



Hercegovina



# Ruralna Hercegovina

Rural Herzegovina





## Ostajte ovdje

Aleksa Šantić

Ostajte ovdje!...Sunce tuđeg neba,  
Neće vas grijat kô što ovo grije;  
Grki su tamo zalogaji hljeba  
Gdje svoga nema i gdje brata nije.

Od svoje majke ko će naći bolju?!  
A majka vaša zemlja vam je ova;  
Bacite pogled po kršu i polju,  
Svuda su groblja vaših pradjedova.

Za ovu zemlju oni bjehu divi,  
Uzori svijetli, što je branit znaše,  
U ovoj zemlji ostanite i vi,  
I za nju dajte vrelo krvi vaše.

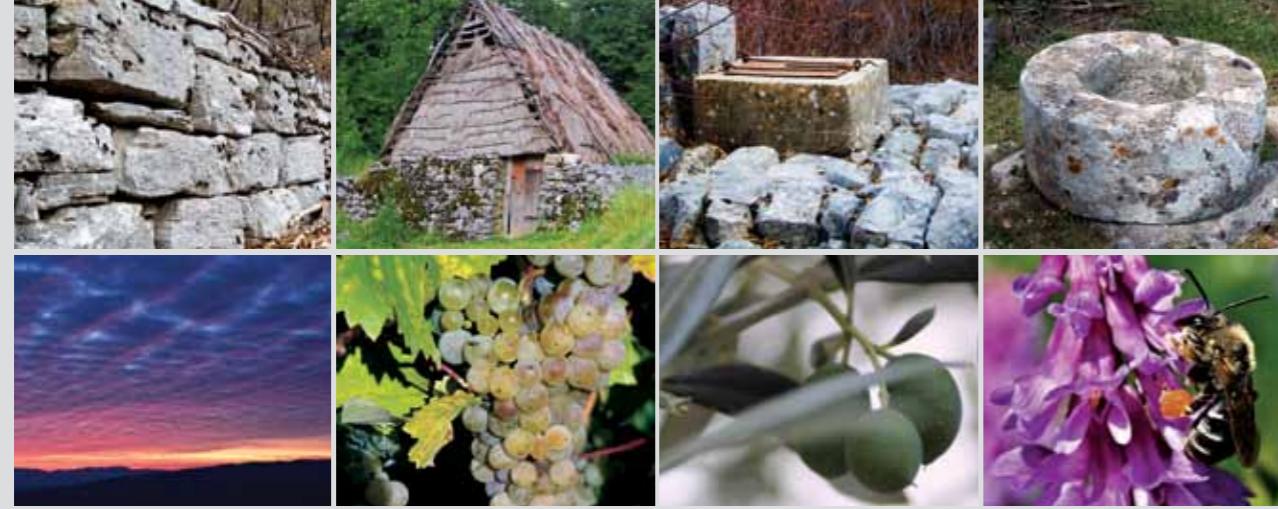
Kô pusta grana, kad jesenja krila  
Trgnu joj lisje i pokose ledom,  
Bez vas bi majka domovina bila;  
A majka plače za svojijem čedom.

Ne dajte suzi da joj s oka leti,  
Vrat' te se njozzi u naručju sveta;  
Živite zato da možete mrijeti  
Na njenom polju gdje vas slava sreta!

Ovdje vas svako poznaće i voli,  
A tamo nikо poznati vas neće;  
Bolji su svoji i krševi goli  
No cvijetna polja kud se tudin kreće.

Ovdje vam svaku bratsku ruku steže -  
U tuđem svijetu za vas pelen cvjeta;  
Za ove krše sve vas, sve vas veže:  
Ime i jezik, bratstvo, i krv sveta,

Ostajte ovdje!... Sunce tuđeg neba  
Neće vas grijat kô što ovo grije -  
Grki su tamo zalogaji hljeba  
Gdje svoga nema i gdje brata nije...



**O** čarobnoj svjetlosti Hercegovine u svojim djelima se divio književni nobelovac Ivo Andrić, o zvjezdanim nebu i plavoj skamenjenoj vječnosti, pjeva je sjajni i sjetni pjesnik Antun Branko Šimić, a njezinom suncu, zemlji, ljudima, lirske poeme pravio slavni Aleksa Šantić.

Mjesto gdje ljudi stoljećima od kamena kradu zemlju, a žuta sunčeva lopta sjaji istim onim književnim sjajem, o kojem su pisali i pišu slavni literati, sve je to Hercegovina.

Zemlja sunca, svjetlosti, bisernih rijeka, smaragdnih jezera, zelenih vinograda, žutih polja, i gostoljubivih domaćina, koju sa sjevera zaklanjavaju visoke planine i šibaju hladni vjetrovi, a s juga kupaju valovi mora i

miluju topli vjetrovi juga. U takvom prirodnom kontrastu, gdje se smjenjuju mediteranska i kontinentalna klima, radaju se različite poljoprivredne kulture, ljudi i kuhinja.

Hercegovina, kao povijesna i zemljopisna regija u južnom dijelu Bosne i Hercegovine, imala je isto tako kontrastnu i hirovitu povijest, čiji su tragovi vidljivi na svakom koraku, arhitekturi, običajima, tradicijskoj nošnji, glazbenom izričaju.

Sunce, voda, kamen, zemlja i selo, temeljne su vrijednosti na kojima već stoljećima obitava Hercegovina s čijim ćete se vrijednostima dijelom upoznati i kroz ovaj poetski vodič.

## Uvod

## Preface



**I**ts magic brilliance was admired through the works of the Nobel Prize winning writer Ivo Andrić, its starry sky and the blue petrified eternity were composed in the poems of the great poet Antun Branko Šimić, and the lyric poems about its people, soil and sun were made by the famous Aleksa Šantić.

The place where people have been stealing soil from the rock for centuries, and the yellow sun ball has been shining by the same literary shine, the place described by great writers, that is Herzegovina.

The land of the sun, light, pearly rivers, emerald lakes, green vineyards, yellow fields, hospitable people, the land between the northern mountains with freezing winds and

the warm southern sea waves and winds. In such a region of natural contrasts, with the diversity of the Mediterranean and continental climates, there are various agricultural cultures being born, same as people and cuisine.

Herzegovina, the historic and geographic region in the southern part of BiH, has also had a history abundant with contrasts and whims, whose traces are still visible all around in architecture, customs, traditional costumes and music expressions.

The sun, the water, stone, soil and village, these are the basic values on which Herzegovina has been resting for centuries, the values that you are going to meet partly through this poetic Guide.



Hercegovina

# Kamen

Stone





Pod njim se radalo, prehranjivalo i živjelo, a isto tako umiralo i sahranjivalo. U sjeni kamenih zidova i krovova se molilo, a na hladnoj podlozi klečalo. S kamenom (rekli bismo: Kamenom) su zidane Mlinice hranićljice, a u njemu gradene Čatrne, vodene spasiteljice. U njemu su stvarane plodne zemljane Vrtače, a njime su proštim, nepravilnim Suhozidima ucrtvane njihove granice. Bijeli kameni lukovi mostova ispleteni nad rijekama i klisurama, obale, ljudi i svjetove su spajali.

Sivi debeli zidovi kamenih utvrda stoljećima su sve to razdvajali. Uz pomoć njegovih kamenih kocki prema modrom nebu, uspinjali su se vitki bijeli zvonici, minareti, križevi i krstovi. Od njegovih gromada škrtu zemlju ukrašavali su veleri nadgrobni spomenici (stećci) a od njegovih škalja slagane pradavne kamene grobnice (ilirske gomile).

Na njegovim se tvrdim podovima živjelo, peklo i jelo, a uz njegove nepravilne, teške oblutke družilo i natjecalo. Prvo se najedi s kamenom, a onda se natjeći kamera s ramena. Za Hercegovce kamen je bio stol i krov, zid i pod, život i smrt, znak i znamen.

O kamenu piše ponajbolji pjesnik kamena i krša Antun Branko Šimić. Bio je i još je trajna inspiracija pjesnika, književnika, slikara, kipara, ali i ljubitelja prirode koji će u njemu još dugo otkrivati vječite, neistražene zagonetke.

People were born under it, lived, died, and were buried as well. People prayed under the stone roofs and in the shade of the stone walls, kneeling on the cold stone. The water mills that fed people were built of stone, and the water tanks - the water saviours, were embedded in it. The fertile karst valleys were created in the stone, their boundaries were drawn with the drystone walls in simple lines. The white stone arches of the bridges over rivers and chasms were connecting coasts, people and worlds.

The thick grey walls of the forts were separating these for centuries. By means of stone cubes the slim white bellfries were ascending towards the sky, same as minarets and all sorts of crosses. The huge stone lumps were used to carve the magnificent standing tomb-stones (stećak) and the smaller stone debris were used to assemble the ancient Illyric tombs (Illyric piles).

The stone made the hard floors upon which people lived, cooked and ate, and round stones and pebbles were used in social games and competitions. First you eat off the stone table, and then you compete in throwing a stone in a shot put. For Herzegovinians the stone was the table and the roof, the floor and the wall, the life and the death, the sign and the omen.

The stone is the subject to one of the best poets of karst and stone, Antun Branko Šimić. It was and still is the permanent inspiration for poets, writers, painters, sculptors, but also the nature lovers, who will always seek the endless secrets in it.





## Kamena kuća

Arhitektonski jednostavne, baš kao što je bio i jednostavan život u njima i oko njih. Tople, kao što je bilo i toplo obiteljsko ozračje stisnuto oko ognjišta ili fijakera.

Sagradene na kamenu i iz kamenja, uglavnom postavljene na neko vidljivo obzorje, proplanak, ili pred jakim vjetrom i hladnoćom sklonjene u neko podbrdo, kamene kuće zaštitni su znak hercegovačkog krša.

Stare slamnate krovove odavna su zamjenili crveni crijepl i šindra. Rustikalni stil gradnje, nepravilni oblici kamenja, ali precizno izvedeni zidovi, prepoznatljivi su eksterijerni znaci tipične kamene kuće u Hercegovini.

Jednostavna unutrašnjost, ispresjecana jednostavnim kamenim zidovima, na koje su naslonjene teške drvene grede, koje čuvaju daskama okovani strop, danas su dojmljiv element kojem se vraća sve veći broj graditelja.

