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IČIČI - Insights Into the Past

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Ičići is a small coastal town located at the foot of Mount Učka. Once a fishing harbour, it is today an ideal choice for both relaxing and active holidaying.

You can start your day with morning coffee on the terrace of your apartment or in one of the cafés on Ičići Beach. With the silence interrupted only by the occasional sound of seagulls, let the blue sea and sky and the occasional passer-by keep you company.

Use the afternoon to sunbathe on the beach or rent a SUP, pedalo or motor boat to explore Kvarner Bay and nearby islands.

For an evening meal, pop over to the bistro in the harbour with its unique 'ceiling with a thousand colourful shells', where you can enjoy local fish specialities.



On weekends, your stay will become even more interesting if you visit some of the traditional sporting, dancing and boating events held along the beach.

You can also take a walk with us through the hidden history of this charming coastal town.

There are not many records from the distant past of Ičići.

It is assumed that its name could be a derivative of that of the neighbouring settlement of Ika.

According to some sources, the word 'ika' was the old Croatian term for submarine karst springs, which are quite common in the sea here. 'Ičići' would be a diminutive form of this word and could be the clue to this place name's derivation.



The First and Second World Wars brought difficult times for the inhabitants of Ičići.

Tourism began to recover only after the Second World War, when Ičići was part of Yugoslavia.

The attractiveness of this area is also shown by the fact that during the 1980s Ičići was included in tourist tours on the so-called k.u.k. Riviera (this abbreviation from the Austro-Hungarian period referred to anything belonging to the monarchy), where guides and guests gladly paused on their way to Istria.

In 1991, Yugoslavia collapsed and Ičići became part of the independent Republic of Croatia.

