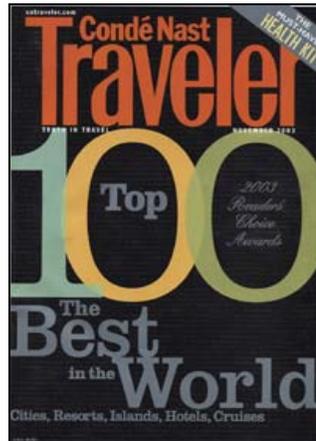




### THIS WEEK...

- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dayton Agreement
- President Mesic in Germany
- Croatia and Serbia Discuss Cooperation
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- Upcoming Events: *Klapa Sinj* in Washington, D.C.
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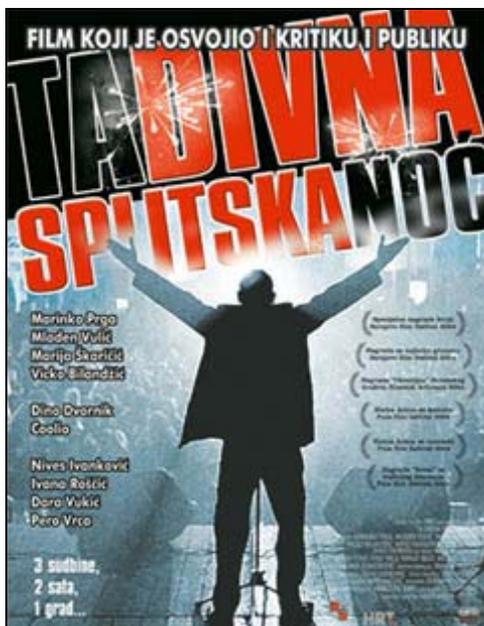
### Condé Nast Traveler: Hvar Among Top Destinations



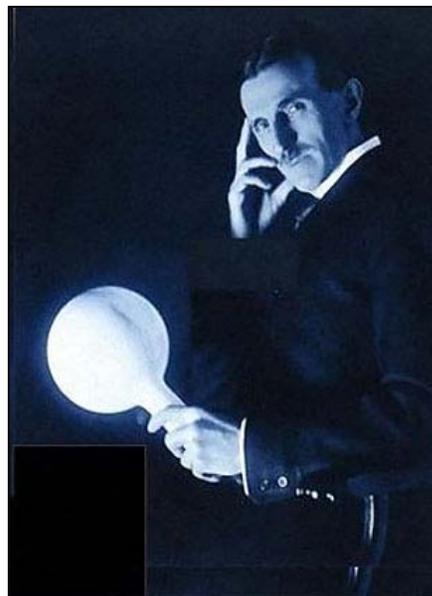
### Klapa Sinj Performs in Washington



### Croatian Film Captures U.S. Audience



### Croatia to Mark Nikola Tesla's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday



*Klapa Sinj* will perform in Washington's Kennedy Center on Sunday, December 4.

### Strengthening Cooperation Between Croatia and Serbia



## 10th Anniversary of Dayton Agreement



Signatories of the Dayton Agreement, which ended the war in Bosnia  
[Photo: [www.htnet.hr](http://www.htnet.hr)]

DAYTON, Ohio/Washington, D.C. Nov. 17 -22 – A two-day political forum was held in Dayton, Ohio on Nov 17 – 18, 2005, to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Agreement that ended the war in Bosnia. Many current and former dignitaries of this process attended the event in Dayton, including Former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke and Higher Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina Lord Paddy Ashdown. Participants discussed ways to reform the existing Dayton organization of Bosnia and Herzegovina so as to modernize the country. Croatian Ambassador to the U.S. Neven Jurica represented Croatia at the event.

Following the Dayton forum on Nov. 22, 2005 U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hosted the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to mark the Anniversary of the Dayton Accords and to talk to them about ways to accelerate Bosnia's progress towards Euro-Atlantic associations. The U.S. this year has strengthened its engagement in the region of Southeast Europe, launching diplomatic actions aimed at modifying the Dayton Constitution of Bosnia and facilitating the launch negotiations on the final status of Kosovo so as to ensure permanent security, democracy and reconciliation in the region. On Nov 22 the leaders of Bosnia's parliamentary parties in a joint statement agreed to implement requisite constitutional changes by March 2006, in order to strengthen Bosnian central institutions so as to establish more efficient governing structures and help Bosnia join NATO and the European Union as soon as possible.

