



**Brkinska  
sadna cesta**

# **Brkini Fruit Road**



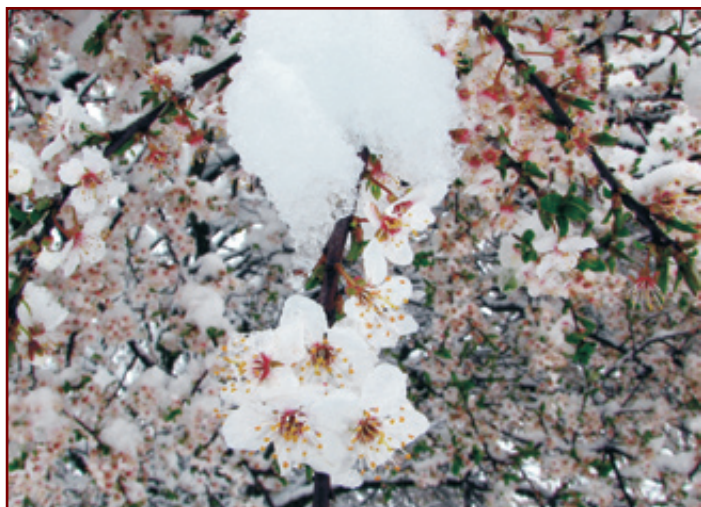
Brkini, November 2011





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**“ONE PLUM, ONE GLASS”,**

... say the men sitting next to copper stills in the winter  
cooking the Brkinski Slivovec plum brandy.





Brkini ... a rolling landscape of many faces. Playful in the spring, friendly and leisurely in the summer, dreamy in the autumn fogs and strangely silent in the winter. All its hues seem a bit distanced from the contemporary world where we constantly rush and yearn for something ... what is it that we're longing for? Somewhere along the way between nucleated villages, the time appears to slow down and some previously highly important things become a little less important. As you stand on the top of a hill, looking at a buzzard silently drifting into infinity, the tranquillity and softness of the landscape take you over.

Welcome to this distinct world, among the people living here for centuries. Lone and hospitable, cheerful and melancholic, playfully roguish and wise, and sometimes hidden behind a wall of seeming toughness. Just like the place where they live.





# FRUIT-GROWING DISTRICT OF BRKINI

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Brkini are famous for producing quality fruit, notably apples and plums, and for the Brkinski Slivovec plum brandy.

Brkini are a hilly region located in four municipalities: Divača, Hrpelje-Kozina, Ilirska Bistrica and Pivka. The fruit-growing district of Brkini includes not only the hills but also the Reka River valley, the Vreme Valley and the Košana Valley to the northeast, the Divača and Kozina Karst to the northwest and southwest, respectively, and Čičarija. The region lies at altitudes between 400 and 750 m.



Brkini are located where the Mediterranean world and the inland Slovenia meet and the climate there is thus distinctive. A transitional nature of the local climate is shown in temperatures, the precipitation regime and distinct winds, all of which has a favourable impact on fruit quality. The hills of Brkini – where most of the fruit in the region is grown – are made of flysch whereas the Karst part of the fruit-growing district of Brkini is made of limestone. Brkini are also distinct for their many blind valleys on the border between flysch and limestone.



## 2 FRUIT GROWING IN BRKINI THROUGH TIME — THE PAST ...

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Fruit growing in Brkini was virtually unknown before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Fruit production was promoted by skilled fruit growers, in particular teachers and priests. Interestingly, apples did not prevail in northern Brkini until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Dujc family from Zavrhek and the Dekleva-Žagar family from Buje brought the Brkini apples and plums to the attention of the entire European elite at fairs in Paris and Vienna between 1885 and 1890.



Gustav Pirc, a teacher of fruit growing, prepared the second fruit selection for Notranjska (Brkini and the Vipava Valley) in 1910. Two years later, a local expert Anton Žindaršič organised a fruit fair in Trnovo where tested and fruitful varieties suitable for trade were finally selected. A decision to expand the Renet de Bauman, Renetta Canada, Bellefleur, Winter *tafelceek* and Mosancelj apple varieties was taken at the following fair in 1913 organised by Anton Grahor and held in Prem.

The orchards planted during the First World War bore their fruit in the period between the two world wars. Fresh apples and plums were produced in Brkini and sold in Trieste and Rijeka. Dried fruit (dried plums and apples, also called the Brkini figs) and brandy were sold as well. Aged Brkinski Slivovec plum brandy has been famous and appreciated.

Just ask the older people in Brkini. They'll recall harnessing horses early in the morning and loading apples on a rack wagon coated with straw. They had to make it early to the market in Trieste or Rijeka. Well, housekeepers many times lined up the road and the wagon was empty in no time. "Good wine needs no bush" as the saying goes, and Trieste and Rijeka were no exception.

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Older Brkini fruit growers remember apples and plums from Brkini being sold to Vienna, Paris, London etc.

The first major work after the Second World War began in 1952 when the Ilirska Bistrica agricultural cooperative planted the first plantations in Komeščina with money paid as compensation for damage from snow and sleet. The orchards yielded full harvests in the Sixties and performed well financially. That raised interest in fruit growing but the activity failed to grow much in the period.



Another effort to revive fruit growing began after 1970 when some fruit growers planted the first trees on weaker soils on various locations in the Vreme Valley, in cooperation with the Agricultural Institute and the local agricultural cooperative. The results encouraged the development of fruit growing on different suitable locations in Brkini.



## 3 ... AND THE PRESENT

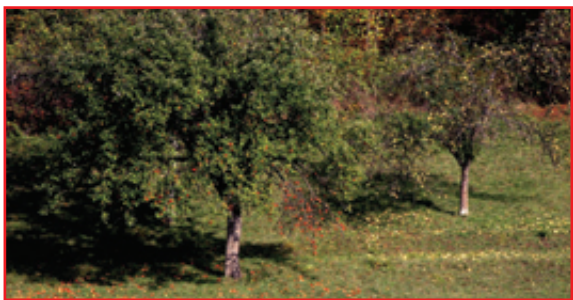
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The fruit-growing district of Brkini has roughly 120 fruit growers. The total area of orchards of apples, pears, plums, hazels, marasca cherries, peaches and cherries is 153 hectares. The majority of fruit-growing farms have 0.5-3 ha of apple orchards and only few have more than 3 ha of apple orchards.

Around 266 thousand trees are planted on 140 ha of apple orchards with the biggest share held by the Idared variety followed by Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Elstar, Gala, Gloster, Braeburn, Mutsu, Melrose and other, newer, varieties.



Brkini have not only apple plantations but also many meadow orchards and individual fruit trees planted on slopes along the fields. According to statistical estimates, there are additionally roughly 70,000 plum trees, 50,000 apple trees, 6,500 pear trees, 6,200 cherry trees and 5,270 walnut trees.



Nearly every farm in Brkini used to distil brandy, dry fruit (apples, plums and pears) and produce apple cider vinegar. The number of farms processing fruit has been rising recently and you can obtain excellent apple juice, apple cider vinegar, dried fruit and fruit brandies.

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## **BRKINI FRUIT GROWERS SOCIETY**

As fruit growing was on the rise in the Nineties of the previous century, an idea to link fruit growers from Brkini and the surrounding areas was born. In Ilirska Bistrica in particular, fruit growers could obtain certain grants for restoring orchards only through a society.

The Brkini Fruit Growers Society was founded in 1991 with the aim of linking fruit growers in Brkini. The society has around 100 members with orchards in municipalities of Ilirska Bistrica, Hrpelje-Kozina, Divača and Pivka.

Members of the society cooperate with the Agricultural Advisory Service of the Nova Gorica Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry in providing for education and transfer of experience, know-how and information to its members and anyone interested in fruit growing. Expert lectures, presentations, courses and excursions in Slovenia and abroad are used for that purpose. The society participates on and organises fruit growing fairs and events, and tries to achieve joint marketing of fruit growers.

An increasing number of visitors and wandering tourists in Brkini have led to a decision of the Brkini Fruit Growers Society, assisted by the Agricultural Advisory Service, to mark the Brkini Fruit Road. In theory at least, fruit growers in Brkini hold a favourable market position compared to other regions due to a location close to transport routes and the proximity of major urban centres. An already high share of direct sales at farms is a case at point.



## 4 FRUIT FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**Apples** are a rich source of vitamins, natural sugars, organic acids, pectin, tannin and minerals. Keep in mind that the bulk of vitamins and other good stuff are found in the apple skin. Apples have been appreciated for their healing properties already in ancient times. Apples, apple juice and apple cider vinegar have been traditionally recommended for effective protection and enhancement of general immunity of the body. Apples were often known as "a broom for the body" in traditional medicine because they help to clean our body, and prevent and eliminate constipation. Apple pectin protecting inflamed mucosa of the intestines and alleviating inflammations is particularly helpful. Apples lower cholesterol levels and bind toxins in the intestines. Grated apples (best if not fully ripe) left exposed to the air for a while can cure diarrhoea. Apples are believed to be a unique natural mean for regulating digestion. Do not eat cold apples and chew them well and you should have no problem

digesting them. Slightly warmed apple pulp is even one of the most easily digestible foods. We should eat at least 40 kg of apples a year because they are so good for us.



**Dried fruit** – *sušje, sušina, rznji, ržnji, krhli* – was a dessert and a source of nutrition during the long winter evenings. Compotes – *sešivka - reznjica* – were also made from dried fruit. Smaller quantities of fruit were dried in an oven, on the stove, in a roll or in the sun. Larger quantities of fruit were dried in *pečina,*

*pečnica* – an oven, which every farm had. Naturally dried fruit had a slight smell of smoke. Dried apples from autumn varieties have a favourable ratio of sugars and acids and thus taste particularly good.





**Dried fruit, in particular prunes** – dried peeled plums – were sold all over Europe. The quality of dried plums promoted the fruit from Brkini. They were still produced around 1925.

The market demands dried apples. Starting a modern fruit drying operation is a sound business decision.

