



Welcome to Stancija Mani!

We wish you a pleasant and relaxing stay.

Enclosed are a few introductory points to get you started...

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Stancija Mani, Hrelji 45, 52341 Žminj, Istria, HR

Coordinates 45.1228597 13.85851

The Houses

Olive, Rose and Jasmine are stone houses that were built according to traditional Istrian construction techniques.

The thick stone walls make air conditioning superfluous, but one does have to know how to “treat” an old-style house – meaning that during the day when it’s sunny and hot, it is best to keep the windows and shutters closed to keep the heat out, and then open them in the evening to let the cooler air in.

Bathrooms – the switches with the orange lamps are for the hot water boilers, so please leave them on. The bathroom plugs only work when the light is switched on.

All houses are NON-SMOKING! Should you choose to smoke outside, please use the ashtrays provided.

Feel free to help yourself to firewood (under the outdoor staircase). If you have any problems starting your fire, please feel free to ask for help!

When it rains, and when you go out, please remember to shut the metal shutters leading to the balcony.

Please lock your doors and close ground floor windows when you leave your house and please do not leave personal belongings in the konoba, which is accessible day and night. If you would like us to store any valuables for you, feel free to ask.

Waste disposal – if you turn left when you leave the property, there is a large skip / bin on a patch of grass at the crossroads where you can empty your rubbish.

Unfortunately, our local council has not introduced a recycling system yet so glass (apart from bottles that can be returned to shops), plastic and tin all go in the normal rubbish.

Insects – you will find mosquito plugs and capsules in your house. If the mosquitos are bothering you, we recommend changing the capsules every evening. If you have lights on in the evening, it is better to keep the doors and windows (those without netting) closed to keep the bugs out.

Don't panic, but there are scorpions in Istria...! They are black and not poisonous, and might pop up in your house or outside. No-one at the house has been stung by a scorpion since we've been here, apparently if it does happen it's not worse than any other bite or sting. In our experience, they are very shy and tend to go away if they see you. You can always use a piece of paper to put them in a glass and carry them into the woods but please don't kill them!

Welcome Pack, food, shopping...

When you arrive, you will find the following basics (or a variation of the following) in your kitchen:

Istrian olive oil
Salt & pepper
Tea bags
Coffee (with stove-top percolator or cafetière)
Milk
Sugar
Bread
1 bottle of wine
Sparkling water

The tap water is completely fine to drink!

There are small supermarkets in Kanfanar (at the main square and opposite the train station – turn left before the level crossing) and in Zminj (turn right onto the asphalt road and keep going straight).

The closest bigger supermarkets and shops (Konzum, Plodine, Lidl, DM) are in Rovinj.

The open air markets in Rovinj and Pula offer fresh, local farmers' produce. The prices can be a bit steep but we like to support the farmers and pensioners who live from their land.

The fish market in Rovinj has fresh fish every day (until 1pm), and if you're lucky you might even catch a fisher coming back to the harbour who is prepared to sell his fresh catch directly from the boat. There is also a larger fish, meat and vegetable market in Pula.

There is a bakery in Zminj close to the church, and a number of bakers (Pekarna) in Rovinj.

Graciano, the butcher (Mesnica) in Zminj has excellent meat (go straight across the roundabout and turn into the row of shops on the left), - as does Ser o at the market in Rovinj, and Mesnica Milan in the Istarska Ulica in Rovinj (the road leading from Konzum and Lidl down to the old town).

Beaches

We would recommend any and all of the following:

With children, you might find it easiest to go to the beaches near Rovinj (approx. 15 - 20 minutes' drive). For FIGAROLA turn right at the roundabout before you go into town, or for the beaches by the camps VILLAS RUBIN and VESTAR turn left at the large roundabout with the sculpture and go straight across the next roundabout. You don't have to be put off by the camps and caravans – if you walk along the beach, you are sure to find quiet spots, even at the height of summer.

Between Rovinj and Bale, you will find SPANIDIGA (signposted on the right when approaching Bale).

