

ADVANTAGE

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EMBRAER QUARTERLY
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Cruising Croatia's Coast

A Mediterranean journey with tailored experiences throughout

A Personalized Touch

How Embraer brings a personal touch to cabin interiors

Moving Mountains

An interview with Finnish explorer Patrick Degerman

CRUISING CROATIA'S COAST

Sail the shimmering waters of the Adriatic to discover a daydream of Dalmatian isles, UNESCO heritage sites and sybaritic Mediterranean pleasures

There's much to be said for the diversity of Croatia's natural beauty, ancient history and hospitable locals. To get a satisfying feel for each, it's best to do so by private yacht—preferably Satori, a 136-foot custom schooner owned by luxury hoteliers Jeanette and Claus Thottrup. Call on locally based travel designer Secret Dalmatia to chart your course through thousands of sun-bleached islets that fleck the dramatic coastline, as well as mainland sights that reveal the country's multilayered culture.

Hollywood catapulted Croatia into the global spotlight when its ancient citadels were given starring roles in the blockbuster series “Game of Thrones.” Fans may recall the Roman architecture of Diocletian's Palace, a third-century UNESCO-listed monument in the city of Split, from various scenes of the fictional city-state of Meereen. It's a must-visit landmark where daily life unfolds along its narrow limestone streets and courtyards.

“For a unique experience in this part of Croatia, we take guests on a truffle hunt with an expert guide and Lagotto Romagnolo dogs,” said Alan Mandić, Founder of Secret Dalmatia. “We always spice up our trips with something unexpected based on the interests of each guest—that's our specialty.” After sampling exquisite homemade truffle cheese and truffle-spiked rakija (a popular fruit brandy), guests are chauffeured to the harborside to board Satori.



WORDS Nora Walsh, IMAGE © Nikola Radovani

Best explored on a sailing yacht, Hvar Island is a place where ancient history meets unspoiled nature

Relaxation comes easy on the sparkling vessel that revives a bygone era of sailing. Space and privacy have been carefully built into the glossy mahogany and walnut-clad design, while flawless service comes from a highly-trained crew, seasoned concierges and Michelin-starred chefs. (Through October, guests can book an onboard gourmet experience created and hosted by top Chef Massimo Bottura and his team). If you plan to sail with a masseuse, one of the five bedrooms can be converted into a spa. To get your heart pumping, the ship comes equipped with a host of high-tech toys including jet skis, kayaks and e-bikes.

Enjoy the salty breeze on your face as you set sail for Šolta—the strikingly beautiful “island of olives.” Visit sleepy fishing villages and stock up on some of Croatia’s finest olive oil and local honey before heading to Hvar Island. The storybook bay of Hvar Town is strewn with gleaming yachts, turquoise seas and terracotta rooftops crowned with a 16th-century hilltop castle. Upscale restaurants and boutiques dotting the cobblestone streets mirror the sophistication of the sunny isle’s sun-kissed clientele. Further inland, the landscape is draped with lavender fields and vineyards. Tap Secret Dalmatia to arrange private tours to a Benedictine convent where nuns still produce lace from agave plants (a nice souvenir), the Tvrđalj Castle in UNESCO-protected Stari Grad (Croatia’s oldest town), and a boutique winery in Jelsa that honors the island’s 2,400-year-old tradition of viticulture. Check into the newly opened Maslina Resort, which is setting the bar for mindful luxury in the region. Nestled among sea-facing pines, olive groves and vineyards, the property cashes in on its promise of serenity with a botanical-driven spa and hyper-local restaurant.



Above: Until October 2022, the Satori sailing yacht offers a bespoke dining experience from renowned three-Michelin-starred Chef Massimo Bottura

Left: On Hvar Island, remote villages and ancient customs are a precious testament to the Mediterranean ancestry and lifestyle



EMBRAER TIP

With its generous cabin space and revolutionary interior, the Phenom 300E offers plenty of head and legroom—providing comfort for your travel to Croatia.



Above: The newly opened Maslina Resort juses classic Mediterranean styles with contemporary French touches, respecting the nature already in place

Below (top): Restored from its 15th-century incarnations, Lopud 1483 is available to rent exclusively for private stays and events

Below (bottom): 13 of Lopud 1483’s original cells have been elegantly transformed into five private suites, each with views over the ocean



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Across the Hvar Straight lies the Pakleni archipelago, where you can join the jet set letting loose at Carpe Diem Beach or drop anchor in a secluded cove to snorkel and explore islands lush with Mediterranean flora. Another day, hop in Satori’s jet tender to visit Biševo Island’s electric blue grotto that’s only accessible by boat, then make your way to the scenic isle of Vis to imbibe its native grape Vugava over a leisurely lunch of slow-cooked octopus at a rustic family eatery. Travel back in time on the island of Korčula, the birthplace of legendary explorer Marco Polo, by wandering its Venetian architecture and catching a traditional Moreška Sword Dance. Mljet, home to a forest-shrouded national park, is a prime spot for freediving. Secret Dalmatia pairs clients with world champion free diver Lidija Lijić for beginner’s lessons and underwater adventures.

To add an air of aristocratic refinement to your holiday, head to Lopud Island, a historic summer retreat for Dubrovnik nobility. Rent the five-room Lopud 1483 property, a 15th-century Franciscan monastery sensitively restored over two decades by art collector Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza. It’s a quiet sanctuary where the legacy of contemplation continues in the Renaissance garden, on the fortress rooftop and in vaulted spaces adorned with classic and contemporary art.

On the mainland, Dubrovnik (which “Game of Thrones” buffs will recognize as King’s Landing) bejewels the Adriatic with its imposing baroque buildings, lofty stone walls and UNESCO-protected grandeur. Get lost in a cluster of cobble alleyways and walk the ancient city walls for stunning town and sea views. For an authentic Dalmatian lunch, Secret Dalmatia will usher you to the home of Chef Katija Guljelmović where you’ll savor all the pleasures that Croatia affords: fresh food, good wine, drop-dead views, and locals who become fast friends. ←

To start planning your next trip to Croatia, visit: secretdalmatia.com