the what to see, where to go, what to do newspaper for tourists

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Discover Hvar Town
The legendary island of Pharos, the island of lavender, of romance, of excitement! Now that you are here, enjoy what travel writers the world over have called “one of the 10 best island destinations” on the planet. The reason is not just Hvar Town with it’s stunning bay, wonderful history and terrific gastronomy and nightlife; but the magical villages all around the island that make Hvar so special. To really experience Hvar make sure to visit Stari Grad, Jelsa, Vrboska, Sućuraj and the special hidden interior towns, too!

Discover Jelsa
With its wonderful harbor (catamaran service to Split and excursions to Bol beach) and picturesque setting, Jelsa is a must-see small village full of ancient churches, really nice family beaches, some of the best restaurants on the island and a quiet feel-good charm all its own. Despite its diminutive size, Jelsa actually comprises 12 different settlements. When you are in the town square, be sure enjoy a cool drink from the natural fresh water spring that locals have used since ancient times!

Discover Stari Grad
Stari Grad is still an undiscovered treasure for most visitors. Dating from 384BC (the name Stari Grad literally means “Old Town”), it’s one of the most ancient villages in all Europe. There is a lot to see—here are a few of the many gems starting with the castle of Petar Hektorović (1487-1572), one of Croatia’s most celebrated poets, an impressive Dominican Monastery (with an iconic painting by Tintoretto); and the UNESCO-protected Stari Grad Plain, the oldest continuously farmed agricultural site on the planet!

DiscoverHvar would like to thank www.secretdalmatia.com for this photo

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Shopping on Hvar

There’s more than lavender on Hvar; the hand-made jewelry, art and crafts (even hand-made shoes!) make shopping here fascinating and fun.

Let’s start right with the Riva and the small kiosks all around the harbor. Of course the classic gift to bring home from the Island of Lavender is lavender. You’ll find it dried in sachets (perfect for a linen closet!), in bottles as organically grown oil, in bars of soap and even in cosmetics—shower gels, crèmes and more. It’s no coincidence that such a gorgeous plant should have such a fabulous history.

The scent of the ages

Lavender has been used for everything from medicine to perfume for over 2,500 years. The Egyptians used it as a food flavoring and for mummification process. Romans used lavender oils for bathing and as an aphrodisiac; lavender has few rivals among its fabled users—Cleopatra, the Biblical seductress Judith (whom the father of Croatian literature Marko Marulić used as his inspiration for his epic poem Judita) and the Queen of Sheba! In addition to the stalls selling this quintessential Hvar gift, the rest of them are well worth a second look.

If you’re looking for the unique, you’ll find some stunning handmade jewelry at the Coral Shop. It’s fun to wander up and around the ancient stairs off the main town square, along the alleys and curvy streets behind the Tourist Office to explore the shops. There are trendy boutiques featuring beautiful designer clothing, original artwork, handbags, even hand-made women’s shoes to inexpensive take-home tourist souvenir shops. Plus some swank cafes and bistros and of course, tiny shops where you can buy yummy ice cream and more.

Ready, set, picnic!

And if you want to pack a picnic before heading off to the beach, there’s a small but busy open air fruit and veggie market near the bus station, plus Studenac and Konzum supermarkets in and around the main square. Try some good quality “junka” (lean, tasty Dalmatian ham). A loaf of fresh bread, some wine or beer and other beverages—perfect!

Deliciae Mediterraneae in the fruit market is a very good place to pick up delicious gifts for the folks back home. They have excellent cheeses, pršut, fruit and herb liquors, local olive oil, dried figs (sometimes with almonds and other nuts)—even salted sardines and anchovies. You can also buy local food items in many Hvar villages from people who sell right in front of their houses.

