



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 27, 2015, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 27

# Luxury Slovenia Presented at the Ambassador's Residence



On Monday, November 16, Ambassador Dr. Cerar hosted in his residence a wine tasting event for the Connoisseur's team of expert travel consultants. In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Dr. Cerar outlined the importance of the tourist sector for Slovenian economy. He emphasized Slovenia's advantages as a luxury destination: its combination of modern infrastructure along with beautiful and diverse nature and genuine hospitality, which provide sophisticated guests with unsurpassed luxury.

Following the opening address, Imperial Travel's General Managing Partners Matej Valenčič and Matej Knific presented Luxury Slovenia as a highly accomplished brand which boasts quality, exceptional service and perfect balance between price and top-quality luxury. Guests could also get acquainted with the wine regions in Slovenia, which also offer a variety of options for a unique travel experience. They also got to try the assortment of Slovenian wines, presented by sommelier Ms. Andreja

Košir Gažovič. Delicious bites of traditional Slovenian dishes were accompanied by the wine selection which included: Radgonska Srebrna Penina Sparkling Wine, Chardonnay by Sanctum Wines, Batič Rose, Merlot by Zanut Kocjančič, 360 by House Of Wine Doppler, Bagueri Cabernet Sauvignon, White Pinot by Ščurek and Kabaj Pinot Grigio Orange Wine. Ms. Polona Brumec, representative of Sanctum Winery, and Ms. Marta Rojnik of the Rojnik Hops Brewery were also present at the wine tasting event.





PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Wine Tasting at the Embassy of Slovenia



Embassy of Slovenia in cooperation with the International Club of DC hosted a wine tasting event for some 80 guests on Tuesday, November 17. Partners

of the event were Imperial Travel Agency, Pelicon Brewery from Ajdovščina, Rojnik Hops farm from the Savinja valley and Sanctum Winery from Loče in Štajersko

region of Slovenia. The event also featured a performance by the Slovenian pianist Ana Šinkovec Burstin and soprano Klaudia Magdoň.







Following the opening address by Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar, who emphasized Slovenia's most interesting sightseeing spots, was a presentation of the country's best tourist attractions and opportunities for culinary experience by Mr. Matej Valenčič on behalf of the Luxury Slovenia brand. Slovenian wine regions, wineries and wine routes were presented by sommelier Ms. Andreja Košir Gažovič. Present were also Ms. Polona Brumec, representative of Sanctum Wines, and Ms. Marta Rojnik of the Rojnik Hops Brewery. The guests could throughout the evening also taste the selection of Slovenian wines from Štajersko and Primorsko regions of Slovenia.

Because St. Martin's Day, celebrated in November, is closely

connected with viticulture, the menu for the reception that followed offered many of the traditional St. Martin's feast dishes. The guests could taste duck and goose meat, red cabbage and mlinci pasta next to the traditional Slovenian potica, Carniolian sausage, and trout.

Vineyards cover 83 square miles (1% of total land area) of Slovenia, but they are spread among three distinct wine regions: the Drava Valley in northeast, lower Sava Valley in southeast and Slovenian littoral in southwest. Each region has a very specific soil due to diverse geological composition of Slovenia, hence giving the wine a palette of tastes.

This pride in wine making has firm foundation in Slovenia's rich tradition. Viticulture and wine making have existed in this region

since the time of the Celtic and Illyrian tribes, even before the Romans introduced wine making to the lands of France, Spain and Germany. The oldest grapevine in the world, whose age is estimated to be over 400 years, grows in Maribor, Slovenia's second largest city. The Old Vine in 2004 gained mention in the Guinness Book of Records. To this day, it still bears annually between 150 and 250 pounds of red grapes, from which wine is produced. On the occasion, a bottle of the Old Grape wine, made from a noble variety of Modra Kavčina or Žametna črnina wine sorts, was presented by Ms. Andreja Košir Gažovič on behalf of the City of Maribor to the Ambassador, Dr. Božo Cerar, who accepted it on behalf of the embassy.



# Reception for Clemson University



Remarks by Clemson University President Dr. Jim Clements. Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar.

