

## **Where to go in Maribor?**

**More about the city of Maribor. What do you recommend? Recommendations from the local people. What to do in Maribor?**

This are all questions that our guests are questioning us. The answers are gathered here at Local stories, where we are, trough stories, presenting our lovely city of Maribor.

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## St. Martin's day Celebration in Styria

Slovenian culture has plenty of holidays that are toasted with wine. But we have one special holiday that is meant especially just for wine tasting – St. Martin's day. Named after Christian saint and bishop Martin from Tours it has a little to do with Christianity. St. Martin's day is celebrated on 11th of November, the day when grape juice turns into wine, and it goes way back in history before Christ. Our pagan ancestry had been gathering together each autumn to praise gods, show appreciation and thankfulness for rich harvest and ask them for abundance in coming seasons.

After Christianization they kept this pagan custom due to its general popularity and marked 11th of November as St. Martin's day (it is also the day of his death) in honor of bishop who was known for his humbleness and charity. Most known anecdote from his life is during his military service when he saw a homeless man freezing outside so he gave him half of his coat (he ripped it in two pieces). This was a sheer gesture representing his kindness. Following this event, he had an epiphany and turned himself to service of God. Later he was named for a bishop from his fellow citizen due to his known selfless service to poor and those in need of help. Here arose another anecdote telling that he hid between flock of geese from those who proclaim him as bishop (he was too humble for wanting this title) but the flock revealed him with quacking. It is no wonder goose is now our traditional first choice of meal on St. Martin's day menu considering their history of treason. :) It is traditionally served with "mlinci" (another Slovenian culinary specialty) and cabbage. And do not forget the most important side "dish" – wine. On this day, it changes from grape juice to young wine and the whole process is accompanied with a big ceremony. It is a custom (usually) that a facetious man dressed in bishop blesses the wine in front of joyful crowd and with this act it is purified and ready for mass tasting. They do not call it second Halloween for nothing. Or maybe the reason is in all the funny faces afterwards.

St. Martin's day tradition came into our place from German provinces and it is widely celebrated all over the world, each country with its own costumes. You will surely not be disappointed if you decide to visit one of these gatherings/celebrations in Maribor, especially if you are enthusiastic about folk music, excellent wine, lively streets, traditional cuisine, diverse stands and cheerful people. Did I mention wine? :-D

### We recommend you to visit:

- **Old vine festival (1.10.2017 - 11.11.2017):** tribute to the oldest vine tree in the world (also in the Guinness book of records), festival includes different daily events and it is concluded with a big celebration on St. Martin's day,

- **The biggest outdoor St. Martin's day celebration in Maribor (11.11.2017 – Trg Leona Štuklja)** – one-day celebration: starting at 11:11 AM, 20 000 visitors from Slovenia and abroad come to Slovenian Styrian capital. Program is accompanied with live music, rich cultural and entertainment offer + wine :)

- You can join 2, 5 km long Ruše wine road and on your way, you can visit different wine shops, wine cellars – galleries, cultural museums, chapels...

- There a lot of other smaller outdoor events in Maribor's surrounding cities (Selnica ob Dravi, Svečina, Lenart etc.)





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## Local cuisine

The Styria region has long been known for its excellent cuisine and delicious wines. The secret of the cuisine lies in its diversity – it is as varied as the landscape of the Styria region.

It offers a wide selection of homemade traditional dishes and combines it most perfectly with the elements of modern cuisine.

In traditional Styrian cuisine prevail strong dishes like pork meet, potatoes, beans, butter, sour cream, cottage cheese, eggs and different types of cereals. Sour cabbage and turnips are also considered as popular traditional dishes in this part of Slovenija.

When speaking of traditional Styrian food, we must not forget to mention different kinds of porridges (barley, buckwheat) cooked with meat or vegetable which often find their place on the daily menus.

The Styria region is known for the production of pumpkin oil, which is also considered as one of the basic ingredients in preparing traditional delicacies. The pumpkin oil has dark green colour, and its taste remind us a bit on the walnuts. Most often it is used as a salad dressing and we really would recommend you to try it – because of its rich taste we are sure you will want to take it home with you.

