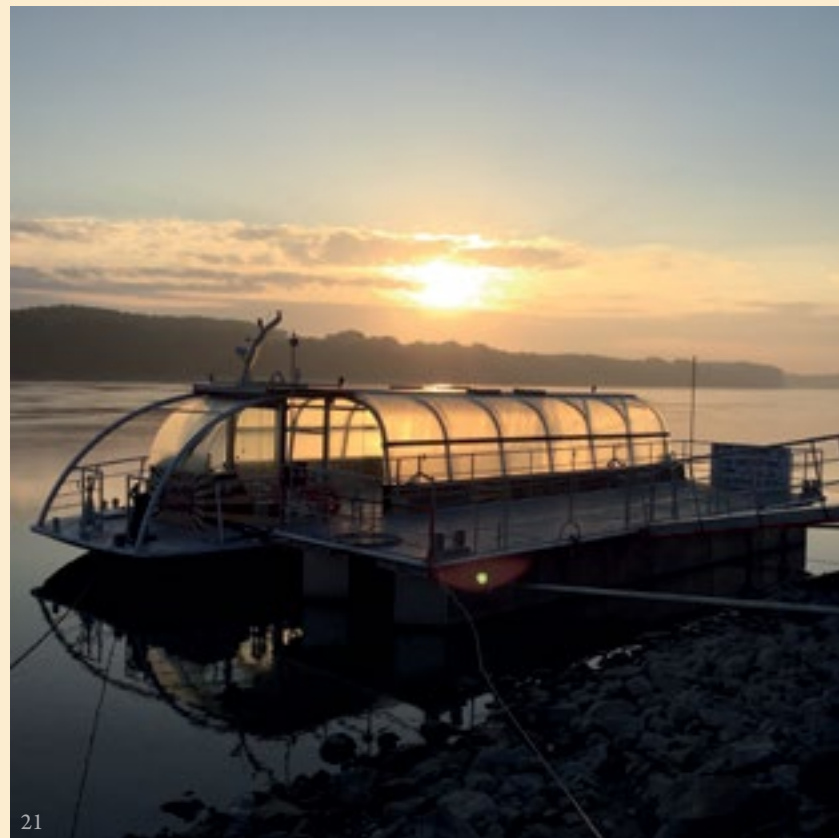
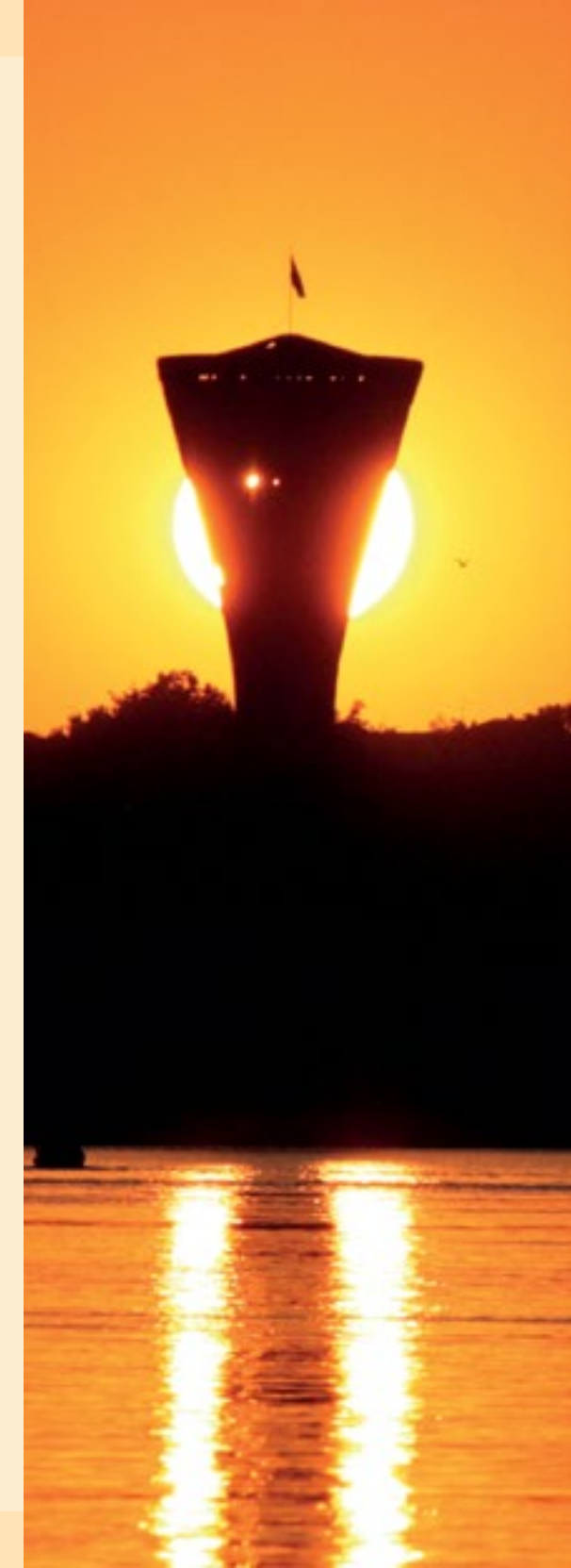
### Tourist Board - Nijemci

Trg kralja Tomislava 6  
32 245 Nijemci  
Phone: 032/280 376  
Fax: 032/ 280 377  
turistickazajednicaon@gmail.com  
www.tz-opcinanijemci.hr



## Enrich your journey also with ...

On this magical journey, refresh your body and soul enjoying the tastes of Srijem and Slavonia, the wines on the Ilok wine road, especially the royal *traminac*, rural households, staying in forests and observing birds in Nijemci. Take a boat ride on the powerful Danube [21] or on the calm Spačva [22]. Get to know Srijem by riding a bicycle on the Danube and Srijem routes. Take a rest.







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Published by:  
Tourist Board of the Vukovar-Srijem County



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Archives of the Tourist Board of the Vukovar-Srijem County

Graphic design:  
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Printed by:  
Printera

Proofreading:  
Višnja Sorčik, M.A.

Edition: 1500  
December 2016

Translation:  
Marija Sabol, M.A.  
Traducta, translation and intellectual  
services, owned by Željko Kučinić





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[blog.visitvukovar-srijem.com](http://blog.visitvukovar-srijem.com)