The Embassy of Slovenia has partnered with Clemson Club of Baltimore/DC, and earlier this week organized for Clemson University alumni -- members of the Clemson Club of Baltimore/DC -- a beautiful reception and program featuring Ambassador Dr. Cerar and Clemson University President, Dr. James P. Clements. Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar addressed some 120 alumni and in his remarks briefed the guests on Slovenia's pathway from independence toward Euro-Atlantic integrations, outlined foreign policy priorities as well as included in his presentation

historical facts and geographical features of the country, cultural highlights, and activities of the embassy in Washington. Business and education opportunities were introduced by political counsellor Mr. Borut Blaj and cultural officer Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, who in addition to the ambassador answered some questions from the audience. Guests also enjoyed a video presentation of the country.

President of the Clemson University Dr. James P. Clements, too, spoke to the audience and presented many achievements and high scores of the university

students, sports teams as well as its alumni. In a private meeting with the ambassador he discussed the possibilities for future cooperation between Clemson University and universities and businesses in Slovenia, especially in the fields of forestry and automotive industry. The program led into a comprehensive conversation that continued with a reception with Slovenian wine and beer and culinary delights. The guests could also enjoy a performance by an award-winning pianist, Ana Šinkovec, and singer Klaudia Magdon.





# Ana Šinkovec Burstin Performs at the Kennedy Center



On November 19, pianist Ana Šinkovec Burstin performed a recital at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. During the evening, she presented Žiga Stanič's Toccata (world premiere), Chopin's Nocturne and Ballades No. 1 and No. 4, Scriabin's Sonata No. 4 and Liszt's Liebestraum No. 3. The concert was streamed live – and her performance is still available for watching online at <https://www.kennedy-center.org/video/index/M6548>.

Prior to her engagement at the Kennedy Center, Ana made her American debut as a soloist with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra at its November 14 concert at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the

Performing Arts in Sheboygan, WI. The pianist headlined the program with the SSO with Tchaikovsky's grand Piano Concerto No. 1.

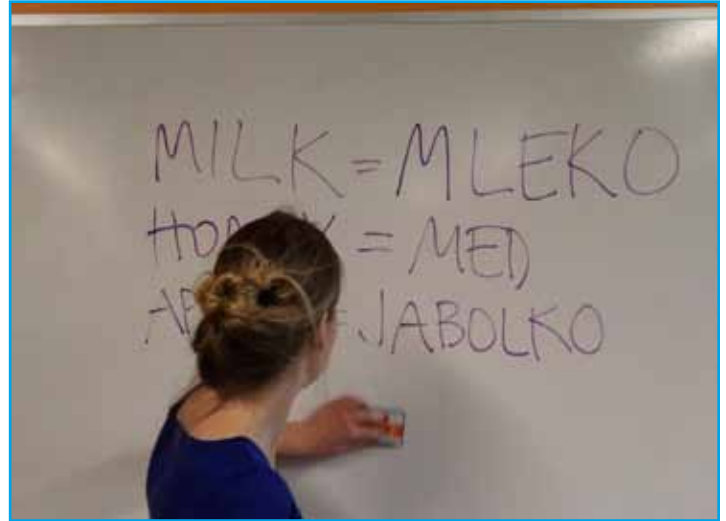
Born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Ana Šinkovec Burstin is an international prize-winning pianist. She is the holder of master's degrees from conservatories in Ljubljana, Brussels, Bergamo and Paris. She has won prizes in Germany, France, Slovenia and Italy, including First Prize at the 2000 Nikolai Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Paris. In 2004, she was awarded the Prešeren Prize, the highest Slovenian award for achievements in culture. She has participated in many festivals across Europe, including the Chopin Marathon in

Italy and Sweden, the inaugural Gilels Festival in Freiburg, the Mahler Festival in Toblach, the Nice Summer Festival, among others.

She has made recordings and played for televised concerts with the Slovenian RTV Symphony, Slovenian Philharmonic, Zagreb Soloists and Jerusalem Symphony orchestras. Ana made her London debut in 2013 with Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 at St John's, Smith Square with the Paradisal Players. She returned to the orchestra a year later for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, and has performed regularly as soloist and chamber musician across London, where she has also lived for the past few years.