Last but not least, you can’t leave Hvar without some bottles of fabulous Hvar wine! The signature wine here, grown on the steep sunny south side of the island is plavac, a marvelous red. But don’t miss out on Bogdanjuša, a winner of a silver medal at The International Balkan Wine Competition in Sofia this year. Enjoy a glass or bottle at a restaurant or café and then go to a market or a shop and buy it! You can also experience an authentic tasting in Svriće, the heart of Hvar wine country, at the award-winning Caric winery in Svriće (just call Ivana at + 385 98 160 6276. Enjoy!

The essence of Hvar

From our signature Plovac Ploški and Plovac Ploški Barrique to rose’s, Vina Carić wines are the passionate expression of the unique soil, sun and wine making culture of Hvar. Enjoy eight different Caric varieties at our shops and in wine tastings.

Vina Caric Shop in Hvar
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Wine Tastings: +385 98 160 6276

The Coral Shop features original jewelry by Lukrecija and Aron Swartz

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Discover Hvar / Shopping on Hvar
Numerous coins have been discovered dating as far back as the first half of the 2nd BC and just to the south of the Arsenal and in the port itself, there are unfinished walls from the 6th BC that are still in evidence. An A little earlier, from 1494, is the south gate of St. Mary, which leads to the Bishop’s Residence, circa 1625. Let’s start with the fortress. As you walk up the staircase you will pass through the town’s main gate, the Porta de date (named after the tall date palms that were originally planted here). On the way up you will see some palaces from the 15th and 16th centuries (including the one started in 1572 and never finished, owned by Croatia’s famous Renaissance poet, Petar Hektorović) as well as a warren of small charming streets in both directions with shops, restaurants, cafes and residences. At the top, the view from the ramparts is spectacular. Inside the fort, enjoy the collection of amphora and other exhibits from antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Back down at the main square, to the east is the 16th C Cathedral of St. Stephen, with magnificent doors created by one of Croatia’s leading contemporary artists, Kuzma Kovačić. Built on the foundations of a 6th C church, it’s dedicated to the town’s patron saint, a former pope and martyr. The Cathedral’s treasury includes famous Renaissance-era paintings and one of the oldest Madonna’s in Croatia, dating to 1220. The building next to the Cathedral is the Episcopal Palace, now a museum whose collection includes art, archival documents, books and vestments. On the south side of the square is Hvar’s famous Arsenal theater, founded in 1612, one of the first municipal theaters in Europe. Its original purpose was to repair Venetian ships, so while the exterior still reflects its origins, the interior was converted to become a performance space in the 19th C.

And don’t miss Other signature town buildings are a Franciscan monastery, founded in 1461, which has an exceptional collection of old master paintings and a Benedictine convent, from 1664. What makes it remarkable is the sisters there who make lace using agave, a convent tradition that has been practiced for over a century, a yes, you can buy the lace as as an exquisite island souvenir. In between all this glorious art and architecture, take some time to simply wander around and explore the narrow alleys and streets around the square...and be sure to take the seaside walk around the harbor all the way to the Hotel Amfora and beyond!

The view from the fortress is wonderful

Where Hvar begins!
Hvar Town welcomes you to enjoy our rich traditions, culture, architectural treasures and vibrant nightlife.

Hvar Tourist Board
Trg sv. Stjepana 42
Daily Mon.–Sun. 8–14 and 15–21
+385(0)21742977
tzg-hvar@st.t-com.hr
www.tzhvar.hr
facebook.com/Hvartz

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+385 (0)21 741 306 / http://hvar-sidro.com

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Discover Hvar / What to see and do
Great day trips

Sailing, hiking, rock climbing, sea kayaking, biking, jeep safaris, cooking classes and wine tasting, ancient churches and fascinating museums—it’s all here, and more!

Rent some wheels!
Enjoying Hvar on a scooter or car is a great way to spend the day—the seaside villages like Vrboska and Jelsa are a wonderful counterpoint to the sleepy, timeless interior villages like Humac. The ride to Sućuraj, (known as San Giorgio in Italian), really shows you just how long the island is—it’s a whopping 77 km from the town of Hvar—but well worth the effort. And driving or scootering to Sv. Nikola at 626 meters to enjoy the incredible view is definitely a “high point”! You can rent cars or scooters everywhere - at MB Rent you can even get a free water pedal boat for 45 minutes when you rent a car, scooter or boat, just call +385 91 518 3608. Hvar has lots of belted rock climbing areas

Rent some wheels!

