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All the flavours of Zagreb.



*Juicy news from
Zagreb's foodie scene.*

**DELICIOUS
ZAGREB**


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ALL THE FLAVORS OF ZAGREB

Zagreb has always loved its food, but lately it has really found its appetite. Delicious Zagreb the Zagreb Tourist Board's new gastro platform, brings together the people telling the city's food story – on the page, on screen and around the table. Here's a taste.



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DELICIOUS ZAGREB

Delicious Zagreb

The Zagreb Tourist Board launched Delicious Zagreb in collaboration with chef Rudolf Štefan of Šibenik's Pelegrini. The project started out by mapping Zagreb's food scene and is now growing into a full-fledged platform of gastro experiences. It brings gastro routes, traces ingredients from Dolac market to restaurant menus and puts locals and their stories front and center through video. The guiding idea? Zagreb is a gastronomic metropolis on a human scale, where coffee rituals, market buzz, terrace culture and award-winning restaurants are all within easy reach. Start with a morning coffee and a stroll around Dolac, then seek out hidden courtyards and terraces.



Gault&Millau Zagreb 2027

After a decade in Croatia, the prestigious international guide has a special edition all about the capital – Croatia in miniature, says Ingrid Badurina Danielsson, director of Gault&Millau Croatia. The bilingual guide rounds up the 108 best addresses in town, from fine dining and *gostionice* (traditional taverns) to modern bistros and street food. The biggest change lately? The bar scene – think specialty coffee, wine and cocktail bars serving brunch. Yet amid the sushi, quesadillas and burgers, “Zagreb hasn’t lost its gastronomic identity.”



ŠIME MODRIĆ

Sjedi i jedi

Sit down and eat – the name says it all. Created by Toni Janjiš of tportal's Content Studio, this video series celebrates the art of gathering around the table. Its first six episodes dish up Zagreb classics, from *galebac* (a hearty midday meal) and *bučnica* (squash and cheese pie) to the sacred Sunday lunch. The message? Slow down, head to the *plac* (market), chat with the *kumice* (market women), buy seasonal and local – then cook for the people you love. Next, it aims to become a gastro platform of recipes, reviews and guides.



ŠIME MODRIĆ



GROČE



Ingrid Badurina Danielsson



Toni Janjiš

LUKA STANZ/PIXSELL



ERNEST MAZERIC

Ana kuha, Zagreb voli
Chef Ana Ugarković is back with a new season of *Ana Cooks, Zagreb Loves*. Episode by episode, she explores local ingredients, traditional recipes and contemporary takes on Zagreb cuisine, with stops at her favorite spots around town. For Ana, the city has a gastronomic identity all its own – a blend of tradition, seasonality and urban energy – and its food is as much about the people, places and emotions behind every bite. New this year is *Ml-jac (Yum)*, her series of short, snappy video recipes.



Ana Ugarković

MONOVIEW

A publisher's Zagreb, page by page

How would you describe the new Sandorf Bookshop, and what can visitors find on its shelves?

Sandorf Bookshop is a place of meetings, discoveries and new friendships – with a neighbor looking for a friendly place to spend time, perhaps over coffee in the cosy yard of nearby café-bar Sedmica or with a book they've never heard of or an old classic they want to reread.



Ivan Sršen, writer, publisher and co-founder of Sandorf Bookshop

our bookshop found its home.

Which corner of Zagreb belongs in a novel?

The corner of Vodnikova and Savska. It could just as easily sit in Minneapolis, Paris, London, Buenos Aires or Warsaw – trams, traffic jams, a railway, kebab kiosks, hostels, bakeries, a pharmacy, a pastry shop... A close friend who passed away long ago lived there his whole life, and I still think of him whenever I pass that corner.

Which books would you give someone who wants to understand Zagreb better?

The Maya Calendar by Zoran Ferić follows a Zagreb family across the second half of the 20th century. *Wild Woman* by Marina Šur Puhlovski is an intense portrait of a woman's world, with Zagreb as a hidden character. *On the Edge of Reason* by Miroslav Krleža, for hard truths about petit-bourgeois narrowmindedness.

Which Zagreb habit could you never give up?

Biking through the worst traffic to cross the city faster than any car could.