**Cider** – apples were turned into new cider which then fermented into apple wine. The production of **apple juice**, pasteurised to last longer, has been spreading of late. Quality natural apple juice is an advantage enjoyed by fruit growers in Brkini. Apple juice has a favourable content of acids, amino acids, phenols, minerals, waxes, and organic and inorganic compounds. The substances it contains make apple juice good for your health. Apple juice gets its texture mostly from pectin, cellulose, waxes and dissolved sugars. Malic acid, glucose and fructose play the biggest role in the taste of apple juice. A number of vaporous components make for a nice smell.

**Apple cider vinegar** is rich in nutrients from apples and contains compounds produced during making of the vinegar. Hippocrates, deemed the father of medicine, treated his patients with vinegar as far as 400 BC. A natural killer of microbes, vinegar became one of the first medications. Apple cider vinegar is said to help prevent arthritis, alleviate digestion, prevent cancer, treat inflammations, protect memory capacity and enhance lipid metabolism – the use of energy stored as fat on our bodies. Apple cider vinegar is nowadays considered an effective supplement to a healthy and balanced daily diet.

Warm apple cider vinegar gives a special charm to dishes and teases a full taste and aroma out of them.

### **APPLE DAY, an advice for a cleansing diet with apples**

**Breakfast:** a glass of apple juice made from fresh apples and juice from half a lemon

**Lunch:** tea from apple peels sweetened with honey

**Dinner:** three cooked or roasted apples sweetened with honey



**Plums** were brought from Asia to Greece by soldiers of Alexander the Great. The Romans had already had plum orchards and appreciated the healing properties of plums. A verse of the famous poet Martial says: *Frigida sunt, laxant, multum prosunt tibi priuna.*

"Plums are cold, relaxing to the stomach, and very good for you." Plums are a mild laxative, be it fresh, dried or cooked. Cooked plums especially help to overcome an aversion to eating and enhance appetite. A famous plum brandy, known locally as "Slivovec", is produced in Brkini. It gives warmth and improves digestion when used moderately. A cup of hot herbal tea with a small glass of *Slivovec* was considered a cure, in particular in the season of the flu and other viral diseases. Flatulence issues stemming from eating fresh plums merely mean that we've had a bit too much of the delicious fruit.

### **Brkinski Slivovec – a brandy with protected appellation of origin**



Brkini have been famous for its Brkinski Slivovec for a long time. A first-class homemade brandy is made from locally-grown plums.

Hilly terrain, sunny locations and air circulation are decisive for the quality of plums. The Brkini still with more than 150-year tradition is distinctive for production of Brkinski Slivovec.



The pulp, *drozga*, is prepared from carefully selected healthy plums. The plum pulp goes through the fermentation process with the aid of a selected strain of yeast. People from Brkini have always been proud of their first-class Brkinski Slivovec. The technological process used gives Slivovec a distinct taste, smell, colour and clarity. The recognisable bouquet and quality even improve with age.

Autochthonous plums give Brkinski Slivovec, with protected appellation of origin since 2003, an alluring and gentle fruity taste and aroma.

### **Kraški Brinjevec – a brandy with protected appellation of origin**



Brkini are surrounded by Karst. Villages on the edge sit both on flysch and karst terrain. The locals have taken up the opportunity to join the people

from Karst and produce Brinjevec gin. The Brinjevec gin is a quality brandy also used as medicine. The gin's distinctive nature and the tradition of its production resulted in Kraški Brinjevec obtaining protected appellation of origin in 2003, which set out the conditions for its production. Pressed juniper berries are fermented for roughly three weeks and then distilled twice. A precise distillation will yield gin and juniper oil. The gin receives its distinct bouquet and pleasant, harmonic and full taste only after six months of ageing.

Juniper oil also has healing properties. It is used in skin diseases and is recommended for inhaling when we have a cold. In short, it can be of use in many problems.





## RECIPES FOR SWEET TOOTH SATISFACTION ...

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### Apple strudel

Make dough out of 25 dag of flour, 1.5 dl of lukewarm water, salt, two spoons of vegetable oil and one spoon of lemon juice.

Knead the dough until bubbles appear and the dough can be separated from the bowl. The dough should be soft. Oil the dough, cover it with a bowl and leave it to rest for at least half an hour.

Use the time to make the filling. Take 1 kg of apples, peel and grate them, and add 15 dag of sugar, 5 spoons of toasted crumbs and a fistful of raisins or grinded walnuts.

Spread the rested dough on a cloth, spray with flour, oil and stretch.

Place the filling on one half of the dough and apply melted butter on the other half. Roll into a thin loaf by using the cloth. Put the roll in an oiled baking dish. Apply melted butter on the top of the roll.

Bake at 200 °C for 40 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar when it's done and slightly cooled.

Yeast-raised dough can also be used to make apple strudel.

### Applesauce

Take 1 kg of apples, wash and clean them, and cut to small pieces. Braise them in a frying pan on 10 dag of butter and add apple juice or water if necessary. When braised, cool and mash them, and add 12 dag of sugar and a bit of cinnamon.

Applesauce can be served with sweet cream.

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## Roasted apples with walnuts

We need: 8 apples, 10 dag of walnuts, 2 spoons of honey, some raisins, butter and sugar.

Use a special knife to carve out from the bottom the middle part of the apple with seeds. Grind the walnuts, mix them with honey and raisins and fill the apples with the mixture. Place apples in a buttered baking dish. Spray them with sugar and bake for 15 minutes at 200 °C.

You can of course choose your own filling for roasted apples.

## Batter-fried apple slices

– very delicious and juicy. Slice apples to one-centimetre thick slices. Whisk the eggs, and add sugar, a pinch of salt and some flour. Dip the slices in the batter and fry on oil until the slices turn golden yellow, and coat with sugar at the end.



## Apple compote

We need: 5 apples, 10 spoons of sugar, lemon peeling, some cinnamon and 5 cloves.

Peel and slice the apples, remove seeds and put the apples in hot water. During cooking, add sugar, lemon peeling and cloves. Add cinnamon towards the end of cooking. Cook for approximately 15 minutes.

**Jam** – an interesting product from Brkini fruit. Plum jam is made from ripe stoned plums. Jam used to be made with unpeeled plums. Unpeeled cooked plums are mixed in a blender making the peels undetectable in the jam. The jam is better because it has all aromas contained in the peel. The only other ingredient is sugar, the aromas 2.5 kg per 10 kg of plums. The jam is slowly cooked for roughly 5 hours. A mixed jam is made from plums and apples. Add 1-2 kg of peeled and sliced apples per 10 kg of plums. Apples contribute to a full taste and smell.



**Plum gnocchi** – a symbol of Brkini They are made for special occasions.

Cook peeled potatoes in salt water, drain them and mash them twice. Make dough from potatoes with a half of sharp flour and a half of

soft flour. The dough is kneaded with oil and eggs. A half of eggs are added whole and only yolks are used from the other half. The dough is kneaded twice so that the gnocchi are soft. Spray the plum with sugar, add a sufficient quantity of dough around it and spin in your hands to make a ball. Cook in boiling water for roughly ten minutes. Gnocchi are served with breadcrumbs prepared on butter with sugar. Roasted plums go well with plum gnocchi.



**Plum pie** – make dough from sharp flour, eggs, butter or margarine, salt and baking powder. Leave the dough to rest for fifteen minutes then stretch it and put it in an oiled baking dish. Place a thin layer of apple slices on the dough. Cover the slices with stoned peeled and unpeeled plums which will give an inviting look and a delicious taste to the pie.

**Steamed Buns** – we need soft yeast-raised dough. Place the risen dough on a floured board, stretch it a finger thick and cut it into four rectangular pieces. Put a little homemade plum jam in the middle of each piece. Fold the piece from the opposite sides and then from the other two sides bringing the folded part to the middle. Apply melted butter on each one on one side and place them on an oiled or buttered baking dish so that they touch each other on sides. When they're done, put them in a warm place to rise. Apply milk or whisked egg on the risen buns and put them in the oven for a slow baking. Put the baked buns on a plate and coat them with sugar.

**Bon appetite!**

## 6 A PRESENTATION OF FARMS

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The following pages will present you the farms along the Brkini Fruit Road. Where you can find them, when you can visit them and the numbers to call. The offer of each farm is given as are their peculiarities and the nearby sites of interest.



Pick up this booklet on a day that will be just made to take a trip and get going.



## 1 PEČAR FRUIT FARM

PEČAR FRUIT FARM, PREŠNICA 71, 6240 KOZINA  
Tel. +3865 680 26 43, Mobile: +38631 666 894  
✉ sadjarstvo.pecar@volja.net

**Visits:** from September to May, by appointment.

The farm primarily produces and processes apples. The orchard (3.4 ha) producing apples of different varieties is farmed according to the integrated crop production method and is located near the Beka village. The farm also processes fruit.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Idared, Mutsu, Melrose, Golden Delicious, Gala, Braeburn, Fuji, Kiku, Elstar etc.), apple juice, apple cider vinegar, apple brandy and dried apples.

**Sights:** the trail to Slavnik, the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, the Karst edge etc.



## 2 LUČETОВИ

SILVO PEČAR, PREŠNICA 11, 6240 KOZINA  
Tel. +3865 680 12 28  
Mobile: +38641 280 973

**Visits:** from September to May, by appointment.

The Lučetovi Farm produces fresh apples of different varieties according to the integrated crop production method. The apples are kept in cold storage at the farm.

**Offer of the farm:** fresh apples of different varieties.

**Sights:** the trail to Slavnik, the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, the Karst edge etc.



## 3 ZVONKO KOVAČIČ

VIOLICA AND ZVONKO KOVAČIČ, BEKA 1, 6240 KOZINA  
Mobile: +38640 262 070, +38640 208 098

**Visits:** by appointment.

The Kovačič farm is a fruit-growing farm with longstanding tradition. They farm their orchards according to the integrated crop production method. The product is sold on the market in Koper.



The farm also processes fruit into juice, vinegar, brandy and dried fruit.

**Offer of the farm:** apples, pears, cherries, plums and pears, and dried fruit (apples, pears and plums), apple juice, apple cider vinegar, apple brandy and Slivovec.