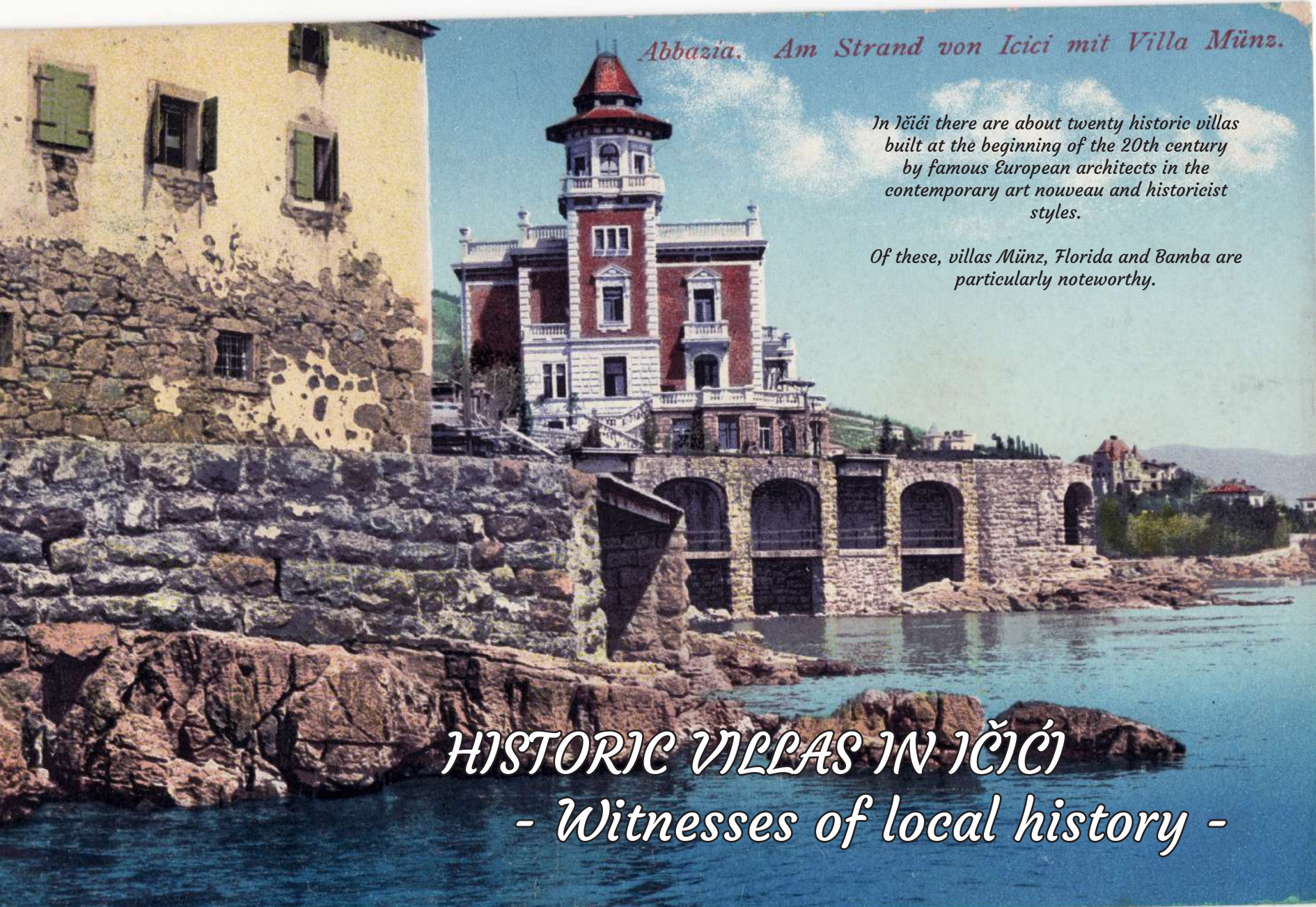


Over the course of history, Ičići has seen many rulers come and go. The greatest mark was left by the Habsburgs, who arrived in the 14th century. Ičići then became an important harbour serving Veprinac, a nearby hilltop town.

Back then, valuable cargo, such as wood, coal, lime, oil and wine, was transported by ships.

Ičići remained under the Habsburgs until 1918.





Abbazia. Am Strand von Ičić mit Villa Münz.

In Ičići there are about twenty historic villas built at the beginning of the 20th century by famous European architects in the contemporary art nouveau and historicist styles.

Of these, villas Münz, Florida and Bamba are particularly noteworthy.

*HISTORIC VILLAS IN IČIČI
- Witnesses of local history -*



VILLA EMMA - VILLA MÜNZ

One of the most significant and attractive villas on the Opatija Riviera is the one built by Jakob Ludwig Münz, the owner of a quarry in South Tyrol, who named the villa after his wife.

The tower on the villa is similar to that of the cathedral in Ulm, his native city.

In 1948, the villa was nationalised, for which the owners received 12 wagons of oranges as compensation.

It is interesting that during World War Two Italian soldiers, for the needs of the war industry, tore down almost all the fences from local buildings, except for the fence of Villa Münz. It is believed that the reason for this is the Swiss roots of the Münz family.



VILLA BAMBA

The construction of this villa (known today as Bamba) was ordered by Pavao Tomašić in 1910. The designer was the famous Austrian architect Carl Seidl.

The villa had 8 large and 6 smaller rooms and 16 side rooms, a basement with a washing and drying room and rooms for servants, as well as a tunnel leading to the sea.

The villa was already at that time rented out to guests.

In its spacious lobby still stands the concert piano on which composer and conductor Boris Papandopulo and pianist and music teacher Melita Lorković played.

During World War Two, the villa housed a German command and a prison.

In 1964 it was bought by Mate Urvilo, who renamed it Bamba: a name that would be audible and understandable to everyone, especially foreign guests.



VILLA FLORIDA

Villa Florida was built more than 100 years ago. It is located right next to the Lungomare coastal promenade.

It was renovated in 2007, retaining its centuries-old splendour that combines the past and the present.



VILLA ROSA

A beautiful historical villa, located in the grounds of the former lung hospital.

According to tradition, this is the oldest villa in the area, constructed between 1836 and 1840; this would make it older than Opatija's Villa Angiolina, though it has still not been confirmed.

