Balthazar city
The ultimate guide to Rijeka 2020
European Capital of Culture
Almost 150 years since it was first established as Croatia’s premium tourist town, Opatija today still exudes the elegance and splendor of the times when Europe’s royalty and finest artists rubbed shoulders on its promenades and terraces.

Significant stakeholders in the tourism of seaside Šibenik and capital city Zagreb, Amadria Park has some of Opatija’s finest hotels, restaurants, spa and villas. In Opatija we maintain the town’s time-honored and top rate traditions in the service industry, providing highly trained, experienced personnel and the very best facilities to ensure a unforgettable stay in which you’ll feel pampered like royalty.

Opatija and its close neighbor Rijeka are unique on the Croatian coast; only here can you see the opulent architecture of the Austro-Hungarian empire resplendent against the glistening Adriatic. Amadria Park’s presence here has only bolstered this reputation. We are proud to hold some of Opatija’s most exquisitely designed hotels, placed in the most picturesque locations at the heart of the town.

Within our hotels lie some of Opatija’s most popular restaurants and cafes, famous for their beautiful seaside terraces and breathtaking sea views. The terrace of our Hotel Milenij’s is regarded as the best in the town to enjoy a lavish breakfast, morning coffee or afternoon tea with homemade cakes. At dusk, it frequently buzzes with social gatherings and live music. Hotel Milenij’s Restaurant Argonauti is a fine dining experience famed throughout Croatia, offering feasts of freshly caught seafood and the finest regional meats. For dessert, the hotel also offers the handcrafted work of our chocolatiers at Milenij Choco. Its neighbor, Restaurant Sveti Jakov offers the same high standards, but prepared in a less formal manner; the classic Mediterranean cookbook, enjoyed with a backdrop of Opatija’s most beautiful park. Our Osteria da Ugo restaurant also provides casual dining using the finest sourced ingredients, its menu entailing dishes from ingredients supplied by local, independent producers.

Opatija’s original appeal to European high society was its welcoming, year-round weather and the health benefits its climate and natural resources provided. Amadria Park again upholds these traditions, offering two of the town’s finest wellness centres. The luxurious Hotel Milenij Spa is a place to be pampered and become relaxed to your core. There, guests can enjoy the latest beauty treatments, advanced skincare and contouring, Finnish sauna, Turkish bath, salt bath treatments, heated relaxarium beds, pools and Jacuzzi. Our Wellness Oasis (located at Grand hotel 4 opatijska cvijeta) is a facility for rejuvenation, its wellness treatments occurring to a backdrop scent of flowers and the ocean. It offers include both indoor and outdoor pool areas, therapeutic pool and whirlpool, sauna,Far Eastern ritual and Turkish bath with fitness regimes, yoga room, solarium and private trainers also available.

Website: www.amadriapark.com | Phone: +385 51 278 007
Inside
This season’s Time Out Rijeka in no time at all

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RIJEKA ADVENT
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Autumn/Winter 2019 Time Out Rijeka
WELCOME to Balthazar city. Did you know Rijeka inspired the fictional town in the legendary kids’ TV show? It’s just one aspect of the epic cultural calendar Rijeka has planned for us in 2020, which we’ll be getting to grips with in this issue. Have you noticed it’s been a bit chilly lately? Winter is undeniably on its way, and it’s time to start embracing it. Thankfully, this magazine is packed with seriously good events to keep you warm this season.

THE VIEW FROM YOU
See what people are Instagramming!

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TIMEOUT.COM/RIJEKA
AUTUMN/WINTER 2019 No.3

Balthazar city
The ultimate guide to Rijeka 2020
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Justin McDonnell
Editor-in-chief
@justinmcdonnel
RIJEKA HAS MORE RAIN than anywhere else in Croatia. Like the majority of visitors over the centuries, rain clouds drift into Rijeka from the Adriatic, channeled directly towards the city due to its position at the apex of the Istrian and Kvarner coastlines. There, these clouds meet the Dinaric Alps on whose terraced slopes much of Rijeka actually sits and, unable to pass, they release their load on the city.

Often, you can be enjoying a nice stroll on Rijeka’s sunny Korzo only to be caught by a freak downpour that seems to arrive almost supernaturally from nowhere, rather like the ubiquitous basket of bread that appears on every Croatian restaurant table, but which you definitely didn’t order. Before too long though, the rain disappears just as quickly as it arrived and the sunshine returns. Rainfall in Rijeka is less of an inconvenience than it is an excuse to pop into a great bar, café or restaurant for coffee or lunch with a friend. Rijeka’s residents are used to the sporadic downpours. You can see it in the stylish umbrellas they carry, the smart, Italian-style shoes or high end trainers they wear (which, thanks to the rain, are never covered with the dry, dusty dirt you pick up everywhere else on the coast) or the light, waterproof jackets draped over their arms. So, rainy? Yes, sometimes. Stylish? Always.

EAT

Conca d’Oro
Translated as ‘The Golden Conch’, Conca d’Oro is an homely and understated but charming experience, its decor rather more like visiting the front room of a local eccentric than one of the top-rated eateries in town. The menu can feel limited in comparison to the pages offered elsewhere, but this reassuringly indicates the freshness of the produce (seafood especially) and the confidence of the chef in his/her dishes. If you’re lucky you’ll visit when one of the senior waiters is working; ours spoke perfect English, knew the menu inside out and could pair any dish with a perfect wine suggestion.

ÆÆ
Kružna 12A (051 213 782, facebook.com/concadorori)

DO

Trsat Castle
Visit this fort for the panoramic view alone, best enjoyed from the terrace café beneath the Nugent mausoleum – the Kvarner Bay spreads out before you. Irish-born Austrian-Hungarian naval commander Laval Nugent-Westmeath fought Napoleon and rebuilt the medieval Frankopan fortress to house his family and his art collection.

ÆÆ
Fortriunput 3A

SHOP

KISHA
Kisha describe themselves as the world’s smartest umbrellas. And they may be right. The company comes from Rijeka and with the city’s annual rainfall comparable to that of Manchester, the UK’s ‘Rainy City’, there’s a need for an umbrella to hand lest you be caught in a shower. But umbrellas, like sunglasses, are one of those things we always lose. This smart umbrella is equipped with a tracking device linked to an app on your phone, meaning you can trace your umbrella no matter where you leave it.

ÆÆ
(gekisha.com)

DRINK

THREE MONKEYS
Three Monkeys is a big hit with Rijeka’s cocktail crowd thanks to its swish décor and refined drinks menu. A long, thin venue with funky, exposed lighting from above and a DJ sometimes perched at the end of the bar on weekends, it’s often busy with parties or groups of friends savouring cocktails dressed with ribbons of cucumber or orange zest. By day, it serves one of the best coffees in the city.

ÆÆ
Fiumara 5 (facebook.com/threemonkeyssri)

LOST IN TRANSLATION

ŠTA DA? Translated literally as ‘What, yes?’ or ‘What’s that?’, šta da is a term that is unique to Rijeka and its residents. Thanks to its geographic positioning, Rijeka has developed some standalone traits and phrases that don’t appear anywhere else in the language. And, Rijeka folk are proud not to fit in. Exchangeable for ‘What’s that you say?’, ‘Really?’ or ‘Seriously?’, šta da is more an expression of incredulity than a bonafide question. So beloved is the expression in the city that you may well see it printed on t-shirts or bags, some of which may come from the cult handmade crafts store with the same name.

Rijeka briefing

ONE DAY IN...

Rijeka
Croatia’s third-largest city with a population of 150,000, Rijeka has a busy port that handles million of tonnes of cargo and a quarter of a million passengers a year. It’s a lively, quirky place with fascinating history, great restaurants and kicking year-round nightlife. Here’s the bits you shouldn’t miss.

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Ivan Šarar helped organise Rijeka’s beloved Hartera festival in an abandoned paper factory.

A CULT MUSIC FESTIVAL: set in an old paper factory, Hartera stole the hearts of revellers in Rijeka since its first outing in 2005. Sadly, the festival is no more, but Hartera lives on in the memories of those who partied there. Ivan Šarar, a former keyboardist in the punk band Let 3 and now the chief of Rijeka city’s department for culture, was involved in the festival from day one.

I’ve lived in Rijeka since I was one. I lived in Kantrida, I remember the sea and I learned to sail. I must’ve been seven or eight when I started to actively listen to music and I ended up going to music school. As a musician, the rock, punk rock and, later, techno scenes of the city made me a classic product of Rijeka. I started playing with bands when I was 15 or 16. In 1995 I started to work as a DJ and producer on Rijeka’s first private radio and around 1998 I joined Let 3 as a keyboard player. I have made music continuously ever since. The band Let 3 directly led to the organisation of Hartera festival. The first edition in 2005 was organised by legendary promoter Simon Dejhalla, who today owns club Pogon and Damir Martinović Mrle, Let 3’s founder. I was just sneaking around. Hartera, an old paper company went broke and part of the building’s ownership fell to the City of Rijeka. They were open to the idea of cultural entities revitalising the space.

The first year had an absolutely crazy atmosphere. The numbers who came were huge, unbearable at times. From the top of my head, I remember Let 3, Laibach, Eysburn and TBF playing. Afterwards, M.A.N.D.Y. from Berlin and others DJ’d. It was a small, one night festival with two stages, four bands and two or three DJ’s. It was more about the new space than about the line-up. Rijeka had never had an important festival like this before. I took a leading role the following year and, from there, it became a serious festival with international performers. We grew really fast. Maybe too fast. In three years we became a festival with four stages which lasted four days. There are millions of anecdotes, but my favourite memory is a stupid thing that happened because of our neglect. We always had something weird, irrational, but which was good for our image. In 2008 it was a solar-powered loudspeaker. It was the closing night, 6am, and the British DJ James Zabiela was performing in the main hall. We ran out of power across the whole site. All that was working was the loudspeaker and the crowd went euphoric. They didn’t bother that the main star couldn’t DJ, they were jumping on the terrace to the sound of the loudspeaker.

Hartera no longer exists for many reasons. The last recession cut cultural sponsorship and the big hall is no longer safe, but we do have the Sailor Sweet and Salt Festival, organised by Mrle and the same team from Hartera.

Rijeka at the end of the ‘90s had one and a half clubs. Everyone went to either Palach and Python, or to nearby Opatija. It was a heavy industrial, workers city; rough, harsh and no fun at all. I think today Rijeka is completely different. Simply, it became more mainstream, attractive to tourists and comfortable for locals. Through these changes, it may have lost something that made Rijeka so strong and alternative in character, but that is something a lot of cities go through. Nevertheless, Rijeka is still a relaxed and open-minded city, a city filled with creative people, a great cultural offer, great places to go out or to go to the beach. And I feel that there is no other place in Croatia that offers a serious, modern, urban lifestyle directly by the side of the sea.

As told to Ivor Kruljac.
Secondhand Vinyl Fair
Cratediggers, avast! This vinyl fair is the ultimate showcase of Rijeka’s music scene, and you’ll find plenty of rock’n’roll rarities alongside obscure Yugo releases. Once you’ve done bartering, put your pile of records down and join the moshpit - metal bands Old Night + Asheraah fire up the stage from 10pm.
→ Deokadenic Park, Center Parkovac, October 5

Advent
See Rijeka go Christmas crazy at this annual celebration of all things yuletide. The city’s parks, stages and squares are lit up by twinkly fairy lights, and little wooden-roofed huts flavour the air with the smell of mulled wine and fritule (tiny frosted doughnuts). The ice-rink is a seasonal highlight, as is the lovely Trsat castle - you’d struggle to find a more fairytale-like setting.
→ Various venues (rijekaadvent.com), November 30 2019 - January 7 2020

Carnival
Rijeka’s annual take on carnival culminates in a gigantic costumed procession on the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday. Thousands of costumed revellers join the fun, frenzied procession, as it engulfs the Korzo promenade. Look out for the zvončari, a Pagan tradition of horned men in animal skins clanging cowbells to warn off evil spirits.
→ Various venues (rijecki-karnaval.hr), January 17 - February 26 2020

Human Rights Film Festival
This free-to-attend film festival showcases campaigning films from politically-committed directors, plus panel discussions and after-show DJs. HRFF gives you a chance to see indie films by upcoming directors as well as inspired, world-spanning documentaries before they hit the festival circuit.
→ ArtiK进出口 (humanrightsfestival.org), December 1 - 8 2019
**Things to Do**

**20 things to do in Rijeka this autumn**

Summer might be over, but Rijeka’s cultural calendar is just hotting up. From huge shows at the National Theatre to must-see exhibitions, here are the highlights.