**Sights:** the Ocizla Cave, the Blažev Rock Shelter, the Meletova Cave, the Miškotova Cave, the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, the Karst edge etc.

## 4 BOLČIČ FARM

RADO BOLČIČ, KLANEC 39, 6240 KOZINA  
Tel. +3865 680 16 79, Mobile: +38640 343 778

**Visits:** by appointment.

The apple orchard has 3.5 ha and is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties.

**Sights:** the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, Sveta jama (*Holy Cave*), and the old railway to Trieste.



## 5 PALISKA FARM

MIRKO PALISKA, BRKINSKA 8, 6240 KOZINA  
Tel. +3865 680 13 38, Mobile: +38641 336 275

**Visits:** by appointment.

The apple orchard has 5 ha and is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The orchards are situated on various locations in Brkini.

**Offer of the farm:** apples (Gala, Telstar, Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Melrose and Idared) and a presentation of work in the orchard.

**Sights:** the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, Sveta jama (*Holy Cave*), the old railway to Trieste, and the walking trail and cycling path to Slavnik.



## 6 TOURIST FARM CHEZ DAMJAN

DAMJAN MARSIČ, s.p., SLOPE 6, 6240 KOZINA  
Tel. +3865 680 28 40, Mobile: +38641 753 218

**Visits:** from Thursday to Sunday – by appointment.

Visitors to the tourist farm Chez Damjan may just stop by or take a room. They farm 10 ha of land of which 0.7 ha and 0.33 ha are apple and cherry orchards, respectively, and the rest are fields, meadows and forest. Fruit is produced



according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also raises pigs and dries meat.

**Offer of the farm:** apples, cherries, accommodating visitors and stationed guests, home cooking, fruit brandy tasting.

**Sights:** Sv. Križ (668 m) with the Church of St. Cross, the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, the old railway to Trieste etc.



## 7 SEGULINOVI

ANGEL SEGULIN, SLOPE 26, 6240 KOZINA

Tel. +3865 680 29 74

**Visits:** by appointment.

They farm 8 ha of land of which 0.8 ha are apple orchards and the rest are fields, meadows, meadow orchards and forest. Meadow orchards produce apples, pears, cherries, Brkini plums and walnuts. The

intensive apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, fruit from meadow orchards (plums, cherries, walnuts and apples), a tour of the orchard.

**Sights:** the village church overlooking the Slope Valley, the Škocjan Caves, the Dimnice Cave, Vilenica, Lipica etc.



## 8 TOURIST FARM CHEZ FILE

FRANC JELUŠIČ, SLOPE 20A, 6240 KOZINA

Tel. +3865 680 20 16

✉ t.k.file@siol.net

**Visits:** by appointment; please make an advance notice for larger groups.

The tourist farm Chez File is located 625 metres above sea level. They farm 8 ha of land. The farm produces brandy, and has riding horses and sheep.

**Offer of the farm:** letting apartments and rooms, home cooking, riding lessons, and the Brkinski Slivovec plum brandy and the Kraški Brinjevec gin, both with protected appellation of origin.

**Sights:** Sv. Križ (668 m) with the Church of St. Cross and a nice view, the Glinščica Canyon, the Socerb Castle, the Škocjan Caves, the Dimnice Cave, Vilenica, the Lipica Stud Farm etc.





MILAN RENKO, SLIVJE 14, 6242 MATERIJA  
 Tel. +3865 687 41 75, Mobile: +38641 687 110  
 ✉ milan.renko@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment.

The apple orchard has 1.2 ha and is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also has apple and plum meadow orchards, where no pesticides are used, and meadows. The product is sold on the market in Koper.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (older and newer ones), plums, pears, potatoes and hay.

**Sights:** the Dimnice Cave, the Church of St. Martin with antifascist reliefs and frescos by Tone Kralj, the Slivarski Brook disappearing into the Slivarski Swallet, the Plum Days event, and Slavnik.



## 10 VENCAJEVI

IGOR ŠIŠKOVIČ, SLIVJE 21, 6242 MATERIJA  
 Mobile: +38641 729 561, +38631 384 235,  
 ✉ siskovic.slivje@gmail.com  
 Website: www.siskovic.si

**Visits:** every day, by appointment.

The farm is situated 600 m above sea level. The intensive orchard of 2 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. Apple, plum and pear meadow orchards account for an additional hectare of land. Vegetables and crops are produced on 2 ha of fields.

The farm is registered for processing fruit and vegetables.

**Offer of the farm:** fruit from integrated production: apples and plums; fruit processing: apple juice, apple cider vinegar, balsamic vinegar, Brkinski Slivovec plum brandy, Kraški Brinjevec gin, vegetables and sauerkraut.

**Sights:** the Dimnice Cave, the Church of St. Martin with antifascist reliefs and frescos by Tone Kralj, the Slivarski Brook disappearing into the Slivarski Swallet, the Plum Days event, and Slavnik.



## 11 TOMAŽIČ FARM

TOMAŽIČ FAMILY, TATRE 9, 6243 OBROV

Tel. +3865 789 52 18

Mobile: +38641 975 359, +38641 279 720

**Visits:** by appointment.

The farm cultivates 10 ha of land. Apple orchards encompass two hectares with the rest being fields, meadows and pastures.

The apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Idared, Jonagold, Gloster, Melrose, Gorica Sevka and Bobovec), plums, potatoes, seasonal vegetables and burning wood.

**Sights:** the Dimnice Cave, the Prem Castle, mushroom-picking sites in nearby beech and oak forests, and a picturesque view from a hilltop in Brkini.



## 12 MAHNE ORGANIC FARM

ALBIN MAHNE, TATRE 32, 6243 OBROV

Tel. +3865 789 52 55, Mobile: +38631 451 025

✉ info@mahne.si

Website: www.mahne.si

**Visits:** by appointment.

The Mahne Family Farm with longstanding tradition grows fruit, raises cattle, produces cheese and is engaged in forestry and wood sawing. They have cheese dairy processing milk produced on the farm and sawmill for cutting wood.

**Offer of the farm:** organic apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Idared, Gorica Sevka and Topaz), organic milk and cow cheese, guided tours of the farm and food tasting for groups, burning wood, sawing and buying wood.

**Sights:** the Dimnice Cave, the Prem Castle, and a picturesque view from a hilltop in Brkini.



## 14 MAHNETOVI

JOŽE FRANK, HUJE 10, 6243 OBROV  
Tel. +3865 789 53 17

**Visits:** by appointment.

They farm 2 ha of land of which 0.83 ha are apple orchards and the rest are fields and meadows. The apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.



**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Gala, Idared etc.).

**Sights:** the Prem Castle and a panoramic view of Brkini.

## 15 CEK FARM

LOVRENC CEK, HUJE 17A, 6243 OBROV  
Tel. +3865 789 52 90, Mobile: +38631 494 730  
✉ [Iztok.cek@gmail.com](mailto:Iztok.cek@gmail.com)

**Visits:** by appointment.

The farm is situated in Brkini, 700 m above sea level. The farm is engaged in animal husbandry – raising suckle cows, which graze freely for most of the year, fruit growing – Brkini plums, and producing potatoes for human consumption. The plum orchards are farmed according to the integrated crop production method.



**Offer of the farm:** Brkini plums, plums of European varieties (Bluefree, Stanley and President), weanlings, potatoes for human consumption and burning wood.



**Sights:** a nearby spring and a panoramic view of Brkini.

## 16 HRBLJANOVI

MATJAŽ BUBNIČ, PREGARJE 63, 6243 OBROV  
Mobile: +38631 881 050

**Visits:** by appointment.

Hrbljanovi is a fruit-growing farm. The farm has 2 ha of apple and plum orchards, and some fields and meadows. The apple orchard is



farmed according to the integrated crop production method and plums are produced in a meadow orchard.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Gala, Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Mutsu, Braeburn, Granny Smith etc.), plums and Slivovec.

**Sights:** a water hole at the end of the village, the Prem Castle, the Church of St. Laurence from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the Posrtev Brook Valley.

## 17 CHEZ JUŠTA

PAVEL DEKLEVA, s.p., BAČ PRI MATERIJU 4, 6242 MATERIJA  
Tel. +3865 687 40 01, Mobile: +38631 678 264

✉ amicomio@siol.net

**Visits:** by appointment.

The tourist farm is situated in the middle of the Pregarje village, at the heart of the picturesque Brkini. They are involved in fruit growing and distilling brandy, notably Slivovec as well as pear brandy and maraschino.



**Offer of the farm:** letting apartments, Slivovec, pear brandy and maraschino.

**Sights:** a water hole at the end of the village, the Prem Castle, excursions and walks in undisturbed nature, and cycling.

## 18 TONČINOVI

DRAGO BOŽIČ, SABONJE 23, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 783 52 48, Mobile: +38631 758 728  
✉ bozic.drago@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment.

The farm is involved in fruit growing. The apple orchard of 0.8 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also has 0.4 ha of plum, pear and apple meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, pears and Brkini plums.

**Sights:** lakes Mola and Klivnik, a view of Brkini and Snežnik, and the Račiške ponikve blind valley.



## 19 KUSOVI

ELVIRA MIŠE, SABONJE 9, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 783 62 40, Mobile: +38641 450 015

**Visits:** by appointment.

The farm is situated in the Sabonje village, 550 m above sea level. The apple orchard of 3 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also has plum and apple meadow orchards, fields, meadows and forest. They also raise suckle cows beside fruit growing.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Gala, Golden Delicious, Idared, Mutsu, Granny Smith etc.), fruit from meadow orchards (old apple varieties and plums) and other crops, a presentation of work in the orchard and fruit picking. Apples are available throughout the year – cold storage.

**Sights:** lakes Mola and Klivnik, a view of Brkini and Snežnik, and the Račiške ponikve blind valley.



## 20 BEBOVA FARM

JADRAN MOŽINA, SABONJE 34, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 58 56

**Visits:** by appointment.

They farm 15 ha of land of which 4 ha are meadow orchards, 0.4 ha apple orchards and 0.2 intensive plum orchards, and the rest are meadows and forest.