## The Stone House

Simple in the architectural terms, as the very living was in them and around them. Warm as the family environment atmosphere around the hearth or the cooking stove.

Built on stone and of stone, located either on a visible top of a hill or sheltered at its foot hidden from strong winds and cold winters, the stone house is the trade mark of the Herzegovinian karst.

The old thatch roofs were replaced by the red tiles and shingle long ago. The rustic construction style, irregular stone shapes but precisely constructed walls are the recognizable exterior signs of a typical stone house in Herzegovina.

A simple interior divided by plain stone walls with the heavy wooden beams supporting a ceiling made of planks, this is nowadays an impressive element to which more and more constructors are turning back nowadays.





## Suhozid

Ta kamena vijugava brana, nepravilna bijela crta građena žuljevitom rukom hercegovačkog seljaka, nezaobilazni je dekor oko skoro svakog obiteljskog imanja u Hercegovini. Suhozide, te granične crte, kojima su vlasnici ogradivali svoje skromne vrtače, nastajale su tako da je seljak kradući od kamena, godinama tražio plodno zemljano tlo na kojem bi mogao posaditi sjeme.

Što je zemljana površina ispod kamenih naslaga bila plodnija, to su asimetrični, nepravilni zidovi, izgrađeni od kamenja i kamenčića bili širi i dulji.

## Drystone walls

The meandering stone wall, the irregular white streak built by the blistered and calloused hand of the Herzegovinian peasant, is an inevitable decor around almost every family farm estate in Herzegovina. These walls, these bordering lines by which the owners outlined their modest karst valleys, emerged as the peasants were removing stone by stone for years in search for the fertile soil for planting.

If the soil under the stones proved to be fertile, the irregular walls around them made of big and small stones were longer and thicker.





## Čatrnje

Te vodene oaze u kamenu, stoljećima su označavale razliku između života i smrti tisućama hercegovačkih obitelji, koje su svoja životna skrovišta morali graditi daleko od riječnih korita i izvora.

U početku su to bile obične kamenice, za čiju se gradnju, uz malu intervenciju ljudskih ruku, brinuo sam Bog. Zbijene u nepravilan zbor kamenih blokova, takve vodene kamenice dugo godina označavale su simbol života, a njihov pronađazak ovisio je o količini zelenila koje se golinom vidi u sivom kršu. S dolaskom čekića, poluge, krampa, u kamenom kršu, okupani znojem na pet do osam metara dubine i tri do četiri metra širine, težaci ukapaju duboke rupe.

Porozne zidne stijenke, hercegovački majstori potom zaštićuju glinom, krećom, ili betonom. Njenu mrklu unutrašnjost stoljećima vodom pune proljetni pljuskovi, a u jesen veliki kišni oblaci. Na njih se postavlja sloj zemlje i trave iz koje stidljivo izranja kameni otvor, čija širina u većini slučajeva odgovara vrču ili kanti za vodu.

## Water tanks

These water oasis in the stone have been for centuries signifying the difference between life and death for thousands of Herzegovinian families that were forced to build their habitations far from river beds and springs.

At the beginning they were simply the stone basins, whose construction, with a modest touch of human hands, was done mostly by the Lord Almighty. Squeezed in the irregular pile of stone blocks, these water basins were the symbol of life for years, and their discovery depended on the quantity of the green vegetation visible in the grey karst. With the arrival of hammers and mallets, levers and picks, the sweating laborers were excavating five to eight meters deep and three to four meters wide pits in the karst.

The porous walls were then protected with clay, lime or concrete. Its dark bowels were filled with the spring showers and heavy autumn rains for centuries. They were covered with a layer of soil and grass with the stone aperture shyly peeping above, its width mostly suited to the dimensions of the bucket or the jar for bailing the water out.





## Bunari

Za razliku od tradicionalnih hercegovačkih čatrnja, koje su mahom građene uz ili nadomak kamenih zdanja obiteljskih kuća, a voda se iz njih crpila isključivo za ljudske potrebe, bunari su imali potpuno drukčiju namjenu. Umjesto u kamenim škripovima, bunari su svoje mjesto našli u rijetkim mekim, zemljom napunjanim, vrtačama.

Njihovi do pet metara duboki obrubi, bili su ogradi vani nepravilnim suhozidima, tek toliko da se duboka okrugla rupa ne uruši. Za razliku od čatrnja, čiji se ulaz štitio drvenim vratima, bunari su bili stalno otvoreni, i na taj način prirodno vodom punjeni.

Dok su čatrnje bile privatno vlasništvo, obiteljska intima, koju susjedi, kumovi i prijatelji ne smiju narušavati, bunari su kroz povijest bili hercegovačka Agora (trg) - središte društvenih događanja. Na njima su se sretali čobani i čobanice, na njihovim okнима se ljubilo i plakalo, svadalo i mirilo, trgovalo i prodavalо.

## Water wells

Unlike the traditional Herzegovinian water tanks that were mainly constructed by or in the vicinity of the stone family dwellings, with the water used for human needs exclusively, the wells had a completely different purpose. Instead in the stone cavities, the wells found their locations in the rare soft vallies filled with earth.

Their walls and rims, up to five meters deep, were edged by irregular stone walls, just as to prevent the surrounding soil from tumbling into the well. Unlike the water tanks whose apertures were protected with wooden lids, the wells were constantly opened, and filled with water in that natural way.

While the water tanks were private property, the intimate family places, not to be disturbed by neighbours, godfathers and friends, the wells were Agoras or Squares of Herzegovina, centers of social events. Those were the meeting place for shepherds, their walls were witnesses of kisses and tears, frauds, disputes and peace making, buying and selling.





Hercegovina

# Sunce

The Sun





**U**vijek sam mislio da s njom mora da ulaze u čovjeka ljubav za život, hrabrost i vedrina, smisao za mjeru i stvaralački rad. Nikad se dovoljno nisam mogao nagledati te svjetlosti, iako sam je sretao svuda. Nje ima u osmijehu ovih ljudi i jasnim samoglasnicima njihovog govora, na licima mladića i djevojaka u predvečernjoj šetnji. Ona se prelama kao zlatan, nemiran odbljesak u čaši mostarske žilavke, živi kao sabijena snaga i slast u ovim breskvama i trešnjama...

Ovako je o Hercegovini i njenoj svjetlosti pisao, književni nobelovac Ivo Andrić. Zbog sunčeve žute lopte, obješene na blistavo plavo nebo, veliki pjesnik Alekса Šantić, kroz

svoju poemu „Ostajte ovdje“ preklinjaо je one koji odlaze da ostanu jer ih sunce tudeg neba neće grijati kao što ih hercegovačko grije. Slikari su o njegovim čarobnim, purpurnim izlascima i zalascima, potrošili na kilograme uljanih boja.

Na umjetničkim platnima, pod zrakama hercegovačkog sunca, pucali su šipci, sjajili grozdovi grožda, rumenile se jabuke. Ornamenti uklesani na starim nadgrobnim spomenicima - stećima, najviše predstavljaju motiv sunca i život čovjeka ispod te magične zlatne lopte. Brojne glazbene, književne i likovne nagrade u današnje vrijeme nose prefiks sunca. A njegovi inspirativni izlasci i zalasci krase gomile razglednica iz svih gradova i općina Hercegovine.

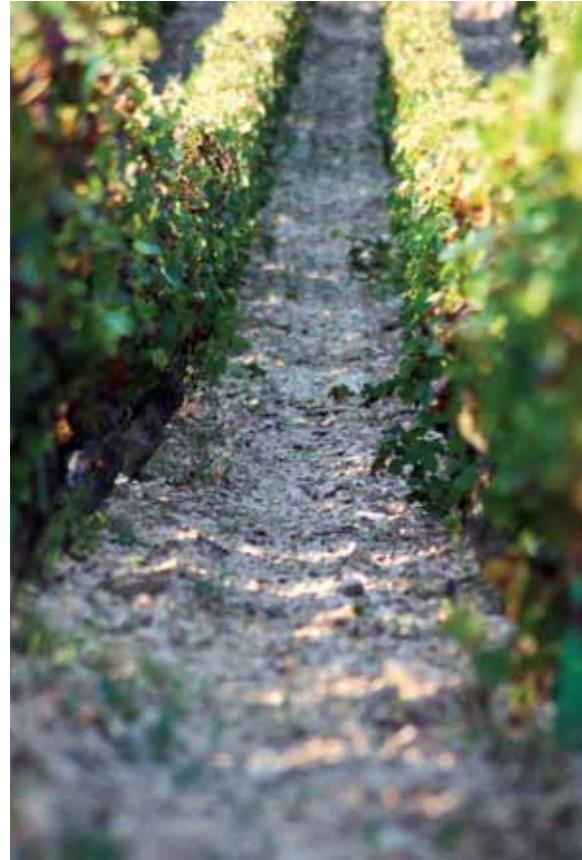
*I have always thought that it must be bringing the love for life into the man, the courage and vivacity, the sense of moderation and creative work. I could never have enough of watching this light, although I had been meeting it everywhere. It is in the smile of these people, in the clear vowels of their speech, on the faces of young boys and girls during the evening walk. It is like a restless golden broken reflection in the glass of Žilavka light wine of Mostar, it lives like a compressed power and sweet relish in these peaches and cherries...*

This is what Ivo Andrić, the Nobel prize winner, wrote about Herzegovina and its Light. Because of the yellow ball of sun hanging from the shining blue sky, the great

poet Alekса Šantić, in his poem «Ostajte ovdje» («Stay here») was begging all those who were leaving elsewhere to stay, since the sun of a foreign sky would not heat them as the Herzegovinian one does. The painters used kilos of oil painting its magic purple rises and sets.

The artists' oil cloths were presenting the ripe pomegranates bursting open under the beams of Herzegovinian sun, glittering grapes, ruddy apples. The ornaments carved at the ancient tomb stones – stećak, frequently present the motif of the sun and the life of a man under that magic golden ball. Numerous music, literature and fine arts awards nowadays have the prefix of the sun. Its inspiring rises and sets are decorating piles of picture-postcards from all the towns and municipalities of Herzegovina.