What does Zagreb look like through the eyes of a writer and publisher?

Zagreb is an old, complicated city, its layers of history stacked one on top of another, not always in order. Yet that's its charm – an ever-changing crossroads between the EU and the Balkans, the Adriatic and continental Europe. 15 years ago, I co-wrote *History of Zagreb Libraries*, exploring the city through its libraries. I later edited *Zagreb Noir* for US publisher Akashic Books, digging into Zagreb's darker side – the late-night hours in alleys at the edge of town.

Where do you go when you need a new idea?

Sljeme. The mountain is the best inspiration for anyone living beneath it. Or just Sedmica, the bar next to which

QUIZG

1 The only dead-end street in the Upper Town is?

- a) Opatička
- b) Kamenita
- c) Visoka

2 Which Zagreb neighborhood has the most trees?

- a) Cvjetno naselje
- b) Zapruđe
- c) Martinovka

3 Horse-drawn trams ran in Zagreb until 1910. How fast did it go?

- a) 7,5 km/h
- b) 8,5 km/h
- c) 9,5 km/h

Answers

1 c, Visoka is the only dead-end street in the Upper Town, and also the highest.

2 b With around 5500 residents, Zapruđe has 4361 public trees. In Cvjetno naselje, there are actually more trees than residents.

3 a, From 1891, horses pulled the trams at a speed of seven and a half kilometers per hour. Every year, 70 of them carried a million passengers.

GO NATIVE



PLACe MARKET

EAT THE MARKET AFTER DARK

PLACe Market (every Friday, 6pm, Kvatrić market) gives Zagreb's morning market an evening shift. Chefs turn seasonal produce from the stalls into street food, DJs provide the soundtrack and Kvatrić becomes one big dinner table.

CATCH A TRAM CONCERT

Zagrebačka promenade (Oct 3&8, trams and city locations) puts the ZET Orchestra where it belongs: on public transport. Catch musicians aboard Zagreb trams, then follow them to a pop-up concert. On Oct 8, the final stop is the Funicular, celebrating its 136th birthday.

RUN WITH THE WORLD

Zagreb Marathon (Oct 11, Ban Jelačić square) takes over the city center with marathon, half-marathon and 10K races. This year, Zagreb also hosts the World Masters Athletics Marathon Championships, bringing runners aged 35+ from around the globe. Run, cheer or simply

enjoy a city temporarily ruled by runners.

MAKE OCTOBER JAZZY

Zagreb Jazz Festival (Oct 4 & 19, Tvornica Kulture and Kino SC) brings two very different nights to town. James Carter Quartet celebrates 100 years of John Coltrane, while legendary singer Barbara Hendricks arrives with her Blues Band. Pick your mood: saxophone fireworks or blues royalty.



ANJA MUTIĆ

writes for *BBC Travel*,
the *Washington Post*
and many more.
Follow her at @
everthenomad

A city of small flames

Late October, and the light shifts color. Mornings arrive slower now, wrapped in a soft grey haze, and by 5pm the sky is already sinking into indigo. It's the kind of half-light that makes you want to slow down, pull your collar up, linger longer over your coffee.

This is the season Zagreb does best, the liminal one, neither fully warm nor cold quite yet. I take it in on a walk through Tuškanac, kicking through drifts of chestnut leaves, the air sharp with that particular autumn smell of damp earth and wood-smoke. Down at Dolac, the stalls have swapped summer's peaches and plums for pumpkins and quince, and the first roasted chestnut carts appear on street corners, their smoke curling up past shopfronts.

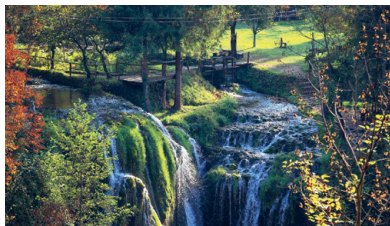
Then comes November 1st, and the city shows another face entirely. At Mirogoj cemetery, thousands of candles are lit for *Svi sveti*, All Saints' Day. Walking beneath its ivy-covered arcades at dusk, I'm struck every year by how tender this ritual feels. Just outside the gates, flower stalls sell mounds of yellow and white chrysanthemums, the traditional flower for the day.