## President Mesić in Germany



BERLIN, Germany, Nov. 18 – 19 - Croatian President Stjepan Mesić visited Germany as a participant in a forum on European identity, organized by the BMW Herbert Quandt foundation. During his visit, President Mesić visited the Holocaust museum. Mesić also met with his German

counterpart President Horst Koehler in Berlin and discussed EU entry negotiations with Croatia and the situation in Southeast Europe, with particular emphasis on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mesić said that Koehler and he agreed that Bosnia and Herzegovina must be made to be compatible with EU countries. Also, President Mesić thanked Germany for the help it has thus far provided to Croatia. Fortunately, Croatia does not need charity anymore, he said. Instead, Croatia is a country of opportunity and a good place to invest in. Croatia needs partners now, said President Mesić.

## Croatian and Serbian Prime Minister Discuss Cooperation



Prime Minister Sanader [right] said that the arrival of Prime Minister Koštunica [left] was a step forward in efforts to solve outstanding issues between the two neighbors. [Photo: [www.iskon.hr](http://www.iskon.hr)]

ZAGREB, Croatia, Nov. 23 – Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader received his Serbian counterpart Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, the first Serbian Head of government to officially visit Croatia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1996. Both Prime Ministers, Sanader and Koštunica, said that Croatian-Serbian cooperation was important not only for the two countries but also for the stability and prosperity of the entire region and its integration into the European Union. Sanader also congratulated Koštunica on the recent opening of the negotiations with the European Commission on a Stabilization and Association Agreement, adding that “Croatia is happy to see every step forward Serbia makes on the path to Europe.

## Prime Minister Sanader Presents Draft Budget in Parliament

ZAGREB, Croatia, Nov. 22 – Presenting a draft of the state budget for 2006 in the Parliament Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader said the budget was ambitious but can be implemented. Prime Minister Sanader concedes that his ambitious budget will rely on good macroeconomic indicators. He announced next year's budget aims to bring Croatia to a higher level of economic growth, development and standard of living.

## Croatian Film Director Wins Award at New York Festival



Director Arsen Anton Ostojić stands next to the posters of his film *Ta divna splitska noć* at the New York Film Festival [Photo: [www.htnet.hr](http://www.htnet.hr)]

NEW YORK, N.Y., Nov. 21 – Arsen Anton Ostojić, director of the movie *Ta divna splitska noć* [That Wonderful Night in Split – rough translation], has won the best director award at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival “Queens”, held in New York on Nov. 17 – 20. The festival featured more than one hundred movies including those competing for Oscar nominations. The Croatian Film Society has chosen Ostojić’s movie to be the Croatian candidate in nominations for the 2006 Oscar in the category of best foreign language movie.



Scene from the film *Ta divna splitska noć*. Playing a supporting role in the film is the famous rap artist Coolio, here left on the picture. [Photo: [www.htnet.hr](http://www.htnet.hr)]

The film *Ta divna splitska noć* by screenwriter and producer Arsen Anton Ostojić is, according to the Zagreb motion picture magazine "Hollywood", the best Croatian film made in the last five years. In the movie there are three different couples deeply in love, who are faced with different challenges, as they spend New Year's night on the ancient streets of Split, awaiting their new chance. Three stories from the free-spirited night of celebrations in anticipation of the New Year are intertwined in the final two hours of the old year.

### Washington Post: “Croatia to Mark Nikola Tesla’s 150 Birthday”

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 17 - The life of a scientist whose work experts see as being as important as that of Alexander Graham Bell, and who is considered to be the father of radio and radar, Nikola Tesla, will soon be celebrated in Croatia. The Croatian Government will mark Tesla's 150th

birthday in 2006 by finishing the restoration of his home in a village in the Lika region of Croatia and turning it into a museum, as well as conducting conferences and lectures on Tesla's work. More than USD 1 million has already been spent in efforts to raise awareness of the often under recognized scientist, who was born to Serb parents in Croatia, and who was awarded patents on every aspect of the modern system for generating and distributing electricity. In Croatia, Tesla is also known for his assertion that he was "equally proud of my Serbian parents and my Croatian homeland." All Croatian parliamentary parties threw their support behind the Government's decision to celebrate Tesla's birthday next year.



Nikola Tesla, father of the radio and of radar, pictured with his house of birth in Smiljani, Croatia. Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader visited his home and opened work for its renovation into a museum. [Photo: Večernji list]

For full article, please visit:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/17/AR2005111700540.html>

### Croatia – U.S. Ties: Conservation Biology

ROVINJ, Croatia, Nov. 15 - Two University of Oregon professors recently returned to the U.S. after presenting an intense short course in conservation biology in Rovinj, at the invitation of the Croatian Biological Society. Their expertise is also being utilized at the University of Zagreb, as it undergoes major curriculum changes in preparation for Croatia's entrance into the EU. This invitation represents a growing movement in European – and Croatian - academic circles to better incorporate science into natural resource management, but also to explore nature-based tourism as an economic alternative. The visiting professors, awed by the tremendous natural resources and biodiversity of a country this size, stress that strong potential exists in Croatia for ecotourism in the mountains and on the coast, but that protection and management of these lands will require careful planning. This is just the start of cooperation between the U.S. and Croatia in this field, and the Oregon professors have been invited to return to Croatia in May.