It is assumed to have been built by Captain Andrejčić; later it was bought by the Austrian Southern Railways Society (k.k. privilegierte Südbahn-Gesellschaft), Austria-Hungary's largest private railway company, based in Vienna.

The park that surrounded the villa was one of the most beautiful parks on the Opatija Riviera.

VILLA MÜNZ

The villa has been preserved to this day and is scheduled to become part of a new hotel complex.

SANATORIUM

VILLA ROSA

1ČIĆI THROUGH TIME

- 1 The old oil mill (located next to Villa Vlašić)
- 2 The lung hospital
- 3 Villa Triestina
- 4 Villa Tomašić (Bamba)



Jardin „Tivoli“ Abbazia. Aufgang vom Bootshafen.
Besitzer: G. E. Barth

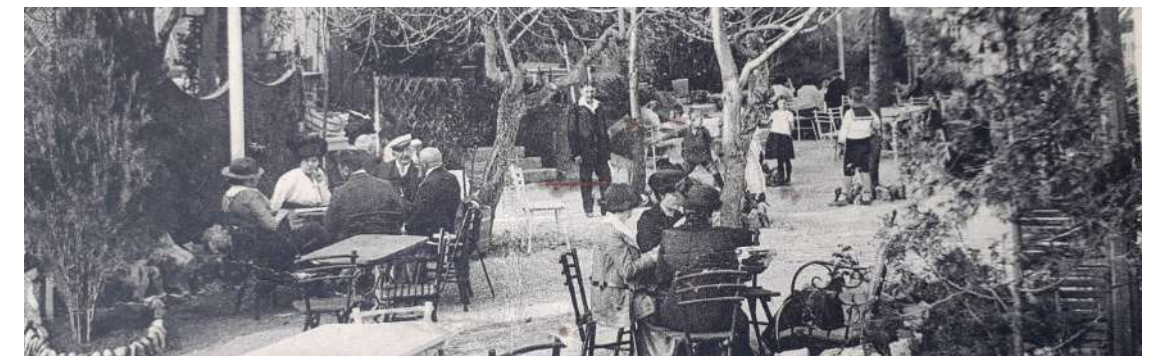


JARDIN TIVOLI - PARK TIVOLI

We can consider the Jardin or the Tivoli Park as the beginning of the hospitality industry in Tëçë. It housed a Viennese coffee house and restaurant owned by G. E. Barth.

It was a time when it was important to see and be seen. Ladies and gentlemen used to walk, hand in hand, along the Lungomare promenade, stopping for refreshments in the shade of the trees in the beautiful Tivoli garden.

It was a popular place for family outings, where people would meet with their neighbours and friends.



