



CULTURAL
HERITAGE
vodice

If you come to Vodice, a place which welcomes guests with pleasure and joy, you will discover the riches and the diversity of the heritage that we carefully keep and show with pride.

Churches which breathe the holy peace, excavated objects more than two milleniums old, ancient walls and villas keep the noble patina of the past centuries. To u heritage is what defines us mostly, and if you stay longer in Vodice, you will see that it is still a part of our contemporary life...



info:
 TOURIST BOARD VODICE
 Obala Vladimira Nazora bb
 HR-22211 Vodice
 phone: +385 (0)22 443 888
www.vodice.hr





PARISH CHURCH OF ST. CROSS²

The Parish church of St. Cross was built by Ivan Skok, a famous master of the Dalmatian Baroque. In 1725 Skok worked on a chapel of the main altar, which was later inserted in extension of the church (from 1746 to 1749), when the church got its harmonious façade, with a Baroque portal and a magnificent rosette, and side walls with oval Baroque windows.

The author of the altarpieces is a famous painter of decorative frescos Eugenio Moretti Varese. The pieces, one representing the Holy Family, and the other one the Heart of Jesus and the saints of Vinko the Martyr and Stanislav Kostka, were probably ordered in 1851.

The bell-tower is the work of the master Vicko Macanović Dubrovčanin.

The church was consecrated in 1760.



SMALL CHURCH OF ST. CROSS¹

This simple Gothic church was built in 1402. It was dedicated to St. Cross in 1421 when it was a parish church as well, and there was a graveyard in its surroundings.

The church, built in the Gothic style, is a typical example of the rural sacral architecture. A valuable detail is the old Romanesque-Gothic holy-water font on the pillar, a unique specimen in this part of Dalmatia.

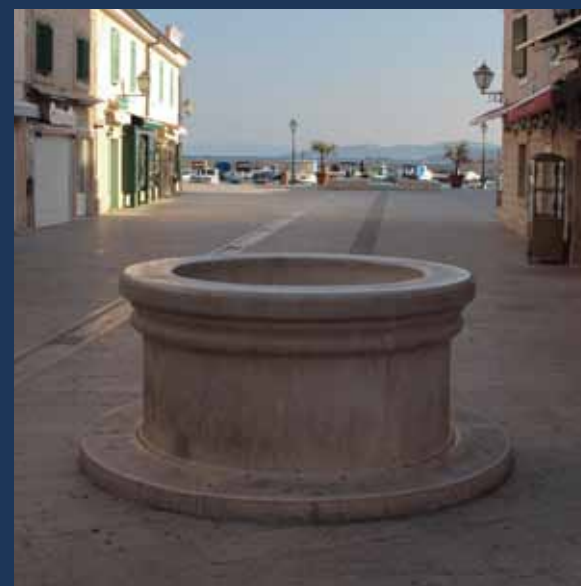




ČORIĆ TOWER³

The Fondra family built this beautiful three-floor tower made of white carpented stone in 1646. There is a coat of arms with a helmet and a plume, a goose and letters H.S.

On the second floor there is an interesting specimen of the wash-basin and a rare fireplace. By the tower and its courtyard wall there is still an old panelling "on knife's edge", one of the rare preserved in our coastal rural environments.



WELLS⁴

Vodice was developed next to the water springs. On the square, under the parish church, there used to be two wells around which the whole rural life was developed.

From the upper well (closer to the parish church) drinkable water was taken, and the lower well contained water of less quality which was used for washing laundry and other household needs.

VODICE COSTUME



ŽUDIJE GUARDIANS OF THE JESUS' TOMB

A particularity of the Easter feast in Vodice, compared to a celebration in another towns, are the Vodice žudije. In a special way they participate in the Easter public worship from Maundy Thursday to Holy Saturday.

Žudije begin their service on Maundy Thursday at the end of the mass of The Last supper. Dressed as Roman soldiers with a mace and javelins they approach the altar and continue to guard the tomb of Jesus until his resurrection. On Good Friday they participate in procession through the town following Jesus who bears a heavy cross. On Holy Saturday it is the end of their service, they fall down on the mass and run away, and two angels announce the resurrection of Jesus.



