

North, East and West of the Croatian wine scene

#### Day 1 Zagreb Kutjevo Osijek

Welcome at the Zagreb airport, driving to eastern Croatia – Slavonia's renowned wine jewel Kutjevo vineyards. Situated on the edge of the Golden Valley (Vallis Aurea) it is home to the oldest but also some of the best wineries of the region. The Kutjevo winery with its tradition of over 800 years is certainly one of the most visited locations. We will have a welcome lunch in their newly opened restaurant in the vineyards starting our Croatian endeavour with a tasting lunch menu of regional specialities paired with the wines from their production.

After lunch we drove to Osijek, Capital of Slavonia where we will spend the next three nights in a 4\* hotel overlooking Drava river. Nice stroll around the city will wrap up the first day as we take a rest preparing for the exciting days ahead.

#### Day 2 Osijek Kneževi vinogradi, Zmajevac, Osijek

After a nice breakfast we crossed the Drava river to enter the colorful region of Baranja in the confluence area of Drava and Danube. First visit is to Belje winery and cellars with the tradition since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and very recognisable position on the Croatian wine scene. Next is Josipovac and Josić restaurant & winery situated in a picturesque traditional village. Nice lunch will be followed by tasting of the best that Josić has to offer. Return to Osijek late in the afternoon to explore Tvrđa, a historical part of the city.

#### Day 3 Osijek, Vukovar, Ilok, Dalj, Osijek

Another day takes us to another direction, driving downstream Danube river to visit the heroic city of Vukovar and hear its stories. Continuing to Ilok for lunch in the ambiance of historic Castle cellars where Traminac is produced which was served at Queen Elisabeth's wedding and it is ever since present at the British court. The next stop is a little village by the Danube to taste the best of the awarded Antunović winery in Dalj.

#### Day 4 Osijek, Đakovo, Kutjevo, Sveti Martin

After breakfast we drive to the National Lipizzaner Stud Farm in Đakovo to enjoy their grace and beauty. Then it is time to change the region – we are driving towards the northernmost county of Croatia, Medjimurje. But first things first of course, another stop in Kutjevo and another excellent wine stop at Galić winery. We go full steam ahead with the most comprehensive tasting menu combining their finest wines and regional food specialties and guided by our master enologist for a firsthand insight.

Arrival at Thermae Sveti Martin in the late afternoon, relaxing in beautiful nature, by the pool or in one of the spa areas. Dinner at the hotel, overnight.

#### Day 5 Medjmurje County

Breakfast followed by a tour of Medjmurje County including natural, historical and industrial heritage. Two tastings in local wineries including lunch at the historical Terbotz restaurant and winery. Another winery visit on a viewpoint overlooking five countries before we return to our SPA oasis at Sveti Martin, dinner, overnight.

#### Day 6 Varazdin, Trakoscan Castle,

After breakfast panoramic ride through the region takes us to one of the most beautiful and preserved castles of Croatia, Trakoscan.

Stopping in Lepoglava for a short lace making presentation (Unesco), lunch and wine tasting at Zlatne Gorice Estate, presentation and wine tasting in historical ambiance.

Return to the Sveti Martin SPA resort.

#### Day 7

Time to head West but on our way to Opatija we stop at the Bolfan Vinski Vrh winery, then for a short walking tour and free time in Zagreb. Arriving at Opatija late in the afternoon to enjoy its evening charm. Walking along the coastal promenade full of historic villas, parks, bars and restaurants.

#### Day 8 Istria tour

Departure to Pula to visit the bestpreserved Roman amphitheater and then immersing in flavors of Istria, the region of best olive oil, truffles and wine. Exploring the stunning Istria region with two wine stops, experiencing excellent food and wine on a full day trip before returning to Opatija in the evening.

#### Day 9

Enjoying Opatija's sunrise and morning before heading to Zagreb airport.