**Offer of the farm:** various fruits (apples, plums, pears, walnuts and must pears), potatoes, mushrooms, wood and burning wood.

**Sights:** lakes Mola and Klivnik and the Račiške ponikve blind valley.

## 21 LUKIČEVI

SREČKO ŠLOSEL, SABONJE 15, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 783 51 53  
Mobile: +38640 840 059

**Visits:** by appointment.

The organic farm has 17 ha of farming land at 550 m above sea level. They are involved in organic raising of suckle cows and organic production of fruit and vegetables.

**Offer of the farm:** organically produced seasonal and soup vegetables, organically produced old apple and plum varieties, weanlings and breeding animals.

**Sights:** lakes Mola and Klivnik and the Račiške ponikve blind valley.





## 22 SANABOR FARM

LILIJANA SANABOR, HARIJE 8B, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 42 62, Mobile: +38631 601 510  
Website: [www.sanabor.si](http://www.sanabor.si)

**Visits:** by appointment.

The Sanabor Farm is a fruit-growing farm oriented into organic farming and processing apples and plums. The farm has been successful at processing fruit into juice, vinegar, brandy,

liqueurs and dried fruit for a number of years. They have received a number of awards for their products.

**Offer of the farm:** organically produced fruit (apples and plums), fruit vinegars, fruit brandies, fruit liqueurs, fruit juices, tours and presentations of fruit processing, and tasting.

**Sights:** lakes Mola and Klivnik.



## 23 FITNIKOVI

IVAN MATKO, TOMINJE 13A, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 789 51 01  
✉ [mtmatko@gmail.com](mailto:mtmatko@gmail.com)

**Visits:** by appointment.

They farm 5 ha of land. The apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also has some apple and plum meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:**

apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Idared, Braeburn, Golden Delicious, Mutsu and Fuji), old apple and plum varieties from meadow orchards, vinegar, dried fruit, brandies and a presentation of work in the orchard.

**Sights:** the Klivnik Brook valley with the artificial Klivnik Lake.





## 24 STIPETOVI

ROBERT RISERVATO, TOMINJE 1B, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Mobile: +38640 249 020

**Visits:** by appointment.

The farm produces apples according to the integrated crop production method and also has some apple and plum meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Idared, Mutsu, Gala, Braeburn, Golden Delicious, and Granny Smith) and apples of old varieties.

**Sights:** the Klivnik Brook valley with the artificial Klivnik Lake.



## 25 FARM CHEZ MEHČINOVI

ALOJZ VOLK, ZAREČICA 11A, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 61 35, Mobile: +38641 257 165

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 18 ha of land of which 2.7 ha and 1.7 ha are fields and meadow orchards, respectively, and the rest are meadows and pastures. The main activities of the farm are horticulture and raising suckle cows.

**Offer of the farm:** old varieties of non-sprayed apples, cabbage,

potatoes, edible and decorative pumpkins and calves for breeding and slaughter.

**Sights:** remains of a mine, the Mola River – fishing, a tour of the new village church, the Mašun and Sviščaki excursion points, and lakes Mola and Klivnik.



## 26 KOZLEK FARM

MILENKO OBLAK, ROZMANOVA 19, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 710 10 84, Mobile: +38641 803 290  
fax: +3865 710 10 85  
✉ kozlek.kmetija@kabelnet.net

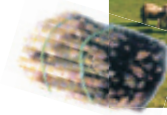
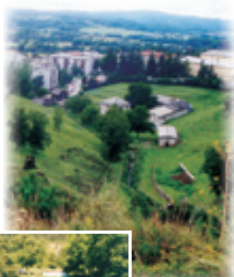
**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 30 ha of land of which 1.25 ha are plum orchards, asparagus are produced on 3 ha, 1 ha of spelt, 3 ha of cereals (oats and barley), and the rest are meadows and pasture.

They also have 80 sheep used for meat. The farm applies the organic farming method.

**Offer of the farm:** plums, Slivovec, walnuts, asparagus, spelt, pillows with spelt and lambs.

**Sights:** spring of the Kozlek Brook, the old town of Ilirska Bistrica along the Bistrica Brook, remains of an Illyrian fort, and the starting point for Sviščaki, Gomanci, Mašun, Okroglina and Snežnik.



## 27 PRELOG FARM

TOMO PRELOG, ZAREČJE 20, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 43 34, Mobile: +38641 724 056

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 25 ha of land of which 3 ha are apple orchards, 0.5 ha apple meadow orchards, and the rest are fields, meadows and forest. The apple orchard is farmed

according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples (Gala, Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Mutsu, Granny Smith and Idared) and a presentation of work in the orchard.

**Sights:** the confluence of the Posrtev Brook and the Reka River.



## 28 MEŽNARIJA

BRANKO DEKLEVA, TOPOLC 2, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 71 03

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm in a traditional manner and do beekeeping under supervision for organic compliance. The farm has 6 ha of farming land, mostly meadows and meadow orchards.

The main activities of the farm are raising suckle cows, fruit growing and beekeeping. Different old apple varieties are being produced in meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:** honey, potatoes and apples.

**Sights:** the Reka River, the Prem Castle and the Novak Mill.



## 29 NOVAKOVA FARM

IVAN DOVGAN, TOPOLC 75C, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 59 87, Mobile: +38651 332 973  
✉ nataado@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm a 5 ha piece of land of which 0.5 ha are meadow orchards and the rest are fields and meadows. The farm has a preserved "black kitchen", a restored mill and an area for picnics and outdoor weddings.

**Offer of the farm:**

fruit (apples, plums and walnuts), renting

the area for picnics and outdoor weddings, and a tour of the old "black kitchen" and the restored mill.

**Sights:** the mill, the "black kitchen", the Reka River and the Prem Castle.



## 31 IVANKOTOVI

IVAN MALEČKAR, PREM 65, 6255 PREM  
Tel. +3865 714 73 02

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is situated in the Reka River valley, under the Prem Castle. They farm 4.5 ha of land of which 0.25 ha are apple orchards, 1 ha apple, pear and plum meadow orchards, and



the rest are fields and meadows. The apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm caters food and drink to its guests with accommodation facilities planned for the future.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, pears, plums and excursions.

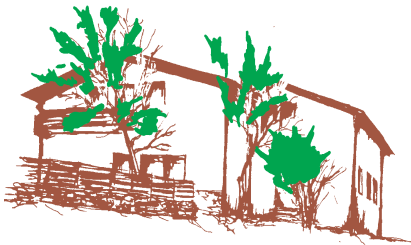
**Sights:** the Prem Castle, the birthplace of the poet Dragotin Kette – the Kette Room, the Church of St. Helena and the Reka River.

## 32 JENEZINOVI TOURIST FARM

PAVEL ANTON ČESNIK, RATEČEVO BRDO 1, 6255 PREM  
Tel. +3865 714 71 28

**Visits:** by appointment or on the weekend; the farm is closed to guests in January and February.

Jenezinovi have been involved in tourism for a number of years. The main agricultural activity of the farm is raising cattle and pigs. They also produce fruit, vegetables and garden flowers.



**Offer of the farm:** farm tourism (home cooking and accommodation), fruit, vegetables and garden flowers.

**Sights:** the Prem Castle, the birthplace of the poet Dragotin Kette – the Kette Room, the Church of St. Helena and the Reka River.

## 33 KOVAČOVI

VLADO MATKO, DOLNJA BITNJA 11, 6255 PREM  
Mobile: +38641 688 686

**Visits:** by appointment

The main activities of the farm are horticulture – producing cabbages, turnips, potatoes and onions – and producing apples in meadow orchards. They also pickle cabbages and turnips.

**Offer of the farm:** sauerkraut and sour turnips, cabbages for cabbage rolls, onions, potatoes, and apples from meadow orchards.

**Sights:** the Prem Castle, the Kette Room, the Church of St. Helena and the Reka River.



## 34 CHEZ RJANDOVI

FATUR FRUIT GROWING, DOLNJA BITNJA 12, 6255 PREM  
Tel. +3865 754 00 40, Mobile: +38641 974 540  
✉ pavel.fatur@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm has 1.45 ha of farming land and is located near the Prem village. The apple orchard



has 0.82 ha and the rest are meadows. The orchards are farmed according to the integrated crop production method. They plan to focus on production of various fruits in meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Idared, Gala, Gloster and Mutsu), old and resistant apple and pear varieties, apple juice and apple cider vinegar, and a presentation of work in the orchard (pruning and picking).

**Sights:** the Prem Castle, the birthplace of the poet Dragotin Kette in Prem, the Reka River, the Turn Estate and the Church of St. Helena.

## 35 FRANKOVI FARM

IGOR AND DARJA BOBEK, JANEŽEVO BRDO 12, 6255 PREM  
Tel. +3865 714 71 47  
Mobile: +38631 826 646

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 24 ha of land of which 6 ha are apple and plum meadow orchards, and the rest are meadows, pastures and forest. The main activity of the farm is animal husbandry

– producing milk. They also produce fruit in meadow orchards with no use of pesticides.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties from meadow orchards (Mosancelj, Bobovec, Krivopecelj, Gorica Sevka, Sheep's Nose and London Pepping), plums and milk.

**Sights:** the Prem Castle, and the birthplace of the poet Dragotin Kette – the Kette Room.



## 36 BITENCOVI

VINKO KOVAČIČ, PRELOŽE 16, 6255 PREM  
TEL.: +3865 714 72 22, Mobile: +38641 281 046

They farm 13 ha of land. The farm is involved in fruit growing, and raising poultry, suckle cows, bulls and pigs. Apples, plums and other fruit are produced in intensive orchards according to the integrated crop production method. Fruit is grown organically in meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:** plums (Brkini and European varieties), apples of different varieties – including old ones, various other fruits, fruit products, chicken raised for meat, laying hens, honey, potatoes and other crops produced in unspoiled nature.

**Sights:** a view of Brkini, the Šmagurka Brook, the surrounding hills of Vremščica, Nanos and Slavnik, the Snežnik Mountains and the Reka River valley.





