



NEWSLETTER

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Ambassador Kirn Visits Mexico

On May 31 and June 1, 2012, Ambassador Roman Kirn visited the United Mexican States. During his visit, the ambassador met with various interlocutors and attended meetings with representatives of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he discussed issues relevant to further promotion of bilateral relations between Slovenia and Mexico.

The ambassador also visited the Mexican Congress, where he met with Deputy Elvira de Jesús Pola Figueroa, Chairperson of the Mexico-Slovenia Friendship Group.



From right: Ambassador Roman Kirn, Deputy Elvira de Jesús Pola Figueroa, Deputy Dina Herrera Soto and Honorary Consul of Slovenia Ariel López Torres.

During his visit, Ambassador Kirn solemnly opened the photo exhibition entitled *Eslovenia, País que se siente* (Slovenia, a country that you can feel). The event was organized by the Slovenian Tourist Board in coordination with the Mexico-Slovenia Friendship Group in the Mexican Congress and Honorary Consulate of Slovenia in Mexico, headed by the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, Ariel López Torres.

In Mexico, the ambassador also met with Slovenian community and the vice-coordinator of the Association of Slovenians in Mexico, Cvetka Rojko.



Photo Exhibition in Ljubljana Park Pays Homage to Plečnik

A photo exhibition was unveiled in the main promenade of Ljubljana's Tivoli Park on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 evening to mark the 140th birth anniversary of Slovenia's greatest architect, Jože Plečnik (1872-1957), and the 60th anniversary of the Ljubljana Summer Festival.

The exhibition features 120 large-scale photographs by Alenka Slavinec (1977), depicting parts of Plečnik's last major project: the renovation of the former monastery Križanke in Ljubljana, now a popular open-air venue.

The exhibition, dubbed "Plečnik's Symphony of Križanke," will be on display until September 3, 2012.

The author of the photographs commented about the exhibition that "Plečnik drew from nature and his feeling of music, light and shadow, wind and breeze, a kiss of lovers, a dance or ballet step, a touch, a glance".



Alenka Slavinec with Darko Brlek, Artistic and General Director of the Ljubljana Festival.

The opening was accompanied by a concert of arias from Claudio Monteverdi's Baroque opera L'Orfeo, and a selection of Slovenian popular songs.

Plečnik is the most acclaimed Slovenian architect, whose Vienna Secession-style works can be seen around Ljubljana and elsewhere in Slovenia, but also in Vienna and Prague.

Perhaps his most celebrated creation in Ljubljana is the Triple Bridge in the city center, while other notable works in the Slovenian capital include the central market place, the National and University Library (NUK), the recently renovated Congress Square, the stadium in the borough of Bežigrad, and the Žale cemetery.



Concert of baroque arias.



Alenka Slavinec with Zoran Jankovič, the Mayor of Ljubljana.

Slovenia Marks World Environment Day

Several events took place in Slovenia on Tuesday, June 5, to mark the World Environment Day, which is this year dedicated to green economy. An eco week got under way in Maribor, whereas a conference on packaging was held in Ljubljana on Monday.

The traditional Eco Week, organized by the Maribor Friends of Youth Association (ZPM) and the city of Maribor, is this year dedicated to sustainable energy, as the U.N. proclaimed 2012 a year of sustainable energy.

Most events of the Eco Week were staged in the Maribor city center, where a number of various organizations, schools and kindergartens were presented. Moreover, workshops for children and lectures for all generations were held.



Julijan Fortunat, the acting director of the Directorate for Energy at the Infrastructure and Spatial Planning Ministry, meanwhile announced at the conference held in Ljubljana that

Slovenia's new energy program could be adopted in the first half of 2013. The program will encourage above all the use of renewable energy sources and efficient energy use.

BUSINESS

Investors' Week in Ljubljana

The PanSlovenian Shareholders' Association, in collaboration with its investo.si – Invest in Slovenia program, will host "Investors' Week", the world's largest international meeting of investors' representatives, in Ljubljana on September 19-23, 2012. It will comprise over 100 representatives and over 50 national associations of investors and shareholders, including members of EuroFinuse – European Federation of Financial Services Users, Euroshareholders – European

Organization of Shareholders Associations, and the WFI – World Federation of Investors, which in Europe alone embody together over 4 million individual investors and shareholders. This will mark the first time that all three prominent organizations and its members will meet simultaneously.