## Vinova loza

Kažu da je to žila kucavica Hercegovine - žila koja ispod vrućeg kamena i od suše raspukla tla, i u ratu i u miru nikad ne iznevjeri onog tko joj samo malo svoje ljubavi dadne. I tako više od 2000 godina od kada je u škroto tlo nečijom rukom posadena. Još vinova loza, prastara „žila kucavica“ koja iz škrtih hercegovačkih dubina izvlači posljednju kap vode, svog skrbnika žuljevitih i umornih ruku, nije iznevjerila. Plemenita vinova loza (*Vitis vinifera*) čovjekov je pratilac kroz cijelu povijest.

Kao što se ne zna točno vrijeme kada je čovjek napravio točak ili kada je otkrio i počeo koristiti blagodati vatre, tako se ne zna ni kad se počeo baviti vinogradarstvom i vinarstvom. Zna se samo da je druženje čovjeka i vina počelo jako davno i da je čovjek davno spoznao blagodati ovog pića. Trsovi Žilavke i Blatine rađaju vinske kapi koje su stoljećima služene na carskim i kraljevskim trpezama europskih monarhija, ali i japanskog cara.

Imperije koje su kroz Hercegovinu tijekom stoljeća prolazile, jedino su prema vinovoj lozi imali milosti, od Rimljana, Turaka, Francuza do Austrougarske. Zahvaljujući tome širenje trsa vinove loze, i pravljenje vina, na hercegovačkom tlu i danas ima gotovo sveto značenje.

## Grape vines

It is said that it is the main vein of Herzegovina – the vein under the hot stone and the dry crevassed soil, that shall never fail and betray the one who gives her the smallest attention and love. And it has been going on for over 2000 years since some hand had planted it into this arid soil. The vine grape, that draws every single drop of water from the arid Herzegovinian depths, has never betrayed her custodian with the tired hands full of calluses. The noble vine grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) have been accompanying the man through the history.

As it is not known when precisely the man made the wheel, or discovered and started using the benefits of fire, it is also unknown when did the man start dealing with viniculture and wine production. It is just well known that the companionship of man and wine commenced long ago and that the man recognized the welfares of this magnificent drink. The famous Žilavka and Blatina grapevines have been giving the wines that have been served at royal tables of European monarchies for centuries as well as at the table of the Japanese Emperor.

All the Empires that have been passing through Herzegovina through the centuries, Romans, Turks, French and Austro-Hungarians, were merciful only to the wine grapes. Accordingly, the spreading of the vine grapes and wine production has got almost sacred status in Herzegovina nowadays.



## Maslina

U kamenoj oazi, koju sunčeve zrake griju više od 300 dana u godini, udomaćila se i maslina, ta mitska biljka simbol Mediterana, zdravlja, gastronomskog užitka i napose lagodne i spokojne starosti. Ništa nije ravno malisnovom ulju, toj plemenitoj tekućini, ona je jednostavno neusporediva.

Nesvakidašnjeg je gorkastog okusa, izuzetnog mirisa i sjajni začin ponajboljih jela. Najvrjednija masnoća u ljudskoj prehrani. Sredstvo za njegu tijela, lijek kod raznih tegoba, po многимa - eliksir života. Božanski plod. Tekuće zlato. Što se krije iza tih nadnaravnih hvala? Ulika! Ulje! Ulje bogova i ljudi. Ulje masline. Ulje milosrda i pomazanja. Mitska i biblijska biljka, simbol našeg sredozemnog svijeta i življena, postala je prepoznatljiv znak Hercegovine.

Maslinova stabla i grančice (simbol mira) ukrašavaju škrti hercegovački krš od Ljubuškog prema Širokom Brijegu, preko Čitluka, Stoca dalje prema Neumskom zaleđu i Trebinju.

## The Olive Tree

In the stone oasis, heated by the sun beams for more than 300 days per year, the olive tree, the mythic plant and the symbol of the Mediterranean, has become domestic, used in gastronomy for joy, good health and long life. Nothing equals olive oil, it is simply beyond comparison.

It has got an extraordinary bitterish taste and exquisite odor, and makes a splendid spice to many dishes. It is the most valuable grease in human nutrition. It is used as body nourishment, remedy to many ailments, by many judgment – the elixir of life! The Divine fruit. The liquid gold. What is there behind all these supernatural praises? The oil! The oil of Gods and humans! The olive oil. The oil of mercy and sacring. The mythic and Biblical plant, the symbol of our Mediterranean world and life, which has become the distinct sign of Herzegovina.

Olive trees and branches (the symbol of peace) are decorating the arid Herzegovinian karst from Ljubuški towards Široki Brijeg, through Čitluk and Stolac, and further to Neum hinterland and Trebinje.



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## Smokva

Njenim listovima Adam i Eva skrivali su svoju golotinju kad ih je Bog prognao iz Rajskog vrta. Smokva zauzima mitsko mjesto u svim svjetskim civilizacijama, s posebnim naglaskom na Mediteran.

Kako je i Hercegovina svojim najvećim dijelom naslonjena na mediteransku regiju, smokva u njoj ima posebno značenje. Nedozrela, prezrela ili suha, u svim svojim stanjima nezaobilazni je dekor toplih hercegovačkih domova.

Domaćice od nje prave kolače, ukusne džemove, ili ih jednostavno suše, a liječnici tvrde da zbog svojih specifičnih dijetoterapeutskih vrijednosti ima pozitivne učinke na ljudsko zdravlje. Sprječava karcinom debelog crijeva, smanjuje razinu kolesterola u krvi, pomaže probavu, a sve to iz biljke, koja tijekom svog rasta ne traži nikakvu ljudsku pozornost.

## The Fig

It was the fig leaf with which Adam and Eve hid their nakedness when the Lord expelled them from Eden. The fig has got a mythical position in all the civilizations of the world, and particularly in the Mediterranean.

Since Herzegovina is mostly leaning against the Mediterranean region, the fig has got a particular significance. Whether unripe or over-ripened, fresh or cured, it is an inevitable decor of the warm Herzegovinian homes.

The housewives make cakes and jams of them, or simply cure them, and doctors claim they have got a positive effect to human health thanks to their specific dietetic and therapeutic qualities. It prevents the colon cancer, decreases the cholesterol level in blood, helps digestion, and all this from a plant that does not require the human care during its growth.





## Šipak

Likovnjacima stalna umjetnička inspiracija, obiteljima izvor zdravlja i nezaboravnog okusa, raspuknut na likovnom platnu, onako poslužen na golom stolu, ili ocijeden u časi. Uvijek savršen i prepoznatljiv, zdrav i sočan, sve to je šipak (*Punica grantum*) ili hercegovački sladun, hercegovački glavaš ili divlji šipak, kako sve narod zove ovu mediteransku biljku.

Najslađi je kad ga sunce svojim zrakama natjera da iza svoje žutocrvene ljuštare pokaže svijetlocrvenu raskoš šipković bobica, prirodnog rudnika vitamina C za hladne zimske dane.

## Pomegranate

The permanent inspiration to artists, the source of health and unforgettable taste, either served fresh on the table or squeezed into a glass as juice. Always perfect and recognizable, healthy and juicy, it is the Pomegranate (*Punica grantum*) or the Herzegovinian pomegranate, nicknamed in many pet names by the local people.

It is the sweetest when the sun makes it crack its ruddy-yellow peel and show the bright red luxury of its beads or berries, the natural source of vitamin C for the cold winter days.





## Ljekovito bilje

Obilje sunca razlog je zbog kojeg biljni svijet Hercegovine obiluje brojnim autohtonim vrstama ljekovitog bilja koje se u svim oblicima i pripravcima nalazilo i još uvijek se nalazi u hercegovačkim domovima. Većini pobrojanih biljaka koje rastu pod hercegovačkim sunčevim zrakama, od davnina su pridavana eliksirska svojstva. Njihovim učincima tradicionalna medicina godinama se zahvaljivala.

Od bilje zove (lat. *Sambucus nigra*) preko srčanika ili linucere (lat. *Gentiana luteala*), do crvenog ploda ružešipurka ili divljeg šipka (lat. *Rosa canina*) do pčelinjeg matičnjaka ili macine trave (lat. *Melissa officinalis*), lipe (lat. *Tilia platyphyllos*), crnih ljekovitih plodova kupine (lat. *rubus candidans*), svemogućeg žutog cvijeta majčine dušice (lat. *Thymus serpyllum* lat), gloge, metvice, kamilice, kadulje koji svojim opojnim mirisom, pod jačinom sunca oplemenjuju krševite brežuljke, i tako redom sve unedogled.

## Remedy herbs

The abundance of sun is the reason why the flora of Herzegovina has got plenty of autochthonous sorts of remedy herbs that have got their place in Herzegovinian homes in all their shapes and types of preparations. Most of the herbs enlisted have been considered to have the elixir qualities for a long time. The traditional medicine has been thanking them for years.

So we have elder bush (*Sambucus nigra*), Linucere (or *Gentiana luteala*), dog-rose berries (*Rosa canina*), balm (*Melissa officinalis*), linden (*Tilia platyphyllos*), blackberry (*Rubus candidans*) wild thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*), hawthorn, mint, chamomile, sage, all of these and many others growing on the karst hills and meadows and gaining strength from the Herzegovinian sun.





## Med

Sivi kamen zaklonjen zelenim lišćem često je ukras krečnjačkih brda iz kojih rastu endemične biljne vrste. Atraktivni cvjetovi kadulje, zanovijeti, vriska i drače predstavljaju pravu atrakciju sa svojim cvjetovima karakterističnim za hercegovačka brda. Kad procvjetaju, siva krečnjačka brda mijenjaju svoju boju.

U proljeće se vide žuti pejzaži zanovijeta, koji kasnije postanu plavi od kadulje, bijeli od vriska i žutosmeđi od cvjetova drače. Miris cvijeća i svježina zraka djeluju povoljno na ljudski organizam. To je razlog zbog kojeg i pčele rado nastanjuju ovo područje, dajući u košnicama Hercegovine čuveni ljekoviti med.

## Honey

The grey stones covered with green leaves decorates karst hills at which endemic species of flora are growing. The attractive flowers of sage, beam-trefoil, heather and Jerusalem thorn form a true attraction and allure characteristic for Herzegovinian hills. When they flourish, the grey Herzegovinian hills change their color.