**Visit a challenging exhibition**
Using geographical maps from the British Library and works by a dozen or so artists, this autumn’s exhibition at the MMSU, We’re Not Like Them, concludes a four-part exploration of migration through art. Groundbreaking and global in its outlook, it typifies the approach here. Occupying the former Benčić complex, the museum also has one of the richest collections of contemporary art anywhere in Croatia. It’s also an outstanding example of how to adapt 19th-century industrial architecture for cultural use in the 21st century.

**Watch top opera at the National Theatre**
Crowd-pleasing opera – Madame Butterfly, Tosca, La Bohème – and ballet, Tchakovsky’s The Nutcracker Suite, are programmed for the 2019/20 season at this architectural and cultural landmark. Rijeka’s Croatian National Theatre was designed by the same team of architects as its namesakes in Split and Zagreb: Austrian Ferdinand Fellner and his German partner Hermann Helmer. The interior is worth a look around – Gustav Klimt and brother Ernst helped paint the ceiling before its grand unveiling, a performance of Verdi’s Aida.

**Order the catch of the day**
Municipium is set in a grand Habsburg-era building, in a quiet courtyard in the centre of town. Door staff might greet you at the entrance, but don’t worry, this is a very informal dining experience, down to the day’s menu chalked up on a board. This menu is usually fish-oriented, reasonably priced considering the quality of service, presentation and the fare itself. The wine list runs to scores of mainly Croatian varieties, a decent number available by the glass. Note also the cut-price lunch specials, marende.

**Find a cosy bar**
The first of Rijeka’s café-bars to get really serious about craft beer, this is still one of the best places to enjoy a pint or two. Not only is there a long menu of choices on draft or by the bottle, there’s also a neat-but-cosy auntie’s living-room ambience to the whole place, with framed pictures and old-school wallpaper overlooking a solid collection of dark wood tables.

**See where torpedoes came from**
Set in a pavilion at the Governor’s Palace alongside the History & Maritime Museum, so a convenient choice for any first-time visitor to Rijeka – the three-floor City Museum has a modest permanent cultural landmark but stages a number of fascinating temporary ones. In September 2019, the BBC and press from Austria and Hungary seemed suitably impressed by this autumn’s stand-out attraction, The Rijeka Torpedo – the first in the world, on view at a branch of the museum at the railway depot at Žabica.

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**Things to do**

**Let loose at Život**
Every city needs somewhere like Život. A cozy music venue where you can really let your hair down, Život offers a stage to visiting indie bands and DJs who play everything from grime to Yugoslavian disco. Decorated like your gran’s house on drugs, expect to see UV-blasted dollsies and dodgy watercolours. It’s an essential part of an autumn bar crawl in Rijeka.

ÆÆ Ružićeva 22 (facebook.com/KlubZivot)

**Go retro at Tarsa**
Hidden away among quiet suburban lanes behind Trsat’s sports hall, Tarsa could almost be a village inn, and it’s not surprising that it has become one of Rijeka’s prime venues for a slap-up traditional meal. Despite being a modern building the decor is decidedly trad, with plenty of exposed brick and wooden beams. The menu revolves around lavish platters of local meat and fish, grilled or baked; home-made pastas with tangy goulash accompaniment; and some of the Kvarner Gulf’s best pancakes to round things off.

ÆÆ Josipa Kuflaneka 10 (051 452 089, tarsarijeka.simplesite.com)

**Book a spa retreat**
Rijeka’s classiest option, part of the Plava Laguna group and right in the heart of town, this modern hotel with a lovely spa and gym. Sauna cabins with chromotherapy and a wide range of beauty treatments for face and body have also been introduced making this ideal for a relaxing weekend city break. The in-house Kamov restaurant is one of the best in town, known for its green pasta, and the terrace café overlooks the city.

ÆÆ Dolska 4 (051 357 980, plavalaguna.com)
Slurp seafood
With a great city-centre location and a reputation as one of the best places in town, 'The Golden Conch' is a special place for a special evening. Along with the usual seafood offerings, the day’s catch is displayed on ice, and includes a wide selection of shellfish. A wide range of Croatian wines accompany. The hefty salads can work as a small meal, followed by a number of cheeses. Snappy service adds to the pleasant atmosphere.

ÆÆ
Kružna 12A (051 213 782, facebook.com/concadorori)

Get nostalgic
Both a museum and a club for enthusiasts, PEEK&POKE is one of Rijeka’s most unique attractions. Dedicated to the early days of computers and computerised games, PEEK&POKE also looks to reassess the reputation of those pioneers, mocked at the time, whose groundbreaking ideas eventually made our lives easier or more entertaining. Sir Clive Sinclair, for example, is given a stellar biography. All told, more than 1,000 consoles, terminals and calculators are exhibited, either in display cases or for hands-on investigation.

ÆÆ
Ivana Grohovca 2A (091 780 5709, peekpoke.hr)

Warm up with a specialty tea
CukariKafè is a cross between a modern art gallery, a film set for a children’s fairy-tale adventure and a passenger steamer cruising up the River Nile. Everything about the place exudes character: the list of specialty beers includes not just Duvel and Chimay but several lesser known Belgian brands as well. And unless you specify otherwise, tea will be served with a dandy slice of fresh orange.

ÆÆ
Trg Jurja Klovića 4 (099 888 5949, facebook.com/cukarikafe)
Things to do

Drink coffee on the harbour
Rijeka’s harbour is the heart of city and its steeped in history. Bars and cafés line the port, making it the ideal place to stop for a coffee and admire the scenery as the boats pass by. If you’re feeling peckish, visit one of the bakeries and drink your coffee with an apricot crossaint on the side.

Dance all night
A slick, modern glass-enclosed structure, sitting all by itself on a pier in the main harbour, houses an upmarket bar and nightspot that draws a mix of yuppies, tourists, hipsters and hard-drinking barflies. The darkness releases inhibitions, and the techno and trance music inspire a good time.

Get into the gig season
Autumn in Rijeka is all about indoor gigs and concerts. This is a city that bristles with punk and rock and roll heritage, and its music scene bursts into life every autumn when local promoters and musicians return from summer hiatuses. Standout events this autumn include the Tiger Lillies at HKD and Emma Ruth Rendell at Palach.

Catch an Irish band
On a small square on hill in Rijeka’s Old Town, a Guinness sign announces this quaint old-style wood-and-brass pub with exposed brick. There’s Kilkenny beer too, but thankfully Celtic Caffe Bard is more than just another faux Irish joint. The walls are cluttered with interesting local art, and the bar and upstairs gallery are packed with interesting local people, mostly in their twenties and thirties. Music ranges from electronica selected by the staff to occasional Irish folk bands.

Scale the battlements at Trsat
Visit this fort for the panoramic view alone; best enjoyed in autumn, when the trees offer a wealth of colour before the Kvarner Bay spreads out before you. Irish-born Austro-Hungarian commander Laval Nugent-Westmeath fought Napoleon and rebuilt the medieval Frankopan fortress to house his family and his art collection – his hoard of Greek vases can now be seen in Zagreb’s Museum of Archaeology. The mausoleum is worth a look, partly if you like your Central-European history, partly to see how the dynasty looked back then.

Try artisan beer
Uphill from the centre in Trsat but well worth seeking out, this Rijeka branch of Zagreb’s Beertija bar sticks to the same formula – a superb range of craft and bottled beers from all over the world, and well-chosen weekend DJs. Look out, too, for indie nights, Doors tribute bands and all kinds of excuses for a party.

Explore the Governor’s Palace
Built in the 1890s by Hungarian architect Alajos Hauszmann, also responsible for similarly stately buildings in Budapest, the Governor’s Palace is worth exploration not just for the cultural attractions within and around it – the Rijeka City Museum and the History & Maritime Museum – but because of its own history. A century ago, with the collapse of the Habsburg Empire, Italian poet Gabriele

Buy your tickets, tours and entrance fees all in one place
Whatever you want to do in Rijeka, you’ll find an easy way to book it on Rijeka’s marketplace. The tourism board’s official online platform is super easy to use and offers everything from airport transfers to tours and day trips. You could go on a wine tasting tour of Krk island, watch an open-air concert or buy your ticket to a blockbuster exhibition.
**Things to do**

D’Annunzio seized control of Rijeka and installed himself in the palace. Mussolini duly removed him but for that short period, Rijeka was the poet’s personal domain.

最先加入

**Join a pub quiz**

A café by day, a lively bar by night, with 2am closing at weekends, the Bačva has generated a loyal customer base thanks to its regular pub quizzes, craft beers and broadcasts of football matches, not least big European nights involving Rijeka. A DJ may well take to the decks, and on a chilly autumn evening, you couldn’t really wish for a warmer place to be.

最先加入

**Get on your bike**

Autumn offers the perfect opportunity to explore Rijeka’s beautiful cycling trails. Without the intense heat of summer, the experience is a lot more enjoyable as you tackle the city’s uphill terrain and sudden hairpin bends. The official route takes you as far as Kraljevica, a small fishing village near Crikvenica, but there are endless options.

最先加入

www.rijekamarketplace.com
Jonathan Bousfield assesses the career of Rijeka-based novelist Daša Drndić

Daša Drndić, born herself, in the 1940s, and grew up thinking that their parent’s generation had not only won the war against Fascism, but had also won all the arguments against Fascism too. The idea that the radical right might one day return to power was absurd. Buoyed by the boom years of the 1980s, the same generation also grew up expecting secure careers, health insurance and a dignified retirement. For the Ban generation, however, the onset of midlife brings a succession of shocks. Suddenly the world appears to be going backwards, and Drndić’s alter ego is no longer young enough to cope with the rugs incessantly being pulled from under his feet. This is where the sadness of Belladonna and EEG lies; the post-war generation is powerless to prevent the erosion of post-war certainties, while their children and grandchildren have an increasingly weak grip on where we all supposed to be heading.

There are some beautiful places here [in Rijeka]’ she writes, ‘it’s just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked in Rijeka ‘is just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked in Rijeka ‘just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked in Rijeka ‘just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked in Rijeka ‘just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked in Rijeka ‘just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked in Rijeka ‘just that they tend to be rather hidden.’

Remembering Daša

There’s a passage in Daša Drndić’s 2004 novel Leica Format in which the narrator vis-à-vis Mali Neboder, Rijeka’s cut-second-hand bookshop, and sits-down to read some of the antiquarian titles she’s just found on the shelves. ‘There are some beautiful places here [in Rijeka]’ she writes, ‘it’s just that they tend to be rather hidden.’ The Mali Neboder evoked by Drndić, a tightly-wound labyrinth crammed with books, documents, postcards and maps, is like an alternative archive of the city, a repository of its secrets. Each book you find on the shelves is a related, related, tome, while the shop’s intuitive owners will guide you towards to parallel topics that you hadn’t even thought to explore. The world of Mali Neboder (a real exist- ting shop which can be visited in person) is an appropriate metaphor for Daša Drndić’s own work, in which the biographies of the twentieth century are entwined with the lives of little people, sampling digressions, and a triangle of micro-histories that frequently shed light on our hunt for a bigger picture.

Drndić’s death in June 2018 came at the time when her international reputation was just achieving critical mass. Her 2007 novel threads from different periods and frequently blurring the distinction between the protagonist’s story and the author’s own biography. The unnamed narrator of Leica Format takes us on a journey through the pre-World War II History of Rijeka, the crimes of the Croatian quasiregime in World War II, and digressions on medi- cal experiments on human beings. Several char- acters have double identities or change names, either because they emigrate to new countries or have a desire to reinvent themselves...
IF THERE IS ONE THING that keeps Rijeka in the pages of history textbooks all over Europe it is the short-lived rule of Italian poet and proto-fascist Gabriele D’Annunzio, who marched into the city in September 1919 and spent 500 days as its colourful if erratic dictator.

D’Annunzio is not an easy person to make an evaluation of. The exhibition opened its doors 100 years after D’Annunzio’s entrance into the city, and will last until January 2022. The Exhibition catalogue (70Kn) contains parallel Croatian-English texts and an excellent introduction to the period.

Time Out Rijeka Autumn/Winter 2019

Jonathan Bousfield previews a major exhibition at the city’s Maritime and History Museum

**D’Annunzio’s Martyr**

Dealing with D’Annunzio is difficult for any museum curator, and the Rijeka team has set about their task with great creativity and insight. The exhibition’s central twist - and one that frees it from the kind of ideologically- or nationally-centred treatments that D’Annunzio usually attracts - is that it tells the story from the point of view of Rijeka’s women. The women who cheered for D’Annunzio, the women who tried to make ends meet as he drove the city towards economic disaster, and also the women who shared his bed. Rijeka’s women were relatively emancipated by the standards of early twentieth-century Europe: D’Annunzio’s regime has ensured its place on one side of the historical balance sheet, and D’Annunzio mobbed by young men in uniform is accompanied by the words ‘They simply adored him, and he loves them even more than...’ somehow you know that a love like this can only end in tears.