# Traditional Slovenian Breakfast at Mann ES



For the fifth consecutive year, the Traditional Slovenian Breakfast project took place on November 20 in kindergartens and primary schools throughout Slovenia. During the first school period, children breakfasted on brown bread, honey, butter, milk, and apples, all of which were of organic and local origin. The third week of November was first declared by the Slovenian government as Day of Slovenian Food in 2012.

The Embassy of Slovenia in Washington introduced the Slovenian honey breakfast on Thursday, November 19, to

the Horace Mann Elementary School students. The fifth-grade class enjoyed the traditional Slovenian breakfast goods prepared and served by the embassy staff. Students also became acquainted with Slovenian traditional ways of harvesting, wheat threshing and milling, making bread in a brick oven, traditional butter making, beekeeping, and organic fruit growing.

Originally initiated by the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, the Traditional Slovenian Honey Breakfast project aims to educate,

inform and raise awareness of children in kindergartens and elementary schools -- and at the same time also of the general public -- particularly of the importance of eating breakfast, of benefits of locally grown food, of agricultural activities preserving the environment, and of beekeeping for agricultural production and economic activity. It is also important to raise public awareness of youth of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including health-enhancing physical activity and sports.





## VTIS Event in New York



Igor Cesarec.

Društvo v tujini izobraženih Slovencev - VTIS (Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad) organized an event in New York, featuring short presentations of the work of Slovenes who are active at universities, businesses and other organizations in New York City. The event, which was part of the global series "Slovene Science Around the World", took place on Saturday, November 21, 2015, at New York University, with around 40 people attending: Slovene researchers, academics, students and those employed in the private sector and the media, as well as others interested in the work of Slovene

researchers and experts in the United States.

The attendees were first welcomed by Igor Cesarec, President of Društvo VTIS, who explained to the audience the work of VTIS, which serves as a platform for Slovenes educated abroad to connect and cooperate with each other. Afterwards, four Slovene researchers and young professionals presented their work in 15-minute "lightning talks" and answered questions from the audience. The first presentation was given by Dr. Aleks Jakulin, the founder of Ganxy, then Saša Jereb, a PhD student at the Rockefeller University, who



Ana Petrovič.

spoke about her research in the field of molecular biology. Speaking were also Dr. Ana Petrovič, Professor of Chemistry at the New York Institute of Technology, and Nastasja Suhadolnik, International Lawyer at the United Nations. The presentations were followed by a reception, where the attendees had the opportunity to network and discuss further the presenters' research. The evening also featured a musical performance by Milena Pfeiler of CUNY Queens College.

More information about VTIS can be found by visiting its website at: <http://www.drustvovtis.si> or by contacting [info@drustvovtis.si](mailto:info@drustvovtis.si).



Saša Jereb.



Aleks Jakulin.

# Bela Krajina Museum



The permanent display in the Metlika castle.



The Metlika castle's courtyard.

**What better way to learn about Slovenia's history, art and heritage than by visiting various museums spread throughout the country? When making a list of things to do in Slovenia, do not forget about interesting galleries and museum collections. We will do our best to introduce as many as possible in our newsletter.**

Founded in 1951, Bela Krajina museum is based in the castle located in the old part of Metlika. The museum preserves the movable cultural heritage of Bela Krajina and also

encompasses three separate permanent exhibitions: one in Metlika (Gallery Kambič), and two smaller ones: in Vinica (memorial house of Oton Župančič ) and Semič (local museum collection.

The geographically, ethnically and culturally specific land that lies between the Kolpa River and the Gorjanci hills has had a dynamic history, in many ways differing from the rest of Slovenia. This is the topic of the film "Images of Bela Krajina", which forms the introduction to the permanent display at the Metlika Castle. Consisting of numerous objects, partly spatial

representations and pictorial and documentary material, the collection presents local lifestyles from prehistory to the mid-20th century.