Bale's 2 beaches (approx. 20 - 25 minutes' drive) SAN POLO & COLONE are both camps but, again, if you walk right or left beyond the caravans, you will find lovely flat rocks to lie on and fantastically clear water. You may have to leave ID at the entrance and pay HRK 30,- for parking if you stay longer than an hour. Both SAN POLO and COLONE have simple restaurants serving fresh fish, calamari, mussels, mixed meat grills etc.

On the east coast, we can recommend exploring the area between Rakalj and Peruski, or if you're feeling slightly more adventurous and don't mind steep gravel roads, Kalavojna and Kavran. This is a rocky coastline with mostly gravel roads leading down to the sea.

NB rubber-soled swimming shoes are definitely advisable, as there are prickly sea urchins along the entire coast.

Food, Wine, Olive oil

Monfardin, Arca Spanidiga (between Bale & Rovinj).

If you follow the sign to Spanidiga, it leads along a gravel path towards the sea.

The trattoria / konoba / agriturizam Monfardin is an off-the-beaten-path favourite of locals and tourists. The atmosphere is very relaxed ("nema stressa") with chickens and cats running around, and Roberto and his team offer simple but good food with very good local wine – Roberto's own barrique red has won a number of regional and national prizes.

<http://www.mofardin.hr> Tel. 00385 52 829 044 Mob. 00385 98 411 917

The fish "agriturizam" *Arca* (left at the forked road where you would turn right for Monfardin) offers home-made specialties such as squid goulash, as well as grilled bream and sea bass they catch themselves.

Only open at the weekend Tel. 00385 52 829 554 Mob. 00385 98 368 348

We suggest you call in advance.

Rakalj / Sveti Mikula

ca 40 minute drive from Stancija Mani via Barban to Krnica and Rakalj – there are signposts in Rakalj for Sv. Mikula. There are a number of roads leading down to the sea from Rakalj / Krnica.

Don't be put off by the newness of the house or the white concrete balustrades! It is beautiful to sit on the terrace in the shade of old walnut, fig, olive trees and wisteria and look out onto the bay.

Fish and seafood only! Very good pasta and risotto.

Tel. 00385 52 556 413 Mob. 00385 91 335 94 66

Trget / Martin Pescador

This excellent fish restaurant (they also serve meat) is directly by the sea in a beautiful and quiet fishing bay between Barban and Labin. From Barban (signposted in Zminj), turn left down the hill and then, at the railway tracks, follow the sign to Rasa on the right.

Tel. 00385 52 544 976

Podrum Agriturizam "Val Rosa"

Sandro Rudan, a friend who produces wine and olive oil (which you can taste and purchase directly at Val Rosa) is an excellent cook. There is no menu, so speak to him (he speaks English, German and Italian) about what is on offer. His beautifully located outdoor restaurant is near a mountain (well, hillock) on the way to Rovinj called "Turnina" which has been noted for its wine and olive culture for centuries.

If you drive from Stancija Mani towards Rovinj, approx. 100m after the yellow road sign for Rovinj, you will see a signpost on the left towards Podrum Val Rosa – keep an eye out for the „INFO“ stand "VALALTA" on the right hand side just before you have to turn left.

<http://agroturizam-valrosa-rovinj.com>

Contact Sandro Rudan Mob.00385 91 8856 131

Konoba Miro

This used to be a quiet and very good family-run restaurant – *padrone* Miro has his own fishing boat, his wife and son Sasha cook, Sasha's sister is in charge of service and they also make their own wine.

We highly recommend the fish, mussels and beef – raw as carpaccio or grilled – and the pasta with scampi and pasta *frutti di mare* are very good too.

They have now joined forces with a pizzeria and the menu has grown a bit. Still a nice place to sit – if you go there please let us know whether we should keep it in the list!

Every day from 17:00 – 23:00

Phone Tel. 00385 52 830 854 Mob. 00385 98 421 413

Pizzeria Allegria

On the way to Rovinj, 5 to 10 minutes' drive from Stancija Mani on the right hand side of the main road. They serve pizza & pasta.