VILLA BARTH

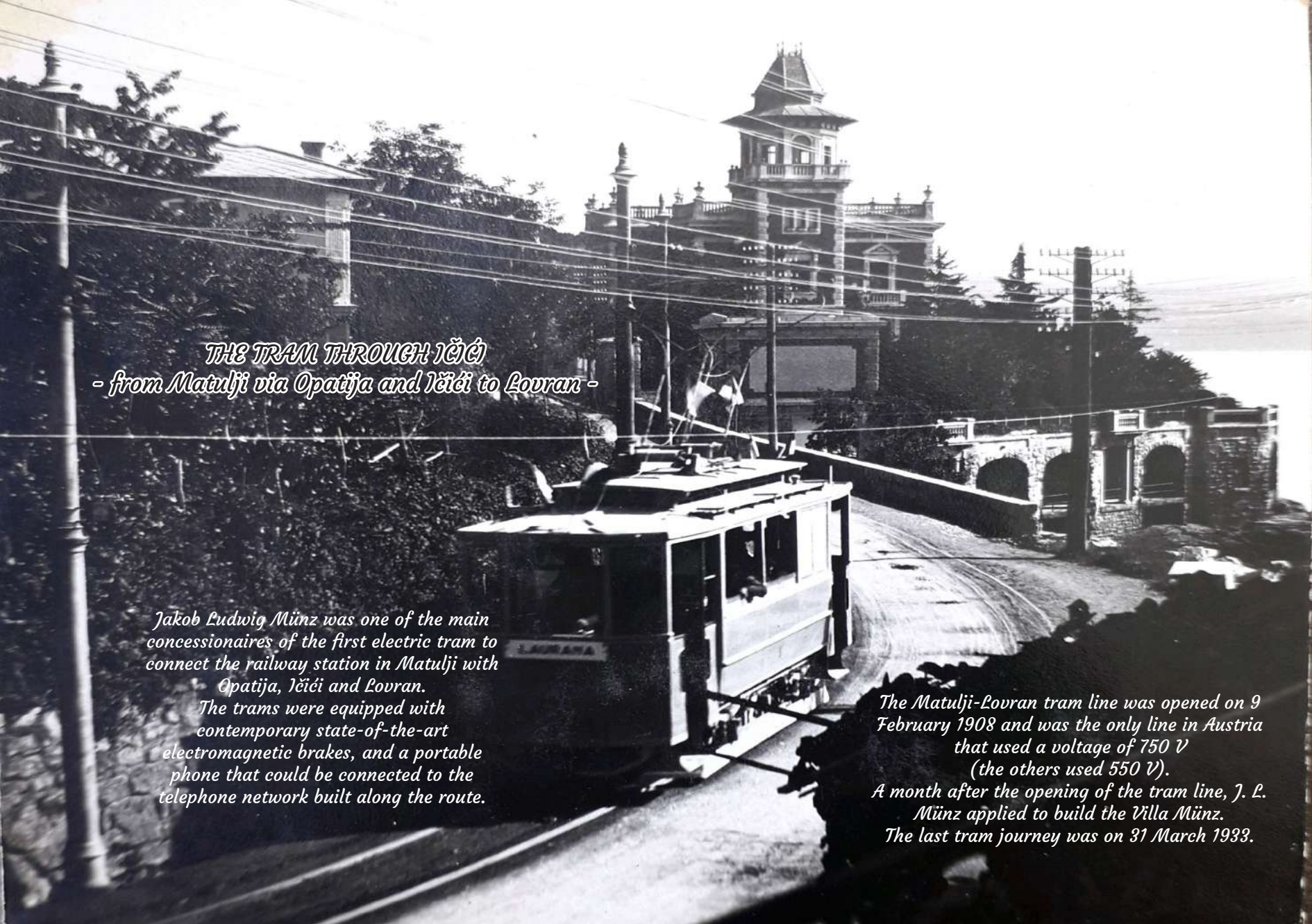
Villa Barth (Tivoli Guesthouse) is located in the historic centre of Ičići. The first historical records concerning the villa date back to 1905.

In 1910, the villa was converted into the Hotel Tivoli.

At that time, the owner of the villa, the hotel-guesthouse and the bar in Jardin Tivoli was the Mr G. E. Barth mentioned above.

After World War Two, the villa was converted into a residential building.





*THE TRAM THROUGH IČIĆI
- from Matulji via Opatija and Ičići to Lovran -*

Jakob Ludwig Münz was one of the main concessionaires of the first electric tram to connect the railway station in Matulji with Opatija, Ičići and Lovran. The trams were equipped with contemporary state-of-the-art electromagnetic brakes, and a portable phone that could be connected to the telephone network built along the route.

The Matulji-Lovran tram line was opened on 9 February 1908 and was the only line in Austria that used a voltage of 750 V (the others used 550 V). A month after the opening of the tram line, J. L. Münz applied to build the Villa Münz. The last tram journey was on 31 March 1933.



VILLA VLAŠIĆ

The construction of the first building on the site of today's Villa Vlašić was started by Marija Vlašić, née Andrečić. With the help of her husband, Josip Vlašić, the works were completed in 1894.

In the building there was also a shop and a tobacconist, where the workers who constructed the Villa Münz would buy supplies.

In 1912 the Villa Vlašić received its first guests, who enjoyed the beach next to the house and the scent of laurel, which grew abundantly in Ičići at that time. Laurel was a highly valued and sought-after spice in Europe, so the Vlašić family picked it and sent it to Vienna by train to its customers.