## 38 LENARTOVI

IVAN VALENČIČ, OSTROŽNO BRDO 34, 6255 PREM  
Tel. +3865 714 71 81, Mobile: +38641 536 127

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 6 ha of land of which 0.7 ha are apple orchards. The farm also has apple and plum meadow orchards, meadows and pasture. The apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.



**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, potatoes, onions and burning wood.

**Sights:** the "jute" rock shelters, the hilltop of Vrhek with a picturesque view and the bridge at Ambrožič.

## 39 ŠOLFOVI

BRANKO BOBEK, NOVA SUŠICA 30, 6256 KOŠANA  
Mobile: +38641 657 890

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 5 ha of land of which 1.8 ha are apple orchards and the rest are fields and meadows. They farm according to the integrated crop production method.



**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties.

**Sights:** the Stenica karst valley, the Gabranka Cave and the Church of St. Anne from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



## 40 MIHCEVI

LEOPOLD ZAFRED, NOVA SUŠICA 27, 6256 KOŠANA  
Tel. +3865 753 03 82

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is involved in animal husbandry and fruit growing. They farm 20 ha of land. They raise suckle cows and weanlings. The intensive apple orchard has 1.3 ha and is farmed

according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, new cider, vinegar, young animals, and suckle cows from alpine pasture.

**Sights:** grazing animals, trails to Vremščica, Osojnica and Tabor, the Stenica karst valley, the Gabranka Cave and the Church of St. Anne from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



## 41 JANEZ ČUČEK

JANEZ ČUČEK, NOVA SUŠICA 26, 6256 KOŠANA  
Mobile: +38641 754 731

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is mostly involved in fruit growing. The apple orchard of 0.7 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method and the 1 ha of meadow orchard is farmed organically.



**Offer of the farm:**

apples of different varieties, organic apples from the meadow orchard and potatoes.

**Sights:** the Stenica karst valley, the Gabranka Cave and the Church of St. Anne from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## 42 FIDEL FRUIT GROWING

ŠTEFANIJA FIDEL, NOVA SUŠICA 6, 6256 KOŠANA  
Mobile: +38641 235 077

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is situated in the Ndanje selo village, no. 28, and has 4 ha of farming land.

The apple orchard of 1 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method;

and the rest of the land is fields and meadows. The fruit is kept in cold storage over the winter.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Elstar, Golden Delicious, Jonagold and Idared).

**Sights:** the Ravne Castle – breeding Lipizzaner horses – and the Šilentabor Castle.



## 43 GRABENČEVI

IVAN and GREGOR PENKO, NADANJE SELO 16, 6257 PIVKA  
Tel. +3865 753 05 57, Mobile: +38641 242 543

✉ [informacije@sadjarstvo.si](mailto:informacije@sadjarstvo.si)

**Visits:** by appointment

The fruit-growing and beekeeping farm has 10 ha of farmland and 90 beehives. The apple orchard of 2 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method; and the rest of the land is meadows and forest.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Summer Red, Red Boskoop, Gala, Elstar, Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Braeburn, Carjevic, Idared and Gloster), sorted honey (linden, chestnut, flower and forest), propolis and mead.

**Sights:** the Ravne Castle.



## 44 KISLANOVI

DRAGO ČESNIK, NADANJE SELO 39, 6257 PIVKA  
Tel. +3865 753 00 38, Mobile: +38641 883 974

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 4 ha of land. The farm is involved in raising suckle cows and fruit growing. The apple and pear orchard of 0.7 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:**

apples and pears of different varieties.

**Sights:** the Ravne Castle.



## 45 JAKOPINOVI FARM

IVAN KALUŽA, NARIN 10, 6257 PIVKA  
Tel. +3865 753 05 62

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 6 ha of land of which 1 ha are meadow orchards and the rest are meadows and forest. The farm is involved in fruit growing, raising sheep and beekeeping. They let rooms as a part of the Narin Tourist Village.

**Offer of the farm:** sorted honey (flower, acacia and pine), propolis, apples, pears, plums, walnuts and accommodation.

**Sights:** the Church of St. Jacob, a well, a washboard, a stone sign, the Mary's Chair, springs of Močilo, Krnica and Rajnik, and the trail to Šilentabor.



## 46 ŠTANCARJEVI

JANEZ KAPEL, KAL 117, 6257 PIVKA

Tel. +3865 757 16 73, Mobile: +38641 528 593, +38641 383 853

✉ Janez.kapel@siol.net

**Visits:** by appointment

The 1.5 ha orchard growing different apple varieties is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:**

apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Golden Delicious and Idared).

**Sights:** a distinct Pivka farm with columns, a chapel at the end of the village, the Church of St. Bartholomew with a stone portal, stone drinking troughs.



## 48 FARM CHEZ ZAJČEVI

IVAN PRELC, GORNJA KOŠANA 7, 6256 KOŠANA

Tel. +3865 753 04 24

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 3 ha of land of which 0.5 ha are apple orchards, 0.7 ha fields, and the rest are meadows. They also do beekeeping. The orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, potatoes and honey.

**Sights:** the Farjevec torrent, the transversal to Vremščica, meadows with daffodils, and embankments of the ancient settlement in Gradišče (641 m).



## 49 LENARTOVI

LUDVIK KVATERNIK, STARA SUŠICA 23, 6256 KOŠANA  
Tel. +3865 753 04 77, Mobile: +38641 879 652

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm's apple orchard has 2 ha and is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:**

apples and pears of different varieties.

**Sights:** archaeological sites and a Venetian stone with a non-deciphered inscription.



## 50 MORELJ FRUIT FARM

MORELJ FRUIT FARM, BUJE 6A, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF

Tel. +3865 762 10 27

Mobile: +38641 58 33 44, fax: +3865 762 10 28

✉ kmetija-morelj@buje.net,

Website: [www.kmetija-morelj.buje.net](http://www.kmetija-morelj.buje.net)

**Visits:** by appointment

They have been farming 13 ha of land for a number of years. Apple, plum and pear orchards of 2 ha are farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm has its own cold storage, a fruit

processing facility and a store selling the farm's products. They have received a number of prestigious awards, including three Certificates of Quality on the Dobrote slovenskih kmetij (*The Goodies from Slovenian Farms*) competition in Ptuj.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of eight different varieties, dried apples, dried plums, Brkinski Slivovec® with protected appellation of origin, other fruit brandies and liqueurs, apple cider vinegar, other fruit products, a presentation of fruit processing, tasting, and excursions with a local tourist guide.

**Sights:** natural and cultural heritage in the Reka River valley, a good starting point for excursions (Pivka, Škocjan Caves, Lipica, Vremščica 1027 m etc.).



## 51 BIŠČAK FAMILY FARM

BIŠČAK FAMILY FARM, BUJE 5, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF

Tel. +3865 762 01 43, Mobile: +38641 518 805

✉ anton.biscak@buje.net

Website: [www.biscak.buje.net](http://www.biscak.buje.net)

**Visits:** by appointment; please make an advance notice for larger groups.

The Biščak Family Farm has been producing apples since 1982. They have 2.5 ha of orchards farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm has been producing brandies since 1990. They are regularly present on different events where their products have received a number of awards and medals for quality. Their apple cider vinegar has received a certificate of quality on the Dobrote slovenskih kmetij "The Goodies of Slovenian Farms" competition in Ptuj and a champion title on a competition in Pomurje. They have also acquired a certificate of the national vocational qualification – fruit processor.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of ten different varieties, apple cider vinegar and apple cider vinegar with ramsons, dried fruit (apples, plums and pears), Brkinski Slivovec with protected appellation of origin, sorted apple brandy, pear brandy, several sorts of liqueurs (apple, strawberry, walnut, marasca cherry and sage), bilberries in brandy, apple juice, apple jam, tasting of all products, a tour of the farm, and promotional and business gifts.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, the Military History Park in Pivka, Lipica



## 52 JURKOVI FARM

MARIJAN KLJUN, MISLIČE 7, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF

Tel. +3865 762 01 34, Mobile: +38631 548 024

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is situated at 630 m above sea level and has 14 ha of farmland. The intensive orchard of 0.7 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. Meadow orchards (apple, plum, pear, must pear, walnut and cherry) account for 1.5 ha of land. **Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties from the intensive orchard

(Gala, Idared, Jonagold and Golden Delicious) and old apple varieties (Gorica Sevka, Bobovec, Mosancelj, Srcka and Kaiser), plums, pears, walnuts, apple juice, apple cider vinegar and dried fruit. **Sights:** remains of the Švarcenek Castle, the Church of St. George, the Padež Valley, the highest point in Brkini in the Artviže village – the Church of St. Socerb (817 m).





## 54 ROTOVI

ALOJZ PRELEC, BARKA 36, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF  
Tel. +3865 762 01 82

**Visits:** every day, by appointment.

They farm 60 ha of land (meadows, pastures, fields, orchards and forest). The main activity of the farm is fruit growing. The apple orchard of 8 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. They also raise cattle beside fruit growing.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, apple cider vinegar and fruit brandies.

**Sights:** old Brkini farms, an open fireplace and the Škocjan Caves.



## 55 JOŽE ČEPAR

JOŽE ČEPAR, BARKA 59, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF  
Mobile: +38641 329 771  
✉ [stojan.cepar@siol.net](mailto:stojan.cepar@siol.net)

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 7.5 ha of land of which 0.75 ha are apple orchards and 0.2 ha plum meadow orchards. The apple orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties and plums.

**Sights:** old Brkini farms, an open fireplace and the Škocjan Caves.



## 56 ROLHOVI

PRELC FARM, PODGRAD PRI VREMAH 17, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF  
Tel. +3865 762 01 54, Mobile: +38641 873 299

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 17 ha of land of which 2 ha are apple orchards and the rest are meadows and forest. The orchard is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:**

apples of different varieties, a tour of the farm and the orchard and burning wood.

**Sights:** a walking path along Sušica with remains of the Švarcenek Castle, confluence of the Reka River, and the water pools, "*tajhi*" on the southern slope of Vremščica.