In spring you can see the landscape yellow with beam-trefoil, later blue with sage, then white with heather and brownish-yellow with the Jerusalem thorn flowers. The scent of flowers and the fresh air have a remedy influence on human organism. That is also the reason why the bees eagerly visit these areas and make in the beehives the famous Herzegovinian curative honey.

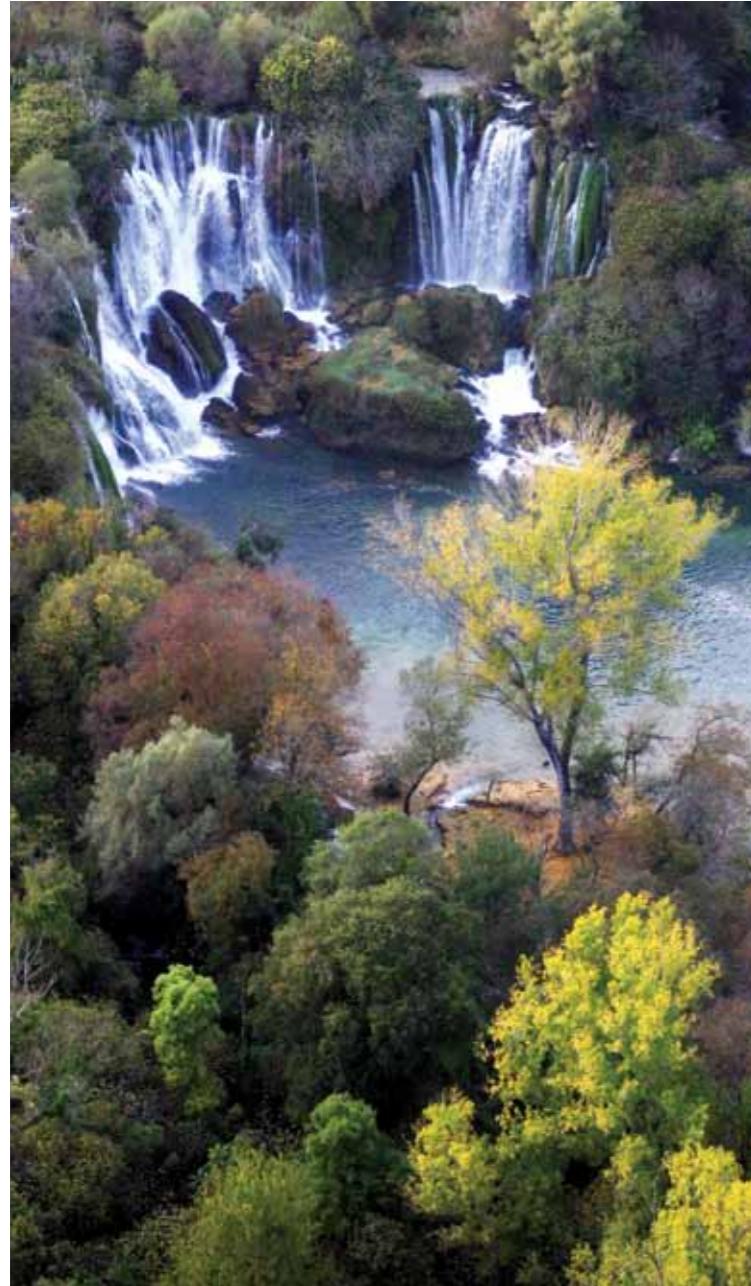


Hercegovina

# Voda

Water





**Z**bog vode i oko vode rađale su se i umirale civilizacije, vodili ratovi, dogovarala primirja. Taj savršeni perpetuum mobile, to ne-prekidno kretanje vode predvijet su života, kulture i gospodarske moći.

Voda, koju hercegovački čovjek s divljenjem prikuplja i njeguje od pradavnoga doba, nešto je, za razliku od ostalih prirodnih pojava, neodvojivo od njega samoga. Najvjerojatnije otuda i njezina duhovna simbolika kao izvora života, sredstva očišćenja te sredstva obnavljanja.

Voda - to je čovjek, to je neodvojiv dio čovjeka, dio njegova života i civilizacije. Život uz vodu i s vodom inspiracija je običnim ljudima, putnicima, pjesnicima. Oni svoje susrete na zdencima, izvorima, doživljavaju kao mjesta života, mjesta ljubavi, svetišta, središta mira i svjetlosti.

**C**ivilisations arose and vanished because of water and around water. The water was the cause for wars and truces. This perfect perpetuum mobile, the eternal moving of the water is the prerequisite of life, culture and economic power.

The water, which the man of Herzegovina has been gathering and cherishing from the ancient times, is something inseparable from himself, unlike the other natural phenomena. Most probably that is why it has got the spiritual symbolics as the source of life, means of purification and renewal.

Water – that is the man, his inseparable part, a part of his life and civilization. The life by the water and with water is the inspiration to common people, travelers, poets. In the meetings at the wells and springs the people sense the life, the love, the peace, the sanctuary of the light.





## Stare mlinice

Voda i stare mlinice priča su o povijesti, o čovjeku i njegovu nastojanju da ukroti vodu za svoje potrebe o čemu svjedoče tragovi koji sežu u 12. stoljeće. Mlinice, te vodne hraniteljice, oduvijek su bile sinonim za život. One su zbog svoje djelatnosti oduvijek bile i izvor svađa i sukoba. Danas su one magnet za posjetitelje, jer su mnogi gosti iz zemlje i svijeta željni prikaza tradicijskog načina života, prirodne ljepote kojom obiluju riječni rukavci u Hercegovini.

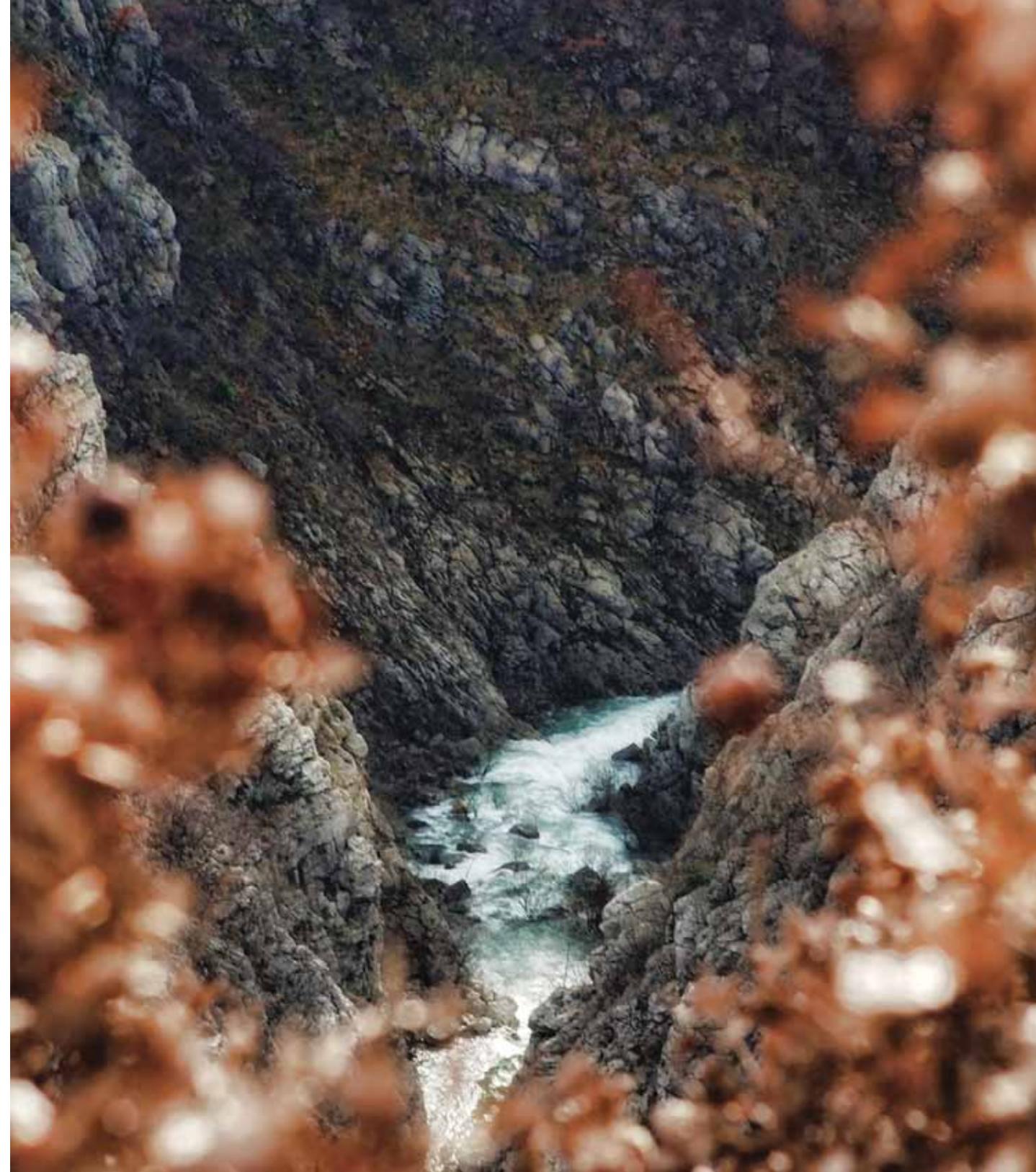
Iz sve većeg broja mlinica, koje su utonule u svoj višegodišnji san, čuje se jednolični umirujući klopot gorostasnog kamena, kojeg pokreću pjenušavi slapovi vode. Ispod oble kamene površine, sipi kukuruzno, pšenično, raževo brašno, spremno da se utopi u brojnima vrstama jela iz stare, ali jednostavne i ukusne hercegovačke kuhinje, u kojoj pura zauzima značajno mjesto.

## The old watermills

The water and the old watermills are the story about the History, about the man and his efforts to tame the water for his needs. There are the traces testifying this from the XII century. The watermills, the bread providers ran by the water, have always been the synonym of life. Due to their function they have also been the reason of disputes and confrontations. Nowadays they are the allure to tourists and visitors since there are many guests from the country and abroad eager to see the presentation of the traditional way of living and the natural beauties abundant in the river valleys in Herzegovina.