The lung hospital

Although the Clinical Hospital for Lung Diseases and Lung Tuberculosis in Ičići no longer exists, the building having recently been demolished, it is necessary to mention it in the history of Ičići.

According to the accounts of local people, it was built as an Italian military hospital. Some other sources report that from 1903 it was a holiday home for employees of the Hungarian Railways.

It should be mentioned that in this hospital the physicians Slobodan Marin and Cvjetko Ostoić introduced spirometry, one of the most important types of pulmonary function test, to the Rijeka area.

Dr Marin also introduced bronchoscopy, a method he learned while working in New York.

At the end of the 1980s, the hospital closed down.

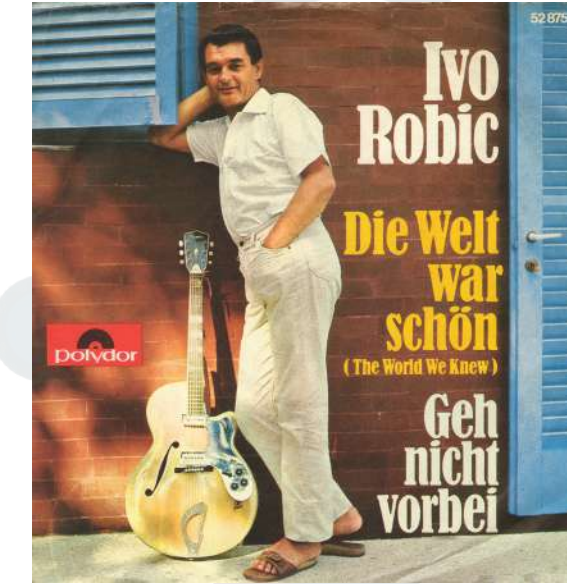
Today, the construction of a new hotel complex has begun on the site of the hospital, which will change the image of Ičići.



MR. MORGEN - IVO ROBIĆ

„Morgen, tomorrow,
together again.

Morgen, tomorrow,
we will be happy
you and I...“



Who has not heard the famous words of Ivo Robić's song, which marked his life and earned him his widely known nickname 'Mr Morgen'?

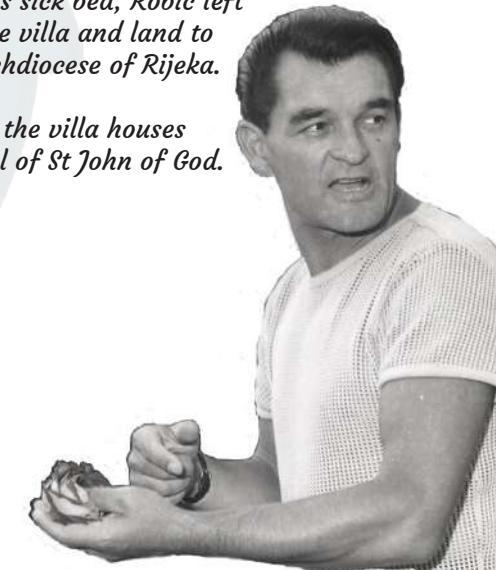
His summer performances on the terrace of the Kvarner Hotel in Opatija (from the 1950s to the 1980s) were particularly famous.

In the 1960s, Robić and his wife built a summer house in Ičići on a plot by the sea. The house, recognisable by its blue shutters, also became known as a motif on the cover of his single 'Long Hot Summer'.

It was built in the style of Californian and LA Case Study houses.

Three days before his death in 2000, on his sick bed, Robić left the villa and land to the Archdiocese of Rijeka.

Today, the villa houses the Chapel of St John of God.



THE KLARA STREAM

Until the second half of the 19th century, the location of the present-day Mali Raj guesthouse was called Klarino, after the coastal spring dedicated to Saint Clare.

The history of the Liburnia water supply system dates back to this small stream that carries water from the steep slopes of Mount Učka. To this day, the Klara stream remains the only source of the Opatija coastal basin to have been included in the water supply system.