## 57 ROŽANC FARM

DUŠAN ROŽANC, ZAVRHEK 3, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF  
Tel. +3865 762 53 85  
Mobile: +38631 808 011, +38631 771 225

**Visits:** by appointment

They have 28 ha of farmland of which 11 ha are cultivated. The farm is involved in fruit growing and animal husbandry. The apple orchard of 2 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, potatoes, hay and weanlings.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, and Divača with the Škrateljnova Farm featuring an exhibition dedicated to Ita Rina.



## 58 DUJC FARM

DUJC FARM, ZAVRHEK 1, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF  
Tel. +3865 762 60 40, Mobile: +38631 326 745  
✉ janez.dujc@siol.net

**Visits:** by  
appointment

They farm 18 ha of land. Apple orchards of 2 ha and plum orchards of 0.2 ha are farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also has 2.5 ha of fields and 5 ha of meadows with the rest of the land being forest.

**Offer of the farm:** apples, prunes and plums of different varieties and renting equipment for making apple juice.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, and Divača with the Škrateljnova Farm featuring an exhibition dedicated to Ita Rina.



## 59 KRANJČEVI

DUŠAN ŠKRLJ, ZAVRHEK 7, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF  
Tel. +3865 762 53 38, Mobile: +38640 303 609  
✉ dskrlj@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

They farm 4.8 ha of land, mostly meadows. The walnut orchard of 0.29 ha and the apple orchard of 0.45 ha are farmed according to the integrated crop production method. Brkini plum trees are planted on the meadows.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Golden Delicious, Jonagold, Idared, Topaz and Granny Smith), walnuts (Franquette) and Brkini plums.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, and Divača with the Škrateljnova Farm featuring an exhibition dedicated to Ita Rina.



## 60 DUJČEVA FARM

EMILIJANA LIPOVŠEK and VALTER GAŠPERŠIČ, ŠKOFLJE 33,  
6217 VREMSKI BRITOF

Tel. +3865 762 53 05, Mobile: +38631 786 125, +38641 597 988

✉ emilijanal@volja.net

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm has 8 ha of farmland of which 0.85 ha of apple orchards are farmed according to the integrated crop production method. The Dujčeva Farm greets tourists. They offer tasty dishes, accommodation in apartments, and an area for picnics or camping. They have their own fish farm.

**Offer of the farm:** apples, apple juice, apple cider vinegar, brandies, accommodation and catering of guests, fish from their own fish farm, a multipurpose area for training sessions and workshops, a picnic area, a camping site, sleeping on hay, boat rental, riding horses and riding a horse and carriage.

**Sights:** the Škofeljski Bridge – the start of the trail on the Reka River valley, the Dujčev Mill, the Školj Castle, the Škocjan Caves Park and the vicinity of Vremščica.



## 62 PR'BETANCI TOURIST FARM

ANDREJ CERKVENIK, BETANJA 2, 6215 DIVAČA

Tel. +3865 763 30 06, Mobile: +38641 345 877

✉ prbetanci@gmail.com

Website: [www.prbetanci.si](http://www.prbetanci.si)

**Visits:** Wednesday-Friday: 2-10 p.m., Saturday-Sunday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m., closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

They farm 12 ha of land. They cultivate 0.8 ha of apple orchards, meadow orchards and meadows. The farm greets tourists and offers accommodation. They offer the Karst cuisine with a touch of Brkini and its surroundings.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties, cherries, hay, and farm tourism with home cooking.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, an archaeological collection, a museum – the Jakopinov Shed, the Jurjeva Farm where we can learn of the history of speleology, the disappearing river Reka, the Gaberk Airport, the Škocjan Educational Path, and Vremščica (1027 m) for trekkers and cyclists.



## 63 PR' ŠIMCU FARM

DAVID BOGDAN, DOLNJE LEŽEČE 91, 6215 DIVAČA  
Tel. 05 763 10 29, Mobile: 041 835 685  
✉ david.bogdan10@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is situated in the Škocjan Caves Regional Park and has 30 ha of farmland. The apple orchard of 1.5 ha is farmed according to the integrated crop production method. A mixed apple and plum meadow orchard accounts for an additional hectare of land. Other farmland (meadows and pastures) are intended for breeding horses. The farm plans to arrange an area for accommodating guests, offer tours of the farm and guided excursions presenting fruit growing and horse breeding in the area.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties from an intensive orchard, old apple varieties and plums.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, an archaeological collection, a museum – the Jakopinov Shed, the Jurjeva Farm where we can learn of the history of speleology, the disappearing river Reka, the Gaberk Airport, the Škocjan Educational Path, and Vremščica (1027 m) for trekkers and cyclists.



## 64 ŽAGAR FARM

IGOR DEKLEVA, BUJE 1, 6217  
VREMSKI BRITOF  
Tel. +38631 470 496, +3865 762 00 39  
✉ zagar@bujе.net

**Visits:** By appointment

The Žagar Farm is situated in a wonderful natural environment along the Reka River and the Divača-Ribnica main road. They have 15 ha of farmland and forest. The farm is oriented into forestry, raising sheep and goats and breeding horses. They offer accommodation for horses, i.e. a horse hotel with release. On weekends and subject to a previous appointment, the farm offers a tour of a still operational mill and a Venetian saw. The entire farm is a cultural monument more than 400 years old. If you visit us, you will see a farm offering relaxation to all its visitors with murmuring river, grazing sheep and horses, and rolling of the mill a murmuring wheel. You can feel the power of the water driving the mill wheel. **Offer of the farm:** fruit from meadow water orchards, lambs, a horse hotel, and a tour of a Venetian saw and a stone mill. **Sights:** unspoiled and undisturbed nature, and a good starting point for walking and cycling (Vremščica 1027 m, the Škocjan Caves and Lipica).



## 65 CHEZ ŠUŠTARJEVI FARM

KLEMEN and HREŠČAK families, NOVA SUŠICA 3, 6256 KOŠANA  
Tel. +3865 753 01 87, +3865 753 06 07, Mobile: +38641 382 483  
✉ zorka.klemen@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is situated in the Košana Valley and has 5 ha of farmland of which 0.5 ha of meadow orchards. They grow organic fruit (old apple varieties, pears and plums), and are involved in animal husbandry

and land cultivation. The farm has received a number of awards for their products, including several golden awards on the Dobrote slovenskih kmetij (*The Goodies of Slovenian Farms*) competition and on competitions of brandies in Pivka and Ilirska Bistrica.

**Offer of the farm:** fruit – old apple, pear and plum varieties from a meadow orchard, fruit products (apple cider vinegar and jam), Brkinski Slivovec with protected appellation of origin, vegetables – garlic, potatoes, beans, red beet etc., and guiding and organising tourist excursions in the surrounding area.

**Sights:** the village Church of St. Anne from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, stone drinking troughs, the Ravne Castle – breeding Lipizzaner horses, walking and cycling to Vremščica (1027 m), Tabor, the Military History Park in Pivka, and the Kal Stonecutters' Educational Path.



## 66 LUKOVI FRUIT FARM

PAVEL FILIPČIČ, TATRE 16, 6243 OBROV  
Tel. +3865 789 52 14, Mobile: +38641 280 276  
✉ peter.tatre@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The Lukovi farm produces fresh apples of different varieties according to the integrated crop production method. The farm also produces potatoes.

**Offer of the farm:** apples of different varieties (Jonagold, Idared, Golden Delicious, Melrose and Gala), apple cider vinegar, apple juice and burning wood.

**Sights:** Dimnice Cave, Prem Castle, mushroom-picking sites in nearby beech and oak forest, and a picturesque view from a hilltop in Brkini.





## 67 ŠUŠTARJEVI FRUIT FARM

MAKS POPLAŠEN, TATRE 37, 6243 OBROV

Mobile: +38641 321 518

✉ maks.poplasen@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm lies at the heart of Brkini, in the Tatre village. They have an apple orchard of 0.8 ha with 2,000 apple trees, located near the village, at an altitude of 740 m.

**Offer of the farm:** apples

of different varieties (Jonagold, Idared, Golden Delicious and Melrose), apple cider vinegar, apple juice, brandy, Slivovec and burning wood.

**Sights:** the Dimnice Cave, the Prem Castle, the Tatre adrenalin park (paintball), mushroom picking sites in oak and beech forests, an unforgettable picturesque landscape, the Brkini Fruit Road and the Postojna Cave.



## 68 BENČIČ EXCURSION & TOURIST FARM

BORIS BENČIČ, VAREJE 15, 6217 VREMSKI BRITOF

Tel. +3865 762 01 76, Mobile: +38641 624 271

**Visits:** Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and by appointment on other days.

The family farm is situated 639 m above sea level. They farm 13 ha of land (meadow orchards, fields, pastures and forest). The farm offers home cooking. They also raise cattle and pigs.

**Offer of the farm:** an excursion farm, home cooking, fruit from meadow orchards, fruit brandies, Slivovec, potatoes, hay and burning wood.

**Sights:** the Škocjan Caves, the Divača Cave, the Dimnice Cave, and cycling and walking paths.



## 69 TONČINOVI

JADRAN BOŽIČ, SABONJE 23, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 783-54 04, Mobile: +38641-497 768

**Visits:** by appointment

The apple orchard of 0.5 ha and the prune and plum orchard of 0.4 are farmed according to the integrated crop production method. They also have 1 ha of plum and apple meadow orchards.

**Offer of the farm:** Brkini

plums, apples, Slivovec, fruit brandy and apple cider vinegar.

**Sights:** lakes Mola and Klivnik, a view of Brkini and Snežnik, and the Račiške ponikve blind valley.



## 71 TURN ORGANIC FARM

FRANJO PENKO, GORNJA BITNJA 13, 6255 PREM  
Mobile: +38641 928 823

**Visits:** by appointment

The organic farm is situated in the Turn hamlet in Gornja Bitnja. The farm raises sheep for milk, including autochthonous Istrian sheep, which give small quantities of high-quality milk. The farm produces cheese from that milk, which the visitors can taste and buy at the farm. You can see domestic animals and enjoy a beautiful view at the farm. A "black kitchen" can be seen in the old mansion house. The farm has a bocce court and a children's playground.