History, art and culture
Wherever you go on Hvar, you are surrounded by history, art and culture. So if you want really immerse yourself, a professionally guided program is just the ticket. With so much to see and do, you can create a custom-designed tour that can focus on everything from archeology and art to theatre and viniculture. Most agencies have special “themed” programs, so take the time to sit down and discuss what you’d like to do, see and experience!

Sailing Hvar
A day sail is such a perfect day getaway. Charter a bare boat or a crewed yacht to take your friends and family to explore the offshore Pakleni islands archipelago or go to Vis, just 60km from Italy! The islands are a necklace of pearls just a short sail from Hvar. With lots of bays for swimming and snorkeling, most trips also include a short break on Palmižana. You can also take a water taxi from Hvar Town harbor. There are some great places to have lunch or dinner like Laganini. And if you have the time, making the trip to Vis to enjoy quaint fishing villages like Komiza is a wonderful experience. Cruising through what surely must be one of

What’s happening on Hvar!

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GUIDEBOOK

HVAR
An Insider’s Guide
Discover Hvar / Great day trips

the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic, looming out of the sea, Vis is a wonder of bays, rich vegetation, beaches, olive trees and vineyards. With its rocks, cliffs and small offshore islands, Vis is nautical heaven for legions of sailors from around the world. Enjoy a sandy beach in the cove at Zaglav or swim or snorkel at the little village of Rukavac—let your hair down and experience really great swimming!

A safari on wheels
There are also 4-wheel off-road tours to discover old, picturesque inhabited settlements and deserted villages of inner Hvar. Enjoy lavender fields, olive plantations and vineyards and miles of centuries old stone walls. Lunch al fresco or in a charming konoba as well as a visit to Grapčeva cave can also be arranged if you have the time.

Day sailing adventures
Starting this year in July, every Sunday, the fabulous mega catamaran Summer Blues will be doing day trips to Vis and the Pakleni islands and more—swim off the boat, lunch with open bar and free snorkel gear too. Tickets at Hvar Adventure.

Another day program is a fish picnic—a great way to enjoy the offshore islands as well as the famous Blue Cave on the island of Biševo and Vis. Some tours include Ravnik Island and the Green Cave and then go to Stiniva Cove, a hidden inlet, where you can enjoy short swimming break. Continuing to Blue Cave, lunch with wine will be served on the boat. Reaching Bilevo (Blue Cave island), you need to disembark and get into a smaller boat because access to the cave is controlled. The trip also visits Vis, with a stop at Komiza, one of the island’s most picturesque fishermen’s villages.

Gone fishing!
Life on Hvar is synonymous with the sea itself. For the people of Hvar the sea drives their emotions, dictates their moods, and puts bread on their tables. On the island, fishing is a trade and art that has been passed from father to son for countless generations. You can try your hand going net fishing (“parangal”) on an authentic wooden vessel or set out for deep sea diving and fishing. Lots of programs to choose from!

And don’t forget to relax
With all there is to see and do on Hvar, make sure to take the time to just plain chill. Whether it’s a quiet back alley walk, lazy day walking the beach or an easy bike ride, soak up the Mediterranean life and take it really easy. From an authentic Thai massage or a sunset swim, Hvar has everything for a relaxing vacation. (Of course, if you must, it’s also a fabulous place to party, blast through the waves in a speedboat and dance with celebrities!)
Wining and dining

Whether it's a quick pizza or a gourmet experience, island dining is a delicious part of being here!

Hvar “spiza” (good food) is easy to find all over the island. From super fresh fish to slow-cooked peka, great local cheese and dry-cured meats, terrific wine by the glass or bottle and local vegetables that really taste like vegetables, Hvar is a culinary delight!