If you walk by the Hotel Ičići to the Mali Raj guesthouse, you will come across an interpretation board with information about this stream, which can be seen in the autumn or early spring as a torrent flowing into the sea but usually dries up in the summer.



ZVANE ČRNJA

This prominent Croatian poet, essayist and journalist was born in the Istrian village of Črnjeni in 1920 and died in Zagreb in 1991. At the age of eleven, due to political circumstances, he fled with his family to Rijeka. In his autobiographical memoirs, he described his first impression of Ičići: "We were rushing along the main road towards Rijeka. Below Veprišac, we turned onto the road that leads to Ičići via Poljane. Suddenly I noticed that we were descending towards a sea of lights. My heart skipped a beat, because I had never seen so much light before. It seemed to me that we were running away from the darkness towards a land of glittering lights."

Zvane Črnja was the founder of the Čakavski Sabor Association, and its secretary until 1977. He had a house in Ičići, where he often met Miroslav Krleža, a famous Croatian writer he greatly appreciated.

Since 2007, Croatia's award for the best book of essays has been named after him.





THE SEA GOAT

The icon on the coat of arms of Ičići is a sea goat. What is a sea goat? A combination of a goat and a fish holding a gold-coloured trident.

The coat of arms is displayed on a heart-shaped blue shield symbolising the sea. The colour blue, fish and trident are symbols of the centuries-old connection of the people of Ičići to the sea and fishing.

The goat is also an important historical element. About a hundred years ago, it was the most important animal to the people of Kozji Breg (part of Ičići), as it could sustain entire families.

The coat of arms celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2023.

ACI Marina Opatija - Ičići

The foundation of modern tourism in Ičići is the ACI Marina Opatija, opened in 1990. A distinctive feature of this ACI marina is its position close to Opatija and the city of Rijeka, while at the same time it offers the peace and security of a small coastal town. The beautiful slopes of Mount Učka, the picturesque green coast, hidden coves with beaches, and the proximity of the Kvarner islands and the area's quiet corners make this marina an attractive choice for yachts up to 40 m. Thanks to the mild climate and excellent maritime conditions, it is ideal for sailing enthusiasts.

The marina has for many years had the prestigious Blue Flag award for environmentally friendly and sustainable practices.





lčići anchors

On arrival in lčići, the first thing that catches the eye are the anchors on the beach: you may wonder how and when they got there. Some say that they were thrown here by sailors a long time ago.

But the truth is that the anchors were placed on the beach in 1997.

The anchors were the idea of Captain Igor Žiganto. With the help of his fellow residents and friends, he placed an admiralty anchor, and two others used on merchant ships, on lčići Beach.

A fourth, 'hidden' anchor, is located in the sea to secure the chains for boats moored in the small harbour of lčići.

Over time, the anchors have become a symbol of lčići.



lčić HARBOUR

The instigator of the construction of the Lučica small harbour of lčići was Captain Igor Žiganto. In the 1980s, people would work here every weekend to build it.

The entire structure was built with the help of the local population. Those who could not labour contributed in any other way. This was not just work, but also a great opportunity to socialise and have a good time.

Part of the harbour was built by the local population, and part was later upgraded by the Port Authority.

In 2000, lčići Tourist Board contributed to the appearance of the harbour by planting oleanders, which are still there today.





Legend:

- 1 Villa Münz (Villa Emma)
- 2 Villa Bamba
- 3 Villa Florida
- 4 Villa Rosa
- 5 Park Tivoli
- 6 Villa Barth
- 7 Villa Vlašić
- 8 The lung hospital
- 9 Robić family summer house - Chapel of St John of God
- 10 Klara stream
- 11 Zvane Črnja
- 12 Sea goat
- 13 ACI Marina Opatija
- 14 Ičići anchors (interpretation board)
- 15 Ičići harbour



There are still untold stories that this small coastal town conceals among its streets, historic villas and ancient paths. We hope that this booklet will be just the start in discovering the history of Ičići.

Ičići Tourist Board would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the creation of this booklet with their involvement and stories from local history:

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KVARNER



IČIČI

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GREETINGS FROM IČÍČÍ!