**Offer of the farm:** tasting and selling sheep cheese, a tour of the "black kitchen", a tour of the farm, the cheese dairy and domestic animals, and a picnic area.

**Sights:** the Turn Mansion – a "black kitchen", the Prem Castle, the birthplace of the poet Dragotin Kette – the Kette Room, the Church of St. Helena and the Reka River.



## 72 PRIMC FARM

VINCENC PRIMC, VELIKA BUKOVICA 14, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA  
Tel. +3865 714 11 42, Mobile: +38631 766 142

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm is involved in milk production, crop production and horticulture. They have roughly 15 ha of farmland and forest. The farm is registered for pickling cabbages as a supplementary activity.



**Offer of the farm:** cabbages and sauerkraut, sour turnips, fruit from meadow orchards, calves for raising and slaughter, and a tour of the farm and processing of cabbages.

**Sights:** the Mola Lake, the Mola River – fishing, excursion points (Mašun, Sviščaki, Snežnik etc.).

## 73 KOMARJEVI

JANKO LENARČIČ, ČELJE 35, 6255 PREM  
Mobile: +38641-297 328  
✉ lenarcic.j@siol.net

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm produces apples and plums in intensive orchards farmed according to the integrated crop production method. They farm 1.45 ha of plum orchards of different European and domestic varieties and 1.05 ha of apple orchards of different varieties.



**Offer of the farm:** early and late varieties of apples and plums.

**Sights:** the Prem Castle, the birthplace of the poet Dragotin Kette – the Kette Room, the Church of St. Helena and the Reka River.

## 74 PETERNELJ ORGANIC & TOURIST FARM

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PETERNELJ ORGANIC & TOURIST FARM, BRCE 10a  
6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA

Tel. +3865 714 44 29

Mobile: +38641 584 193, +38641 622 359

✉ kmetija.peternelj@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The Peternelj organic farm is involved in raising cattle and breeding horses. They farm 114 ha of their own and rented land, and have 40 cattle and 55 horses. They have been greeting tourists

on their farm since 2009 with an offer of home cooking. They plan to offer accommodation in the future.

**Offer of the farm:** apple juice, apple cider vinegar, fruit brandy, dried meat products, and excursion tourism with home cooking.

**Sights:** the Posrtev Valley, and undisturbed and unspoiled nature.



## 75 BUBEC FARM

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FELIKS PETERLELJ S.P., BRCE 10, 6250 ILIRSKA BISTRICA

Tel. +3865 714 66 17, Mobile: +38641 566 391

✉ domačija.bubec@siol.net

**Visits:** by appointment

The Bubec Farm has a fish farm, raises game (mouflons and fallow deer), produces eggs for consumption, and offers tourist services (accommodation and catering).

**Offer of the farm:** grilled trout from their own fish farm, smoked trout and other food produced at the farm, accommodation, a picnic area, domestic eggs, apple cider vinegar and apple juice.

**Sights:** a fish farm with trout, a pen with fallow deer, mouflons and peafowl, the Posrtev Valley, and undisturbed and unspoiled nature.



## 76 ŠOBČEVA FARM

INSTITUTE OF THE ŠOBČEVA FARM, KAL 18, 6257 PIVKA

Mobile: +38631 380 372,

✉ info@sobceva-domacija.si

Website: www.sobceva-domacija.si

Visits: by appointment.

The Šobčeva Farm has offered for centuries hospitality to carters and smugglers stopping there on their way from the inland towards the coast and back. The farm used to have a blacksmith shop and a wheeler shop. The oldest and the most precious is the "*spahnjenca*" with a large fireplace, preserved in the original form, covered with thin stone slabs ("*škrle*") where Šobčevi will light a fire and offer you home cooking and the Brkinski Slivovec plum brandy.

**Offer of the farm:** a tour of the farm and serving home cooked food for organised groups, a presentation of the cultural heritage and workshops for preschool children and pupils or adults, organising cultural and business events, organised daily or several day excursions.

**Sights:** the Ravne Mansion, the village well, the Church of St. Bartholomew, climbing on Vremščica and a visit to Šilentabor.



## 77 ŽELEZNIK ORGANIC FARM

JADRAN ŽELEZNIK, ARTVIŽE 5, 6242 MATERIJA

Tel. +3865 687 62 40, Mobile: +38641 388 647

✉ jadran.zeleznik@amis.net

Visits: by appointment

The farm has 100 ha of farming land, fields, meadows, pastures and meadow orchards. The farm is situated 820 m above sea level.

They have around 80 cows used for meat, 16 horses and 6-14 pigs. The animals spend most of the year or even the entire year on pastures. The farm has been under supervision for organic compliance since its very beginning.

**Offer of the farm:** traditional dried meat products from Brkini – prosciutto, bacon, sausages and pork neck – with a number of golden and silver medals received, calves and weanlings for raising or slaughter, old apple varieties, a tasting corner, and more.

**Sights:** the Church of St. Socerb, the Odolina blind karst valley, and a cycling and climbing trail.



## 78 BABUDER TOURIST FARM

KATJA BABUDER AOUN, VELIKE LOČE 3, 6242 MATERIJA

Tel. +3865 687 43 14, +3865 687 40 34

Mobile: +38640 847 617

✉ kababuder@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm offers tourist horse riding and rents horse stables. They also offer accommodation and home-grown food.

**Offer of the farm:** seasonal vegetables, fruit (apples and plums), accommodation, home cooking, dried meat, tourist horse riding, renting horse stables, and participation in activities at the farm.

**Sights:** undisturbed and unspoiled nature, and remains of ice pits.



## 79 TOURIST FARM CHEZ CEPČOVI

ŽELJKO JURIŠEVIČ, GOLAC 4, 6242 OBROV

Tel. +3865,688 80 83

Mobile: +38651 315 120, +38640 364 473

✉ cepcovi@gmail.com

**Visits:** by appointment

The farm has been completely renovated and is now a tourist farm with accommodation whereas it had used to be a well-known pub for over a hundred years. Four contemporary equipped tourist rooms offer eight beds and two extra beds.

**Offer of the farm:** a rich choice of local and seasonal dishes, including minestrone, grandma's gnocchi, various meat and boletuses. The farm can receive up to 50 guests. We also accept orders for groups. Music and entertainment can be arranged by an agreement.

**Sights:** Golac lies in the middle of Čičarija and is therefore an ideal starting point for cycling (bikes can be rented), excursions and walking. The Church of St. Nicholas from 1802, the cemetery Church of St. Kancijan, the village spring (*vrulja*) and the Koritnjak spring are located in or around Golac.





## 80 TOURIST FARM CHEZ FRIŠČEVI

IZTOK RACE, RODIK 40, 6240 KOZINA

Tel. +3865 68 000 38, Mobile: +38651 637 890

✉ friscevi@gmail.com

Website: [www.turizem-race-rodik.si](http://www.turizem-race-rodik.si)

**Visits:** all year-round; Friday-Sunday, by appointment.

The tourist farm is situated in the Rodik village and has been reconstructed in a typical local style. They offer a genuine feel of Brkini and their dishes. The tourist farm has a diner furnished to give a domestic ambient with 34 seats where you can taste authentic dishes from Brkini. They offer three double-bed and two triple-bed rooms with a bathroom. You can relax in a Finnish herbal sauna or rent bicycles to take on the cycling paths in the area.

**Offer of the farm:** dishes from home-grown fruit and vegetables, a diner with 34 seats, accommodation, Finnish herbal sauna and eight bicycles to rent.

**Sights:** the Glinščica River valley, the Socerb Castle, Hrastovlje, cycling and walking paths, Brkini, Karst, Lipica and the Škocjan Caves.



## 81 KAVRE BEEKEEPING

FRANC KAVRE, Jamska ulica 10, 6240 Kozina

Tel. +3865 680 27 70, Mobile: +38631 456 075

✉ vera.kavre@gmail.com

**You can reach us:** our door is always open and honey is readily sold at any time.

A love for bees persuaded the Kavre family to get seriously involved in producing honey and all the good things that can be made out of honey. The rich characteristics of this natural food call for daily consumption of honey and its various combinations with fruit and other goodies in varying, slick packaging. They can also provide business and other gifts.

**Offer of the farm:** sorted honey: flower, acacia, linden, forest, chestnut and sage, honey with spruce buds, dried fruit in honey, honeycombs in honey, propolis etc.

**Sights:** the Glinščica Valley Landscape Park, the Socerb Castle, the Karst edge, the Dimnice Cave, and the trail and cycling path to Slavnik and along the old railway line route to Trieste.



## 82 UKOVIČ BEEKEEPING

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STANISLAV UKOVIČ, MATERIJA 17/B, 6242 MATERIJA

Tel. +3865 6874056

Mobile: +38631 412688, +38641 497190

✉ stane.ukovic@gmail.com

**Visits:** every day by appointment

The Ukovič Beekeeping is situated in the Materija village, on the Kozina-Rijeka regional road. They have stationary beehives and a mobile unit. They produce all sorts of honey and make various goodies from honey. They are holder of the "KRAŠKI MED" (Karst Honey) brand certificate with protected appellation of origin.

The visitors are presented with a variegated offer and may taste all products as well as see beehives. They prepare gift packages for miscellaneous events (birthdays, anniversaries, New Year's presents etc.).

**Offer of the farm:** sorted honey (acacia, flower, linden and chestnut), pollen, Apimix, wax, candles, mead and gift packages for miscellaneous events.

They occasionally sell on fairs.

**Sights:** the trail to Slavnik, caves in the Matarsko Valley (Kramplak and Brinščica) and the Church of St. George near "Tabor".



## 7 SITES OF INTEREST IN AND AROUND BRKINI

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**Šilentabor** had already been inhabited in prehistoric and Roman times and had its golden age at the time of the Turkish incursions. Today, the site fascinates with a wonderful view and the church of St. Martin. The **Sveta Trojica** (*Holy Trinity*) look-out point is situated on the outskirts of the Javorniki Hills, under which the legendary Vrh od Svete Trojice, the home of Martin Krpan, a famous Slovenian folk hero, is said to be located. The Krpan Route takes us across the Pivka surroundings.