D’Annunzio is admired for his poetic flights of fancy, and indeed Dora Blažić, a young Croatian woman who stayed in the city throughout D’Annunzio’s rule provided crucial evidence of how difficult daily life was in the mismanaged city, especially for non-Italians who did not share D’Annunzio’s nationalist vision. This contrasts sharply with personal memoirs so far accessed by historians (mem-oirs penned exclusively by male participants in the occupation), which tend to paint D’Annunzio’s 506 days as a carefree adventure cut short by the scheming of outside powers. What the exhibition is the stunning collection of archive photographs, which are projected onto a screen in video-presentation style. Each photo comes with a caption, which makes the whole thing look like the kind of photo-love story that used to appear in teenage magazines. We see D’Annunzio acclaimed by cheering crowds, D’Annunzio surrounded by society ladies, D’Annunzio receiving gifts on his birthday. The sequence ends with pictures of shell damage and blown-up bridges in December 1920, when D’Annunzio was forced out of Rijeka by regular units of the Italian army. Having swept the city off its feet, the great seducer now abandoned his conquest, leaving its life in ruins.

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\(\text{\textit{D’Annunzio’s Martyr}}\) is on show at the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral (ppmhp.hr) until January 31, 2021. The Exhibition catalogue (70Kn) contains parallel Croatian-English texts and an excellent introduction to the period.
What to eat seasonally in and around Rijeka this autumn

TWO WORDS define the food you'll find in Rijeka: fresh and seasonal. Here we suggest what to look out for as autumn turns to winter, at the city’s main market and on your restaurant table.

RIJEKA MARKET
Rijeka’s main market, Placa to locals, has been a feature of the seafront since the late 1800s. Alongside, the fish market, Ribarnica, was opened in 1916. For well over a century, these two vital resources have not only fed the city but also provided the fresh ingredients for its restaurants. You’ll even find two key ones next door, Konoba Fiume and Bistro Mornar. Each market opens from 7am, and each gives you a lively introduction to the culinary delights that lie ahead.

TRUFFLES
Autumn means truffles. A lucrative cottage industry in north-eastern Croatia, truffles find their way into all kinds of dishes, from steak to chocolate cake. Most of all, you’ll find them delicately grated over pasta or flavouring an omelette. Pricier white truffles are generally available earlier in the season, from September until January, black truffles from January until spring. You can also buy them in jars at a quality delicatessen such as Deliciije (deliciije.com) at Ante Starčevića 7.

KVARNER SCAMPI
If Kvarner is famous for one delicacy, it’s scampi. We’re not talking about the little prawns you might find on a pizza, but succulent shellfish light red in colour and covered in a thin, easy-to-peel shell. Plucked from the deep Kvarner Bay, these are best enjoyed with hand-rolled pljukanci thin pasta fingers or as the star turn in a healthy buzara stew, accompanied by tomatoes, garlic and white wine. A restaurant such as the Bistro Mornar (bistro-mornar.business.site) will pride itself on the quality of its scampi dishes.

PROSCIUTTO
A classic starter found on the menus of most top restaurants in Rijeka, prosciutto (pršut) is prepared by age-old traditional methods, air-dried after smoking and full of flavour. The cold platter at the Restaurant Spagho (ristorante-spagho.com) in town not only features pršut but prosciutto cotto, spicy kulen sausage, bresaola, bacon and cheese. Shared between a table of dedicated carnivores, it provides reason alone to visit this renowned corner eatery.

CHEESE
Most famously produced on the long, barren island of the same name that straddles Kvarner and Dalmatia, Pag cheese (paški sir) owes its unique taste to the dry wind that blows down from Velebit. This has a salty effect on the local vegetation, in particular the sage that Pag sheep like to graze on. Generations of cheesemakers have used sheeps’ milk, to create the signature wheels of hard cheese, aged up to 18 months, that are then found at many restaurants across Kvarner. You can attest to the distinctive flavour of Pag’s signature product if you order the cheese platter at Boonker (boonker.hr) by the seafront, where it appears alongside mozzarella, gorgonzola and Grana Padano.

GAME
The wooded uplands north of Rijeka, in particular around Gornji Kotar, are responsible for two products synonymous with autumn, venison and forest fruits, which combine in the delicious union of deer stew. Usually served with gnocchi, perhaps with a side of local, pickled cabbage, this dish is a regular seasonal favourite with communities just outside Rijeka. In Delnice, gateway to Risnjak National Park, the restaurant at the Petehovac mountaineering centre (petehovac.com.hr) serves a superb example.

MUSSELS AND OYSTERS
Kvarner is not just known for its signature scampi, but other shellfish as well, most notably mussels and oysters. A restaurant such as the Konoba Ugor (Dražička 4, 051 638 206) outside the city centre has a whole page of its menu dedicated to mussels, soup being the best option.
Fresh fish and seafood are Rijeka’s greatest culinary treasures. Here’s where you’ll find the best the city has to offer.

**Conca d’Oro**
With a great city-centre location and a reputation as one of the best places in town, ‘The Golden Conch’ is a special place for a special evening. Along with the usual seafood offerings, appetisers include fish carpaccio and a selection of molluscs. A wide range of Croatian catch is displayed on ice, and includes a wide range of seafood specialties such as the Makarskini salam fish with baked potatoes and vegetables are well worth the extra-outlay.

**Krojačka**
Just metres from the main market, near the port and the Korzo, stands the stone-walled, brick-arched, high-ceilinged Fiume, with its daily offering of grilled ray, mackerel, sardines, tuna, squid, goulash and cod stew on Fridays. Simple meals, cooked the local way, are based on the freshest seasonal ingredients from the nearby market. Decent local wines and affordable prices can be expected, as well as a warm welcome from the staff.

**Konoba Na Kantunu**
Settle at one of the rustic wooden tables in the bright, modern interior and admire the trays of just-caught fish and crustaceans chilling behind the glass. Point at your choice and wait for it to be expertly grilled, perhaps dressed lightly with olive oil and big chunks of sea salt, and then served up as a minimalist masterpiece. The car park terrace gets the sun and gives a view of the docks. You can find fancier, but not much better.

**Konoba Feral**
A handy little downtown eatery specialising in seafood, with a few hearty options too. Frog stew with potatoes and kale is one of the more unusual of these; otherwise, the menu features the standard white fish and scampi. A selection of cheap daily specials is chalked up on a board outside. A front terrace is open in summer.

**Konoba Fiume**
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**Konoba Nebuleza**
A friendly little restaurant next to the Rječina Canal provides perfectly prepared fresh seafood at reasonable prices in a comfortable atmosphere. It serves lots of fish others do, but the menu here lets you know whether it has been farmed instead of caught wild. House special starters include smoked tuna and grilled or lamb stew with local bucintore noodles. The amicable waiters will not only show you the catch of the day, but tell you what’s freshest – even if it’s something less expensive, like calamari. The side room has big windows with a great view of the canal below.

**Tarsa**
The menu revolves around lavish platters of local fish, grilled or baked, home-made pastas with tangy goulash accompaniment, and some of the Kvarner Gulf’s best pancakes to round things off. Pay particular attention to the platters for two, specialties such as the Makarskini salam fish with baked potatoes and vegetables are well worth the extra-outlay.

**Primorska Konoba**
The ‘Coastal Inn’ goes for the rustic look inside, with checked tablecloths and domestic nicknacks aplenty; however, it’s the chic glass-enclosed terrace hovering above an animated Old-Town corner that makes this such a good place to be at lunchtime. The other attraction is, of course, the food: mainly traditional stuff reinvented for the requirements of today’s breezy urban eater. Many of the things listed as mains are (‘eleveners’) actually function as light lunches, particularly the traditional barley- and bean stew known as jota. Home-made pasta choices such as tagliatelle with prawns will fill a gap with tasty aplomb, while squid stuffed with cheese and rice, splashed liberally with a tangy tomato sauce, is a stand-out among the mains.

**Primorska Konoba**
In a sturdy wood-and-tile cellar on the pedestrianised square where the two main canals meet, this small, dimly lit eatery makes home-style seafood and hearty meat dishes in a pleasant family atmosphere. The fish is always fresh and well prepared, as is the octopus salad to accompany it. There are only half-a-dozen tables, busy during work breaks; the tiny bar has a few stools, nearly all occupied by locals. Daytime and early evening only.

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Bistro fever

Rijeka’s bistros offer affordable, creative cuisine. Here’s our pick of the best

Placa 51
A lively place occupying an enviable corner spot on a harbour-facing street, this is another good tip for a great Rijeka lunch. The menu is strong in local staples in the 80-100kn range such as ombolo (lightly smoked pork chop) and fillets of fish, and there’s a daily list of cheaper chalked-up specials that rely very much on what’s seasonally available – and what the chef can get his hands on at the nearby market. The style of décor and presentation is contemporary bistro-bar rather than folksy inn, with an open kitchen indoors and cushioned benches out on the terrace. Scrumptious own-made cakes are another major asset.

Riva Boduli 3A (051 546 454, facebook.com/placa51)

Maslina na Zelenom trgu
‘Olive on Green Square’ – even though it’s actually on Kobler square, right in the city centre – echoes the time when Rijeka’s main produce market was here. Chef Dušan Džimbeg has duly created two types of selections, ‘Gourmand Mediterranean’ and ‘Small Menu’. Those on a budget shouldn’t worry – dishes in the either category average 70kn, with the exception of the smoked tuna and beefsteak tagliata.

Koblerov trg bb (051 563 563, mnzt.hr)

Municipium
Municipium is set in a grand Habsburg-era building, tucked away in a quiet courtyard right in the centre of town. Door staff greet you at the entrance, but don’t worry, this provides a very informal dining experience, down to the days’ menu chalked up on a board. This menu is fish-oriented, reasonably priced considering the quality of service, presentation and the fare itself. The wine list runs to scores of (mainly Croatian) varieties, a decent number available by the glass. Note also the cut-price lunch specials, marende.

Trg Riječke rezolucije 5 (051 213 000, restaurant-municipium.eatbu.com)

Bistro Mornar
Although Mornar is next to the docks and the marine terminal, the views from its L-shaped corner terrace include just a snippet of sea and a whole load of car park. Forget the scenery: hearty meat dishes here satisfy, and the fish comes right off the boats or from the nearby market, which means it’s fresher and cheaper than most places in town. Join hungry locals and sailors as you tuck into generous platters of calamari, sardines or superior freshly caught whitefish at amazing prices.

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Riva Boduli 5B (051 312 222, facebook.com/bistromornar)

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Riva Boduli 3A (051 546 454, facebook.com/placa51)
The cosiest bars in Rijeka

It's cold outside so cozy up at one of these warm and welcoming bars.

Bar Bar
The original venue of the Bar Bar family. Bar Bar 2 is also great, but holds more of an industrial inspiration. However, this one, with its exposed brickwork, modern design and funky seating, is the perfect place to while away a few hours while you make your way through the extensive and impressive lists of craft beer and wine it holds. There's also a great menu offering perfect accompaniments like beef tartare, bruschettas or paninis.

Brasserie AS
Formerly the Belgian Beer Brasserie and still bearing decorative traces of the Benelux, this prominent terrace bar with an atmospheric interior remains one of the key spots to drink in Rijeka. Located so close to the harbour you can see ships passing from the tables outside, it's worth a longer linger for its hearty Belgian-style cuisine and, most notably, beers in draught and bottled form from the land of beer.

King’s Caffe
The first of Rijeka’s café-bars to get really serious about craft beer, this is still one of the best places to enjoy a pint or two. Not only is there a long menu of choices on draft or by the bottle, there’s also a neat-but-cosy auntie’s living-room ambience to the whole place, with framed pictures and old-school wallpaper overlooking a more than pleasant collection of dark wood tables.

Fiorello Pub
At the quieter end of the main Korzo thoroughfare, Fiorello honours the little-known fact that a famed New York mayor, Fiorello La Guardia (as in the airport) started his diplomatic career at the US consulate in Rijeka. Beyond the name, it doesn’t overdo the theme, rather provide a cozy spot for a few drinks, with seating outside.

Phanas Pub
Down at the harbourfront, this place is best experienced late at night when the two-floor wooden pub with maritime knick-knacks is packed to the rafters with partying twentysomethings, the room zinging a commercial dance and rock soundtrack. It gets busy late on and difficult to get inside. Guinness, Kilkenny and Stella, wines and cheap cocktails complement the standard Ožujsko beer, but the drinks here are secondary to the social buzz.