Under the iron dome

For an unusual treat, be sure to sample a restaurant that offers “peka”—this is slow cooked food at its yummiest. An iron pot with big chunks of meat, veal or octopus (better tasting than scallops!), savory herbs and spices, potatoes and some carrots all go in a big iron pot which rests snuggly on a bed of wood coals.

A ring on the top of the pot holds more coals to seal in the heat. You usually have to order in advance and to really chow down with great peka food, there should be four of you or more. Hvar’s restaurants really run the gamut, from delicious wood-fired, thin crust pizza to escargot filled with truffles!

For dessert, try some “Pečica na tečicu” - fresh goat’s cheese with sugar, “paprenjak” (a peppery biscuit) and “Hvar’s flower”, unique biscuits that have been around since the 16th century and Croatia’s answer to flan, rozada.

A glorious part of Hvar’s restaurant scene is simply the pleasure of sitting in the Town Square at a place like Mizarola, enjoying a great meal surrounded by beautiful buildings and watching the sun slip into the sea. You can have all of these experiences simply by dining out in Hvar town, then Jelsa one night and Stari Grad the next.

Something fishy

Let’s start with fish. You can have it grilled, baked or marinated. A Hvar favorite is “gregada”, a hearty fish stew that can include everything from sea bass, shrimp, shark, mullet to scorpion fish. Ask if they add a piece of eel, which along with sea bass, gilthead, grouper, mackerel and of course spiny local lobster when you can get it! Better fish restaurants display the day’s catch under glass, chilled, outside their premises, so you can get a good look at what you’d like to order.

In addition to the “first class fish”, there’s a rich variety of other seafood you should try. These include squids, cuttlefish (often used in the ghostly looking but absolutely delicious Black Risotto), octopus, crabs, mussels and even oysters. No wonder the island still has three fish canneries—Sćuraj, Vrboska and Hvar Town. Even the lowly sardine is prized here. grilled or fried, a heaping plate of sardele (the tiny ones are especially delicious and are called gavuni) makes for a scrumptious meal!

A traditional side veggie dish is often blitva, a sort of swiss chard meets potato medley that’s cooked up with a bit of olive oil to make a delicious eat-your-greens treat.

Now let’s talk about the grapes. Hvar has more than a dozen winemakers. Four of them are among the top 10 in Croatia and lots ofoenophiles think Hvar’s wines are among the best in the world. And they point to contests like Vinalies d’ Or in Paris, Decanter etc. to back up their claim that Hvar’s wines really are special. While restaurant house wines can be good, they’re no comparison to the joys waiting inside a great bottle from Zlatan Papić, Ivan Gudman, Marko Bulić or Ivo Carić. One way to sample great wines by the glass is to enjoy them at wine bars like Pršuta 3 or take one of the private wine tasting tours offered by some of the local agencies here—some even hanging out at Lounge bar Laganini on Palmizana is great.
Discover Hvar / Wining and dining

The selection of wonderful wines at Hvar restaurants, like Hotel Coatia is an invitation you must accept!

offer a fabulous multi-course paired food-with-
wine program.

Picking your way
And if you are lucky enough to be here in September, welcome to grape picking on Hvar. Your reward for helping local growers will be a hearty field lunch or maybe a real sit down affair back at the owner’s house. Come October and early November, it’s the olive oil harvest—another chance to enjoy a rich local tradition, a great meal and even watch your labor being processed the same day into “liquid gold” at one of the island’s olive oil mills.

When it comes to good food the island has it all—from tasty fast food at places like Nemo right on the waterfront to world famous five star restaurants. Whether your idea of a great meal is freshly caught and grilled seafood served with an ice-cold bottle of local beer or a five-course gourmet dinner with spectacular wine—Hvar is delicious! Finally, don’t be shy, ask what’s the house specialty. Whether tucked away in an alley, smack on the main square or inside a posh hotel—“dobra spiza” (“good food” in Hvar speak) is waiting for you!