OKIT⁵

Looking from the sea, the panorama of Vodice is dominated by the Okit hill and a church of Our Lady of Carmel.

On this elevation the first church was erected in the 17th century, probably on the foundations of even older small chapel. Later, at the beginning of the 20th century, from the foot up to the top of the hill, the Way of the Cross was made, with fourteen small chapels, each one designates one station of the Way.

The church was extended for several times, it was destroyed twice, in the World War II and in the Croatian War of Independence. The current appearance of the church of Our Lady of Carmel is the work of Nikola Bašić, an architect from Zadar.



RAŠO'S BUNJA⁶

Stone field cottages, called *bunja* are spread all over the Mediterranean, and on the Croatian coast of the Adriatic are the most numerous in the surroundings of Šibenik and Zadar. These old cottages, of characteristic way of construction, are mostly circular, but they can be also rectangular or unsymmetrical.

Rašo's bunja is the rarity because of its structure and construction. This building is a complex of two big and two small cottages. The most interesting building part of bigger cottage is the inner passage, *čemer*, which leads from one room to another. One room, with a fireplace, served as a kitchen, and the other one for sleeping. Two smaller cottages served for keeping the livestock.



RAKITNICA⁷ & THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST⁸



Rakitnica settlement was mentioned in 1311 and today are still discerned the remains of the former houses and walls built in a dry-wall.

A local church of St. John the Baptist, located close to the village, was built in 1445 when the parish of Rakitnica was founded. Masses are held twice a year, on the holidays of St. John the Baptist.

Noblemen from Šibenik, the owners of Rakitnica, along with peasants, began building the Gradina castle on the steep ridge above the settlement in 1509, for the purpose of defence against the Turks. Throughout the 17th century severe battles were fought for Rakitnica between the Turkish and Venetian army. The truce was set in 1699 when the Turks left this area.



BRICK KILN⁹

In the beginning of 2008 thanks to a notice of Mr. Vladimir Roca to the employees of the City Museum of Šibenik about "some strange bricks" that appeared while digging holes for young olives in his field, it came to a sensational discovery. At the foot of the old Rakitnica town, at Three wells site, the remains of the Roman brick kiln were found which served for the production of the parts of the roof structure – baked-clay tiles and channel tiles.

This is the first discovery of a Roman kiln in Dalmatia, although a friar Lujo Marun and Karl Patsch, in the transition from the 19th into the 20th century, wrote about the kilns near the village Smrdelji, but later they have never been found again, and a ravine itself through which a stream flew and the surrounding area with a place for kiln is now overgrown with dense plants and it is almost impassable. Therefore the Rakitnica discovery has a special meaning, and by its preserved condition it is a curiosity in the Mediterranean.



VELIKA MRDAKOVICA - ARAUSONA¹⁰

On this rich archaeological site from the pre-Roman and Roman times about a hundred tombs have been discovered, out of which some date back from the 4th century B.C. According to the found artefacts and records of the Roman writers, experts identify this settlement as Arausona, a Liburnian-Roman settlement mentioned by Pliny. Tombs of the older layers of necropolis date back from the 3rd to the 1st century B.C., and they were made under the Hellenistic influence.

A complex of blocks of houses made of fine carpented stone, joined with clay, and later with mortar was also found here. The settlement was surrounded by defensive walls, made from the fractal stone, and was divided by streets.

Some buildings had water tanks incised into the bedrock for collecting the rain-water. Nearby there is still a natural catchment, coved in Roman times, which domestic people today call **Roman cistern**¹¹ and which served for the water supply of the local inhabitants, while the livestock watered in a puddle in the field, north of the settlement.



CHURCH OF ST. ELIJAH THE PROPHET¹²

The church was built by inhabitants of the Pišća settlement in 1298. The church was dedicated to St. Elijah the Prophet in 1493. It is surrounded by an oval wall and on this place are still discerned the remains of the tombs.

