

January 17, 2007

Dear Reader,

With this newsletter you will certainly **gain knowledge** to **impress your clients, colleagues and friends**. Here are interesting facts and news you may, or may not know:

> **Slovenia welcomed the Euro**

Tens of thousands flocked to the streets and squares of major cities and towns across Slovenia on New Year's eve as traditional outdoor celebrations were held to greet 2007. The festivities were given an extra dimension this year as Slovenians also welcomed the EURO.

Downtown Ljubljana was packed on Sunday evening as all of the capital's major squares offered scores of performances by popular musicians, who made sure that all generations and musical tastes were seen to. Accompanying the traditional Ljubljana fireworks were several **thousands of yellow and blue balloons**, which shot to the starlit sky at midnight to mark **Slovenia's adoption of the Euro**. The occasion, supported by warm weather, also filled up the streets of Maribor and its central "New Year's countdown" venue, the Glavni trg square. The old Maribor bridge provided the launching platform for the fireworks in Slovenia's second largest city.



> **The Czech Republic declared 'Undiscovered Golf Destination of 2006'**

November 23, 2006, saw the **Czech Republic declared 'Undiscovered Golf Destination of the Year'** at the 7th IAGTO Awards held during the International Golf Travel Market in Marbella, Spain. This success was achieved on the back of last year's nomination for the award and on the occasion of only the county's second time at this trade fair, a feat no other country has ever achieved.



> **What to do on January 27?**

In **Salzburg**, on January 27, Mozart's birthday, it is appropriate to visit the **Mozart grave at the St Sebastian Cemetery**, snug in the colonnaded gardens of the St Sebastian church on the southern side of the Salzach. No Wolfgang, of course, who was notoriously buried in a pauper's grave in **Vienna's St Marx Cemetery**, but plenty of other Mozarts. In what can be described as a more elegant, restrained version of a mass grave are at least seven family members, including the composer's father Leopold, maternal grandmother Euphrosenia, niece Jeannete, his widow, Constanze, and her second husband and two of her sisters.



> Croatia has
a new hotel:
Le Meridien
Split

Starwood Hotels and Resorts has opened a new hotel, the **Le Méridien Lav, in Split**, Croatia in December. The water front property is located 8 kilometers south of Split and features 382-guest rooms and suites and **the largest conferencing and banqueting facilities on the Adriatic Sea**. A total of 2,900 sm (31,216 sf) of event space with seven meeting rooms, a ballroom and outdoor event space is available. A business centre, complete with Wi-Fi Internet access and simultaneous translation is also on site. For dining and relaxing, eight restaurants and bars in the hotel and on the Marina Promenade offer a wide variety of cuisine and entertainment.

Recreation facilities include a Tennis Academy, with four championship courts; a Water Sports Centre, which will offer scuba diving, waterskiing, and sailing; rock climbing, abseiling, archery and more. The spa and wellness centre includes a pool, saunas, steam baths, Tepidarium, Laconium, Caldarium, whirlpools, nail and pedicure studios, solarium, meditation room, relaxation zone, five specialist treatment rooms, a gym, as well as a doctor's office. The hotel's **casino** features 140 slot machines, eight gaming tables, Salon Privé, and a sports bar. The adjoining nightclub offers live international entertainment. The Marina Promenade has shops, restaurants, bars, and cafés and the Yacht Marina is home to 60 yachts.



I am looking forward to hearing from you with feedback or group requests in the near future.

Kind regards,

Birgit Kraus