The fresh fish at Marinero is always delicious

Hvar Gregada recipe

350 g of two or three different kinds of fresh fish
45 g onions
0.5 dl olive oil
30 g fresh tomatoes
10 g salt
1.2 dl white wine
parsley leaves
10 g chopped herbs
5 g pepper
20 g garlic
100 g potatoes

Sauté thinly sliced onions in olive oil. Add herbs and spices, finely chopped garlic, parsley leaves and tomatoes. Scale and cut the fish so each guest gets one piece of each fish. Slice the potatoes. Place fish and potatoes into a dish and pour enough wine and water to just cover them. Add salt and pepper. Simmered over an open fire or in an oven for about 25 minutes. Do not stir, just shake occasionally.

Marinero
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Welcome to our newly opened hostel! Marinero, most affordable and comfortable hostel in Hvar town! We are located just above our family restaurant Marinero, well known for its tradition of serving fresh fish and organic vegetables. Taste and feel the true Hvar!

Hvar town centre, next to church of St. Marco
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hostel.marinero@gmail.com

Nemo
HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Homemade sandwich selection of pizza:
jumbo pizza
toasted sandwich pizzeta

Nemo
fast food
The fresh fish at Marinero is always delicious
HISTORICAL SITES OUTSIDE OF THE HVAR TOWN:
- Ager - UNESCO protected plain between Stari Grad and Jelsa
- Grapčeva cave – near the abandoned village Humac
- Vrboska with its churches
- Dominica Monastery at Stari Grad

OVERLOOKS:
- Fortica/Španjola Castle in Hvar Town
- Poljun Castle/hill above Hvar Town – by car
- St.Nikola, 625m highest spot on Hvar – only by car/4WD.

BEST BEACHES:
- On the Pakleni Islands:
  - Palmižana
  - Mline Bay
  - Tašće
  - St.Klement/Vloka
  - Ždrilca
  - Stipanska
  - (Carpe Diem Beach bar)

- On the South Shore of Hvar:
  - Mekićevica
  - Milna
  - Zaraće
  - Dubovica
  - Lučišće
  - Šćedro Island
  - Sv.Nedelja – Ivan Dolac (Zavala area)

The most easterly point on the island is Sućuraj

Discover Hvar

This publication was produced in cooperation with the Tourist Board of Hvar, the Tourist Board of Jelsa and the Tourist Board of Stari Grad (and special thanks to Total-Hvar)

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Discover Jelsa!

enjoy the beaches, historical walks and natural beauty

Check out the beaches
Within easy walking distance of the central square are several beaches all worth exploring. The one most family’s seem to prefer is in front of Hotel Milna. Keep walking a bit further and you will come to Grebišće, which is also the site of a superb campsite with its own sandy beach, a wonderful wooded area full of mandarin and olive trees—even some traditional stone buildings and apartments for those who don’t want to rough it and boat/kayak rentals too. If you have a car, scooter or bike, take the coastal road towards Vrboska and along the way you’ll see several coves that make for a great sunbathing and swimming stop.

Walking through the past
Just off the main square are all sorts of interesting churches and even a fortress that dates back to the early 14thC. First stop is the Church of the Assumption which is actually part of the fortress that protected the town. Inside there are four separate chapels that span more than 400 years of construction. Nearby is a lapidary created by the late Niko Duboković who was the town’s Cultural Heritage Center director. The collection he put together is fascinating—20 or more stone monuments from as far back as Roman times, including a stone table that belonged to a local knight! Head to your left from the main town square and it will be like stepping into a well-preserved Renaissance village all its own.

This is St. Ivan’s Square, complete with a tiny octagonal church from the 17thC. Look up to enjoy the period lamps and lovely balconies.

Before continuing on your walk, be sure to stop back in the main square to enjoy a cool drink from the natural fresh water spring that runs under the square; locals have used it as their main source of water since ancient times!