Book Caffe Dnevni Boravak
Living room-style hangout that will appeal to those who like a bit of culture with their coffee – the floor-to-ceiling shelves are absolutely stacked with books, CDs and vinyl LPs, while a small annexe serves as a cute art gallery. Literary readings and live music feature several times a month; on other days it serves as a mellow social hub for the city’s reading, writing and chatting community.

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Travel

Winter trips from Rijeka
Fabulous winter breaks a day-tripping distance from Rijeka

CLOSER TO THE ALPS than it is to Dalmatia, Rijeka offers plenty of outdoor activities within easy reach of town. Historic landmarks and national parks get a dusting of snow, and there’s hiking, climbing and even skiing to be had nearby.

A historical holiday
Rijeka is ringed by castles – there’s even one in town. Trsat is accessed by a grandiose staircase, Stube Petra Kružića (Petar Kružić Stairs), from alongside Trgov trg. As you climb, the view widens out until the reason for this viewpoint being covered by the Romans, Frankopans and Habsburgs becomes clear. With a commanding panorama of the Bay of Kvarner, Trsat was an obvious spot to site a fortress. By the time Irish military leader Laval Nugent was gifted it after the Napoleonic Wars, it was in poor condition. Legend has it that when a nobleman took a shine to a local village girl, Lucy, she jumped from the battlements in fright. The spring below, in winter a picturesque scene of ice and snow, has been named after her.

Back to nature
The forests, nature parks and national parks surrounding Rijeka are ideal for an active day out in winter. The nearest nature park of Učka stretches close to Lovran just outside Rijeka. Though many of the mammals here hibernate in winter, the various paths taking in dark caves, you should still be able to spot the odd roe deer, wild boar, shrew or alpine salamander. You may even spy a golden eagle, peregrine falcon or griffon vulture flying above. Centres, specifically up to and black pine, cover great swathes of Učka, offering a particularly magical scene on snowy winter days.

Also within easy reach from Rijeka, the main gateway of Delnice an hour’s drive away, Risnjak National Park is spectacular hiking country, although he prepared for sudden storms and freezing winds. The information centre is located at Krano, a mountain village the other side of Senj. Hiking options include three peaks over 1,600 metres high. Afterwards reward yourself with a hot drink or a warming schnapps at the Dom Zavizan lodge.

‘You may even spy a golden eagle, peregrine falcon or griffon vulture flying above’

In winter, with no leaves to block the view, the vista from the battlements is unparalleled. With their powerbase in nearby Krk, the Frankopans were the most dominant dynasty in the Middle Ages, illustrated by the castles they left behind.

The nearest to Rijeka is Grobnik, whose striking façade looks even more dramatic when surrounded by a blanket of snow. Legend has it that when a nobleman took a shine to a local village girl, Lucy, she jumped from the battlements in fright. The spring below, in winter a picturesque scene of ice and snow, has been named after her.

Risnjak National Park

Find more online at timeout.com/croatia/destinations

DISCOVER!
Find more online at timeout.com/rijeka.

Hikers can explore one of the picturesque villages dotted the landscape, such as the wine-producing community of Lovran-ska Draga. One of the ancient paths here leads to Oporovina, where prehistoric remnants were discovered in 1929. Another leads past a rushing stream all the way down to the coast.

Finally, few realise how close a ski centre is to Rijeka. Set alongside Risnjak, Platak contains seven ski runs for varying skill levels, with night-time skiing also available. There’s a cablecar and non-skiers can hire sledges. Kids will also love the year-round, 160-metre-long tube track to zoom down.

Hikers can follow three marked trails leading from the carpark, each taking about three hours light climb, with a mountain lodge en route or near the top.
such as gingerbread, fried doughnuts, mulled wine, sausages and hand-made decorations. Yet what makes the run-up to Christmas here particularly unique is the Sea Snowflake, an ice-skating rink set up on the quayside right by the Adriatic. Skates are available to hire and beginners are shown the ropes. Elsewhere, concerts and performances take place on Trg Ivana Koblera, there will be gastronomic specialities beyond the norm at Trg Riječke rezolucije and the intimate, illuminated magic of the Tunnels should prove as popular as they were when they were introduced in 2018.

Merry Christmas or, as they say locally, Sretan Božić!

**Kids**

**Winter wonderland**

Stay warm or embrace the chill with these events and activities for kids this winter

NOW VERY MUCH a year-round destination and family-friendly with it, Rijeka has loads to offer during the colder months. With Carnival getting even bigger, Advent firmly on the calendar and ever more attractions in town, there’s every reason for visitors to bring the kids for the weekend – or even enjoy a longer stay at holiday time.

**Skate by the sea**

Advent will be a bit different in Rijeka this year. New Year’s Eve will also mark the night before the city becomes European Capital of Culture 2020. All along the Korzo and the seafront, families will gather to celebrate and see in the new year as fireworks burst over the Adriatic. But Advent here starts at the end of November with Father Christmas himself meeting his young fans in the centre of town from December 5, the eve of St Nicholas, the Croatian Christmas. He even brings with him a little train that chugs along the Korzo. Stalls line the streets, filled with traditional domestic favourites such as gingerbread, fried doughnuts, mulled wine, sausages and hand-made decorations. Yet what makes the run-up to Christmas here particularly unique is the Sea Snowflake, an ice-skating rink set up on the quayside right by the Adriatic. Skates are available to hire and beginners are shown the ropes. Elsewhere, concerts and performances take place on Trg Ivana Koblera, there will be gastronomic specialities beyond the norm at Trg Riječke rezolucije and the intimate, illuminated magic of the Tunnels should prove as popular as they were when they were introduced in 2018.

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**EXPLORER**

Natural History Museum Rijeka

that explores, preserves and presents a rich natural heritage of Primorje - Gorski kotar County. The visitors can enjoy the aquarium, multimedia centre, family corner and Mediterranean botanical garden, as well as temporary exhibitions, numerous workshops, lectures, concerts and other events.

The Zrinski Castle

Museum operates at dislocated unit Brod na Kupi at Gorski kotar, where a new permanent exhibition Wilderness with the sea view is being set up.
Meet a shark

Thanks to the Museums’ Together ticket, families can visit the many cultural landmarks in and around Rijeka for only a few euros. Several are clustered around the stately Governor’s Palace, including the Maritime and History Museum and this, the Natural History Museum just behind it. Although founded way back in 1876 and conceived with its counterpart in Vienna in mind, this entertaining and original attraction is anything but dusty and staid.

Ask any child if they’d like to see a shark that day and chances are they’ll say ‘yes’. Here, not only is there a shark, preserved in a display but very much larger than life – jellyfish, rays and all kinds of sea life are presented, safely behind glass, and part of a multimedia resource.

Those who with a deeper interest in the subject can find out about oceanographic research, the geological heritage of the Adriatic, birdlife, amphibians and reptiles. Not to mention insects, there’s a whole assembly of insects here, with a game to help you distinguish one which’s which.

When you arrive here, don’t forget to ask for a tablet for English translations of everything as you go round. Lookout, too, for the regular workshops.

Explore dramatic castles

While the geopolitical situation of medieval and Napoleonic Europe may not have the family reaching for the sat nav, there’s enough to see at the various castles in and around Rijeka to keep everyone happy for the day.

First port of call, of course, should be Trsat, accessed by a grand set of steps up from the city centre, and offering a dramatically sweeping view of the Krvarner Bay below. Those who do like a bit of history can find out about the Finnish military commander Lauri Nuutinen, who helped liberate Croatia from the French in the early 1800s. Later fighting for the Croats against the Hungarians, Nuutinen is something of a hero in these parts – hence the grand mausoleum here for he and his wife, overlooking a great swath of north-west Croatia.

A few kilometres north, Grobnik Castle looks as dramatic today as when the Croats fought the Mongol army here in 1242. This former seat of the mighty Frankopan dynasty passed to their equally powerful relative, the Zrinis, before falling into Hungarian hands. Legend surrounds nearby Lucy’s Spring, apparently named after a village girl who jumped to her death rather than marry an amorous nobleman.

Join the Children’s Carnival

Croatia’s biggest annual public event, the Rijeka Carnival is more than just the main procession that takes over the city centre on the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday – although that attracts thousands of participants and spectators.

The observatory is open to the public most evenings of the week, with presentations given in English on alternate nights, and the calendar also makes room for international events, such as World Space Week and Earth Science Week. The weather’s reasonable, the panoramic terrace café should still be open, the view worth the trek alone.}

AQUA MARIS CELEBRATES ITS 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
ONE OF CROATIA’S MOST SUCCESSFUL EXPORT BRANDS YOU CAN FIND IN HOMES IN MORE THAN 20 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Aqua Maris, the most successful brand of the pharmaceutical company JGL from Rijeka, and one of the most famous Croatian export brands, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Over the course of 20 years, Aqua Maris has had 160 million applications and has entered the homes of users in more than 20 countries. These users make use of the fifteen different products from our palette for the prevention and treatment of upper respiratory tract inflammations. Aqua Maris is an expression of the coastal and Mediterranean lifestyle, it is the health from the Adriatic Sea available throughout the year, for daily use and for all generations - from infants to adults.

Since people are always the secret to success, in the case of Aqua Maris, those are JGL employees committed to promoting the company’s products and sales every day. For 28 years, this Rijeka-based company has been present in 50 markets around the world and has been continuously investing in employee education, modern technology, and the production of preservative-free and additive preparations. JGL is also constantly conducting tests to discover how to make its products as healthy as possible for customers.

“Our mission is not to be trendy, but to create trends. Aqua Maris is the best proof of that, which is why it is gaining more and more users worldwide every day,” JGL said.
**Music**

**Music**

**GIGS AND CLUBS**

Unmissable music this season

**Svemirko**

Svemirko are one of the most accessible new pop bands on the Croatian scene and regularly play well attended concerts all across the Balkan region. Combining indie and lo-fi rock with classic pop songwriting, they are easily enjoyed by anyone, the band’s bold melodies shine through the language barrier.

*~* Svešteni Centar Pakuš (sveka.hr), October 11

**Emma Ruth Rundle**

American singer/songwriter and excellent guitarist Emma Ruth Rundle has visited Rijeka before, as part of the lauded Marrakesh trio and in support of their great 2015 album ‘Salome’. However, this return visit sees her perform with her solo artist moniker, under which she has so far recorded four albums and one split EP. This date in Rijeka is her only planned gig in Croatia for 2019 and so quite the coup for the city.

*~* Deaktivni Centar Pakuš (sentis.hr), October 15

**Weekend Fest**

First edition of a new live music-centred festival, with a distinctly different musical theme on each night.

On the Friday, the festival has an Ethno/World music feel as world-famous Croatian folkloric/rock act Kites take to the stage. They are supported by younger ethno-rock musicians Kakan, who hail from Zagreb.

On the Saturday, two old favourites visit in the form of Alen Vitasović and Kakan, and Zaška Ito. Alen Vitasović’s biggest hit came in the pop dance era of the ‘90s and he’s an artist experiencing a credible revival over recent years. Support comes from Split club shakers Kzuma & Shaka Zulu.

*~* Pagina Kulture (waweza-agency.com), October 18-19

**The Tiger Lillies**

The Tiger Lillies are a unique British music combo who are heavily influenced by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill’s masterpiece ‘The Threepenny Opera’ and the wild, pre-war cabaret scene of Berlin. Bringing to mind popular TV series Peaky Blinders, they explore the dark underbelly of historic Britain’s inner-city streets, alongside stalker, commissar, murderers and thieves. This highly theatrical date in Rijeka is their only gig in Croatia this year and they appear here as part of their thirtieth anniversary tour.

*~* Hrvatski kulturni dom na Zaloku (mijokarte.hr), November 9

**Darko Rundek & Ekipa**

Darko Rundek has been combining folk music elements from the Balkans and around the world with rock and pop music since the end of the 1970’s. His first band, Haustor, were legends of the Yugoslav scene and are credited with recording the first reggae song in Sarbo-Croatian. He has played concerts to thousands all around the region in various combos since then, his latest, Ekipa, being an extensive ensemble of largely young, Zagreb-based musicians. They will play not only their latest material, but also hits from throughout Rundek’s long career.

*~* Pagina Kulture (sentis.hr), December

**7th Impulse Festival**

The tenth annual season for promoters Distane and they’ve pulled out all the stops for the occasion, not least because this is the 10th installment which takes place during the Capital Of Culture year.