It's a reminder that Zagreb holds many textures at once: the crunch of leaves in Maksimir, the hush of Mirogoj's candlelight, the bustle of Dolac stalls stacking up for winter. Bright and dim, vibrant and reflective, all in the same short walk. Every year this shift catches me off guard. And every year, I let it.

Tip: Visit Mirogoj a day or two before or after November 1st, when the candles and flowers are still fresh but the arcades mostly quiet.

Follow the water through Rastoke

Explore Rastoke, where water refuses to stay politely in the landscape. Follow the paths between old wooden houses and 17th-century mills, crossing little bridges as cascades appear beneath your feet. Bring your camera, but stop somewhere for coffee too: on some terraces, the water comes so close it practically joins you at the table. Then taste the legacy of the old water mills in local breads and pastries.



BORIS ŠČISTAR

Tip: Order a slice of *makovnjača*, Croatia's poppy seed roll, and eat it within earshot of a waterfall.



ANDREA PISAC

Global anthropologist and Zagreb writer with a twist. Follow her at @travelhonestly.com

Honestly, read the city

Fall makes me want to turn inward and reach for stories. Luckily, in Zagreb, I don't even need a book to start reading. I love hanging around the writers' statues, scattered around the city. A.G. Matoš clearly knew where the best view was hiding, so I join 'him' on the bench on Strossmayer promenade and gaze over the rooftops. Tin Ujević treated the city as his living room, so his statue got a café table on Flower Square. If there's an empty chair around, I'll sit beside him.

Near the Stone Gate stands Dora Krupićeva, heroine of August Šenoa's *The Goldsmith's Gold*. She walked straight out of fiction and into the city. At Dolac, the statue of Kumica represents generations of real, nameless market women who fed Zagreb. Then reality gives way to legend. Manda is the girl from the story of Zagreb's name, forever scooping water from Manduševac fountain. Up on Medvednica lurks the Black Queen, the terrifying ruler of Medvedgrad from another favorite legend. When I want more stories, I spend an afternoon at the National and University Library, soaking up the energy of people reading around me. Or I go old-school at the Croatian State Archives: wooden desks, table lamps and classification drawers included.

Zagreb has plenty of stories. Sometimes we just need to remember how to read them.

Tip: Croatian Book Month runs from Oct 15 to Nov 15. Wander into Zagreb's libraries which fill up with readings, exhibitions and events.

A FOOD TOUR AROUND ZAGREB

The countryside around Zagreb is a patchwork of small culinary worlds. Historic towns, river plains, vineyards and farming villages have each developed their own flavors, shaped by what grew nearby and how people lived. Travel a short distance and the menu changes: warm custard cake, river trout, sparkling wine, cottage-cheese pastries or meat sizzling over an open fire.

SAMOBOR

— custard and Bermet

Samobor's famous *kremšnita* is a towering custard slice traditionally eaten slightly warm. Its companion is Bermet, the town's aromatic wine flavored with fruits and herbs. Recipes vary, but the tradition stretches back more than two centuries.



SVETA NEDELJA

— trout by the Sava

The Sava once carried timber rafts from Slovenia, with riverside inns feeding raftsmen along the way. Suhina was one such stop and has remained in the same family for four generations. Its *pastrva na mlinarski*, pan-fried trout prepared in the traditional miller's style, still belongs beside the river.



PLEŠIVICA — hills of wine

Plešivica's vine-covered hills are famous for Croatian sparkling wines. Fall, however, belongs to Portugizac, a light, fruity young red released soon after harvest. It arrives just as local apples turn into strudels—a particularly happy seasonal match.

VRBOVEC

— cheese, cream and pera

Fresh cottage cheese and sour cream— *sir i vrhnje*— are staples of the Zagreb region. In Vrbovec, they become *vrbovečka pera*, a rustic pastry traditionally baked in a wood-fired oven. Simple farmhouse ingredients, transformed into a local specialty.

IVANIĆ-GRAD

— kotlovina and Škrlet



Around Ivanić-Grad, *kotlovina* means meat, sausages, potatoes and vegetables sizzling together in a large shallow pan over an open fire. This generous fair-ground dish has a local partner in the glass: Škrlet, the fresh, aromatic white wine native to the area.