Dean Tel. +385 52 848 375

Vrsar / Restaurant Trost

A big but good family-run restaurant above the yacht marina in Vrsar, a very picturesque town on the coast between Rovinj and Porec. They offer excellent fish and meat dishes, good local wine (try the slightly fizzy chardonnay, which is served in carafes) and the view is lovely. If you eat inside, sit in the dining room on the right, where they grill the fish and meat in a big open fireplace.
Tel. 00385 52 445 197

Momjan / Most, Stari Podrum

A charming and good family-run restaurant in the hills near Momjan. Mira cooks traditional dishes with a personal touch (e.g. a green polenta mixed with a variety of local herbs as an accompaniment to grilled mushrooms).
Telephone Nr. 00385 52 779 152

Momjan / Konoba Rino

Nice terrace, good local food.
Tel. 00385 52 779 170

Moscenice / Konoba Tutamo

In the picturesque small town of Moscenice. The restaurant only has 5 or 6 tables (indoors and outdoors on a terrace overlooking the coast) so we recommend calling in advance. Very good food, nice service, good location (about 50 minutes drive).
open from 17.00 every day
Tel. 00385 51 737 233

Vabriga / MaDaLu

Excellent fresh fish in very simple surroundings in the bay of Santa Marina. Outdoor tables, big umbrellas and a marquee, a tiny kitchen in a fishing hut, and very good food. Padrone Mauro and his children will be happy to recommend their fresh produce, prepared in an authentic Istrian way.
Tel. 00385 95 8546 708 or 00385 98 2548 99

Rovinj

Veli Joze an institution in the old city of Rovinj. Tel. (+385) (0)52 816337

Sidro is well known for its meat dishes.

Grotta For drinks and small snacks drop into the bar Grotta at the open air market, where you will always find the fishermen of Rovinj having their "ombra".

Hotels Adriatic, Lone & Monte Mulini

The Adriatic is in the centre of town, opposite the fountain. Lone and Monte Mulini are set back in the Lone Bay, south of the marina. All three hotels have restaurants offering local and international food in a contemporary ambience.
<http://www.maistra.hr/aktivnosti/restorani>

Kantinon

Like the three hotels, this restaurant with a beautiful stone floor and small, authentic menu belongs to Rovinj hotel group Maistra. Nice place to sit by the harbour and enjoy Rovinj.

Tel. 00385 52 816 075

Puntulina

Exclusive restaurant with a terrace directly by the sea (turn right at the fountain).

Tel. 00385 52 813 186

Barba Danilo Local mediterranean cuisine with a contemporary twist. Located in the “Camp Ulika” in Rovinj, between Villas Rubin and Polari.

Tel. 00385 52 830 002

There are a number of “agroturizmi” in the hills around Motovun and Buzet, such as “Spinovci”, where you can enjoy a stunning view of Motovun and good home-made pastas and meat dishes, “Gardina” in Zrenj for game and truffles, and “Jadruhi”, which is on the way to Vizinada.

From Motovun you can drive to Opatalji and further up the hills to Zrenj where you can get nice local food, wine and olive oil at Agroturizam Tonic or Gardina. They are open from Friday to Sunday and it's better to call in advance to check availability.

Tonic speak to Orietta or Sandro 00 385 52 644 146

Gardina 00 385 52 644 147

Zminj, *Puli Pineta*

Our “local”- Pino Kuhar cooks traditional and very good food based on local products, such as excellent home-made pasta dishes with mushrooms, or (in season) wild asparagus, and great barbecued steaks. Fish is available but you have to pre-order.

Phone 00385 98 99 11 795. Paula speaks English and Italian.

Wine

Istria can now boast of excellent wine (a fairly recent development over the last 10 to 15 years). Whites include malvazija (which we know from Shakespeare as “malmsey”...), chardonnay, pinot grigio (sivi pinot). The local “black” wine, Teran, can be somewhat abrasive but is a must as an accompaniment to local prosciutto (prsut). You can also find very good merlots, cabernets (franc and sauvignon) and a lighter “bourgogne” which is often used in combination with the teran grape to take off the acidic edge.

Sandro from Val Rosa and Roberto von Monfardin (see above) sell their own wine. On the way to Monfardin, in Spanidiga, you might want to stop at the neighbour, Rino Suran, whose metal gate at the entrance has signs for wine and olive oil. His white “Kyara” has won a number of prizes.