Bela Krajina was first settled in the late Stone Age. The museum's archeological collection begins with remains from the Stone Age, and features finds portraying life in the Bronze and Iron Ages, under the Celtic and Roman rule, and in the late Classical period (when, in the 5th century, an important religious and administrative center was located on Kučar, near Podzemelj).

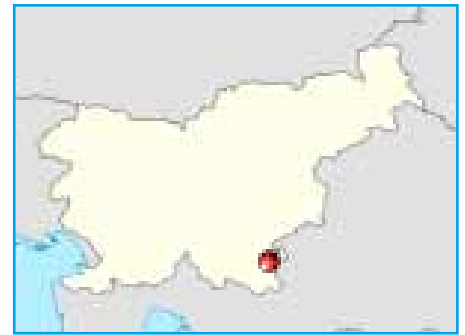




The cultural history collection presents the history of Bela Krajina from around 1200, when the Kolpa River became the border between Carniola and Croatia. In the 14th century, the towns of Metlika and Črnomelj were founded; these underwent extreme hardship during the Turkish raids in the 15th and 16th centuries. The fascinating history of the Roman era, the Middle Ages and the modern period can also be discerned from the collection of stone monuments in the lapidarium.

Most of the permanent display is dedicated to the lifestyles of the local population in the 19th

and the first half of the 20th century. During that time, Metlika and Črnomelj were distinct crafts and trade centers, with a strong emphasis on agriculture. The townspeople founded a number of cultural and economic societies, many of which have survived to the present day. The ethnological collection presents the typical characteristics of the rural lifestyles of Bela Krajina. A special feature is the viticulture collection in the castle basement. A visit to the permanent display ends with the recent history collection, which presents the most important events in Bela Krajina during the first half of the 20th century.



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**Opening hours:**  
 Mon to Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Sun and holidays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Closed: Jan 1, Nov 1 and Dec 25



## UPCOMING EVENTS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

### **GARY BUKOVNIK'S EXHIBITION: FOREVER SPRING**

Cleveland born and educated, Gary Bukovnik has lived in San Francisco for over thirty years. His work is represented in diverse public and private collections around the world. Working in watercolor, monotype, lithograph and metal sculpture, Bukovnik in his work fuses sensual vitality with fluid colorations, creating floral images of tremendous depth and intensity.

Bukovnik's work is well known throughout galleries across America, and his work has been shown internationally in Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, Japan and, most recently, in China. His work is represented in various public and private collections, including The Brooklyn Museum, NYC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC; and The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH.

When: [Ongoing through December 18](#); Monday through Friday during business hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008](#)

Admission free.

For more information see: <http://garybukovnik.com/> and <http://www.bonfoey.com/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

### **MIKLAVŽEVANJE IN WASHINGTON, DC**

As he has the world over for more than seven centuries, St. Nicholas soon will come again to children of all ages in the Washington area. The Bishop Baraga Society, Lodge #257 of the KSKJ (American Slovenian Catholic Union), invites you, your family, and friends to join us at the 51st annual Slovensko Miklavževanje - Slovenian Saint Nicholas' Celebration.

Where: [North Chevy Chase Christian Church](#), 8814 Kensington Parkway, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815. Enter hall basement from rear parking lot.

When: [Saturday, December 5, 2015. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Program begins at 5:30 p.m.](#)

Admission: Free to children under age 14, members of the Bishop Baraga Society and other KSKJ lodges. A donation of \$3.00 is requested from others to help defray costs.

Contact: Chris Bohince, President at [chrisbohince@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisbohince@hotmail.com) or call (301) 451-7845 or (301) 622-2934

### **FILM "THE TREE" AT THE AFI E.U. FILM SHOWCASE**

Now in its 28th year, the AFI European Union Film Showcase continues its tradition of bringing the best in European cinema to Washington audiences. This year's selection of more than 50 films includes award-winners, international festival favorites, local box-office hits and debut works by promising new talents, plus many countries' official Oscar® submissions for Best Foreign Language Film, including Slovenia's 2015 Oscar® Selection, *The Tree (Drevo)* directed by Sonja Prosenec. Presented in Slovene and Albanian with English subtitles.

