

A REVIVED BEZANEC CASTLE – the first hotel-castle in the Republic of Croatia

The most positive micro example for macro enclosed touristic offer of Croatian zagorje

The story which is closer to fiction than to prose, and describes: engagement, fight, effort, barriers, success, was only a small piece of Mr Sinisa Krizanec's life. The story was rewarded with the following remark: « Maybe it is a persistent madness or mad persistence, defiance, maybe a planetary influence, or destiny...but a significant act for everybody, a newly gained value from the frame of corrected historical mistakes.»

This classicist building is dominant over the picturesque Zagorje surroundings, settled in St Valentine's, the epicentre which stresses the value of other 54 castles in Zagorje radius.

It was built by Keglevic counts who abode in the old town of Kostel. Not any more endangered by Turks, they build it in 1673, as a new residence. According to marital relations, the castle changes its owners – noble families Kolenbach, Schlaum-Linden, and at the end, barons Ottenfels Geschwind are buying the castle.

The historical injustice defines this aristocratic value, which was embezzled after the 2-nd World's war, as a place for smoking meat, and a trash depot. Common people are finding here a building material for their houses and farm buildings, while growing wild plants turned the exotic park into a prickler garden. An idea, not only for the salvation of the castle, was born in the moment when the roof partially fell down, under the burden of old ages, while it seemed that the bell from the tower rang for the last time.

Sinisa Krizanec, a self-educated designer, builder, investor, personal attorney, hotel-touristic magician, altogether in the name and character of one person, has managed, on a public surprise, to restore the first hotel-castle in the Republic of Croatia, in only one year and to inaugurate it on a Christmas Eve 1990. The Grand Opening took place on a Christmas Eve, as he says, because it was cheaper to receive guests in a time of fast. However, it wasn't on that evening that only the guests were treated, it was also – the national range of the tourist offer, which was treated by the leading object at that time, in its contents and its quality of services. This happy composition lasts for 23 years, now and of course, first of all, for Hrvatsko zagorje to be proud of it. In its originality, «Bezanec» is out of all categories, and this is the thing on its guests testify most justly.

The legend:

There is an interesting story related to baroness Josipa Ottenfels (died in 1885 and buried in a parochial church in Pregrada – so called «Zagorje cathedral»). She was self-willed and all the members of the family had to subdue to her will, unconditionally. The story says that after a fortune teller told her that she will live only as long as she will be building, the castle was constantly adjusted and upgraded and scaffolds were set up for decades. Due to the legend, Sinisa Krizanec too, decided not to fix up a small part of the western facade, because, as he says: «You never know...»

How to reach Hotel Castle Bezanec

The most exclusive hotel in Hrvatsko zagorje is on a rarely attractive position, near numerous baths, surrounded by castles and cottages, close to the finding site of a prehistoric neandertal humans in Husnjakovo – Krapina and in the neighbourhood of ethno-village in Kumrovec. Bezanec stands near Veliki Tabor, on a route to Trakoscan castle, northern from Stubica and Marija Bistrica, and only a half an hour drive from Zagreb. It stands as a reception of Pregrada, on the nearest course to Vienna, from Zagreb, following the direction: Zabok – Krapinske Toplice. A motor map «CroMaps» can be seen at www.bezanec.hr Remember: the Bezanec castle is so close to

everyone, and at the same time, faraway enough, in order for You to escape to a completely different world, in a castle where nobody is getting old, because time stands here.

A Valentine's Day in St. Valentine's

A potion of heartthrob or the magic of a honeymoon

Can You imagine a place full of love, which can be seen and felt? Just imagine how much of love was embedded in the walls of Bezanec, with how many love every detail was arranged, only because of You and just for You! Imagine Your experience when all this love will be gifted to You! A planetary reputation is stressed by a figure of more than 3000 weddings, all of which the housefather organized in praxis. Cheerful, frightened, fanciful, with or without ideas, brave and the ones less adventurous, newly-weds from all over the world, decide to treat their guests just in the castle for the ones most in love. It circulates through the world the truth about drinking of a honey plum brandy of nobility – You need to drink it in a hollow log of a 500 years old lime-tree, which stands at the entrance to the castle. It needs to be done from a special patella for two, which has a motive in declaration of love. The story tells that the court-ghost, and the ones who saw her say she is beautiful and kind, witnesses the events and helps the words flow, and also, leaves some bright, miraculous magic on the fiances. Some of them meet her while spending night in some of the rooms, but this isn't all !?

The tradition of drinking of a honey plum brand, is closely conected to «honeymoon», whose name is so closely related to our Valentine's brandy. St Valentine's chapel, after which the place itself got the name,was in the past very often giving its blessing, during the preparation of gifts for the newly-weds. Their gift was a blessed brandy, made with honey, in volume enough for at least a month. And there it is – a month of joy and happiness and here is another reason for the term «honeymoon» to become the most desirable and the most popular in the World. And all of that, thanks to our unpretentious St Valentine's and to all the splendour of energies it radiates. Here miracles aren't miracles any more!

A hotel adjusted to business clients, who recognize cultural and rural values

Seminars, promotions, consultations, business and diplomatic protocols, presentations, business and formal meals, dance parties, magic shows, fashion reviews, «team-building» programmes, and all other things which the most modern hotel can offer, is a part of a Bezanec castle offer, but in a stylistic way, with a personal touch within a luxurious scene.

Lots of companies have recognized «Bezanec» as just the right place for their business activities and presentations because of the maximum response and interest, and because of the efficiency in concentration.

In Bezanec castle, everything is so different! This commercial pearl of our tourism doesn't leave the impression of being just a hotel; it airs as an abundant gallery, luxurious living-room, fanciful stylistic bedroom, abundant cellar, a peaceful place for a quiet work, an excellent place for entertainment in a thoroughly arranged environment of the basement, a library, and a wellness inspiration in natural surroundings of rural beauties. A room capacity for about 50 people or for more than a hundred in conference rooms and restaurants, don't decrease the charm and elegance. 5000 square metres of interior is a guarantee enough that here is always some free small piece of space just for You, Your soul and intimacy.

The Bezanec Castle is an ideal place for shooting movies, and it encourages the imagination to many writers and producers.

The cheapest elite hotel castle in the World!

A relation between services and prices, as much as everything else, is very special. We tend a policy of economical penetration, so that we do not make a classification of guests by having high prices, on the contrary – the primary thing here is the quality of service!

Bezanec Castle, the most beautiful starting point for Your daily itinerary !

Whether You are deciding, after a good night rest, full of energy, to explore Zagorje (sacral objects, museums, castles, cottages and burgs) or Your ideas are taking You towards recreation facilities, You are at the source of possibilities and ideas. The adventure may begin with a hot air balloon flights, then You can ride through the picturesque surroundings, or You can take a car and Your host as a personal guide and driver. Walks through the countryside, through forrests, looking for mushrooms, are giving a special pleasure and can even be medically escorted. You can swim in a therapeutic thermal water of Krapinske and Tuheljske baths, only 10 min away from Bezanec by car. After a sauna or a solarium, have a massage or a cosmetic treatment in Your room. You can spend some pleasant moments in one of many local rural households, entertained in a typical atmosphere of Zagorje.

Is it nicer in the Castle in spring, funnier in summer, more passionate in autumn, or does winter bring some special attractions, do check, without hesitation !