*~* Varstveni centar (zhivot.org.hr), March 30 - April 5

**NIGHTLIFE**

**Svemirko**

Svemirko was released earlier in 2019, the first Croatia Gets Physical EP saw Zagreb-based DJ and Get Physical mainstay Andrea Liskova curate a three tracker displaying the sounds of three talented producers from the local scene. With the heavy-weight name of esteemed tech house label Get Physical behind it, the EP did rather well. So, now is the time for a follow up. The launch of the second Croatia Gets Physical is celebrated at Rijeke’s Crkva club, with Ljekaj being joined behind the decks by Marina Karamarko, who appeared on the first EP and, attend ing from Germany, Get Physical label head Roland Leesker. This night marks the opening of the sixth season for Rijeka’s premier dance music club, Crkva.

*~* Crkva (crkva.club), October 5

**Balance with Terry Francis**

Tech house dominiates the soundtrack at every famous music festival and club on the Croatian coast. It is a sound which is now so ubiquitous that it’s difficult to remember it ever having beginning. But it did... and its beginnings came in the mid-’90s from Wiggle resident DJs Terry Francis, Nathan Coles and Eddie Richards. Accompanied by Lemon Inc, Mark Ash and Kreman, but with Terry Francis at the helm, this night is sure to draw clubbers from all over Istria and Kvarner, thank you hosts Crkva and Pula’s Balance FM crew.

*~* Crkva (crkva.club), October 12

**Ri Rock Festival**

One of the longest running music festivals concerned with the promotion of new bands, Ri Rock Festival is integral to the scene of a city which has produced more groundbreaking new bands than any other city of its size in the region.

*~* Varstveni centar (zhivot.org.hr), November 30

**Croatia Gets Physical**

The tenth annual season for promoters Distane and they’ve pulled out all the stops for the occasion, not least because this is the 10th installment which takes place during the Capital Of Culture year. 

*~* Varstveni centar (zhivot.org.hr), March 30 – April 5
Puppet Theatre Festival
Light installations, children’s theatre, puppet shows and workshops formed part of 2018’s exciting Puppet Theatre Festival, with previous contributors having hailed from Lithuania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Serbia and all across Croatia. It’s a guaranteed joy for the younger audiences, but this is far from a children’s only event, with some performances aimed distinctly towards adult attendees.

Various venues (gkl-rijeka.hr), October - November

Distribute That! Distribute This!
An educational programme which includes workshops and film screenings, all intended to inform about the production and distribution of documentary films. Through a series of workshops, screenings, case analysis and discussions, visitors and attendees will leave with a clear overview of how to realise a documentary project.

Various venues, until December 31

13th Secondhand Vinyl Fair
A popular event attended by vinyl and memorabilia collectors and local students, this is the place to pick up vintage rock vinyl and posters, with many rarities from Rijeka’s rich alternative music scene available alongside classic international releases and the biggest bands of the Yugoslav era. The fair is free to attend and runs from 10am – 5pm, with an attached evening concert by well regarded, local metal bands Old Night and Asherah taking place in the same venue from 10pm.

Omladinski Kulturni Centar Palach, October 5

Periskop
The fourth annual edition of this festival of contemporary dance and new circus entertainment sees twelve dance and circus performances take place across three venues citywide, in Filodramatica, the Croatian Cultural Center on Sušak and on Rijeka’s main pedestrian thoroughfare, Korzo. Three international guest groups will make appearances, there’ll be workshops and a photo exhibition as well. Local contributors make up key elements of the festival, encouraging young people from the Kvarner region and there are several debut performances of new works. Patriarchal understanding of women, snake symbols, anxiety and the colonisation of new planets are just some of the topics addressed in the dance performances of this year’s edition.

Various venues (periskopfestival.com), October 4 - 20
Things to Do

Hero is tired
A welcome return for this Rijeka-born contemporary ballet, which was co-produced by The Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc Rijeka and the Zagreb Music Biennale. The ballet was created by two fresh, young talents connected to the theatre in Rijeka, Franco Durvetić, who penned the musical score and Giuseppe Spota, who devised the choreography. The ballet debuted earlier in 2019 at the Zagreb Music Biennale and holds artistic diversity but also the promotion of dialogue between artists of different cultures within its themes. The ballet itself was inspired by the collection of poems ‘Wall Newspaper’ by much loved Croatian singer Arsen Dedić.

Recital of Goran Filipec
Virtuoso Rijeka-based pianist Goran Filipec displays his artistry on some extremely difficult pieces in a solo performance which will include the music of Franz Liszt.

NOVEMBER

Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini may only be classified Italy’s number two opera genius (behind Verdi), but he is responsible for writing no less than three of the world’s most popular and successful operas. As such, it comes as little surprise to find the composer’s best-loved works celebrated and performed in the new season at The Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc Rijeka. Inspired by an American play based on a French semi-autobiographical novel, Madam Butterfly is an opera in three parts, telling the tragic tale of a marriage between an American serviceman and his young, Japanese bride, Madam Butterfly. Departing shortly after the ceremony of what he regards as a marriage of convenience, serviceman Pinkerton is absent at and ignorant of the birth of his child. After an absence of three years, he returns. But, it is not at all the recovering his innocent and devoted young wife had hoped for. It’s all very emotional and, needless to say, ends very badly. Rijeka is now recognised as one of the world’s most popular and successful operas. As such, it comes as little surprise to find the composer’s best-loved works celebrated and performed in the new season at The Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc Rijeka.

Jazz Time Rijeka
Launched in 1992, Jazz Time Rijeka is now recognised as one of Croatia’s leading jazz events thanks to the high calibre of international players who visit. Jazz Time Rijeka does not only focus on established artists, it also provides a stage and encouragement to younger jazz musicians from Rijeka and the broader Kvarner region, as well as informing about the wider jazz scene around Croatia and the rest of the world.

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Carmen – Gala performance
One of the biggest hits of summer 2019 was the performance of Bizet’s classic opera by HNK Rijeka’s opera stars within the grand confines of Pula’s amphitheatre, Messersanoporo Ivana Škrblin and the rest of the stellar cast now return this show opener to its rightful and similarly grand home for a gala performance. Expect a rapturous response for the return of Bizet’s most popular and frequently performed operas in the classical canon. Carmen is a controversial and unfailing tale depicting the downfall of proletarian soldier Don José, whose life falls apart after he falls in love with the passionate gipsy Carmen.

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Things To Do

DECEMBER

Advent
Zagreb’s Advent may be the big Croatia story on the international stage, but Rijeka’s much expanded version is positioning itself as a close runner-up. The whole city will be decorated with lights and decorations, with a full accompanying events programme that will take in the religious aspects of these seasonal holidays, plus events for children and contributions from each facet of the Rijeka arts scene. Some of the best places to catch the spectacle will be the city centre’s main pedestrianised thoroughfare, Korzo, plus Trg Riječke rezolucije, in and around Trsat castle and on the ever-popular ice-skating rink.

Various venues (rijekaadvent.com), November 30 – January 7

FEBRUARY

Rijeka Carnival
Rijeka is the host city for Croatia’s biggest carnival and street parade, a colourful procession to which people travel from all across the region. Different faculties and student bodies from Rijeka’s sizeable, transitory youth population vie for the attention of thousands of visitors (plus the judges), drawing plaudits for the original aspects, imagination and quality of their costumes, plus the co-ordinated dances they have prepared for the event. Huge trucks carry booming sound systems pumping out contemporary pop and dance music, while elsewhere live musicians ensure the parade is never a quiet affair. For Rijeka’s 2020 Capital Of Culture year, this will be the largest and most international Carnival ever staged. Croatian participants will be joined on the day by contributors from other European Capital Of Culture cities and also from Rijeka’s twin cities across the globe. The event is wholly family-friendly and children also have a place in the parade, with many of those not officially taking part even attending in makeup and costume. One of the highlights of the hours-long event is the traditional march of the Zvonicari groups, collectives of folklore-inspired participants who come dressed in animal skins and scary masks, their costumes dictated by which side of the city they come from. A specific children’s parade takes place on the Saturday afternoon, two weeks prior to Shrove Tuesday. The main parade takes place one day later, on the Sunday.

Various venues, mid February

Tristan and Isolde
Composed in 1859, this romantic opera in three parts by Richard Wagner is now considered one of the most influential pieces of music of all time. Based on a tragic tale of love sold as far back as the 12th century, the story centres on an adulterous love affair between the Cornish knight Tristan and the Irish princess Isolde. In Wagner’s version, Tristan
Things to Do

MARCH

Burning Water
This ballet, choreographed by Andonis Foniadakis, deals with the contradictory nature of water and the adaptation of the human body to the presence of water, as well as its effect on the human soul.

*Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc (hnk-zajc.hr), Premieres on March 23*

Homo si teć (Come, let’s all run)
At over 20 years old, Homo si teć is the largest street race for runners in Croatia. More than 17,000 runners of all ages and abilities now take part in the race and, like the city’s famous Carnival, such is its popularity that the bulk of the city centre becomes pedestrianised for the duration of the event. Spectators line the route as runners pass along Rijeka’s most famous streets like Korzo, with the race containing not only the traditional citizens’ race but also the Rijeka half marathon, the Hendi Cup and the Ciciban Cup. A great music and entertainment programme accompanies the event, with partying on the streets and around the city centre continuing long into the night.

*Rijeka Detox
After all of the indulgence of the Christmas period, it’s perhaps fitting that the first of Rijeka’s four, city-wide annual gastro manifestations should be the Rijeka Detox. Don’t be fooled though! This is far from a grimaced gulp of unpalatable medicine. Instead, Rijeka Detox celebrates the rich and bountiful number of edible herbs that grow in the region. Delicate herbs are often the first bounty of the spring season, their shoots rising quickly above the recently thawed ground. Long associated with good health and a balanced diet, the multitude of wild herbs that grow in the region can also be extremely tasty. Many of Rijeka’s restaurants and bistros take part in the Detox week, offering special dishes on their menus in which locally sourced herbs are a key ingredient. Cafes, health food shops and bars also take part and in such establishments, you can pick up smoothies made from herbs in combination with other healthy ingredients. 2019’s edition featured a great small producers market located in the gardens outside of HNK Ivan pl. Zajc Rijeka and elsewhere you could attend workshops such as one on raw food meal preparation and presentation.

*Various venues (visitrijeka.hr), April*

Rijeka Detox

Homo si teć

*Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc (hnk-zajc.hr), Premieres on February 22*

The race’s title is a term not in standard Croatian, but in the coastal Čakavski dialect.

*Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc (hnk-zajc.hr), Premieres on March 23*

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A CRASH COURSE TO RIJEKA 2020

What is the European Capital of Culture, anyway? Here’s your five minute briefing.

THE EU. Almost everyone agrees this collective of neighbourly co-operation was a good idea (well, except perhaps the excluded Russians and the baffling Brits). The EU grew from economic and trading co-operation, but eventually extended its remit into more political arenas (which many consider baby steps on the road to federalism, with the block intending to soon have its own armed forces, a scary prospect for the aforementioned dissenters). But, in the mid-80s, it was recognised that integration between member states would be better served by recognising their individual cultural worth. The European Capital Of Culture (originally called European City Of Culture) was designed to highlight the similarities which different European societies share and also highlight the differences which go to create such a rich and diverse cultural conglomerate.

Assigned for a 12 month period, European Capital of Culture status is awarded to different cities each year and makes funds available for cultural events which hold a strong pan-European dimension and which display the core values and rights of European citizens (you won’t see any single religion dominating proceedings, but you will see an appreciation of minorities and different ethnic groups, for example). The awarding of the Capital of Culture status intends to create a template for arts and culture happenings which will hopefully recur after the designated year concludes (it is hoped that, impressed by the year’s manifestations, alternative sponsors will step in to replace the initial EU money awarded). The status is a catalyst for the expansion of arts and culture and for urban regeneration.

There have been over 60 European Capital Of Cultures so far. Rijeka is the first city in Croatia to take the mantle. With its sizeable areas of former industrial use and one of the richest musical heritages within Croatia, it is a city which would benefit hugely from urban renewal and one which has the imagination and cultural worth to attract international attention during its European Capital of Culture year.

RIJEKA CITY OF CULTURE PRIDE OF CROATIA, CAPITAL OF EUROPE

RIJEKA 2020.eu — Port of Diversity

Sponsored
Coast of cultures

The Rijeka 2020 programme celebrates a gloriously mixed-up city, says Jonathan Bousfield.

SOMETHING APPROPRIATELY for a city that is gearing up to become a European Capital of Culture in 2020, the dominant building on Rijeka’s handsome nineteenth-century waterfront is the Hotel Europa, a grand Neo-Renaissance pile thrown up in 1873. It may no longer be a hotel, but its proud yellow-ochre bulk – rather like a gargantuan slice of Viennese vanilla custard – still adds a dash of Central-European grace to Rijeka’s bustling port-side Riva.