There is a growing number of the dormant watermills which start humming in a chanting sound of huge milling stones moved by the foamy waterfalls. The heavy circular stone mass turns around smoothly and grinds the fine powder of flour from the grains of either corn, rye, wheat or some other, and preparing them to get into the form of a dish, one of the simple and tasty Herzegovian specialties, among which the hard corn-mush has got a remarkable position.





## Rijeke

Iz zraka podsjećaju na duge modrozelene koloritne linije, koje je nehajni slikar povukao na kamenom kršu, kako bi svojem monolitnom crtežu dao život. Kad se iz zraka spustite među njihove kanjone odakle živopisno zelenilo plazi uz kamenu liticu, a huk vode ne dopušta da pričate, modrozelene slikarske linije pretvaraju se u divlje vodene brzake, koji vas cijelim svojim tokom mogu povesti na uzbuđljivo i nezaboravno putovanje.

Rijeke: Neretva, Bregava, Trebižat, Rakitnica, Drežanjska, ili Lištica ... svojom vječnom uzbibanošću dočaravaju demonski nemir, a svojom smirenošću nirvanu i neotkrivenu ljepotu. Na njihovim pritokama, rječnim rukavcima, gradile su se mlinice, odjekivao jednolični umirujući klopot kamenja, ispod čije su težine pucala zrna pšenice, ječma, ozimice ili kukuruza, pretvarajući ga u brašno. Na njihovim rukavcima se pralo i kupalo, gasila ljudska žed i pojila stoka.

## Rivers

Looking from the bird's point of view they look like long blue-green lines drawn by a careless painter on the grey karst, in order to bring a breath of life to his monolith landscape. But when you once enter into their canyons where the vivacious greenery crawls up the stone cliffs, and the roar of water prevents any conversation, the painters' blue-green lines turn into the wild water rapids which can take you to an exciting and unforgettable trip.

The rivers of Neretva, Bregava, Trebižat, Rakitnica, Drežanjska or Lištica ... they have all got on one hand particular swirling motion resembling a demonish restlessness, and on the other hand a nirvana-like tranquility and undiscovered beauty. At their confluents, small brooks, the watermills were built, the monotonous soothing murmur of milling stone was echoing, milling the grains of either corn, rye, wheat, barley and the like, turning it into flour. At these rivulets people were washing and bathing, soothing their thirst and watering the cattle.





## Jezera

Biserne oči, čije duplje okružuju bijeli planinski lanci oko Blidinjskog, Boračkog, Nevesinjskog jezera, ili zeleno modre zjenice koje proviruju ispod travom, raslinjem, i šumom zaraslih trepavica Hutova blata, Deranskog i Kukavičjeg jezera, predstavljaju skromno, ali po svim obilježjima karakteristično jezersko bogatstvo u Hercegovini.

Ovom nizu treba pridodati još četiri vještačka jezera - Jablaničko, Ramsko, Bilečko i Buško koja su po svojim specifičnostima, prirodnim ljepotama i gabaritima jedinstvena u cijeloj Europi. Bogati biljnim i životinjskim svijetom, većina ih se nalazi pod zaštitom. No dva: Hutovo blato i Deransko jezero - predstavljaju najveći ornitološki rezervat u Europi.

## Lakes

The pearly eyes whose eye sockets are surrounded by the white mountain reefs around the lakes of Blidinjsko, Boračko or Nevesinjsko, or the greenish-blue eye pupils peeking under the eyelashes of forests and grass at Hutovo blato, Deransko and Kukavičje lake, they all present a characteristic richness of lake waters in Herzegovina.

We need to mention also the four artificial accumulation lakes of Jablaničko, Ramsko, Bilečko and Buško, unique in all the Europe for their specificities, natural beauties and size. Most of these are under protection due to their rich and specific flora and fauna. The two of them, Hutovo blato and Deransko lakes, are the largest ornithologic wildlife refuges or reservations in Europe.





## More

Dok planinske snježnobijele sjeverne granice Hercegovine šibaju hladni vjetrovi, noseći snijeg s njihovih bijelih kapa, dolje daleko u toplu dolinu, njezine stjenovite južne granice uz huk orkanske bure ili maestrala zapljuškuju pjenušavi bijeli valovi.

I kao što u hit-pjesmi popularni hercegovački rock sastav „Zoster“ pjeva „Volim što sam Ero, blizu mi je more blizu mi planina“ tako zaista hercegovački čovjek ima sreću da se njegov dom prostire između živopisne i hladne planine, i modrog toplog mora s 25 kilometara obale. Plavi Neumski zaljev svojom kompletnom površinom naslonjen na sivo vapnenačko hercegovačko priobalje, bogat je ribom i školjkama.

Carstvo morskog ukusa najbolje se može osjetiti u nekom hotelu, apartmanu ili restoranu koji stalno niču na kamenim neumskim hridima, s čijih su terasa i vrtova zalasci sunca uz vino, ribu i školjke nezaboravni.



## The Sea

While the northern parts of Herzegovina are often exposed to cold northern winds and the mountain tops are covered with snow, the southern parts are hit by the foamy waves of the warm sea.

The popular Herzegovinian rock band «Zoster» sings «*I like being Herzegovinian, both the mountains and the sea are close to me*», so the people of Herzegovina have the luck to dwell between the cold mountains in the north and the warm blue sea with 25 kilometers long coast. The blue bay of Neum is located within the cliffs of the grey karst coast of Herzegovina, and is abundant with fish and shells.

Numerous restaurants, hotels and apartments are the places where you can taste the fruits of the sea, enjoy the magnificent sunsets at one of the terraces having a supper of fish and shells and sipping excellent local wines.





Hercegovina

# Zemlja

The Soil





**Z**a razliku od plodne Slavonije u Hrvatskoj ili Semberije u sjeveroistočnoj Bosni, zemlja u Hercegovini na kojoj su othranjene generacije i generacije ljudi, na cijeli ljudski trud više je puta užvraćala škrtošću i odbojnošću nego dobročinstvom.

Siromašni zemljani humus, škrte vrtače okrunjene vijencima suhozida, tražili su više ljudskog znoja od primjericе ravničarskog, dubokog i plodnog tla. I na takvoj negostoprimaljivoj površini stvarani su plodovi, čiji nastanak pjesnici opisuju na sljedeći način: „*pod topotom blagovornog sunca, uz kap vode život proklijia i iz golog kamena*“.

Znala se ta zemlja kroz bremenitu povijest često pobuniti, svoje plodove unatoč ljudskom trudu odbaciti. Znala je ta zemlja generacije ljudi otjerati da u potrazi za kruhom po bijelom svijetu svoj život moraju spašavati. Sazdana na svakom koraku od kontrasta, ista zemlja Hercegovina bila je tvrd a negostoljubiva, ali i pristupačna i dobrohotna.

U takvom prirodnom kontrastu uspijevaju specifične vrste plodova koji se odlikuju punoćom okusa, a koji su također u kontrastu s naoko siromašnim izgledom. Na zemlji koju podgrijava vrelina sunca, a hладе sjeverni vjetrovi, radaju samo za ovo područje specifične sorte vinove loze, maslinu, šipku, smokve, krumpira...

**U**nlike the fertile Slavonia in Croatia and Semberija in the north of Bosnia, the soil in Herzegovina has more often responded with misery and repulsiveness at enormous efforts of its people than in welfare and benefaction.

The poor soil of Herzegovinian karst valleys surrounded by the drystone walls required far more sweat than the thick and deep fertile soil in the regions with flat land and large fields. On this inhospitable soil, the fruits were grown as poets describe „*under the nourishing rays of sun, with few drops of water, as if the life grew from the very stone*“.

It often happened through the history that the soil protested, and in spite the hard labour the fruits failed. It was known that the people were driven away by this soil, they had to search for living elsewhere, often moving abroad. The land of contrasts, it used to be hard and inhospitable, and then again benevolent and friendly.

These natural contrasts bring forth specific sorts of fruits and products, with contrasts in their looks and tastes. Hence, at this land heated by the hot sun and cooled by the northern winds, you will find specific sorts of vine grapes, olives, pomegranates, figs, potatoes ...





## Krumpir

Iz kolijevke Anda, peruanskog područja kraj jezera Titicaca, kojeg su španjolski konkvistadori prije više od četiri stoljeća brodovima donijeli u Europu, krumpir, ta božanstvena biljka, čiji je plod u vrijeme gladi spasio tisuće života, ima gotovo mitsko mjesto u Hercegovini.

