

## **Client Testimonial: Greg & Adele W.**

### **11 Day Honeymoon in Croatia**

Visiting: DUBROVNIK – HVAR – SPLIT – KRKA NATIONAL PARK – SPLIT – ŠIBENIK – TROGIR – ZADAR – PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK – ROVINJ – ISTRIA

When deciding on our Honeymoon destination we knew we wanted to visit someplace new and exciting that would provide culinary adventure and cultural excursions. One evening we were channel surfing and came across a show on the Travel Channel. This show was our first introduction to the vast experiences Croatia offers and we were intrigued.

We left for honeymoon the day after our wedding. We were so thankful to have our honeymoon all planned out and taken care of so we could just relax and enjoy the trip and not worry about any details. While we were 35,000 ft in the air and not even over Croatian soil yet we were greeted with champagne and cake courtesy of Pamela and her team! We both knew our honeymoon was going to be perfect!

Once we landed in Dubrovnik and we were transported to the fabulous Hotel Excelsior. Upon walking into our room we were welcomed with chocolate covered strawberries, champagne and a picturesque view of the blue Adriatic Sea and the walls of old Dubrovnik. After a quick nap we ventured into old town Dubrovnik and stumbled upon Restaurant 360 degrees which is built into the walls of the city. When we arrived we requested the gun chambers per recommendations from Pamela. We had no idea what we were in for but we were taken away to a private area of the restaurant. We were informed the gun chambers used to store cannons and ammunition to protect the old town. Sitting in our private gun chamber we awed by the view of the harbor from the tiny window and the friendly wait staff that served amazing food and wine all night. It was a perfect first meal alone as a married couple.



*View from our room at Hotel Excelsior*



*Our table in the gun chamber at 360 Degrees*



*Our table was at the window in the foreground with the lights on*



Included in our package at the Hotel Excelsior was a delectable breakfast spread which was delivered to our room each morning. We thoroughly enjoyed sitting in our robes, gazing out into the Adriatic Sea, sipping coffee and enjoying our meal.



*Our meal each morning*

The staff at the Hotel Excelsior was extremely friendly and accommodating. They catered to all of our requests. We also had a couples massage arranged at the hotel spa. The massage included a private room for two. Within the room were two massage tables, a shower and an extra large bathtub. Once the massages were completed the masseuse filled the bathtub for us and we enjoyed fruit, nuts and tea while relaxing in the tub. Throughout our stay in Dubrovnik we had a private tour of the Old Town which included walking the city walls. We found ourselves getting lost in the narrow streets of the city exploring all the shops, cafes and restaurants. Some of our favorite places were Medusa, a gift shop with locally made affordable souvenirs and the restaurant Lucan Kantun where we sat adjacent to the kitchen and watched our meals being prepared just for us.



*Dinner at Lucan Kantun*





*Walking the city walls*

The weather did not cooperate with our kayaking plans so Pamela's associate in Croatia quickly organized a trip and lunch at the Cave Bar in Hotel More. Upon arrival we were greeted with champagne inside the cave which was reserved just for us. After taking pictures inside the cave we enjoyed a private three course lunch in a cabana overlooking the Adriatic.







## Road to Hvar

While traveling to Hvar from Dubrovnik we were able to make several stops along the way. Our first stop was a rustic winery called Bartulovic in the Peljesac Peninsula. We had a private tour of the 500 year old cellar and estate with the winemaker himself Mario Bartulovic. Our next stop was lunch at Bota Sare in Mali Ston. Here we had some of the most amazingly fresh seafood brought to our table inside the old salt domes. We caught our ferry to Hvar in a little town called Drvenik. We had some time to spare before the ferry ride so we walked along the beautiful beach and enjoyed a drink at one of the local bars.



*Bartulovic Winery*





Seafood platter and *Old Salt Dome* at *Bota Sare*



*Beaches of Drvenik*



## Hvar

Our hotel room in Hvar had a gorgeous ocean view of the Adriatic and Pakleni Islands. During the day we explored the little town on foot. We started the day by walking to the top of the old fort which sits above Hvar Town. From here we had a spectacular view of the town below with the red tile roofs and the Pakleni islands. After finishing our hike we wandered through the town and stopped at two cafes. The first was a little dessert cafe called Noncia Patisserie. We enjoyed our savory dessert and drinks before relocating to another cafe on the main pedestrian passage through town to relax and people watch. Our dinner at Divino was spectacular. We had a table right on the edge of the harbor over looking the Adriatic. We were able to watch the sunset as we ate our appetizers and drank local wine from the island. The staff was extremely accommodating and the food was delicious. At the end the dinner the restaurant staff treated us to some homemade grappa!



