

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CITY OF VRGORAC
Tina Ujevića 8
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Vrgorac, 22.04.2022.

Deputado Pedro do Carmo
Presidente da comissao parlamentar de
agricultura e pescas da Assembleia da
Republica
Palacio de Sao Bento, Lisboa
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SUBJECT: Invitation to the event "Days of
Dalmatian prosciutto and wine", 24 and 25 June 2022 in Vrgorac

Under the patronage of the City of Vrgorac, the Tourist Board of the City of Vrgorac, and partner associations of winemakers and prosciutto makers in Vrgorac, the following event will be held in Vrgorac this year as well

DAYS OF DALMATIAN PROSCIUTTO AND WINE
24 June 2022 – 25 June 2022
City Park, Vrgorac

with the aim to encourage family farms and economic entities to get involved in production processes with a special emphasis on the production of certified Dalmatian prosciutto, as well as the preservation of autochthonous wine varieties of the Vrgorac vineyard region such as Zlatarica vrgorska and Trnak, and ultimately on the creation of tourist offer and content based on domestic production and agriculture.

"DAYS OF DALMATIAN PROSCIUTTO AND WINE" is the main and central event of the strategic economic and tourist project of the City of Vrgorac and the Tourist Board of Vrgorac – VRGORAC, CITY OF DALMATIAN PROSCIUTTO AND WINE, which has, since 2016, positioned Vrgorac as a destination primarily recognised by the largest production of certified Dalmatian prosciutto with the EU protected designation of geographical origin, large-scale agriculture, while the field of Vrgorac is recognised as the largest vineyard region in the Republic of Croatia with the greatest number of planted grapevines. This is a project of great importance for our farmers and local producers which brings together an increasing number of producers from various parts of Croatia and neighbouring countries in the region and encourages the development of agriculture and rural tourism in this area.

In fact, the people of the Vrgorac region are primarily engaged in agriculture and the food industry. Although we are a small town located in the heart of Dalmatia, with only 6,000 inhabitants on 284 km², there are over 450 active family farms in Vrgorac (over 600 registered) which constitute a large agricultural force in this region.

While the area is currently best known for planting strawberries, it is less known that Vrgorac has the largest prosciutto manufacture in Southeast Europe which produces over 300,000 legs of prosciutto per year based on tradition and modern production processes, 80,000 of which are certified Dalmatian prosciutto bearing the EU protected designation of geographical origin, as well as over 2,000 tons of Dalmatian pancetta, capocollo and other cured meat delicacies.

Also, with over 13 million planted grapevines, the field of Vrgorac called Jezero is the largest vineyard region in Croatia, while more and more winegrowers are turning to winemaking and planting of autochthonous varieties with special emphasis on Zlatarica vrgorska, Trnak, but also other varieties like Plavka, Vranka, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Rukatac, Kuč. All of the above is a great source of pride not only for the City of Vrgorac but also for the entire Dalmatia.

In addition to local producers from the Vrgorac region and its surroundings, the festival "Days of Dalmatian Prosciutto and Wine" brings together a growing number of producers from various parts of Croatia and the wider region. We use this event to promote domestic production in the exquisite ambience of the centennial Austrian-Hungarian park in the centre of Vrgorac through tastings, exhibitions, round tables, presentations, trainings, cooking show programmes and the entertainment part of the programme.

Although this is only the 5th edition of our Days of Dalmatian Prosciutto and Wine, since the previous two had to be postponed due to epidemiological measures caused by the coronavirus pandemic, it has already become widely recognised by the public and is turning into the largest prosciutto and wine festival in Dalmatia.

We are hopefully on the right path to achieve similar attendance, popularity and excellent organisation of your well-known festival "Feira do Porco Alentejano" in the future, so we take this opportunity to thank you once again for the excellent hospitality during our visit.

The exact time and schedule of events as well as the plan and programme of the visit will be notified to you subsequently.

We are looking forward to the continuation of our collaboration and our reunion in Vrgorac!

Yours faithfully,

 **ACTING MAYOR**
Mile Herceg, graduated civil engineer