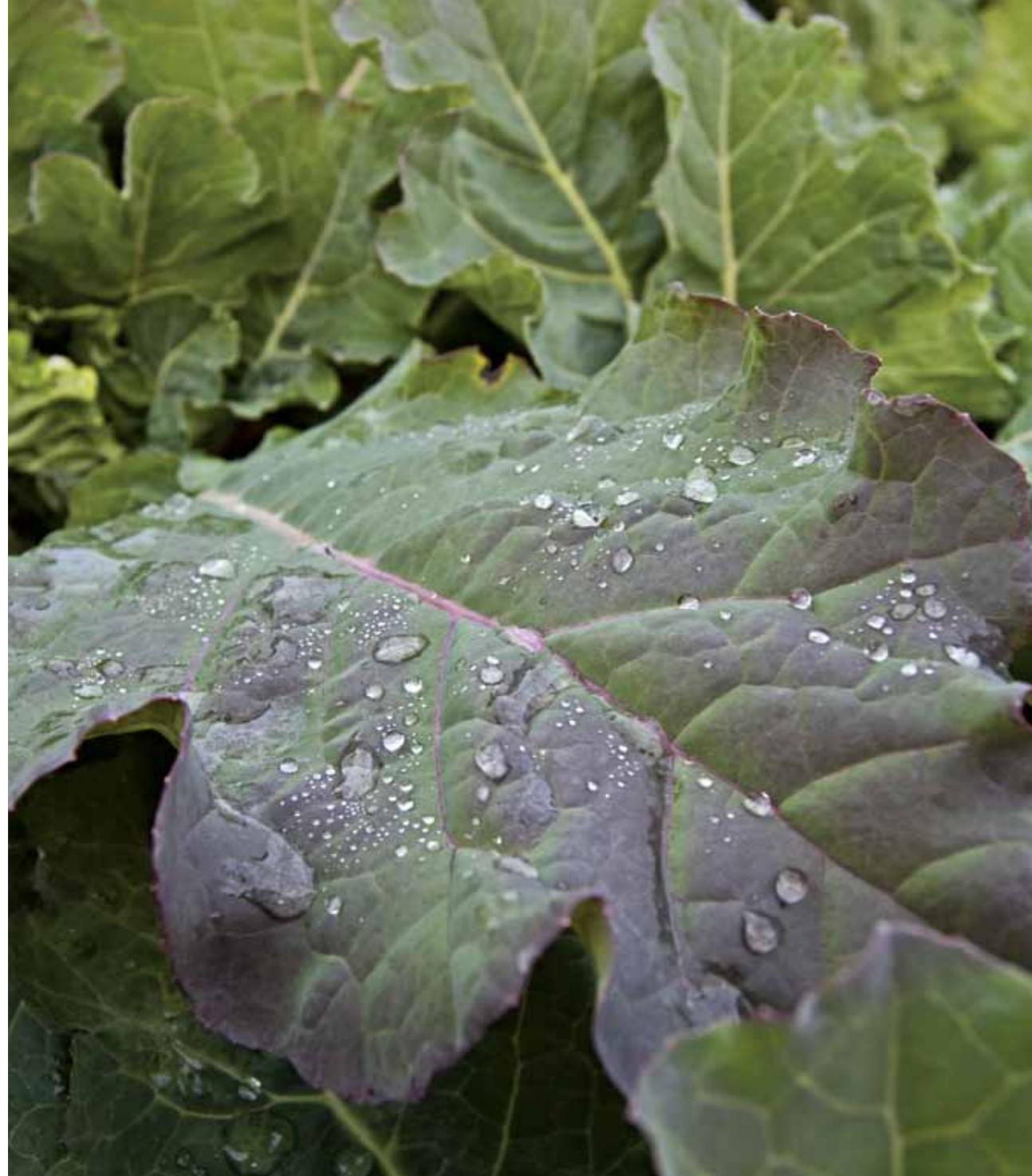
Hercegovački krumpir zvani poluranjka, sorta za koju se i danas vežu brojne priče, ima poseban status u krumpirovu sortimentu. Nostalgični kupci krumpir poluranjku vežu uz posebnu crvenkastu boju pokožice ili konzistentnost i ukus krumpirova ploda. Krumpir proizveden u hercegovačkim vrtačama, njivama od 800 do 1100 metara nadmorske visine, zauzima visoko mjesto na ljestvici najkvalitetnijih plodova, među krumpirima u Europi. On ima veći postotak suhe tvari, minerala i vitamina u odnosu na krumpir proizveden u drugim uzgojnim područjima.

## Potato

From the cradle of Andes, the Peruvian region by the Titicaca Lake, the Spanish conquistadors brought it to Europe on their ships more than four centuries ago. This divine plant that saved thousands of lives in the famine periods has got an almost mythical position in Herzegovina.

The specific Herzegovinian sort of potatoes called “poluranjka” is the sort which is associated to many stories and has got a particular place among the potato sorts. The nostalgic consumers relate this sort of potatoes to a particular reddish color of its peal, its consistency and taste. The potato produced in the Herzegovinian karst valleys at the altitude between 800 and 1100 meters belongs to the very top of the European potato quality list. In relation to potatoes grown in other regions it has got a larger percentage of the dry matter, minerals and vitamins.





## Raštika

O njezinim čudotvornim svojstvima pričalo se još u faraonskom Egiptu i staroj Grčkoj. Njezinu nesumnjivu nutricionističku vrijednost priznaju svi zagovornici zdrave mediteranske gastronomije. Stoljećima je smatrana svetom biljkom. Njezini se listovi u društvu sinova sunca često pojavljuju na nadgrobnim slikama i freskama.

Helenski mitovi pripovijedaju kako se Zeus našao u neprilici jer je u kratkom vremenu morao protumačiti dva potpuno suprotna proročanstva. Od umnog naprezanja počeo se silno znojiti. Na mjestima gdje bi koja od kapljica znoja pala na tlo, odmah su nicalne mladice bezglavog zelenog kupusa, raštike, i on ih je zadubljen u zagonetna proročanstva sasvim nesvesno brao i trpao u usta. Mirisno lišće, izniklo od božanskog znoja prosvijetlilo je Zeusov um i pomoglo mu da ubrzo riješi proročanstva koja su jamčila snagu i moć njegove vladavine.

Hercegovci i Dalmatinci kuhaju je u sušenoj bravetini, teletini, a začinjavaju je običnim uljem ili mašću uz malo soli. I tako jednostavno pripremljeno jelo i danas, kao i u doba faraonskog Egipta ili stare Grčke, ništa nije izgubilo na svojoj gastro snazi.

## Kale

The Pharaonic Egypt and the ancient Greece were familiar with its magic qualities. All the experts recognize its nutritional values in the Mediterranean gastronomy. For centuries it was regarded a sacred plant. Its leaves are often presented with the images of Pharaohs on the frescos and paintings.

The myths of Greece tell us about Zeus having trouble in interpreting two completely contrary prophecies. He was under a deep strain and was so embarrassed that he started to sweat heavily. At the places where the drops of his sweat fell, the young plants of the cabbage-like plant grew, only without the head, actually that was kale. Being deep in thoughts he started eating them unconsciously, and the pleasantly smelling leaves growing from the divine sweat enlightened his mind and he soon came to the solution of the prophecy that guaranteed him the strength and power of his rule.

The Herzegovinians and the Dalmatians cook it with the mutton or veal with a bit of oil or grease and just a bit of salt. This simple dish is the same as it used to be at the time of pharaonic Egypt and old Greece, and has not lost anything of its magic gastronomic power.





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## Kuke (šparoge)

Kuka (šparoga), samonikla biljka, koja se svakog proljeća pojavljuje u hercegovačkom šumskom gustišu, gorkastog okusa, odavno je služila radniku težaku kao jedina prirodna namirnica koja bi mu u vrijeme teških proljetnih radova na njivi dala snagu. Njeni meki izdanci, pripremljeni s običnim jajima i maslacem, bili su godinama jedina dnevna ponuda radnika težaka.

Danas je to delicija koja se služi u stogo određeno vrijeme. Osim kulturnih salata, hercegovačka ugostiteljsko-kulinarska mašta je ovoj, naizgled prozaičnoj namirnici, namijenila i mnoga – samo na prvi pogled – neobična jela.

## The wild asparagus

The wild-growing ones, that appear in early spring among the forest thickets, having a bitterish taste, long ago started to present the natural grocery to the labourers, the source of strength for the spring field toiling. They were often the main meal, with some eggs and butter.

Nowdays it is a delicacy that is served only at particular times. Besides the cult salads, the imagination of the Herzegovina caterers and chefs has turned this seemingly prosaic grocery into many unusual dishes.





## Škija

„Hercegovačko zlato“, kako mu tepaju malobrojni hercegovački uzgajatelji, ili Nicotinum tabacum, kako su ga stručno imenovali biolozi, na prvi dim, snagom kakvog opijata, jednostavno zarobi um ljubitelja duhanskog dima.

Zbog žutih listova duhana gubili su se ljudski životi, znojem natapale škrte hercegovačke vrtače, o njemu su pričali s jednakom zadivljeniču i strašcu u carskim dvorima Beča, Pešte, Beograda ...

Ono što je Kubancima popularna Choiba, to je Hercegovcima stara dobra škija, ugodna okusa i još ljepše zlatno žute boje. Poznati hercegovački duhan po svojoj kvaliteti spada među najbolji duhan u svijetu. Danas je, pak, njegova proizvodnja gotovo prestala, ali zlatni duhanski listovi još uvek egzotično proviruju iza suhozida kojima su ogradene hercegovačke njive.

Prostorija u kojima se puši hercegovačka škija odiše svojom zamamnom eteričnošću i priziva nostalgične dane, kad su sa škijom u ustima hercegovački djedovi i bake umirali u 90-toj godini svoga života.

## Tobacco

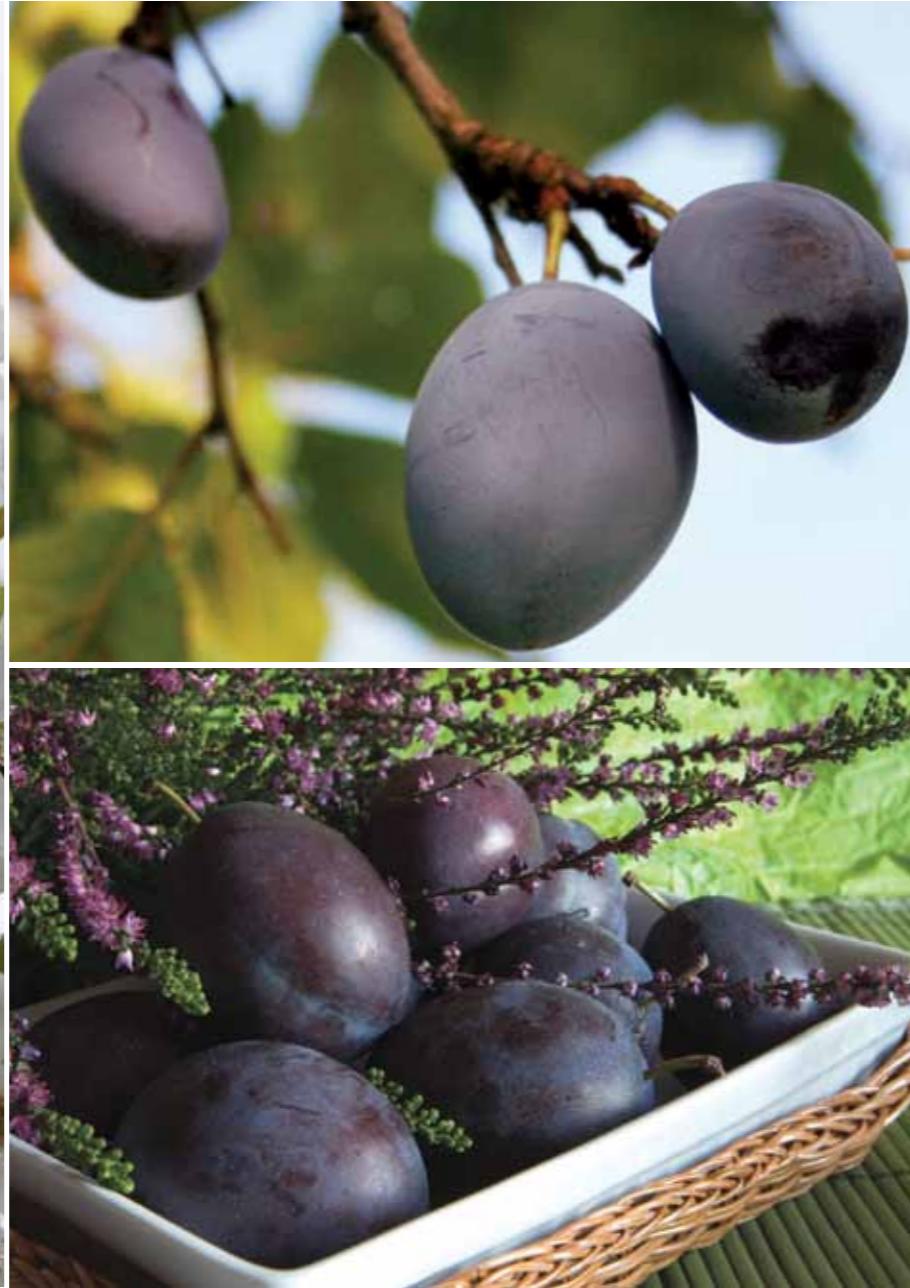
«The gold of Herzegovina» as the growers, few nowadays, call it, or Nicotinum tabacum, as it is called by biologists, shall conquer the mind of every smoke lover with its first smoke.