For more about the OSU College of Agriculture Sciences and specifics about the project, go to:

<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu>

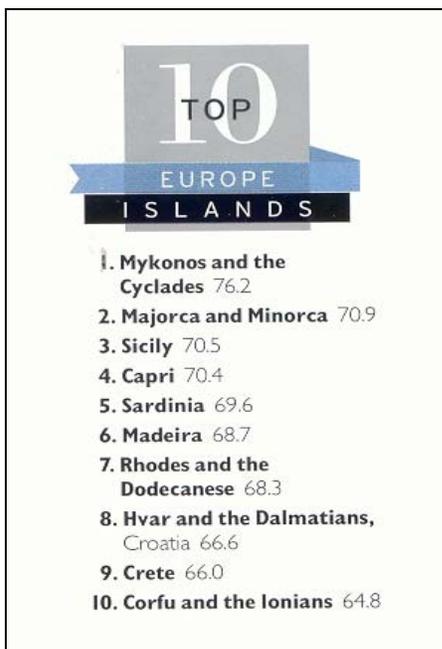
For full article, please visit:

<http://www.medfordnews.com/articles/index.cfm?artOID=320195&cp=10996>



## Hvar and Dalmatian Islands Named Top Destinations

NEW YORK, N.Y., Nov. 1 - In its November 2005 issue, readers of the prestigious magazine *Condé Nast Traveler* named the Dalmatian islands among the top 10 European Island destinations, with the sunny island of Hvar receiving top marks for scenery in competition with islands in Europe. The 2005 Reader's Choice Survey was based on evaluations of readers from the past three years of travel.



For web access of the article, please visit: [http://www.concierge.com/bestof/readerschoice/top\\_islands/topislands\\_europe](http://www.concierge.com/bestof/readerschoice/top_islands/topislands_europe)

### *Klapa Sinj* to Perform in Washington

We are all counting down the days until the Croatian vocal ensemble *Klapa Sinj* performs at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.! The concert, free of charge, is set for Sunday, December 4, and its members are sure to bring along, if at least for a brief time, a breath of Dalmatia into the very heart of a capital city. So, close your eyes take a deep breath and imagine...

...the singers from Sinj cannot avoid the canyon of Cetina when approaching the town of Omiš. With the northern wind at their backs and a bit of wonder still about them from their most recent musical pilgrimage, it is precisely here at the estuary, where the Adriatic quiets the eddies of Cetina amidst the islands, the coastline and the backlands, that the Sinj singers made their long-lasting pact with the beautiful land and the music, a pact that has paid off many times over. A memory of a particular moment and a specific space

lingers on among the many reminiscences of those hot July evenings during their numerous pilgrimages to the festival in Omiš. There in the small town square beneath the rock where the streets end and the mountain looms, the *Klapa* singers find a bit of shade away from the curious onlookers and they commence warming up before their performance. Neighbors offer them food and drink; they in turn soothe their souls with nourishment and song. And so the singers from Sinj continue their pilgrimages to Omiš, enjoying the music and savoring the competition at this nearly four-decades-old celebration of Croatia's many musical traditions. It is an occasion where ensembles from Istria and Međimurje, from Zagorje and Slavonia gather to honor their native land.

[Nenad Bach]

### News in Brief...

- The CARDS project on the institutional strengthening of the state bureau for environmental protection, which in the European Union has financed with EUR 497,000, was presented in Zagreb. The project is aimed at improving the preservation of the environmental in Croatia through a systematic inventory and monitoring of biological diversity and appropriate planning of the protected area management.
- The consortium behind the **Crotram** project – Končar, Gredelj and Đuro Đaković – is apparently preparing to develop a new railway train. The Hrvatske Željeznice (HZ) railway company and city of Zagreb have given the consortium the impetus to launch the new project.



Artist's sketch of the new light rail train made in Croatia [Photo: Večernji list]

- Croatian inventors won 16 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze medals at the International Exhibition of Inventions, Research and Industrial Innovations "Brussels-Eureka". The Croats presented 31 innovations at the 54<sup>th</sup> annual event, which featured 450 exhibitors from 24 countries who showcased about 500 innovations. [[www.eureka.de/home.do](http://www.eureka.de/home.do)]
- BBC World has done a feature in Zagreb about the first Internet museum of old and discarded photographs. [[www.skarabej.com](http://www.skarabej.com)]

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