On the east side of the building is a discreet plaque honouring the man who built it, the Slovene investor Josip Gorjup (1834-1912), a man so rich his contemporaries called him the Slovene Rockefeller. On the south facade is a similarly easy-to-miss tablet bearing the name of Mór Jókai (1825-1904), the Hungarian parliamentarian and novelist who stayed here in the 1880s.

Jókai was a global best-seller in his time; even Queen Victoria was said to be a fan. However celebrated they may have been in their own lifetimes, neither Gorjup nor Jókai nowadays invite much in the way of popular recognition, and neither name appears in the programme of Rijeka 2020. The reason why their plaques are significant however is this: Rijeka is the kind of city in which many European nations have a stake. It was one of the Austro-Hungarian Empire’s key ports; people from all over the continent came here to live, work, make money, eat cakes, or await one of the transatlantic liners that took migrants to the New World. Describing the city as “cultural crossroads”, or a “port of diversity” (the latter is Rijeka 2020’s official slogan) is not just a bland exercise in choosing the right Euro-friendly phrase.

The Slovene Gorjup had a finger in every economic pie he could lay his hands on and remains one of the entrepreneurial titans who helped make Rijeka what it is today. Dropping

Time Out Rijeka Autumn/Winter 2019
the names of a few other movers and shakers serves to underline what a cosmopolitan place pre-World War I Rijeka actually was: Andrija Ljudevit Adamić (1766-1828), the Croatian-Jewish entrepreneur who built up maritime trade and also founded the paper factory known as Hartera; or Robert Whitehead (1823-1905) the Bolton-born innovator who turned the city into a world centre of torpedo production.

In many ways the programme for Rijeka 2020 is a tribute to the city’s gloriously mixed-up past, paying due respect to the Croatian roots of the majority of its inhabitants while also making full use of the city’s ample repertoire of multicultural resonances.

It strikes a good balance between the classical and the crowd-pleasing, and tries to broach serious global issues (work, migration, technology) without getting over-political or over-intellectual in the process. It goes for international relevance as well as cultivating local culture. There will be major exhibitions devoted to belle-époque modernist Gustav Klimt and American video-art icon Nan Hoover, installations and interventions from Japan’s Tomoko Momiyama and Germany’s art-and-music magus Heiner Goebbels; plus classical music and opera from European greats like Shostakovich, Wagner, Szymanowski. The city’s position at the centre of Europe’s dramatic twentieth century provides a powerful thematic platform for a slew of heavyweight exhibitions on history and art. And here Rijeka 2020 performs another important function, sifting through the sands of the century and presenting the continent’s history from a decidedly Central-European perspective. The city of Slavs, Italians, Hungarians, Germans and – despite 'Port of diversity' is not just a bland exercise in choosing the right Euro-friendly phrase.
the murder of most of them during the Holocaust – Jews, has a duty to tell the stories of multilingual middle Europe, and has set about it task with determination and sensitivity. An exhibition covering Italian poet Gabriele D’Annunzio’s occupation of Rijeka has already opened and is assessed elsewhere in this issue of Time Out. D’Annunzio will be joined by exhibitions on European borderlands, the fate of Eastern Europe after World War I, and a major exhibition of East-European art in the transitional 1990s. The Yugoslav communist period will be referenced in the renovation of President Tito’s former yacht Galeb. It is still touch and go whether the restoration work will actually be completed before the end of 2020, but it seems certain that this talismanic hulk will launch many a discussion.

The programme also plays due attention to local communities, placing events and outdoor art installations within villages inland, neighbouring coastal resorts, and the islands scattered across the Kvarner Gulf. The 27 Neighbourhoods flagship has chosen 27 settlements in the Rijeka-Kvarner area and teamed up local people with international partners to produce events which have some kind of local resonance and also encourage audience participation. Among those that will be well worth travelling out to see are the In Honour of the Wind kite festival, set on the starkly beautiful and sparsely populated island of Unije; and the Čagaj festival of traditional and contemporary dance on Krk. Rijeka’s status as a largely post-industrial city in which manufacturing is in decline provides the inspiration for a flagship known as Dopola-voro – originally an Italian word used during the fascist period to mean state-organized leisure-time activities for the workers, it is turned round here to imply that, with advances in information technology and robotics, we may all soon be living in a post-work society. The flagship will see a concert by Compressorhead, a band made up of robots playing hard-rock classics; Ray Lee’s Chorus, a trio of tripods with swinging arms that play otherworldly melodies; and Sašo Sedlaček’s Oblomo to the People, in which visitors get to enjoy a few minutes of leisurely laziness providing they have the right coin to put in the slot.

One wonders what the makers of modern Rijeka like Gropu, Adamić and Whitehead would have made of robots and virtual reality. In all likelihood they would have been very impressed, and immediately set about applying these innovations to a changing, dynamic city.
Rijeka has an array of trailblazing women. These three cultural icons talk about what the Capital of Culture means to them, and for the future of their city.

“I had people my whole life telling me how Rijeka was in the ‘80s, so creative, a music scene that was famous all over Yugoslavia. Some people say it was better, some people say it was worse. I don’t know. I was born in 1992. When I was growing up, it did seem like the city was quiet in comparison to the stories you would hear about the ‘80s. Rijeka had a reputation for being quite liberal-minded and progressive. But, a city is a living thing. If you hold a title or reputation once, every year you must prove that you’re still eligible to retain it. You can’t be the best one year and then not do anything for the next 30 but keep the crown. Just because you once got a prize for your work, that doesn’t mean you can stop working.

I think Capital of Culture is great because it calls for local residents to get involved. And many answer the call. That’s what this city needs, pro-active people, people who are thinking progressively and optimistically about the future. People who are trying to make this city come alive again.

We’ve already seen the Capital of Culture status establish some cultural events which we hope will only grow in future years. Good things are emerging, but I’m a strong believer in doing things for yourself. Culture is not something that can be imposed on Rijeka. It is something that has to come from within.

As far as my own involvement with 2020, outside the photography I worked with another Rijeka-based multi-discipline artist, Oblik 3, on the finale of the last Tobogan Festival which combined video mapping, music, dance and circus arts, so we’ll see where that takes us next year’.

‘Culture is not something that can be imposed on Rijeka. It is something that has to come from within’
‘I’m really looking forward to seeing everything that will come out of the European Capital of Culture year. There are lots of amazing projects that have already started and will continue after the year is done - I think it’s a very positive thing. I’m excited about the projects which aren’t just based on art but are branching out too, so a lot of communities are stepping in and taking part.

Rijeka has always been a very diverse town. It’s home to a huge mix of people from all around Croatia and all around Europe. I immediately felt at home when I moved here - it has this beautiful energy, and you never feel alienated. I suppose that’s why diversity is one of the main themes to the Capital of Culture year, because it’s what makes Rijeka special.

You have this feeling of freedom in Rijeka, the feeling that you can do whatever you want to do. A lot of open-minded people live here, which is great if you’re looking for connections or gateways to new things you want to explore. Because people come from so many backgrounds, they’re open to everybody else as well, and I’ve never felt any unhealthy competition or jealousy, which is refreshing in the art world. I’ve felt so much support here.

I think everybody will be able to find something they like during the Capital of Culture year, and I can’t wait to see everyone embrace it.’

Being the Capital of Culture puts Rijeka in the national and international spotlight. It is a very important opportunity for citizens to redefine the identity of our city. In the past, Rijeka was defined by its harbour and many factories. What are we producing now? If we are producing art and culture, how can we support it? Culture is not just a part of our lives, culture is us. This is an opportunity to emphasise that.

In the last ten or fifteen years, strong literary voices have emerged from Rijeka’s younger generation which we didn’t have before. The name that stands out the most is the late Dasa Drndic. She was living and working in Rijeka, but her works were well-recognised and awarded internationally. When we speak about Dasa Drndic, we speak about great literature. Rijeka is a small city but it hosts many established literary festivals and happenings. As Croatia’s main port, Rijeka has always been well-connected to the world. Because of that, diversity is in Rijeka’s DNA. Rijeka has had and still has a strong antifascist attitude. Its citizens are open to constructive criticism and to all kinds of diversity because of its complex history and its mixed population. This year will bring people from different towns and countries to share their views, visions and ideas for this city. As has always been the case in Rijeka, people from the outside help create its identity. Rijekans are eager to produce new culture, not just to rely on tradition. Culture is not dead here, but reborn again and again.’

PEKMEZMED

Pekmezmed, one of Rijeka’s leading visual artists, is known for her work across several mediums, including some bold and illustrative murals, a few of which you can see dotted around the city. Often featuring women in whimsical, dreamlike scenes, her work is indicative of her offbeat style and unique outlook. A passionate supporter of the arts in Croatia, Pekmezmed is also the founder of Frrresh magazine, which champions emerging local talent.

TEA TULIĆ

Native Rijekan Tea Tulić became the toast of literary circles worldwide with her debut novel, ‘Hair Everywhere’. A series of fragmentary prose poems telling the story of a terminal illness, the novel won awards for its striking originality. Now a leading light in contemporary Croatian fiction, Tulić continues to experiment with both the written and spoken word.
Rijeka 2020
European Capital of Culture
locations
Where the action is happening.

1. Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art
2. Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral
3. Port
4. City Clock Tower
5. Trg 111. Brigade Hrvatske vojske
6. Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc
7. Exportdrvo
8. Delta
9. Trsat Castle
10. Kozala
GET WITH
THE PROGRAMME

All the events you need to know about this season

IT’S A HUGE HONOUR, and one that has been enjoyed by cultural capitals across Europe. Now it’s Croatia’s turn to carry the baton of European Capital of Culture – and what better place for it than ‘red Rijeka’, Croatia’s sparkly, alternative city? Rijeka’s chosen title for the year is ‘Port of Diversity’, and it’s clear that the city is embracing that wholeheartedly. The international program celebrates every facet of arts and culture – from classical violin to conceptual Japanese art, and everything in between.

With so much on offer, you might struggle to choose what to catch. Here’s our pick of the highlights of Rijeka’s year as the European Capital of Culture.
JRE Croatia: Talent and Passion

What better way to showcase Rijeka and Kvarner’s rich seafood than a cook off between 15 highly regarded regional chefs? Now on its fourth instalment, the JRE Croatia event in Rijeka sees 15 top local chefs, Croatian representatives of the international JRE EU organisation, go head to head in a simultaneous cooking event to be held in Rijeka’s fish market. The title of the event is Talent & Passion, the first component being provided by the learning, experience, skill and imagination of the chefs, the second coming from the supremely high quality of seafood available to them from Rijeka’s leading seafood merchants. The chefs will have the pick of the day’s catch, caught at the best time of year for many shellfish due to the cooling of sea waters following summer. Shellfish, mussels and many more treats from the sea are frequently regarded as being at their optimum size and holding maximum flavour when caught at this time. The cook off itself begins at 6pm and is intended to inspire visitors with the range of ingredients and cooking techniques on display. Taking place after the cessation of the day’s trading, attendees will get a rare opportunity to enjoy one of Croatia’s most beautiful fish markets, one which is over 100 years old, outside of its usual, bustling operating hours.

Opening of the Rijeka 2020 European Capital of Culture

Let the celebrations begin! Rijeka’s year as European Capital of Culture gets off to a spectacular start with the opening ceremony. Taking place at the port, which in many ways is the heart of the city, the show is as much a celebration of arts and culture as it is of the city itself. Rijeka’s identity as Croatia’s foremost port city is at the centre of proceedings, with the ceremony drawing on themes of water, labour and migration. Expect to see surreal installations, amazing visual displays, and marine instruments used in mind-boggling ways.

‘The show is as much a celebration of arts and culture as it is of the city itself’
No other city on the Adriatic looks like Rijeka, its residential buildings climbing up the slopes of the nearby Dinaric Alps as it has gradually expanded from its port and industry on the shoreline. Rijeka now has a beautiful but thoroughly modern vista, almost like a contemporary continental city which has been supplanted, pre-built, by the sea. Some of its largest residential buildings and offices pierce the sky, multiple floors of life and individual lives which are the very heart of Rijeka. In other coastal cities, such skyscrapers are hidden far from the eyes of visitors, their position, out-of-sight in distant suburbs creating an almost ghetto-like town structure and an ‘us and them’ barrier between residents and guests. Not in Rijeka. In Rijeka, such towers stand unashamed, central to the city, its people and its function. Spaces integral to everyday life, it has been proposed that this embrace should become even closer and, in a city lacking green spaces, that the roofs of such buildings should be utilised to build gardens, areas for socialising and special get-togethers, cultivation or even beekeeping. Primarily for use by local residents, these spaces are open to the public on occasion and this dedicated period extends that invitation with a series of events which will draw visitors to the rooftops of such buildings in the Kozala district. Come and get a unique view of urban Rijeka.