Through the investo.si program, an investors' convention, "Investo Expo", also will take place on September 20 and 21 in the prestigious Slovenian cultural center Cankarjev dom, where

a wide range of Slovenian and international industries and products will be represented and promoted in hope of establishing new relations and capital investments for the participating guests. Furthermore, at the "Investo Expo", conference sessions, discussion groups and educational workshops will be offered for visitors and guests, providing a proactive approach to gaining knowledge from experts. For information regarding the event, please visit <http://investo.si/>.

Goriška Brda



In the west of Slovenia lies Goriška Brda, a hilly land of natural beauty, fruit and wine, white castles and churches on top of the hills. It stretches from the Soča River in the southeast to the Idrija River in the northwest. In the north, it is surrounded by the slopes of Korada and Sabotin mountains. Towards the south, Goriška Brda descends into the Friulian Plain. Around six thousand inhabitants live there

in closely grouped villages that usually surround a small church. With compact villages in the hills, flowering terraces between grapevine rows, diverse roads and hospitable people, Goriška Brda attracts many travelers from Slovenia as well as from neighboring countries.

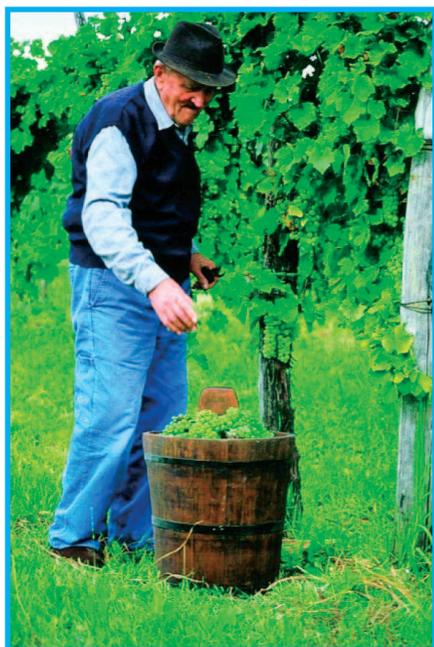
Good location, soil and climate have allowed full development of viticulture and winemaking. Vines were brought to this area in the times of the ancient Romans. The largest cooperative wine cellar in Slovenia -- established in Dobrovo -- produces high quality wines. Many noble vine varieties that grow in Goriška Brda, mainly indigenous and old varieties, such as rebula, are recently becoming prominent.

Wine harvest and St. Martin's Day, wine tasting and celebrations, are the main events in autumn. Goriška Brda also abounds with fruit, which is very tasty and sweet due to plenty of sunshine. The locals are growing cherries, peaches, apricots, olives, figs, chestnuts, grapes and other fruit, which are

sold all over Slovenia, but may also be purchased directly from the farmers or at the roadsides.

Historically, three cultures have been meeting in Goriška Brda: Slavic, Roman, and Germanic, which is reflected in the rich cultural heritage. The life of the locals was especially marked by a kind of feudal system, which was, in places, kept until a few years after World War II. Goriška Brda is also a land of impressive castles, among which stand out the Dobrovo castle and castle Vipolže. A special architectural jewel is the medieval Šmartno, a compact village, which offers a remarkable view on the entire Goriška Brda. St. Martin's church contains paintings by the Slovenian painter Tone Kralj. But merely a walk on its streets between houses with balconies and outside fireplaces is already a special experience.

The village, which is fully protected as a cultural monument, comes to life especially in the spring at the event "Brda and wine" and in the autumn on St. Martin's Day, the



principal village festival, when there is tasting of wines of Brda and some specialties of Brda's cuisine: omelets, porridge, sausages, cooked "pituralke" (special autumn pears), and more.

The rich cultural heritage is also reflected in other events and performances. For several decades, there has been celebrated the "Cherry Festival", which in early June attracts crowds from Slovenia and abroad. The several-day event usually features a

colorful procession of wagons showcasing various household tasks, and various exhibitions and entertainment events. The festival is a tribute to the cherry, a queen of Brda fruits, which in recent years has been regaining popularity. Every year, a books

and wine festival titled "A dream in Medana" (Sanje v Medani), takes place in two villages, in Medana and Šmartno, featuring poetry and prose readings, concerts and workshops amid the beautiful scenery of Goriška Brda.