Now let’s head for the the hills surrounding Jelsa for a great view. Continue through the old part of town up Radić hill to Our Lady of Health Church.

This 16C church was added to over the centuries and now reflects both 17th and 18thC elements. It’s an especially important to the town since the Our Lady of Health is Jelsa’s patron saint. If you are here in November, on the 21st every year, there is a special mass in her honor.

When you come back to town, walk towards the waterfront to the Municipal Town Hall, a much more modern building built in the late 19thC, but its impressive stonework (from the quarries of nearby Korcula island) gives it a grand civic stature in a town as small as Jelsa.

Day trips and more
Jelsa’s well-protected harbor and proximity to Brač and other islands make it a perfect jumping off point for daily excursions. You can hire a speed boat and zoom off to spend time on the island of Vis and see the Blue Cave. There are also daily party/exursion boats to Bol beach on Brac and other places. About an hour by foot, some 230 meters above sea level, is the remains of a 4thC BC Greek tower, called of course, The Tor. This is the era when the Greeks ruled the waves and the entire Dalmatian coastline from their stronghold on the island of Vis—then called Issa. The tower here on Jelsa was one of many built to make sure their control was complete. The views from the top are stupendous—all the way south to Makarska. And you can poke around the walls and terraces that way back then were probably part of a sentryman’s living quarters.

Welcome to the quiet natural beauty of Jelsa
Surrounded by gorgeous nature and ancient remains of Roman and Greek fortifications, with a stunning harbor and lovely beaches, Jelsa is a place of quiet beauty. Enjoy our unique gastronomy, fine wines and welcoming smiles!

Tourist Board of Jelsa
Daily 8.-14 and 15 –22, Sunday 10-12.00 and 18-20
Tel. +385 21 761 017 / info@tzjelsa.hr / www.tzjelsa.hr
Discover Stari Grad!

With 2,400 years of history all around you, Stari Grad is a feast for the eyes, the mind and the heart.

Start your Old Town walk by picking up a town map from the Tourist Office on Stjepan Radić Sq. on the waterfront. Continue walking around the harbor on the Riva to your left until you reach the town’s largest square, named after the great Croatian poet Petar Hektorović (1487-1572). The famous tvrdalj (“castle”) is one of Stari Grad’s most visited landmarks—it’s just in the rear of the square close to the courthouse. Behind the castle is the beautiful St. Rocco’s church dedicated to the patron saint of Stari Grad and also built by Hektorović. The church is just off, Petar Scuteri street. If you continue walking down this street back towards the harbor you come to Srinja kola street. This is Stari Grad’s biggest street and in the late 1800’s was full of maritime craftsmen and merchants. Srinja kola leads you into St Stephen Square. What makes this square so intriguing is that the bell tower is separated from the church. The church of St Stephen was completely rebuilt in 1605 and the bell tower almost 150 years later. This square is the crossroads of numerous streets which lets you wander around to enjoy the historic atmosphere. Located at the back of the Old Town is the Dominican monastery of St. Petar Mučenik (St. Peter the Martyr), founded in 1482. Its two rounded turrets were added in the 16thC after Hvar was attacked by the Turks. Petar Hektorović and his mother Katarina are buried inside. The monastery’s numerous works of art are stunning—from a profound, large wooden painted crucifix on the main altar dating back to the Renaissance to Tintoretto’s “Oplakivanje Krista” (The Mourning of Christ) painted by the Venetian master in the mid 1500’s. And that’s not all. The oldest inscriptions in all Croatia are also preserved in Monastery’s museum, written in Greek, from the 4thC to the 2ndC BC. There is also a large library with many first editions and manuscripts. For history buffs, the Stari Grad Museum, inside the Biankini Palace on Biankini St. is also real find. Highlights include an archeological collection from 6000BC(!) through the late Roman period, an ancient shipwreck collection, including artifacts from the 4thC Roman galley and various ethnographic and art collections. Like many museums, closing hours are early afternoon, so best be there between 10AM-14PM.

