

...ing European star



southern slopes of the Alps and touches the Mediterranean, so it enjoys the best of both worlds, as well as climatic uncertainties from both North and South. However, the tradition of wine production is very long, going back at least to the time of the Roman Empire. Nowadays, 38 vine varieties are grown in 14 wine districts. This, together with the natural conditions mentioned above, provides a very rich diversity of taste, smell and colour in the different wines. With the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables, wild mushrooms, dairy products and fresh pasta available here, vegetarians are sure to enjoy their time in Slovenia, too.



Lippizaner horses in Lipica, Karst

makes use of the Latin alphabet. The Slovenian language has played a special role throughout Slovenian history. It is still considered one of the foundations of national identity. In spite of various influences, it has preserved its special linguistic features - the most notable being the archaic dual form. This is the grammatical number used for two people or things in all inflected parts of speech. The majority of Slovenes (almost 60%) are Roman Catholics, although there are around 38 other religious communities, spiritual groups, societies and associations registered in Slovenia.

TOURISM

Slovenia is especially attractive to those who enjoy mountains and lakes, or spending time on the ski slopes. There are more than seven thousand kilometers of marked mountain trails for hiking and climbing. You can also try high-adrenaline sports or spend time on the Mediterranean coast. Last but not least, Slovenia has numerous natural spas, where you can take care of your health with help of thermal mineral waters. Visiting Slovenia could provide an interesting mixture of leisure, recreation and exciting excursions. But you could also choose to "travel back through time" in museums, castles, churches and galleries and then go on to enjoy yourself in the evening at one of our casinos as well. We invite you to come and get to know the country yourself!

FOOD AND WINES

Slovenia is also known for its great wines and delicious traditional food. One recent eating trend in Slovenia is the "slow food movement". There are usually eight or more courses, the emphasis being on local produce, old-style recipes and a relaxed pace, with a different wine to accompany each course. Slovenia lies on the

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Waters of Slovenia The new state of Slovenia is a central European web of geographical diversity and regional vivacity, and its waters serve as a looking glass for this many faceted country. Snowflakes and raindrops eventually converge in numerous streams and rivulets, which then spume into gorges and across rapids, plunge down waterfalls, and wane in lake beds and river bottoms, from whence their large relentless bulk flows into the nearby Adriatic or the more distant Black sea.

Karst The Karst presents a distinctive type of earth with special karstic phenomena getting the name after the region Kras in the background of the Trieste Bay.

Lippizaner Horses Along the border between Italy and Slovenia from where the world known white Lipizzaner horse is coming, lies the Horse Stud Farm Lipica; a green oasis in the middle of the Slovene Karst. It was founded in the year 1580 by the Austrian Archduke Karl, who was at that time the regent of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Istria and Trieste. He was told by horse-breeding experts that the Karst region was the most suitable area for a stud farm. During the Napoleonic Wars the stud farm was forced to move three times to Hungary, and during World War I it relocated to a site near Vienna. It remained property of the Court of Vienna until 1918.

Approximately 11% of Slovenia's territory is specially protected; the largest area with such a regime is the Triglav National Park with a surface area of 848 km². The Skocjan Caves were entered on the world heritage list at UNESCO in 1986, and the Secovlje salt pans and Cerknica Lake are included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.



Winter in Ljubljana



Lake Bled



Winter in Bled