**Skyscrapers: a city among the clouds**

With all events conducted in an informal mingle-friendly atmosphere, it’s a wonderful opportunity to get to grips with the country’s extraordinarily rich literary tradition. The Review of Minor Literatures, for example, brings together authors from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and other locations (rijeka2020.eu/en/program/sweet-salt), March 2020 - January 2021

- **Festival of the European Short Story**
  Founded in Zagreb in 2002, the Festival of the European Short Story has in recent years become a two-city festival, a significant chunk of which is hosted in Rijeka. Featuring leading writers from all over the world (and not just the Old Continent), it’s an outstanding opportunity to get a taste of international short-story scene. If nothing else is available there is often a significant contingent of English-language writers, and writers in other languages usually have their stories translated into English and projected onto a screen behind the stage for the benefit of an international audience. There will also be question-and-answer sessions with some of the bigger literary stars. With all events conducted in an informal mingle-friendly atmosphere, it’s a wonderful counterpoint to some of the more formal literary festivals elsewhere in the world.

- **The Review of Minor Literatures**
  Kicking off just a few days before the short story festival, the

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**Spring Forward Festival of Modern Dance**

Taking place on the last weekend in April 2020, Spring Forward is a festival of modern dance which will bring brilliant young dancers from across Europe and further still for performances across multiple venues. The Croatian Cultural Centre, Croatian National Theatre Ivan Pl. Zajc, Export Drvo and other locations will play host to more than 200 producers and experts in modern dance from around the world. The project itself is part of the European Aerowaves network which has been co-ordinating cross-border cooperation in the theatre of dance for the last 23 years.

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Events

ART

David Maljković: with the Collection

Contemporary artist and Rijeka native David Maljković will be selecting pieces from the MMSU depot, demonstrating that the act of choosing what to show and how to show it is also a creative act, loaded with potential meanings. Maljković himself is one of Croatia’s most internationally successful artists, and examples of his work have been snapped up by art institutions all over the world: the Pompidou Centre in Paris, New York’s MOMA, and the Tate Modern in London can all claim to have a Maljković in their collection. A versatile conceptualist perfectly at home in any medium, Maljković is primarily known for his films, which deploy irony and humour alongside disconcerting visual tricks. His most famous work is Scenes for a New Heritage, in which a group of future explorers go and visit the (sadly derelict) World War II Partisan memorial at Petrosa Gora. It was one of the first expressions of artistic interest in these abandoned monuments, and is nowadays considered a classic of contemporary video art.

Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (mmsu.hr), January 31 - April 20 2020

The Sea Is Glowing/Usijano more

One of the most intriguing events in Rijeka 2020’s busy art programme is this cluster of exhibitions involving local and international artists, each with something offbeat to say about the Adriatic sea and its future. If you ever wanted proof that contemporary art is not just a parade of visual delights, but also a laboratory at the forefront of social and technological change, you’ll find it here. The ‘works’ on display include research-based projects and community initiatives as well as more traditional installations and video works. Canadian Bill Vorn brings robots; the Coventry-based trio of Valeria Graziano, Marcell Mars and Tomislav Medak present their research on ‘pirate care’ and the way in which informal communities can help build networks of solidarity; while Nikola Bojić digs up a long-forgotten 1971 report on the environment and breathes new life into its all-embracing picture of the earth’s ecosystem. There will also be an appearance by Jennifer Lyn Morone, the American artist who declared herself a ‘corporation’ in a satirical poke in the eye of mega-capitalism. If you’re interested in shape of things to come in the Anthropocene Age, there may well be a few pointers here.

Exportdrvo (rijeka2020.eu), April - July 2020
Unknown Klimt – Love, Death and Ecstasy
It’s always heartening to know that there is an ‘unknown’ side to an artist whose major works adorn everything from paper napkins to tea trays. Indeed the exhibition’s subtitle suggests that there may be more to Klimt’s flamboyantly decorative art than initially meets the eye. It’s certainly one of the great paradoxes of changing tastes that an edgy and at times unsettling modern painter like Klimt has ended up being the undisputed king of the gift shop, his eroticized pictures swirling their way across the kind of coffee mug that we hurriedly buy for family members as last-ditch presents.

The dominant figure of the Viennese art world in the years before World War I, Klimt personified the ambiguities of the age: a salon-guest of emancipated intellectual women, whose portraits he painted with great tenderness and perception; he was also a bit of a savy who treated his studio models as a revolving harem. The contradictions in Klimt’s work, and the obsessions that drove him to create his astonishingly seductive pictures, will here be revealed through an intriguing selection of sketches, studies and full-size paintings, many of which the gallery-going public might not be familiar with. The exhibition will also explore Klimt’s connection with Rijeka, together with brother Ernst and the older painter Franz Matsch. Klimt painted ceilings and walls of the Labin pithead with its colossal landscape in which it takes place: the Biennale’s key venues, with the pit-head buildings of the disused mine serving as main exhibition space, although the Biennale has now spread its wings to embrace the cities of Rijeka and Pula as well.

The death of traditional industries and the growth of tourism is remorselessly changing the face of northwestern Croatia, transforming an area that once made and exported things into a post-industrial flavour is the Biennale’s key venues, with the pit-head buildings of the disused mine serving as main exhibition space, although the Biennale has now spread its wings to embrace the cities of Rijeka and Pula as well. Providing the Biennale with its unique post-industrial flavour is the landscape in which it takes place: the Labin pithead with its colossal winding tower, the nearby mining village of Rijeka with its planned modernist housing, and Rijeka itself with its dockyard cranes and red brick warehouses. The main theme of the Biennale this time round will be the changing nature of work under the impact of new technologies, and the prospect of a post-work future. With a long list of local and international participants, it promises to be one of the biggest and most compelling art events of the year.

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Events

MUSEUMS

D’Annunzio’s Martyr/ D’Annunzijeva mučenica
On 12 September 1919, Italian commander Gabriele D’Annunzio swept into Rijeka and declared that it belonged to Italy. What followed was one of the city’s most turbulent periods, where D’Annunzio’s proto-Fascist regime saw Croats or anyone resistant to Italian rule persecuted. In paintings of the period, Rijeka is often depicted as a martyred women; yet women’s stories of the time have largely been left untold. This original and insightful exhibition changes that, by exploring the female experience of D’Annunzio’s rule. We hear moving first-hand accounts from native Rijekan women, who saw their home occupied and transformed. But there are also stories from women that had supported D’Annunzio, and some that had even been his lovers. It all adds up to a complex and human picture of one of the darkest times in Rijeka’s past.

> Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral (ppmhp.hr), September 12 2019 - January 31 2021

With the Violin Beyond the Borders/ Stradivari in Rijeka: Kresnik and Cremona
Classical musical connoisseurs will adore this commemoration of a truly remarkable man - Dr. Franjo Kresnik. Dubbed ‘the man who can read violins’, Kresnik was an intellectual whose passion was the crafting of violins, and who is widely credited with restoring the art of Cremona Liuteria (that’s ancient string-instrument making, to non-aficionados). In a program to mark the 150th anniversary of Kresnik’s birth, world-class musicians will perform on their Stradivari and Guarneri violins. Though he was born in Vienna, Kresnik spent much of his life traveling through Central Europe and Croatia, considering himself to be a man beyond borders. What better place to celebrate his life than the Port of Diversity?

> Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral (ppmhp.hr), December 6 2019 – January 31 2021

After the Great War: New Europe 1918-1923/ Nakon velikog rata. Nova Europa 1918-1923
Conventional wisdom maintains that 1919’s Treaty of Versailles was a failure, pushing Germany into economic chaos, creating new states with arbitrary borders, and leading inevitably to the outbreak of World War II. However many of the countries created at Versailles are still in existence today (albeit in modified form), having survived the combined attacks of both Nazi and Soviet imperialism. In many ways we are still living in the post-Versailles world.

> Trg 111. Brigade Hrvatske vojske (rijeka2020.eu/en/program/time- of-power), April 14 – May 12

For the latest and best shows and gigs, top shopping, eating and drinking, visit timeout.com/croatia/rijeka

UNLOCK THE BEST OF RIJEKA
Time Out Rijeka

Borders: Between Order and Chaos / Granice – između reda i kaosa

Very much the centre-point of the Times of Power flagship of Rijeka 2020, this exhibition explores the nature the border in modern European history, and the way in which borders nurture cultures of social and cultural exchange as well as limits on movement and lifestyle. Rijeka itself is a good place in which to start an exploration of the role of the frontier: the city spent a large chunk of the twentieth century split in two, with the border between the Italian-occupied hinterland. Exhibits reveal extracts from the personal biographies of Rijeka residents, while also looking further afield at the experience of Central and Eastern Europe as a whole. 

Balthazar’s Hurricane and Balthazargrad / Balthazarský Hurikán a Balthazargrad

Produced between 1967 and 1978, children’s cartoon series Balthazar was one of Croatia’s greatest cultural exports, enchanting viewers throughout Europe with its charming tales of a loveably eccentric scientist, told in a ravishingly colourful style. The imaginary city in which Balthazar lived was largely based on Rijeka, so it’s no surprise that the mercurial beard-stroking Professor Balthazar plays a significant role in the city’s 2020 shindig. An old ship, named Uragan (“Hurricane”) will be transformed into a children’s play area decked out in Balthazar-themed décor; and moored on the Molo Longo, the 1.7km-long breakwater that juts across the harbour. There will also be an exhibition, Balthazargrad (“Balthazar-Town”), featuring artwork and sketches as well as an array of hands-on contraptions built in imitation of some of the devices used in the show. 

MUSIC

Concert on Kresnik’s violins: Matej Mijalić and Ivan Graziani (HR)

Internationally-renowned craftsman of the greatest violins, Dr.Franjo Kresnik, is celebrated on the 150th anniversary year of his birth. Credited with restoring the art of Cremona Luteria (traditional string instrument making), this special performance will see two of Rijeka’s finest violinists, Matej Mijalić and Ivan Graziani (both students of Zagreb’s Academy of Music), perform on two of Kresnik’s highly prized violins. Among the pieces performed will be works by J. S. Bach, E. Chausson, H. W. Ernst and H. Wieniawski with the violinists accompanied on piano by Jelena Barbarić Mijalić.

Les Vents Français (FR)

Les Vents Français is a world-famous ensemble of wind musicians who have previously taken their classic and contemporary repertoire to Cologne Philharmonie, the Konzerthaus Dortmund, Mozartea Salzburg, Copenhagen, Rome, Zürich, Brussels, Paris, Istanbul, Tokyo, Umulbeak, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Kissinger Sommer, Salon-de-Provence and on a tour of the USA and Japan. At this special performance, they transform their flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns into the music of Maurice Ravel, Francis Poulenc, Darius Milhaud, Albert Roussel and André Caplet.

THEATRE

Needcompany festival: All the Good

A provocative new piece from Belgian playwright Jan Lauwers and his theatre group Needcompany. All The Good confronts the wave of hatred sweeping across Europe. The play is semi-autobiographical, centring on an encounter that changed Lauwers’ life. We follow the real life of an ex-Israeli soldier – played by himself – as he tries to come to terms with the events of his past. Things start to look up when he moves to Brussels and falls in love with Lauwer’s daughter. There’s only one problem: his girlfriend’s family are fiercely anti-Israel. Will Lauwers be able to reconcile his left-wing politics with his love for his daughter? Will the soldier be able to accept the demons of his past? This is a play about loss, hope and compassion, told at a time when we need it most.

Concert by Band Riding the Wrong Way, All the Good, Forever)

Croatian Littoral (ppmhp.hr), January 24

Zajc (hnk-zajc.hr), February 7

Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc (hnk-zajc.hr), March 3 and 4 (includes: Concert by Band Riding the Wrong Way, All the Good, Forever)

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Who is Balthazar?

Ask people to name the most universal work of art to come out of Croatia in the last 50 years and they may not immediately think of nominating a children’s cartoon about a tubby little man with a badly-drawn beard. **PROFESSOR BALTHAZAR** is arguably Croatia’s greatest cultural export, delighting children across former Yugoslavia and much of northern Europe during its 1970s heyday. It was also one of the most psychedelic children’s cartoons of all time, featuring the kind of mind-altering patterns and kaleidoscopic colours that have ensured it cult status among generations of giggling young adults.

With the original ten-minute episodes re-released on a series of six DVDs, now is the perfect time to catch up on the Balthazar legacy. The lead character is a kindly old scientist who solves people’s problems and calms their worries, frequently resorting to his hurly-burlytron machine to generate the most unexpected solutions. The stories are set in Balthazar town, a fanciful amalgam of Zagreb and an Adriatic city. As a role model for children, Balthazar is hard to beat: the adventures are comfortingly old-school in the way they promote co-operation, ecological consciousness and faith in scientific progress. And the English-language voice-over is so good that never for one moment do you feel as if you are watching an eccentric Central-European cartoon.

