



SVETI LOVREČ



Gothic church of St. Blaise can be discovered close to the Great Gate that leads you to Placa, the main square that for centuries has been the centre of meetings and town life.

This charming town has been ravaged by a number of wars and epidemics of plague and malaria and even several earthquakes, but all this is only part of Sveti Lovreč's rich history, which, being shrouded in the spirit of history, is just begging to be uncovered.

The Serenissima

In the period of Venice rule (*Serenissima Repubblica di Venezia*), Sveti Lovreč was the headquarters of the military administration for the Venetian part of Istria, headed by a captain, and its power at the time can be seen in the impressive Funtanel tower, the nearby triangular tower and the bell tower, fitted into the walls. The name San Lorenzo del Pasenatico (Pazenatic) also derives from that period, which signifies a special institution, i.e. a command post, since places (*paezi*) outside the cities were subjected to it.

You will find this hidden gem in the western part of the Istrian peninsula - one of the best-preserved medieval fortified towns in Istria. The first mention of Sveti Lovreč, *Castrum Sancti Laurentii*, is found on a map dating back to 1030 (lat. *castrum* fortified military settlement).

Sveti Lovreč, inhabited thousands of years ago, developed on the site of a prehistoric hillfort. Already in Byzantine times it was fortified with walls and towers, and the largest part of the fortification, preserved to this day, dates back to the long period of Venetian rule.

The settlement was named after the 8th century St. Lawrence's church, which is located in the cemetery outside the town walls.

The urban core of the old town conceals the Basilica of St. Martin, the best preserved early Romanesque church in Istria, which experts believe was built in the first half of the 11th century. The



Venice provided the captain's salary and the cost of maintaining the seven horses that the captain had to have: one first-class horse for himself, five horses for fighting, and another older horse for the trumpet player. The cities had to provide horses in accordance with their size: Umag four, Novigrad four, Poreč twelve, Rovinj five, Motovun eight, Sveti Lovreč five horses.

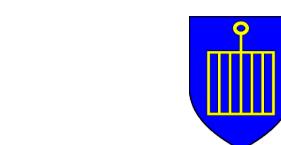
The oldest Istrian frescoes and organ

The Parish Church of St. Martin is the best-preserved early Romanesque basilica in Istria. Some of the earliest frescoes to be found on Istrian soil are painted on the walls of the church, created in the 11th century and partially covered by later ones from the 14th century. The purpose of the frescoes was not only as decoration on the walls of these small churches, but also as inscriptions for illiterate people - showing depictions from the Bible or the lives of saints, as an encouragement to prayer or a reminder of sins. The church also hosts the oldest organ in Istria, which is the work of master Petar Nakić from 1735 and restored in 2013.

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JESTE LI ZNALI ?

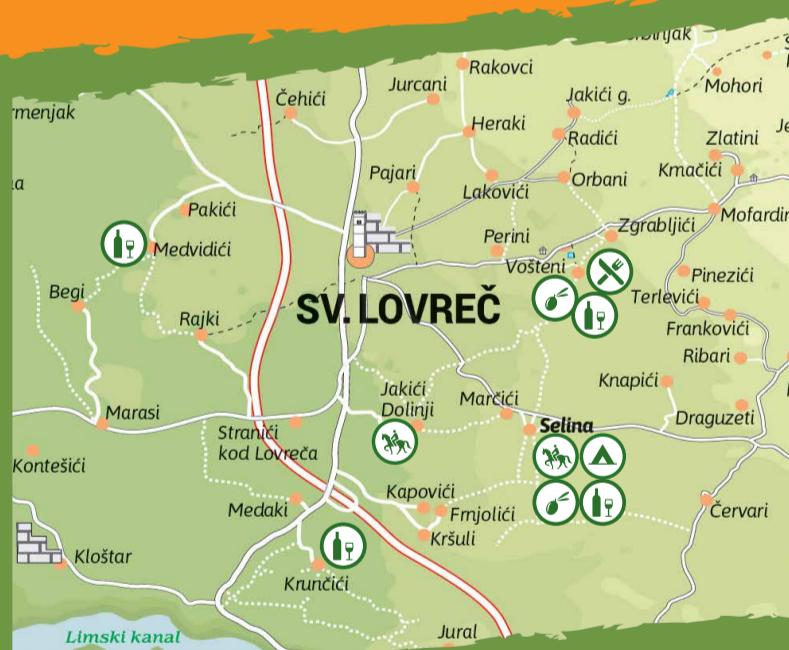
- Sveti Lovreč je već 1186. bio prva organizirana ruralna općina u Istri, posle Pule, Kopra i Trsta.
- Godine 1556. izabrano je gradsko vijeće sa predstvincima svih društvenih slojeva stanovništva u demokratskom izboru koji bi i danas u mnogo slučajeva mogao biti uzorom.
- Zvono crkvice svetog Blaža označavalo je vrijeme raspodjele vode u vrijeme velikih suša, koje u prošlosti Svetog Lovreča nisu bile rijetkost.

LO SAPEVATE?

- Nel 1186 Sveti Lovreč fu il primo comune rurale organizzato in Istria, dopo Pula (Pola), Capodistria e Trieste.
- Nel 1556 fu eletto un consiglio comunale con rappresentanti di tutti gli strati sociali della popolazione in un'elezione democratica che potrebbe ancor oggi essere seguita come modello in molti casi.
- Il suono della campana della chiesa di San Biagio scandiva il tempo della distribuzione dell'acqua durante le grandi siccità, che purtroppo non erano rare nel passato di Sveti Lovreč.

WUSSTEN SIE SCHON?

- Sveti Lovreč war bereits im Jahr 1186 die erste organisierte rurale Gemeinde in Istrien - nach Pula, Koper und Triest.
- Im Jahr 1556 wurde ein Stadtrat mit Vertretern aller gesellschaftlichen Schichten der Bevölkerung bei einer demokratischen Wahl gewählt, welche auch heute noch in vielen Fällen ein Vorbild sein könnte.
- Die Glocke des Kirchleins des HL Blasius kennzeichnete die Zeit der Wasserverteilung zu Zeiten großer Dürren, welche in der Vergangenheit von Sveti Lovreč keine Seltenheit waren.



- 1 Crkva sv. Lovre (VIII st.) Chiesa di San Lorenzo Kirche des hl. Laurentius Church of St. Lawrence
- 2 Velika vrata (XVI st.) Porta Grande Großes Stadttor Great Gate
- 3 Plac i loža Piazza e loggia Platz und loggia The Square and loggia
- 4 Bazilika sv. Martina (X. st.) Basilica di San Martino Basilika des hl. Martin Basilica of St. Martin
- 5 Zvonik - kula Campanile - Torre Glockenturm Bell Tower
- 6 Gradska cisterna Cisterna cittadina Stadtzisterne Ancient water well
- 7 Kula Funtaneli Torre Funtaneli Turm Funtaneli Tower Funtaneli
- 8 Trokutasta kula Torre triangolare Dreieckige Turm Triangular tower
- 9 Crkva sv. Blaže (1460. g.) Chiesa di San Biagio Hl. Blasius Kirche Church of St. Blaise
- 10 Mala vrata Porta minore Kleine Stadttor Small gate

HRVATSKA
Puna života

Istra



SVETI LOVREČ



SREDIŠNJA ISTRA
Izvorna Istra

CENTRAL ISTRIA
Authentic Istria