The yellow leaves of tobacco were often a reason for which lives were lost, people toiled hard to grow them, and it was frequent subject of passionate conversation at the empire castles in Wien, Budapest, and Belgrade where it was admired ...

The popular Choiba for Cubans is the same as the tobacco named „škija“ for Herzegovinians, with good taste, and even nicer golden-yellow color. The famous Herzegovinian tobacco belongs to the world's best quality tobaccos. Nowadays its production and growing has almost ceased, but still here and there you can see the golden tobacco leaves peering over the dry stone walls around the fields.

You can feel the alluring scent of the tobacco smoked in a room, with reminiscence to the old times, when the grandfathers and grandmothers in Herzegovina died at the age of ninety, with the rolled cigar between their lips.





## Šljiva

## Plum

Svježa, suha, samljevena, ukiseljena ili destilirana, šljiva je uvijek ukusna. Taj plavi ili bijeli plod, nakon Bosne, sve više uzima prostora i u Hercegovini. Statistika govori kako je šljiva po broju stabala i proizvodnji voća najzastupljenija voćna vrsta u Bosni i Hercegovini.

Tomu pridonose ne samo povoljni ekološki uvjeti njezina dobrog uspijevanja na tim područjima i njezina dosta velika prilagodljivost širokom rasponu razlika u ekološkim uvjetima, nego znatno i mogućnost višestrukog korištenja toga voća u kućanstvu.

Prema namjeni plodova šljiva je klasificirana u nekoliko sorti: stolne sorte koje su najprikladnije i prvenstveno namijenjene za svježu stolnu potrošnju; sorte za više namjena ili sorte kombiniranih svojstava čiji plodovi se mogu rabiti za različite namjene i rakijске sorte čiji se plodovi mogu iskoristiti gotovo jedino za rakiju.

Fresh, cured, milled, pickled or distilled, the plum is always tasty. After Bosnia, this blue or white fruit is spreading more and more through Herzegovina. The statistics show that the plum tree is the most frequent fruit tree in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This is supported by the suitable ecologic conditions of its growth and its great adjustment to the variety of climates, as well as by the various possibilities of usage in private households.

The plum is classified into several sorts according to the purpose of the use. There are sorts that are best for eating in the fresh condition, then sorts for multiple usages, the sorts with combined qualities for various usages, and the brandy sorts, which can be used almost only for making the plum brandy.



## Trešnja

*Čuje li tko trešnje, rane, u noći dok zriju slatko, rumene u stidu na mjesecini, kao svjetlo...*

tako je o trešnji pjevao don Bernard Marijanović. Struka kaže kako uzgoj trešnje u Hercegovini ima dugu tradiciju, te ova kultura, zahvaljujući povoljnim ekološkim uvjetima, zauzima značajne površine. A i nema puno biljnih pojava lijepih poput trešnje koja je u jeku zrelosti.

Grane povijene pod težinom plodova, koji se presijavaju pod hercegovačkim suncem jednostavno mame svojim svježim izgledom i okusom.

## Cherry

*Does anyone hear the cherries, the early ones, ripening sweetly in the night, ruddy in shame under the moonlight, like light...*

This is how Don Bernard Marijanović made verses about Cherries. The experts say that the cherry growing has got a long tradition in Herzegovina, and this culture, thanks to good ecological conditions, covers remarkable surfaces. There are not many plants as beautiful as the cherry in the full ripeness.

The branch bowed with the weight of fruits, shining under the sun, swinging in the wind, simply alluring with their fresh look and taste.



Hercegovina

# Selo

## Village





**S**krovito, ali vidljivo, malo, ali dovoljno veliko, usko ali široko, siromašno ali bogato ...

Svi ovi pridjevi stoje uz hercegovačka sela, ta mala bijelo-crvena mjesta, koje je ljudska ruka stoljećima razbacivala u podnožjima dračom obraslih brda, ili na rubovima krševitih polja, iz kojih vire trsi vinove loze, ili povjetarac njiše zlatno žute latice pšenice i kukuruza.

Ljeti, iz i oko kamenih zidova, dopire galama radnika težaka, čuje se žamor djece, koja su u rodni kraj svojih očeva i djedova pristigla iz svih krajeva svijeta. Uživaju u

slatkim bobicama tek pristiglog grožđa, trešnje, šljive, ili slasnim zalogajima crvene lubenice. Kad jesenski olovni oblaci prekriju ta mala kamena zdanja, dječja graja presahne, a tonovi starijih, zauzetih berbom jesenjih plodova, preuzimaju primat.

U bijelim kamenitim podrumima skladišti se zimnica, a kroz pipe džinovskih bačvi u drvene bukare i staklene bokale ulijeva se mlado vino. Malo zatim uskim seoskim ulicama odjekne pjesma vinskom kapljicom oraspoloženih seljana.

**H**idden, yet visible, small, but big enough, narrow but wide, poor and rich at the same time ...

All these attributes stand for the Herzegovinian villages, these small white-red places that the human hand has been for centuries scattering at the foots of hills covered with Jerusalem thorn, or at the edges of karst fields with vine grapes or the golden wheat waving in the wind, or corn stalks growing in the sun.

In the summer, between the stone walls, you can hear the shouting of the labourers, the voices of children that have

come to the native places of their fathers and grandfathers from all over the world. They enjoy the sweet berries of grapes, cherries, plums, or sweet bites of ripe melons. When the heavy clouds of autumn cover the small villages the voices of the children vanish, and the voices of the adults take over, occupied by the harvest.

The food is stored for the winter into the white stone basements, the young wine is poured from the huge barrels into the wooden goblets and glass jars, and after the refreshment with a few sips of wine the song will soon be heard in the narrow streets of the village.





## Obitelj

Niti ratovi koji su svako malo kročili Hercegovinom, niti glad, nevrijeme, iseljeništvo nisu uspjeli naštetiti stožeru hercegovačkog opstanka - obitelji. Vječne bure i oluje, pritiskale su hercegovačku obitelj i njezin dom.

*Sve naseli nikad se ne raseli, uzvikuju i danas povijesnu uzrečicu potomci hercegovačkih obitelji rasutih po svijetu.*

I kao što je napisao jedan pjesnik „*mnogi su je prisvajali, mnogi su je bez ikakvog prava svojom zemljom zvali, ali obiteljska tradicija i stameni duh su tradicijsku Hercegovinu ipak sačuvali. U mučeničkom trudu obrađivali su zemlju naši preci. Tvrdim žuljevima milovali lozu, svojim znojem napajali smokvu, vrelim staračkim suzama šipak umivali, u ranu zoru brali duhan, u pustoj noći brojili zrna pšenice za idući dan ...*“

Nerijetko su naši stari, sa svežnjem na ramenu, odlažili u strani, tudi svijet. Ali danas Hercegovina diše novi život. Jest, škrta je njena zemљa, ali Hercegovina ima dušu! Ima nešto sveto u njenom kršu i kamenu, u svakoj njenoj stopi – obitelj.

## Family

The wars that were rampaging throughout Herzegovina on several occasions, the famine, bad weather, and emigration, none of these damaged the core of the Herzegovinian survival - the Family. The Herzegovinian family has always been exposed to various hardships.

*Settle everywhere, but do not get depopulated,* that is still the saying with the descendants of Herzegovinian families all over the world.

A poet once wrote, «*Many were usurping and claiming it without any right, and called it their land, but the family tradition and persistent spirit of Herzegovina have remained. Our ancestors were dealing with the poor soil, caressing the vine grapes with the blisters of their palms, watering the fig trees with their sweat, washing the pomegranates in the tears of the old people, picking tobacco at dawns, counting the wheat beads in the long winter nights for the following day....*»

Our ancestors often had to go abroad in search for survival. But nowadays there is a new life in Herzegovina. True, its soil is poor, but Herzegovina has got the spirit! There is something sacred in its karst and stone, in each foot of the land – the family.





## Kuhinja

Raznoliki gastronomski akvarel u Hercegovini sazdan je od desetine različitih, skromnih, ali ukusnih jela iznad kojih dominira krv Hercegovine, njezina izvrsna vina. Tu, gdje čovjek kamenu krađe zemlju, gdje ljeti ispucana zemlja vapi za vodom, sve je nekako posebno naglašeno. I priroda i ljudi i vino.

Kao što se mijenjala njena povijest i smjenjivali njezini osvajači, tako se u Hercegovini mijenjala, nadopunjavala, obogaćivala, ili osiromašivala i hercegovačka tradicijska kuhinja, sazdana od brašna, sira, mesa, ribe, vina ...

