



Sokol of Nin

Irresistibly tasty delicacy



Sokol of Nin

Sokol of Nin is a unique gastronomic product of the Sunmistakable aroma that has long been produced in the royal town of Nin and the surrounding region (Nin, Grbe, Ninski Stanovi, Privlaka, Vrsi, Vir, Zaton, Žerava, Poljica, Poljica Brig, Petrčane, etc.) Sokol is a dried-cured meat product of recognizable taste made of high-quality pork meat, salt from Nin and various spices. First, the pork neck is put in sea salt for several days, then placed into boiled red wine and then seasoned with different spices. Afterward, it's smoked and dried. Each family has their secret recipe which is passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. In 2003, the Tourist Board recognized the need to launch events and a competition to see who makes the best Sokol to preserve the traditional production of this original product of Nin and to entertain tourists. Thanks to the Sokol Fest, Sokol has become a gastronomic brand of the Zadar region and is recognized as a valuable delicacy in Croatia.



The Sokol Fest is a unique event in Croatia, and its highest value is the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, the skill of making this unique autochthonous gastronomic product. Launched in 2003 with the aim of preserving this tradition, it has developed into one of the strongest gastro-ethnic-fair events in the Zadar region. It's listed among the 100 most significant manifestations of Croatia. The organizer of the event is the Tourist Board of the City of Nin. Sokol Fest is a unique show with lots of activities. It begins with a distribution of meat in January and ends in July when the best Sokol makers are selected. During this gastronomic event tasting of Sokol is organized for the public. The Sokol Fest brings together many enthusiasts in gastronomy and all those who care about preserving the tradition and sustainable development of tourism in Nin. The event requires many days and months of preparation from January to the end of July. In the beginning, it was local event (2003-2005), then regional (2006-2010), and after that it spread to national and international level attracting participation of eco producers and folklore groups in the country and abroad. Tourist workers encourage locals, promote Sokol, buy fresh meat in the beginning of the year and hand it out to competitors who use family recipes to produce Sokol.



Achieved development goals of the Sokol Fest

The development of a special gastronomic event, the preservation of the Sokol production, the promotion of a unique autochthonous product from Nin and its surroundings, the promotion of Sokol in restaurants around Nin, increased family production and intriguing young people of Nin to make Sokol, branding of Sokol in Croatia, triggering tourist demand, cooperation with associations and family businesses in the local region and continental Croatia, the increasing number of visitors to the Sokol Fest and the recognition of this event at the local and national level. Numerous patronages have been realized over the years: the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Tourism and Zadar County. The event has been supported for years by the Croatian National Tourist Board and Tourist Association of Zadar County, Salt Pans of Nin and other donors and sponsors from the business world of Nin and Zadar. The Croatian Radio Television recorded an extraordinary heritage value in the documentary “Šokol i šokolari ninski” (2013), about the famous delicacy and preserved Sokol making skills as part of a traditional culture based on the Sokol Fest of Nin.





This event promotes the tradition among young people eager to learn production in Nin's region and creates many other positive effects. This festival has preserved the delicacy from being forgotten and represents the place where Sokol producers challenge their skills and winning the title of the best producer is a matter of prestige. With direct promotion and numerous activities of the Tourist Board of Nin in cooperation with the local population and thanks to the media advertising, the Sokol of Nin has become a brand of unique gastronomic delicacies of Nin and Zadar region, and as such is included in the gastronomic map of Croatia. Due to its specific features, the Sokol Fest has attracted a lot of interest from the public, primarily the media. Over the years many media stations have sponsored the event. The project is vital for the overall Croatian tourism and its promotion, because this specific gastronomic product is a motivating factor that attracts potential tourists and lovers of gastronomic pleasures to come to Nin as well as to Croatia.

It is noted that many tourists plan their holidays around the date of the festival. Many travel agencies, even from far Australia and England, organize gastronomic tours that include tasting of Sokol in Nin.



Sokol Fest

In 2017 the initiative of young Sokol makers from Nin founded the Association of “Sokolari” - Association for the Protection of Indigenous Gastronomic Products of the Nin region. The activities of this association are focused on economy, culture, science and research, sustainable development, gathering and organization of members, family and producers of Sokol, pig breeders for the meat and others that promote the production, sell and advertise these products, as well as the preservation of the traditions and customs associated with this unparalleled gastronomic product.

Within the activities of this Association, promotional activities are used to increase the recognition of Sokol and to improve its image on the domestic and foreign markets, as well as to inform consumers, organize traditional mores, festivals, fairs and cultural events related to this unbelievably tasty product. In addition, the association deals with protection of other autochthonous products in the Nin region.



Awards for the “Sokol Fest” and the product Sokol of Nin

1. Golden award “Simply the best” to the Tourist Board of Nin for “Šokolijada” (Šokol festival), for preserving the tradition of preparing Nin’s “Šokol” (dried pork neck delicacy) and creative development of gastronomic tourist offer – Association of Croatian Travel Agencies and “Way to Croatia” magazine, 19th November 2014.
2. Silver plaque in the category traditional rural gastronomy – “Šokol” from Nin – “Sunflower of rural tourism of Croatia” award, Association ”Klub članova selo” and “HF Eko Etno Grupa”, Zagreb, 2th October 2014.
3. Bronze Charter Sunflower of the Rural Tourism of Croatia – “Sunflower of rural tourism of Croatia” – for the project Ninska šokolijada – Hrvatski farmer d.d. Zagreb, 22th February 2011.





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Publisher: Association "Sokolari" & Tourist Board Nin • Text: M. Dejanović
Photo: B. Božić, D. Brlek, K. Čvriljević, M. Dejanović, A. Glavan, V. Jakupović, T. Proroković,
M. Stulić • Illustrations: E. Proroković, I. Pavlović, N. Pavlović • Design: Hoba Zadar • Print: Zrinski Čakovec, 2018.