*View from our Hotel Room in Hvar Town*



*View from the Fort*



*Enjoying Hvar Town*

### **Bibich Winery**

One of our fondest memories of our trip was our 10 course food and wine pairing dinner extravaganza at Bibich Winery in Skradin. The molecular style cuisine was something we had never experienced before. We were quite impressed that the owner of the winery, Alen Bibic, was serving several of our courses. Out of all of our dining experiences in Croatia this one was our favorite and we would highly recommend it to anyone traveling to Croatia.









## Split & Sibenik

Our stay in Split was during the Easter holiday and the entire town was celebrating. From the large painted egg on the Riva Harbor to all of the children carrying around yellow ducklings and bunnies, to the church service being broadcasted through Diocletian's palace we were definitely in the Easter spirit. Our hotel in Split was one of our favorites. Our room had so much charm and character and it was right inside the palace. On our private walking tour of the city we were fascinated by all of the history that surrounded the palace. Our lunch this day was arranged at Pelegrini in Sibenik. We were seated at a table which sat on a glass floor above an ancient olive oil storage pit. The chef welcome us to his restaurant and prepared an outstanding 5 course meal which is something we will never forget.







*View from a Hilltop of Split*



## Trogir Cooking Class

We requested a cooking class for a Honeymoon activity. Upon arrival in Trogir we met our cooking instructor, Ivana at local cafe for coffee. She brought homemade heart shaped pastries for us to snack on while getting acquainted with each other. After finishing our coffee Ivana gave us a tour of the town and lead us to the local markets where we selected our produce for the day. Ivana welcomed us into her quaint Dalmatian style home where we drank homemade wine and grappa while preparing our fish soup, shark, swiss chard and dessert. Ivana created a memorable experience and all the food was excellent.



*Dalmatian Pastries*



*Walking through the streets of Trogir*





*Cooking Class: Preparing our Dalmatian cuisine*

## **Plitvic National Park**

Visiting Plitvic National Park was one of our favorite activities during our Honeymoon. We walked along approximately 6 miles of trails starting at the top of the canyon and zigzagged our way down the well marked path to the lakes. Although the park was busy, at times we would have the wooden paths over the lakes and cascading waterfalls all to ourselves. We could not believe the wooden pathways did not have any hand rails to prevent people from falling into the lakes! It was truly an experience to remember.

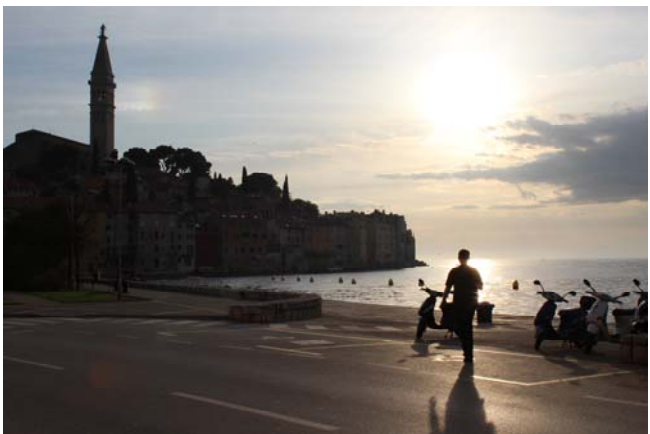






## Rovinj

We concluded our visit through Croatia with our last stop in Rovinj. A day sightseeing tour of Istria was arranged for us. We visited three charming hill top towns (Bale, Grožnjan, and Motovun) and went truffle hunting. Each town offered a different prospective of Croatian history and culture. The highlight of our Istria tour was truffle hunting. When we arrived at Karlic Tartufi we were welcomed with an assortment of grappa and meats and cheeses infused with truffles as an appetizer. We were educated about the various types of truffles and the seasons in which they grow. For lunch we had scrambled eggs cooked with more truffles. After lunch our hunt began. We were led through the oak tree forest by a dog trained to sniff out truffles and our guide. When the dog sniffed out a truffle he started digging up the ground to uncover the delicacy. By the end of our hunt we had found four truffles! Our last dinner in Croatia was at was fabulous restaurant in Rovinj called Puntalina. The fresh seafood pasta, wine and sunset was a perfect way to say goodbye to Croatia.



Adele and I cannot thank Adventures Croatia enough for the wonderful Honeymoon. Pamela did an outstanding job customizing an itinerary catering to our interests. We never had to worry about our reservations or how we were going to be transported from one city to the next. Per our request, we had a fast pace itinerary which covered a lot of ground but we never felt rushed. With Pamela's expertise our experience of Croatia was maximized. Thank you for all your time and effort to make our Honeymoon an experience we will share with friends and family for the rest of our lives. This was a great start to our marriage.

Sincerely Greg & Adele W.