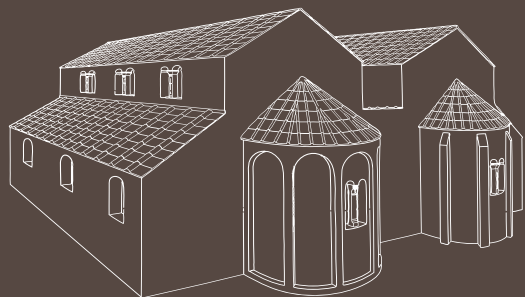
Once a year, on 20th August, a holy mass is held.



SRIMA - PRIŽBA¹³

Archaeological excavations on this site, under the leadership of Zlatko Gunjača, were carried out from 1969 to 1974, and there was a preservation afterwards. Two one-nave basilicas built in different times were found. Therefore we call them *basilicae geminatae* or “the twin churches” - double churches. The reason and a purpose of these buildings have not been explained to the end. One of the thesis is that the *basilicae geminatae* are a conjunction of the congregational churches that serve for the public worship mass and memorial ones intended for the cult of relics. There is a great number of such examples in the area of the Roman Dalmatia, and in the Mediterranean. They were erected in Episcopal centres and more often outside the town areas, such this one in Srma.

These double basilicas are the most completely explored in the area of Dalmatia as well. Although the opinions on the time of their construction have not been fully conciliated, it is said that both churches date back from the 6th century. A style analysis of the stone furniture confirmed it, whereas some adaptations of the inventory was done in the 7th century. A northern church is older, and a southern one was joined later.



ISLAND OF PRVIĆ



The island of Prvić was mentioned in the 11th century, but was more intensively settled in the 15th century when the inhabitants from the land ran away before the Turks to the islands. There are two villages on the island – Prvić Luka and Šepurina, connected by a road.

The land was mostly owned by noble families from Šibenik that build country houses on the island, among which is **the mansion of the famous Vrančić family**¹⁴.

The most celebrated representative of this family is Faust Vrančić. Born in Šibenik in 1551, he is the author of the numerous works among which are the most famous “*Machinae novae*” and “*Dictionary of the five noblest languages of Europe*” which includes Croatian too.

In the book “*Machinae novae*” (1595) Vrančić gives a picture of 56 different devices, constructions and technical concepts on 49 engravings followed by descriptions. Among the projects the most distinguished are a bridge with an arch, a mill to the tides, especially, it is said, a parachute that he tested jumping off the towers and cliffs.

He died in 1617 in Venice and, according to his wish, his body were carried over to the parish church of Our Lady of Mercy in Prvić Luka.

PRVIĆ LUKA

After the Glagolic friars had been settled in Prvić Luka, in 1461 the construction of **St. Mary's church or Our Lady of Mercy**¹⁵ with a monastery began. It is not known when it was finished, but we know that in 1479 building works were still in progress. The monastery was reconstructed many times, and it was completely renovated after the big fire in 1884. Unfortunately, many documents written in the Glagolic alphabet were burned by fire. The interior of the church is adorned with five Baroque altars. The bell-tower, made of white stone, 25 m high, was built in 1885.



The church of Our Lady's Childbirth¹⁶ was built in 1479 and was raised by the Ambrozović family from Šibenik. It was expanded and renovated in 1878.

There is one altar in the church, and there is a well in front of the church. The church is not in function nowadays.



ŠEPURINA

In the centre of Šepurina, near the coast, there is **The church of St. Rocco or St. Helen**¹⁷ built and consecrated in 1620. Inside the church, there is a wooden altar of St. Rocco, richly embellished with Baroque ornaments.

The church of Assumption of the Virgin Mary¹⁸ was built in 1878 on the hill above the village. At the main facade there is an inscription: Hoc templum aedificatum A. D. 1878. The church was restored twice, in 1898 and in 1938.





HRVATSKA

Izdavač: Turistička zajednica grada Vodica • Koncept & dizajn: Melina ML, M design studio • Vodice 2010
Tekstovi: Gordana Birin, Muzej grada Šibenika, Nataša Ozmec • Fotografije: Melina ML, Šime Strikoman, Muzej grada Šibenika, Arhiva TZ grada Vodica