Have you ever tried typical Styrian desserts? Most often they contain cottage cheese, walnuts, cream and yeast dough. Ask for “sirova zlivanka”, “gibanica”, “pohorska omleta” or “šarlota”. We are sure you will love them.

When you take the best tasting recipes from the past, presented in a little bit more modern way and combined with top-notch Styrian wines, the culinary experience you receive will leave you speechless.

But there will also be no problem if you prefer international cuisine. Maribor has numerous restaurants you can visit; especially the Mediterranean and Balkan cuisine are strongly represented since they have that have important roots in the everyday life of the Styrians.

## **We recommend you to visit:**

- **Gostilna Maribor**, where you will find authentic Slovenian cuisine (located in the strict city centre);
- **Restaurant Pri treh ribnikih**, the oldest restaurant in Maribor, with a tradition of 300 years (located next to towns park);
- **Restaurant Rožmarin** with modern, urban ambient yield to the culinary delights of fresh, seasonal and light Mediterranean food with a Štajerska touch (located in the city centre);
- **Restaurant Pri Florjanu**, offering seasonal and local cuisine (located in the strict city centre);
- **Gostilna Pri lipi** with rich traditional cousin, specially famous with the locals for its fried chicken (located near the Pohorje mountain);
- **Restaurant Villa rustica**, renowned for its tastily prepared menus and for Roman excavations (located near the Pohorje mountain);
- **Restaurant Seven**, owned by the Vocational College for Catering and Tourism in Maribor (located in the city centre);
- **Pizzerija in Špageterija La Cantina**, known for good quality and excellent location (located direct under the Pohorje Mountain);

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## Swimming pools to cool off this summer

The ones that we recommend in Maribor and its surrounding

When the city heats up, there is nothing better than freshen up in one of the outdoors pools Maribor has to offer. Whether you are trying to get fit, searching for a place to have fun with your children, or just lounge around in the water to beat the summer heat, here are some suggestions from our side.

And if you are looking for a refreshment outside the city and away from the crowds, here is an additional tip for a daily trip: Take a ride with cabin lift on the top of the Pohorje Mountain – from there the forest path will take you to the waterfall Skalca (about an hour of walk in one direction) where you can enjoy the fresh air, unique nature and clean water which originates directly from there. If you are not fond of walking, take a ride with your car up the mountain. Our receptionist will be more than happy to explain the way to get there.

And last but not least – do not forget to have a lot of fun. J

## **Open-air swimming baths Mariborski otok**

Mariborski otok is the oldest open-air swimming pool facility in Maribor. It is located on a small island in the middle of the Drava River. It offers three swimming pools (for swimmers, non-swimmers and children) and slide. If you would like to experience the city of Maribor as locals do, Mariborski otok is the right place for you.

Location: Na otok 40, 2000 Maribor

Working hours (23th June 2017 - September 2017): every day from 9.00 to 20.00

## **Medical Thermal Centre Fontana**

Centre for recreation and relaxation offers guests several indoor and outdoor pools with thermal water, fitness studio, various saunas, massage salons and recreational programmes. If you are looking for a place to relax by the swimming pools, have a massage or work out in fitness studio, visit Fontana.

Location: Koroška cesta 172, 2000 Maribor

Working hours: Mon – Sun from 9.00 to 21.00, Friday from 9.00 to 23.00



## **Wellness - SPA Centre Habakuk**

Wellness and SPA Centre Habakuk offers indoor and outdoor pools, covering more than 740 square meters. All pools contain thermal water and are equipped with underwater massage systems, whirlpools and waterfalls. The terraces with pools are opened from 15 June to 30 September.

Location: Pohorska 59, 2000 Maribor

Working hours: Outdoor swimming pool: Mon – Sun from 9.00 to 20.00

## **Water Park Terme Ptuj**

If you are looking for a swimming facility to enjoy it with your family we would recommend you to visit Terme Ptuj. It will only take you about 25 minutes of drive with car to get there. The Water Park offers four outdoor swimming pools with special animation waves and slides.

Location: Pot v Toplice 9, 2251 Ptuj

Working hours: Mon – Fri from 7.00 to 22.00; Sat, Sun and holidays from 8.00 to 22.00