WELCOME HOME

All - Slovenian Meeting at the National Assembly

Dear Slovenes: You are kindly invited you to attend the gathering of all Slovenes living outside the borders of the Republic of Slovenia. This year's meeting will be devoted to intergenerational dialogue of Slovenes in neighboring and other countries. The meeting will take place on Thursday July 5, 2012 in the Great Hall of the National Assembly, Šubičeva 4, starting at 10 a.m. and lasting until approximately 6 p.m.

Moreover, the First Parliament of Young Slovenes from Neighboring and Other Countries will be simultaneously held in the National Council Hall, Šubičeva 4, starting at 10 a.m. and also lasting until approximately 6 p.m. At the conclusion of both meetings, we will address the proposals for better and more fruitful intergenerational cooperation of Slovenes in neighboring and other countries.

The European Parliament announced the year 2012 as

the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity. The purpose of the European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity is to raise awareness on how to confront the challenges of ageing, as well as to share good practices. According to the European Commission, active ageing gives the elderly the opportunity to remain in the sphere of work and to pass on their experience to younger generations, as well as continue playing an active role in the society and leading a fulfilling life.

Considering the fact that this year is devoted to intergenerational dialogue, and aware that the interest of the young regarding cooperation in Slovene associations and organizations is greater in some countries and smaller in others, and that the modest interest of the young is a consequence of generational differences and a lack of intergenerational cooperation, we suggest that we use this occasion

to talk about those projects that might stimulate cooperation or communication between younger and older people, thus transferring knowledge and experience across generations. Your suggestions and experience will provide a valuable basis for upgrading and formulating policies of the Republic of Slovenia towards Slovenes living outside Slovenia's borders.

We also see opportunities for cooperation in increased promotion of studying in Slovenia, in learning the Slovene language, and summer schools in Slovenia, as well as in greater participation in economic cooperation.

Like in past years, this meeting will be concluded with a cultural program. For more information, please contact the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Tomo Malnarič at: tomislav.malnaric@dz-rs.si

We look forward to meeting you and collaborating with you.

Franc Pukšič, I.r., Chair

“Visit Slovenia”

The Slovenian Heritage Center will host an “Appreciation Dance”. The dance will feature two popular area polka bands, the Eddie Rodick and Joey Tomsick Orchestras.

When: Saturday, June 9, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: SNPJ Recreation Center in Lawrence County, PA (located one mile east of the Ohio/Pennsylvania border on PA Route 108, or seven miles west (on PA 108) of the Mount Jackson Exit (#17) of Interstate 376).

More information: www.facebook.com/SNPJHeritageCenter or 724-336-5180

Polka Mass

Start your Independence Day holiday week with the Polka Mass. America’s polka padre, Father Frank Perkovich, arrives from Minnesota to lead the service, accompanied by the Eddie Vallus Orchestra.

When: Sunday, July 1, 2012, promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Where: SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio (located on Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of State Route 44)

More information: (440) 951-6906

Tony Petkovsek’s Saturday Polka and Slovenian Radio Program

Now in his 51st year on polka and Slovenian radio, Tony Petkovsek continues with a weekly, three-hour radio show. His new team of co-hosts: include Denny Bucar, Joey Tomsick, Joe Valencic and Patty Sluga.

When: Saturday from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Where: WELW 1330 AM in Northeast Ohio or worldwide on www.247polkaheaven.com on the internet.

Consular Hours in San Francisco

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC will be holding consular hours and providing consular services (authentications, certifications, etc.) Due to regulations and technical limitations the following services will NOT be provided during the consular hours in San Francisco: - applications for ordinary passports for Slovenian citizens of 12 years of age and above, - applications for visas and residence permits.

When: June 8, 2012, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

Where: Honorary Consulate of Slovenia in San Francisco, 354 Pine Street, Third Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

For more info: send an e-mail to the embassy at vwa@gov.si

Lučka Koščak’s Angels Exhibition

“The sculpture of Lučka Koščak is definitely something special inside the Slovenian Art space (and in general), because we can’t define it within the context of either traditional or even less of modernistic or postmodernistic sculpture... The peace that the sculptures express is not meant to be for them, but for us. The calmness that they shine with is not the calmness of timelessness, but the calmness of this very moment that we live in...” (Mojca Grmek, art critic)

Where: Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC

When: Ongoing - June 16, 2012