**Synopsis:** Mother Milena (Katarina Stegnar), teenager Alek (Jernej Kogovšek) and nine-year-old Veli (Lukas Matija Rosas Uršič) don't venture outside their house. Across three chapters, each exploring the perspective of a single family member, the family's story and the reasons they fear their neighbors gradually come into focus. Sonja Prosenec's debut feature is a gripping drama that "masterfully maintains an air of steadily mounting tension."

When: [Thursday, December 17 at 9:40 p.m.](#)

Where: [AFI Silver Theatre And Cultural Center](#), 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

More information: <http://www.afi.com/silver/EUshowcase/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS - TENNESSEE

### **RIBNICA WOODWORKER'S CRAFT EXHIBIT IN KNOXVILLE, TN**

The Arts & Culture Alliance of Knoxville, TN, will open a new exhibition of traditional woodenware from Slovenia, presented by the Ribnica Handicraft Centre with support by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC and the Slovenian Consulate in Knoxville. The exhibition of wooden bowls, buckets, spoons, sieves, and other objects will be displayed in the Balcony gallery of the Emporium Center in downtown Knoxville.

When: [November 6 to 25, 2015, Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Emporium Center](#), 100 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

For [more information](#), please contact the Arts & Culture Alliance at (865) 523-7543, or visit [www.theemporiumcenter.com](http://www.theemporiumcenter.com)

<http://www.knoxmercury.com/event/ribnica-handicraft-centre-traditional-woodenware-from-slovenia/all/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS - NEW YORK

### **CONCERT BY IGOR LUMPERT & INNERTEXTURES**

Igor Lumpert is a slovenian saxophonist and composer, presently living and working in NYC. He returns to Cornelia Street Cafe with his adventurous group, Innertextures. The group features New York's finest musicians: Ben Monder, Matt Brewer and Tommy Crane, who are Lumpert's longtime friends and collaborators.

What makes Igor's music and playing so unique is its complexity. There is a quality to his playing and compositions that has absorbed the rich traditions of jazz music in this country but has also added something new and unidentifiable. His compositions flow with ease and vitality off odd time signatures. There is also darkness and a mystery to his sound that is all his own. No one else sounds like that. (Jane Ira Bloom, Saxophonist/composer/Grammy winner)

When: [December 9, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [29 Cornelia St., New York, NY 10014](#)

More information: <http://corneliastreetcafe.com/>, [www.igorlumpert.com](http://www.igorlumpert.com)

### **TRANSMISSIONS - AN EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS BY THE OHO GROUP AT MOMA IN NEW YORK**

Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America, 1960–1980 focuses on parallels and connections among artists active in Latin America and Eastern Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. During these decades, which flanked the widespread student protests of 1968, artists working in distinct political and economic contexts, from Prague and Ljubljana to Buenos Aires, developed cross-cultural networks to circulate their artworks and ideas.

When: [September 5, 2015 to January 3, 2016](#)

Where: [The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019-5497; The Joan and Preston Robert Tisch Exhibition Gallery, sixth floor](#)

More information: <https://www.moma.org/visit/calendar/exhibitions/1588>

## UPCOMING EVENTS - OHIO

### **THANKSGIVING POLKA WEEKEND IN CLEVELAND**

Treat yourself to a spectacular festival of music and dancing at the 52nd annual Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend, presented by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 26, 27 and 28, 2015. The Downtown Cleveland Marriott Hotel becomes America's polka headquarters with the finest Cleveland-Style entertainers, plus Denis Novato, the world button accordion champion in a rare U.S. appearance. The high point is the 2015 Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, November 28. Twenty-three Cleveland-Style and Slovenian-Style orchestras and entertainers play for three days of dancing. This year's theme, "A Century of Polka," celebrates the 100th birthdays of Frank Yankovic and Johnny Pecon and remembers the music of Slovenia's Slavko Avsenik.

When: [November 26, 27 and 28, 2015](#)

Where: [Downtown Cleveland Marriott, 127 Public Square in Cleveland, OH](#)

For dance and show tickets, call the [Polka Hall of Fame](#), (216) 261-FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or [polkashop@aol.com](mailto:polkashop@aol.com) .