In 2008, UNESCO put the 80 hectare Stari Grad Ager (“plain”) on its protected list of World Heritage Sites. As the oldest continuously farmed agricultural plot on the planet, it’s a rare chance to see what the Greeks did so well then and what we today try to emulate. Meticulously laid out olive groves and vineyards are intermixed with other crops. The system includes a rainwater recovery system, cisterns and even watchtowers to guard the area. The original 2400 year old Greek walls are still very evident—smooth and elegant with tapered tops. On the north side of the plain is the remains of a 4thC BC Greek watchtower, accessible by walking up the hill from the pond.

Rent a bike to enjoy the Stari Grad’s countryside.

Welcome to one of the oldest towns in Europe!

Tourist Board of Stari Grad
Obala dr. Franje Tuđmana 1, 21460 Stari Grad
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Feeling good

From fun on the water, a spa afternoon, wine-tasting or dancing the night away—Hvar is feeling good

So much to enjoy! Slicing through the waves in a speedboat, cycling through an old village near Vrboska or rock climbing in Milna, the lavender island of Hvar is a real treat. There are all sorts of special maps available at tourist offices and agencies that can show you where to hike, bike or climb. The feel good factor here is a 10!

Nightlife galore
Whether it’s dancing the night away at Carpe Diem or their non-stop beach party on Stipanska (a quick speedboat trip from Hvar town) or checking out the scene at Hula Hula, Kiva, Vela Vala, BB Club, Veneranda, Club Four, Mojito and the authentic French revue at Pink Champagne, Hvar’s nightlife is hot! But if you are just in the mood for comfy local hangouts, it can’t get better (and yes, do expect to see celebrities!) than Cafe Sidro and Wine Bar Pršuta 3.

At Hula Hula everything is coola-coola!

After all that partying, time to get back to nature! With so much lush vegetation of palm trees, agaves, myrtle, rosemary, pine woods and extensive lavender fields—not to mention some exhilarating ascents, shepherds’ settlement, Humac is about 40km east from Hvar town, and offers a great view on the valleys and headlands to the west, Brac and the coastal resort area of the Makarska riviera. With very well preserved local stone houses and its timeless ambience, Humac is the jumping off point for the trek to Grapčeva Cave, the cradle of Hvar’s culture and civilization. The cave dates back to the New Stone Age (Neolithic Period) 5000 - 4000 years BC and is one of the oldest discoveries in the Mediterranean. Its towering stalactites and stalagmites are an unforgettable sight. St.Nikola offers amazing views—on clear days you can even spot the Italian coastline. The walk down the small steep trail to the village of Sveta Nedjelja, the center of wine production on island, is terrific. The steep slopes planted with the island’s signature Plavac Mali grapes, are stunning. On the way down, you can also stop in a small cave that hides abandoned Augustinian monastery which dates back to the 16th century.

Wellness and spa programs
It’s only fitting that the island of lavender, sun, olives and wine has some pretty terrific wellness programs, like the Sensori Spa at the hotel Adriana. So whether it’s indulging in a scrub made from lavender flowers and sea salt, followed by an orange facial, the quality of Hvar’s cosmetics is impressive. You can even get an olive oil massage!

The sumptuous Sensori spa at the Hotel Adriana

Lavender, olive and grape harvests
In June there’s the annual Velo Grablje Lavender Festival and the end of June and beginning of July is harvest time. Lavender oil processing is only done one week a year during this time, so it’s a unique experience. In the Fall, September-early November, it’s harvest time for grapes and olives. In September, some vineyards offer the possibility of grape picking, so ask your hotel concierge, apartment owner to find out. In October, early November the island’s olive oil producers also offer a chance to go native. It’s a great way to spend several hours outdoors, followed by a field lunch and a chance to see your harvest turned into “liquid gold” at a nearby processing mill.

Blissful days, sparkling nights
Enjoy the exclusive Bonj ‘les bains’, authentic Thai massages... then party away at Vela Vala beach and BB Club

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