The **Military History Park** is a museum and experience venue in the making, situated in the former Italian barracks in Hrastje, Pivka. Learn of the millennia of military and fortification history of the Pivka Basin.



An underground fortification, one of the most fortified points in the Alpine Wall on the former Italian-Yugoslav border is situated on **Sveti Primož above Pivka**.

The **stonecutting tradition** in Kal dates as far as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Monuments, markings, the Pivka crosses, and door and window frames represent the stonecutters' heritage that can still be distinctly seen today.

A recognisable feature of **Ilirska Bistrica** is the old town centre combining housing architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with commercial, business and administrative buildings.

The **Sušec Waterfall** impresses after heavy precipitations. Rising above the waterfall are remains of a fortified post from the late Roman period and of the medieval Gradina Castle.

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The church of St. Helena decorated with the first paintings of Tone Kralj shields the **Prem** village on the one side of the hill and the Prem Castle from the Romanesque period protects it on the other. The castle features an extensive archaeological collection.

The **Dragotin Kette Memorial Room**, a tribute to the Prem-born Slovenian poet, one of the four poets who introduced modernism in Slovenian literature, can be found in the former primary school building.



*Prem Castle*

The **Turn Mansion** is situated near Prem. According to a legend, the mansion is connected to the Prem Castle by an underground tunnel. You can taste excellent cheese and other sheep's milk products at the mansion.

Miroslav Vilhar, a poet and a patriot, lawyer, politician and composer, spent his best years at the **Kalc Castle**. The Kalc Castle entered the history of Slovenia in 1869 when Miroslav Vilhar organised a political mass rally, the "Pivka Tabor in Kalc" demanding "United Slovenia".

The **Reka River**, called Velika voda (locally pronounced vylka voda meaning Large Water in Slovene), rises from a spring in Dleto. The river disappears into the Škocjan Caves to reappear as the Timavo River flowing into the Adriatic Sea.

During the carnival time, girls and children scream as they run on village roads in Brkini being chased by the **Škoromati** who are preserving a rich tradition. The *Škopit* catches the teasing girls or children with his clamps and the *Škoromat* smears them with soot symbolising fertility. The *Škoromati* bring happiness



and joy into the village and the *Škopit* chases away the dark forces of nature with his frightening appearance.

The **Vrbiške šeme** masks from the Vrbica village represent a big family led by the Old Man and the Old Woman. The black characters are the White Knight and the Black Knight, who are the biggest peculiarities among the *Vrbiške šeme*, the *Zeljeni Juri* (Green George), the *Karabačar*, the Fat Man, devils, the Merry Witch, the ritual ploughmen with harnessed donkeys and the Bloke with the Matron in a basket. The White Masks are represented by white couples in colourful embroidered ornaments defended from anyone daring to intrude by two vigilant cops; the carnival characters have a connection with the life and destinies of the local people. A distinctive feature of the carnival in Vrbica is the established course of events over three days.

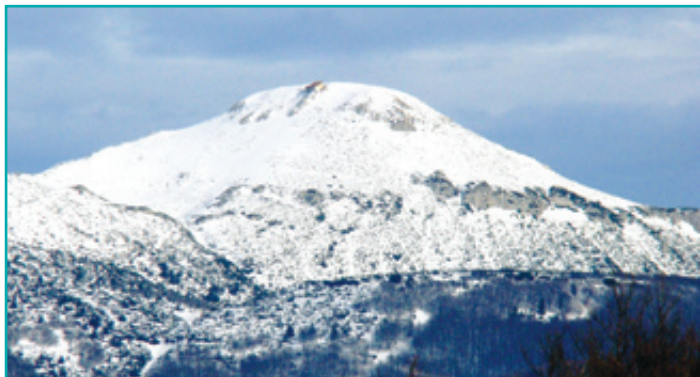
**Milling and sawing** were the leading industries in the Reka River basin. Two estates adjacent to the river offer a chance to take a mental stroll in time and feel the rhythm of life as it used to be.

The **Novak Farm** is famous for its fireplace in the black kitchen. The Novak Mill, which often runs, is a true experience.

The **Žagar Farm** with a renovated saw and mill is situated lower on the Reka River.

**Snežnik** is the highest non-Alpine mountain in Slovenia, forming a distinct barrier overseeing the Kvarner Gulf. The mountain delights us with the magnificent view and the flowers.

The **Sviščaki** tourist resort in the heartland of the Snežnik forest is a good starting point for climbing Snežnik or taking a trip into the vast Snežnik forest. A small ski slope in Sviščaki invites us downhill in the winter.





The **Mašun** Forest Outpost lies in the Snežnik forest, in a saddle forming a natural passage from the Pivka Plateau to the Lož Valley. The remains of two Romantic-style small towers, all that is left of the former hunting mansion, can be found in the middle of the forest.

The **Glinščica River** springs above the village Klanec pri Kozi-  
ni. The river's valley is a treasure trove of natural and cultural attractions, ideal for walking, biking and hiking.

Where the short streams of the south part of Brkini sink under the Karst surface a web of numerous blind valleys has been created with the



**Brezovica blind valley** deemed the biggest in Slovenia.

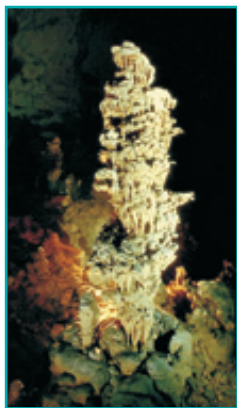
The **Dimnice Cave** or the "Devil's Meat-Smoking Room" is one of the most interesting caves in Slovenia. The cave's rich interior includes the Entry Hall with stalagmites, ice stalactites, the *Marmitna* Hall with cave animals, the End Hall with cave bats etc.

The **Škocjan Caves** are a system of water caves created by the Reka River. Their uniqueness had them listed on the UNESCO's list of natural and cultural world heritage in 1986. Right above the caves, in the Jurjev Barn and J'kopin Barn, the history of the Škocjan Caves exploration and grain production in the old days is shown.

The **Divača Cave** is 700 m long and has more than 1,500 m of paths. Visiting the cave means descending 76 m into the subterranean world.

**Vremščica** is a ridge stretching from Divača to Pivka between the Postojna Valley and the Reka Valley. The visitors are enchanted foremost by rare meadow flowers and excellent sheep cheese.

The **Škratelj's House** in Divača is the oldest preserved Karst homestead and a remarkable monument to rural architecture. The first Slovenian movie star Ida Kravanja (artistic name Ita Rina) was born there on 7 July 1907.



*Stalagmite Orjak*



## 8 TRIPS ON THE BRKINI FRUIT ROAD

### MEANDERING ALONG THE LARGE WATER (one-day trip)

First, we'll have a real Brkini breakfast at one of the cheese farms and then we'll venture into the kingdom of the "Large Water" viewing the locations of mills and sawmills and an ethnological collection at one of the old farms. After



having a genuine Brkini brunch at a tourist farm, we'll have enough strength to take a walk around a typical Brkini village. We'll meet the pleasant day's end at one of the fruit farms.

#### **Trip highlights:**

BRKINI BREAKFAST – LOCATIONS OF MILLS AND SAWMILLS  
– AN OLD FARM ON THE LARGE WATER – THE PREM VILLAGE  
– TASTING OF BRKINI FRUIT DELIGHTS and other dishes

### SIGHTS AND TASTES OF THE BRKINI FRUIT ROAD

(one-day trip)

Long-time neglected and falling behind in development, Brkini are relatively unknown and thus a true jewel for tourists. Distinctive small villages are placed on top of Brkini slopes, and medieval forts and interesting old churches have been preserved in places. The area is best known for its apples, the





Brkinski Slivovec (plum brandy) and homemade cheese and dried meat. We will taste all Brkini flavours and see why Brkini are called a "green oasis" in the middle of Karst.

### **Trip highlights:**

THE PREM VILLAGE – ORGANIC CHEESE FARM – ARTVIŽE (a walk to the highest point of Brkini) with TASTING OF THE BRKINSKI SLIVOVEC BRANDY – TASTING OF BRKINI FRUIT DELIGHTS and other dishes

### **TRAVELLING THROUGH KARST TO THE BRKINI FRUIT ROAD** (one-day trip)

The mysterious Karst and the subterranean caves hide the biggest beauty created by water in millions of years. The Dimnice Cave (the "Devil's Meat-Smoking Room" cave) lies on the border between Karst and Brkini. The cave will win us over with its subterranean beauty.

The trip will continue on a beautiful ridge road offering a breathtaking view of the nearby villages. The versatile tasting of Brkini will be pleasantly rounded by a walk around a typical Brkini village and tasting of the Brkini cuisine and homemade Brkini dishes.



### **Trip highlights:**

THE SLIVJE VILLAGE – THE DIMNICE CAVE (THE "DEVIL'S MEAT-SMOKING ROOM" CAVE) – A DRIVE ON THE BRKINI RIDGE ROAD – THE PREM VILLAGE – TASTING OF BRKINI FRUIT DELIGHTS and other dishes

CONTACT:

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## PARTNERS IN THE “BRKINI FRUIT ROAD PROMOTION” PROJECT.



Brkini Fruit Growers Society



**Društvo  
za razvoj podeželja  
med Snežnikom  
in Nanosom**

Society for rural development of the land  
between Snežnik and Nanos



Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia  
Nova Gorica Institute of Agriculture and Forestry

**LAS  
Krasa in  
Brkinov**

Karst and Brkini  
Local Action Group

**Kulturno turistično društvo  
Škant Tatre**

Škant Tatre Cultural & Tourist Society



**O B Č I N A  
DIVAČA**  
Municipality of Divača

**O B Č I N A  
HRPELJE-KOZINA**



Municipality of  
Hrpelje-Kozina



Municipality of  
Ilirska Bistrica

**OBČINA PIVKA**



Municipality of  
Pivka

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## BRKINI FRUIT ROAD

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