NUMBERS

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112

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WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE AGES

On the first October weekend, Medvedgrad returns to medieval times: the Black Queen, knights and witches take over the 13th-century fortress, perched halfway between Zagreb and Sljeme. Beyond occasional historical festivals, Medvedgrad is a monumental testament to the city's long history, but also a favorite excursion spot, a gateway for exploring Medvednica and a perfect start to a hike to one of the mountain huts in Zagreb's nature park. @pp-medvednica.hr

Medvedgrad (Latin: *Arx ursina**)

1254 ————— 1590 ————— 1979 ————— 1994

Medvedgrad was built

Medvedgrad was abandoned after an earthquake

The fortress and the towers were restored

The Altar of the Homeland monument was erected



*There have been no bears on Medvednica (Bear Mountain) since the Middle Ages.

TASTE OF ZAGREB

powered by Taste of Croatia

World cuisines across Zagreb

Zagreb is a city on a human scale, yet its food scene is decidedly cosmopolitan. Its international restaurant scene is lively and ever-growing, from street food to fine dining, with Asian cuisine leading the way.



Takenoko, Zagreb's first truly high-end Japanese restaurant, set the bar high, followed by Tekka and Izakaya, which puts a contemporary, urban spin on Japanese cuisine. Asian fusion is particularly popular, with Lower Town favorites ranging from the sophisticated Kiyomi and laid-back SOI Fusion to the cheerful, eclectic Kai Street Food. Hidden gems include the neighborhood tea house Jing Yuan, with authentic Chinese bites alongside the tea ritual, and the tiny Japanese bistro Pink Pig. Sri Lankan cuisine is represented by Curry Bowl, loved by locals and visitors, while Cato Taqueria brings a taste of Mexico with its inventive tacos. Austrian and Italian cuisine may not be exotic as they are deeply rooted in Zagreb's culinary tradition, but the most authentic, stripped-back versions can be found at the foothills of Medvednica, at Wirtshaus, and at the long-standing Carpaccio.

PLAY FOODSIE

In fall, Zagreb's farmers' markets put the whole squash family on display, opening up plenty of ways to bring them to the table. Turn butternut squash into a warming, spicy soup finished with pumpkin seed oil. Try *bučnica*, Zagreb's beloved savoury pumpkin strudel, where grated pumpkin meets fresh cheese and cream beneath crisp pastry. And if sunny days keep the grills going, add a few slices of zucchini. Once they pick up dark griddle marks and a whiff of smoke, even this delicate vegetable turns gourmet.

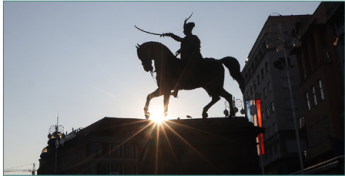


FIRST MINUTE



Taste the fall light

On a bright fall day, Zagreb's yellow buildings seem almost edible. Find the Croatian National Theatre, Dvorce Palace or the Art Pavilion when the low sun hits their facades. Their solid walls turn the color of custard cream, while delicate decorations catch the light like icing on a very elaborate pastry. Stand there for a moment. Zagreb really does look that delicious.



LAST MINUTE



Take one last walk

Before you leave, take the walk you had no time for while ticking off the sights. Follow Jurjevska street uphill, past old villas, ivy-wrapped facades and nostalgic iron gates, until the city suddenly opens onto Cmrok meadow. Across the green, the domes of Mirogoj cemetery rise among hillsides dotted with houses. It's Zagreb showing you one last, rather unexpected face.

4am

Good house and a living legend

The DJ behind the timeless house hit "The Weekend" is coming to Zagreb on the weekend of October 17-18. Alongside resident DJs, Michael Gray kicks off a new season of Dobar House Legends at the Peti Kupe club, and the party is on through 5am. #dobarhouse

The city center pedestrian zone

is to expand all the way from the Croatian National Theatre to Zrinjevac park. Masarykova, Teslina, Preradovičeva and Gajeva streets will become one space, with 50 new trees added to the promenade, an expansion supported by residents in a survey conducted this spring.

The blueprint of the new pedestrian zone is on display on posters along Masarykova and Teslina streets.

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