## Cuisine

The variety of the gastronomy in Herzegovina is composed of tens of different, modest but tasty dishes, dominated still by the very blood of Herzegovina, the wine. In this place where the man steals the soil from the rock, where the arid soil wails for a drop of water, everything is somehow highlighted. The nature, the people, the wine.

Like Herzegovinian history and its conquerors, the traditional Herzegovinian cuisine has been changing, evolving, enriching, impoverishing. The cuisine composed of flour, cheese, meat, fish, wine ...



## Tradicija

U planinskim predjelima Hercegovine stanovništvo se od davnina bavilo stočarstvom, posebice ovčarstvom, tako da su ovi krajevi oduvijek bili bogati vunom. Vuna od autohtone ovce pramenke je dosta tvrda i otporna, pa uz pravu brigu, jedan predmet napravljen od naše vune obično nadživi svog vlasnika.

U Hercegovini se razvio cijeli niz aktivnosti i zanata vezanih uz proizvodnju vune i proizvoda od vune. Od vune se izradivalo sukno, nevaljano i valjano, za sve gornje haljetke, kako ljetne, tako i zimske. Osim toga, vuna se koristila i za čarape, pregače, tkanice i torbe. Tradicionalno se vuna bojala u bijelu, crnu i tamnoplavu, te su se sukna ovih boja upotrebljavala u izradi nošnji stanovništva svih etničkih grupa.

I danas je ostala živa tradicija ručnog pravljenja proizvoda od vune koristeći tradicionalne alate. Tradicija je živa posebice kod starijih žena na selu kojima je to jedan od najdražih načina provođenja vremena. Vunene čarape, rukavice, džemperi i danas su prepoznatljiv znak bogate hercegovačke tradicije.

## Tradition

In the mountainous part of Herzegovina the population has always been engaged in cattle herding, particularly the sheep, so these regions were rich with wool. The wool of the autochthonous sheep Pramenka is hard and resistant, so with a proper care, an item made of our wool shall last the lifetime.

In Herzegovina there are many activities and trades related to wool production and manufacturing different items from wool. The hard cloth was made from wool, both rolled and not rolled, for all the top parts of clothes, coats and jackets, both winter and summer ones. Besides, the wool was used for manufacturing socks, aprons, sashes, purses, bags. By the tradition the wool was colored in white, dark blue and black, and the cloth of these colors was used in manufacturing the traditional clothing of the inhabitants of all the ethnical groups.

Even nowadays the tradition of manual production of the woolen things, using the traditional tools has been maintained. The tradition is particularly vivid at the villages with elderly women who find it a favourite pastime. The woolen gloves, socks or pullovers are a remarkable sign of the rich Herzegovinian tradition.





## Govedo

(Buša)

Buša (*bos brachiceros*), ilirsko govedo ili domorac neki su od brojnih naziva autohtone pasmine goveda, koja se udomaćila na prostoru Hercegovine.

Sitna stasom, čiji je organizam pokazao otpornost na sve vrste bolesti u najčudljivijim vremenima, koji su stoljećima opterećivali bremenitu povijest Hercegovine, buša je bila i ljubimica i hraniteljica, na čijem su mlijeku i mesu preživjele generacije.

Znanost kaže kako buša pripada primitivnoj skupini goveda koje nalazimo u krajevima u kojima je čovjekov utjecaj na uzgoj vrlo slab. Njezina telad su sitna, prirodne težine oko 15 kg. Plodnost buše je oko 85 do 90 posto. Ženske životinje ostaju u rasplodu 10 do 12 godina, a žive oko 20 godina.

Buša je rezultat slabe prehrane i oskudne njage, čija je muznlost minimalna, ali joj je mlijeko izvrsne kakvoće.

## Cattle

(Buša sort)

The autochthonous sort of cattle domesticated in Herzegovina is called Buša (*bos brachiceros*), the Illyric cattle, or Domorac.

Small in growth, with the organism that has proved to be resistant to all ailments in all weather conditions that have been hard in Herzegovina for centuries, Buša has been both a pet and a provider whose milk and meat fed generations.

The science says that Buša belongs to a primitive group of cattle kept in the regions where the man has got a low influence on breeding. The calves are small, the natural weight is about 15 kilos. The fertility is 85 to 90%. The females stay in the breeding process 10 to 12 years, and they live for about 20 years.

Buša is the result of meager feeding and care, with low milking quantity, but with high milk quality.





## Magarac

## Donkey

*„U širokom plaštu noći Pun mjesec, Posivjeli magarac Nosio nas je prema Egiptu Šutljivo. Na mjesecu Poskoči brončani hoplit. Goropadno. Kako bi zgazio prah. Koji mu se tada čudesno ukaza, Otac, Dječak i lijepa zaručnica...“*

Tako je o magarcu prije više od stotinu godina poeme pisao talijanski pjesnik, antologičar i svećenik Antonio Corsaro.

Ta mitska životinja, koja ima svoje mjesto i u Biblij, u Hercegovini je značila razliku između života i smrti. Magarac je tu samo da bi radio, jedva nešto pojeo i onda opet radio, a čovjek je tu da se ljuti što magarac nije dovoljno radio. Tužna priča, posebice ima li se na umu da je sitni magarac stoljećima crnio i odigrao neprocjenjivu ulogu u opstanku čovjeka na škrtom kraškom terenu.

Na njegovim malim, ali izdržljivim plećima, Hercegovci su prevozili brašno, krumpir, duhan. Uz pomoć maleg sivog tvrdoglavog magarca se trgovalo, zaradivalo, patilo i živjelo. Hercegovački magarac je sitan, karakterizira ga čvrsta konstitucija i skladna grada. Ima vrlo dugačke, mišićave uši, oči su izražajne, vrat je srednje dug i vrlo jak, prsa su plitka i uska, trbuš je pravilno razvijen, a noge su čvrste s jakim kostima, kopito je malo, ali tvrdo i prilagođeno krševitom terenu.

*«In the wide cloak of night with the full Moon, the grey donkey carried us towards Egyptian silence. A bronze silhouette jumped in the Moon. Truculently. As to step on the dust. And it miraculously appeared to him- the father, the boy and the pretty fiancee . . .»*

This is how the Italian poet, anthologist and priest Antonio Corsaro wrote about the donkey more than a hundred years ago.

This mythic animal has got its place even in the Bible. In Herzegovina it meant the difference between the life and the death. The donkey was there only to work, hardly eat anything, and then work again, and the man was there to be angry because the donkey did not work enough. A sad story, particularly if we have in mind that the donkey kept toiling for centuries, and played a priceless role in the man's survival on the arid karst terrain.

His small but enduring back transported flour, potatoes, tobacco. With the help of the small stubborn donkey Herzegovinian people made trading, earned and gained, suffered and lived. The Herzegovinian donkey is small, of tough constitution and well proportioned. It has got long muscular ears, expressive eyes, and the neck of medium length and very strong, the shallow and narrow chest, the belly orderly developed, the legs firm with strong bones, the hoof small and tough, well suited for the karst terrain.



## Ovca

(Humnjačka ovca, Pramenka)

Od Stoca, prema Ljubuškom, Čapljinu, pa prema Neumu, Ljubinju, Čitluku, Širokom Brijegu, Posušju, nekad se bijelilo od njezina runa. U škrtoj goleti među vriskom, kaduljom, dračom, njezini sitni zubi uvijek su našli poneku travčicu i tako stoljećima. U pastirskoj prošlosti ona ima važno mjesto.

Humnjačka pramenka predstavlja izuzetno vrijednu populaciju ovaca. Vrijednost ove pasmine je u tome što se ona uzgaja na područjima otežanih uvjeta gospodarenja i što je kao takva jedan od bitnih razloga opstanka stanovništva na tim područjima. Njezino meso, sir i vuna često su kroz povijest bili sinonim za život.

Obično se u proljeće ovce izgone na ljetnu ispašu na kraške planine visoke Hercegovine, gdje ostaju do jeseni, a zatim se ponovno vraćaju na zimovanje. Procjenjuje se kako je danas ostalo svega nekoliko tisuća čistokrvnih ovaca ovog soja. Njezina vrijednost kažu stručnjaci leži i u činjenici da se radi o izvornoj pasmini ovaca što za proizvode dobivene od ove pasmine predstavlja mogućnost stjecanja prava zaštite označama kvalitete (izvornosti, zemljopisnog podrijetla i zajamčenog tradicijskog spcijeliteta).

## The sheep

(Humnjačka sheep, pramenka sheep)

From Stolac to Ljubuški, Čapljina, Neum, Ljubinje, Čitluk, Široki Brijeg and Posušje, once upon a time the terrain was white with the sheep wool. In the meager arid terrain with heather, sage and Jerusalem thorn, its tiny teeth were always able to find enough grass to survive. And so for centuries. In the shepherding past of the region the sheep has got a significant place.

Humnjačka pramenka presents a very significant breed of sheep. The value of the sheep is that it is bred in the regions with hard living conditions, hence it largely contributed to the survival of population in such regions. Its meat, cheese and wool have frequently been the synonym for life throughout the history.

Usually in spring the sheep are driven to the grazing lands to the high karst mountains of Herzegovina and stay there till autumn, and are then returned home to spend winter there. It is estimated that there are only a few thousand of this breed of sheep nowadays. The experts say that the value of this sheep is in the fact that it is the original breed, and the products gained from it can be protected by the quality trade mark (originality, geographic origin, the guaranteed traditional specialty).





## Povratak

Ti ne slutiš  
moj povratak i moju blizinu.

U noći kad šumi u tvom uhu  
tiha mjesecina znaj;  
ne korača mjesecina oko tvoje kuće.  
Ja lutam plavim stazama u tvom vrtu.

Kad koračajući cestom mrtvo svjetlo padne  
staneš  
preplašena krikom čudne tice  
znaj:  
to krik je moga srca s blizih obala.

I kad kroz sutan vidiš crnu sjenu što se miče  
s onu stranu mirke mirne vode  
znaj:  
ja koračam uspravan i svečan  
kao pored tebe.

*Antun Branko Šimić*



# Ruralna Hercegovina

# Rural Herzegovina

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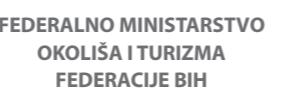
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