The Balthazar character was created by Zlatko Grgić, who directed an animated short featuring the professor in 1967, and was persuaded that the idea was strong enough to support a whole series. Grgić, together with Boris Đorđević, Boris Kolar and Ante Zaninović worked on the scripts, while academically-trained artist Zlatko Bourič was responsible for providing the films with their inimitable pop-art-on-acid style. Grgić and colleagues were all stalwarts of the Zagreb Film animation studio, which had been a leading creative force in cartoon production ever since its inception in the mid-1950s. Indeed the studio produced Croatia’s only ever Oscar, with Dušan Vukotić’s Surrogate winning the Academy Award for Best Animated Film in 1961.

Time Out has successfully tested all six Balthazar DVDs on a five-year-old British child, and if you’re a fan of old-fashioned, ironic science fiction involving kindly old professors and their wonky machines, then the professor makes the ideal home-bound souvenir.
Events

The Venice Baroque Orchestra and Vivaldi on a Stradivarius violin

Something to get very excited about. Described as ‘One of the best baroque ensembles playing alongside one of the best violinists of baroque on one of the very best violins’, this gala performance sees a Stradivarius violin come to Rijeka as part of the Violin Above Borders exhibition, which is being held in the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka. Organised by the Consulate General of the Italian Republic in the Republic of Croatia (Rijeka) in collaboration with the Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc Rijeka, the event sees the world-renowned Venice Baroque Orchestra appear with lead violinist, the celebrated Giuliano Carmignola. This award-winning ensemble has played more dates of baroque music in the USA than any other in history. They have appeared on television the world over, including on the BBC, ARTE, NTR (Netherlands) and NHK.

All concerts performed by the Venice Baroque Orchestra and lead violinist Giuliano Carmignola

Concert on Kresnik’s violin: Gernot Süßmuth (DE)

Internationally-renowned craftsman of the greatest violins, Dr. Franjo Kresnik, is celebrated on the 150th anniversary year of his birth. Credited with restoring the art of Cremona Liuteria (traditional string-instrument making), this date will see renowned German violinist Gernot Süßmuth play on a Kresnik violin. Having undertaken his first performance with an orchestra at just nine years old, Gernot won many awards and accolades as a youth musician. Following the completion of his studies, he was employed by the Berlin Radio Symphony as a concertmaster before going on to assume the same role for the Staatskapelle in Berlin and then the Staatskapelle in Weimar. From 1983 to March 2000, he played within the award-winning Petersen Quartet string quartet before founding the Aporto Piano Quartet with Hans-Jakob Fuchs en and then the Waldstein Quartet. Aside from these collaborative appearances he also plays as a soloist with renowned chamber music musicians such as Steven Bishop, Paul Meyer, Norbert Brainin, Martin Lovett and Daniel Barenboim and acts as the artistic director of the European Union Chamber Orchestra.

Wagner: Tristan and Isolde

Composed in 1859, this romantic opera in three parts by Richard Wagner is now considered one of the most influential pieces of music of all time. Based on a tragic tale of love told as far back as the 12th century, the story centres on an adulterous love affair between the Cornish knight Tristan and the Irish princess Isolde. In Wagner’s version, Tristan is portrayed as a doomed romantic figure, while Isolde appears as a redeeming female character in classic Wagnerian fashion. The opera is directed by renowned American director Anna Bogart.

Puccini Trilogy

Madama Butterfly

Conductor: Ville Matvejeff / Kello Kuusava
Director: Dražen Siničić
Dates: Oct 27, Nov 24, Nov 27 and Nov 30 2019

Tosca

Conductor: Yordan Kamdzhalov
Director: Marin Blažević
Dates: Nov 4, Nov 7, Nov 9 and Nov 12 2019

La bohème

Conductor: Ville Matvejeff
Director: Fabrizio Melano
Dates: Nov 16 and Nov 18 2019

NEW YEAR’S EVE CONCERTS

Conductor: Yordan Kamdzhalov
Programme featuring works by Rossini, Verdi, Wagner, Čajkovski, Bizet, Offenbach and Strauss
Dates: Dec 27, Dec 28, Dec 29 and Dec 30 2019

IN 2020...

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde

Conductor: Ville Matvejeff
Director: Anne Bogart
Dates: Feb 22, Feb 26 and Feb 29 2020

SEASON 2019/2020

Time Out Rijeka Autumn/Winter 2019

Time Out Rijeka Autumn/Winter 2019
Dmitri Šostakovič: "Babi Yar, Symphony no. 13 in B-flat minor"

Dmitri Šostakovič is one of the most important composers of the 20th century, a writer and musician who stood as a vital cultural bridge between the Soviet Union and the international community during the former's most isolationist years. Despite his patriotism, he refused to allow his art to be dictated by authorities. In fact, he was first denounced by the artistically ignorant Stalin for his modern approach, then by national authorities for the complete opposite of his first denunciation; for being to formal, for being to intellectual, then by state-owned propaganda. Gustav Mahler’s Symphony no. 2, over an hour and a half’s recital of this significant work. On the occasion, the ensemble will include an expanded orchestra, with the orchestra of the Croatian National Public Television Symphony Orchestra. They will be joined by vocal soloists, Kristina Kohler (HR) and Ivana Trubjan (HR) and a mixed choir.

Written over six years, due to his composing being a part-time concern in deference of his profession as one of the world’s then leading composers, Gustav Mahler’s Symphony no. 2 is regarded as one of his masterworks. Over a gradual reevaluation of his activities and the performance of his works during his lifetime (he died in 1911). Symphony no. 2 is now one of the world’s most popular symphonies and was written with the acknowledged inspiration of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, in particular, the integral climax of the piece provided by the sizeable chorus of voices. The concert will be conducted by Yordan Kambizhalov (BG).
Rijeka themes

BEHIND THE RIJEKA 2020 PROGRAMME

Throughout the Rijeka 2020 Capital of Culture programme, the themes of water, work and migration come to life.

WATER, WORK AND MIGRATION are the three themes of Rijeka 2020’s cultural and artistic programme and they couldn’t be better suited to this city. Primarily a port, Rijeka has welcomed visitors from all over the known world for hundreds of years, some having stayed and had an impact on the cultural diversity of the city. Rijeka’s water assets are not restricted to its deep water port though, as the river Rječina or Fiumara runs through it, lending its name to the Croatian and Italian titles of the city. The river is a direct link from urban Rijeka to a vast tract of countryside that lies within and beyond the Dinaric Alps.

Rijeka’s cultural programme not only celebrates the unique cultural offerings of its host city and country, it also examines that place’s position within the wider European community and strives to find similarities which bind us together as Europeans. As such, these chosen themes will help us explore Europe-wide issues such as immigration, the future of work, the future of industry (and its legacy), the free movement of people within Europe and ecological issues.

THE MAIN PROGRAMME

There are seven flagships under which each of the programme’s themes will be explored, with each flagship holding multiple events throughout the year.

THE KITCHEN OF DIVERSITY

The Kitchen of Diversity looks not only at the traditional cuisine of Rijeka and the wider Kvarner region but also celebrates the addition made to this menu by the region’s minorities and immigrants. As well as cuisine, this celebration of diversity will also examine the impact on art, sport, music and other assets which are enriched by the inclusion of people with alternate national, ethnic, religious and gender identities.

Within this flagship lie events such as The Sea is Glowing exhibition and several others which branch off from this, futuristic music performance such as the robotic opera ReCallas Medea and a concert by the robot band Compressorhead and interactive robot installations by American artist Christian Ristow, the latter two being much lauded contributors to America’s desert-based Burning Man festival.

DOPOLAVORO

The possibilities opened up to us in the future by new technologies are examined in the Dopolavoro flagship. Performances, art installations, exhibitions, theatre and other entertainment spectacles will help us imagine how life might look years from now and how our existences, expression, leisure and work might be affected by emerging technologies and areas of science where they meet.


TIMES OF POWER

In its lifespan, the city of Rijeka has existed as part of the states belonging to the Roman Empire, the Ostrogoths, the Lombards, the Byzantine Empire, the Frankish Empire, and the Croats, fought over by global powers like the Republic of Venice, the Kingdom of Hungary, and the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires, not to mention Austria, the First French Empire, the Kingdom of Italy, and Yugoslavia. The Times of Power flagship examines this turbulent history and examines broader forms and relationships of power.

Behind the Rijeka 2020 Programme

‘Rijeka has welcomed visitors from all over the known world for hundreds of years’
**Rijeka themes**

The flagship’s programme includes the debut theatre performance of ‘All the Good’ by Belgian theatrical company from Brussels, a new opera production such as Wagner’s ‘Tristan and Isolde’. Its exhibition programme includes permanent displays in new museum spaces, the Sugar Palace and Galeb ship and the audiovisual installation ‘The Anachronic Bath-House’ by world famous artist Heiner Goebbels.

**SWEET & SALT**

Referring to the point where the sweet, freshwater of the Rječina meets the saltwater of the Adriatic, Sweet & Salt is centred around the huge industrial and former industrial zone which lies at the heart of Rijeka. Within its remit lies issues such as urban regeneration, the future of former industrial space, town planning and environmental issues. Already assigned to an exciting annual music festival with two editions behind it, the name of this flagship is also lent to events taking place in this industrial space at venues like Exportdrvo warehouse, the Rijeka port breakwater known as Molo Longo and the terraces of tower blocks. Art interventions, community projects and exhibitions such as Fiume Fantastika are all part of the programme.

**LUNGOMARE ART**

Named after the famous shoreline promenade which was one of the highlights of a visit to the Kvarner region, Lungomare Art is a flagship which sees European Capital of Culture leave the confines of the city to make its impact on the wider region. A series of eleven permanent installations of contemporary art inspired by the region will be placed at ten locations on the coast and on nearby islands with the idea being that the 2020 event not only departs from the city, but the art will depart from traditional spaces and meet the local communities. Chosen by the Czech curator Michal Koleček, contributors include artists, designers and architects from Croatia, Europe, Japan and Chile who will make their interventions at the entrance to Brseč village, on the hiking trail at Lovrinska Draga, on the land and beneath the sea in Volosko, in the fish market in Rijeka, on Greševski beach along Rijeka’s Pecine, on Švrljan beach at Zadar, on Kastav’s coast at Mrkopalj, in the park at the centre of Crikvenica. On the islands you will find them on the quayside in Lopar on Rab, above Bakar on Krk and on Vela Riva in Mali Lošinj.

**THE CHILDREN’S HOUSE**

Designed to create maximum engagement between younger inhabitants and visitors and the Capital of Culture year, The Children’s House includes several festivals, interactive exhibitions, a magazine for children called Brickzine and numerous other programmes such as puppet shows, films, workshops and literary and arts programmes. Highlights include the already established Tobogan Festival with its spectacular parade through the city and its engaging open-air programme, a series of events linked to Professor Balthazar and the Good Children’s Book Month festival.

**27 NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The 27 Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (aka Kvarner) neighbourhoods chosen to take part in this community flagship correspond directly with the 27 member countries of the European Union. Lovran, Opatija, Matulji, Kastav, Pehlin, Drenova, Skutnje, Turnić and Mlaka, the campus at Trsat, Jelenje, Čavle, Praprunjko, Kostrena, Crikvenica, Novi Vinodolski, the island of Rab, the island of Unije, the town of Cres, the town of Krk, Maklinska, Vrbnik, Gomirje, Mrkopalj, Fulline, Delnice, Brod na Kupi and Gomži Kuri are the chosen neighbourhoods. The programme will be one of cooperation between the neighbourhoods and one of empowerment and self-determination within their communities which, in many instances, include remote urban and rural regions. As such, this programme intends to extend all of the themes of Rijeka 2020 Capital of Culture to the outlying regions. Its programme of events includes participation in Rijeka carnival, a festival of...
bell ringing and will see the Turnić-Mlaka neighbourhood connected to the International Space Station. The university campus will offer science and educational programmes throughout the year and the horticultural arts intervention ‘I am not a Robot’ by multimedia artist Darko Fritz. The CHA Dance Groove 2020 festival on the island of Krk and the Gomirje Accordion Mundial festival are attached to this flagship while the island of Unije will celebrate the region’s famous wind with a festival of kite flying. The border district of Drenova will link culture, nature and digital technology and film screenings will take place at unique and unexpected locations throughout the region.
RIJEKA — CITY OF CULTURE
PRIDE OF CROATIA,
CAPITAL OF EUROPE