In the hills, where the red earth of southern Istria turns to a chalkier white limestone, you will find some of the biggest Croatian names such as Matosevic, Kozlovic, Degrassi, Franc Arman, Pilato, Poletti, to name but a few. Claj, near Buzet, was one of the first organic wine farmers here and makes truly unique and very special wine.

Moving away from the “beaten track” and big names, we recommend FERENAC in Ferenci, near Vizinada, where Djulio and his family produce very good malvazija, chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc, and Alfrdo COSSETTO in “Kastelir” near Porec. We have Cossetto wines here at the property.

Tel. Alfredo 000385 98/366-464

Roški i 10, 52464 Kaštelir, Hrvatska

Closer to Stancija Mani, SAN TOMASO makes excellent, authentic Malvazija, Chardonnay and a range of red wines. They have a bar and shop in Rovinj, but it's nicest to visit them at their winery in Golaš. If you call in advance, you can arrange for a tasting with a snack or meal. While you're there, you can visit the aromatic park around the corner (see “other local produce” below).

Golaš 13, 52211 Bale (Valle), Istra, Hrvatska

Janja Debeljuh Tel. 098/309-594

Olive oil

Sandro from Val Rosa produces 3 different olive oils, each fantastic in its own way.

If you drive towards Motovun and Groznjan, you will see a number of signs for olive and wine farms where most producers are happy to arrange impromptu degustations.

As oil production varies from region to region and year to year, please ask us if you're interested in finding a special oil while you're here.

Other Local Produce

Cheese / Kardinal has a shop at the market in Pula but makes and stores its own excellent goat's cheese in Kanfanar in three different maturations (the youngest is about 2 months). The owner is happy to deliver it here if you'd like to buy some.

Cheese / Stancija Kumpari ka not only make cheese, they also offer activities including meeting the goats and spending the morning with the herd, making your own cheese, etc.

<http://www.kumparicka.com>

Tel. Aleš 00385 99 6690 692 Boris 00385 98 381 572

Herbs and cosmetics / Histria Aromatica

Home-made soaps and cosmetics are on sale at their shop near the market in Rovinj, but it's really worth visiting the farm near Golaš (see San Tomaso wine above) for the stunning view of Rovinj and a walk through the park.

<http://www.aromatica.hr/>

Outings

Fishing with Dario

Dario, a friend fisherman, keeps his wooden boat in Rovinj. He is happy to take groups (of up to approx. 8 people) fishing. You set out early in the morning or late afternoon, and can go swimming in the sea and fishing with Dario, who never comes home empty handed.

Prices available on request.

Grupa Batana

"Batana" are wooden rowing boats with a long tradition in Rovinj. On Tuesday evenings, restored and newly built batana gather at the "Delfin" pier in Rovinj, and take guests on a trip into the sunset around the old city of Rovinj, accompanied musically by Grupa Batana, who sing traditional Istrian (Istrioto and Bitinade) songs. The boat trip ends at a hidden tavernetta on the sea-front, where guests are served fresh fish dishes, and the Grupa Batana continues to sing...

Kuna 200,- per Person. Advance booking required.

Bikes

We have three very basic bikes here that you are welcome to use (on a first come, first served basis). There are a number of rental offices in Rovinj (you can't miss them) and we recommend riding south through the Marina, where a path by the sea leads all the way to Bale and you will find nice places to bathe and little taverns for a snack or lunch along the way.

Horse Riding

Gianluca at Moncerlongo on the way to Rovinj offers riding lessons, hippotherapy, and 1 to 3 hour horse rides for beginners to experienced riders.

<http://www.moncerlongoranch.com> Tel. 00385 91 182 9048

Apart from these activities, there are incredibly picturesque towns and villages to visit. Rovinj is a must and then you might want to visit Pore , Pula, Umag or Novigrad, Grožnjan, Motovun, and Oprtalj in the hills, the frescoes at the church of St. Mary near Beram.

Rain

We do not recommend visiting any of the towns if it's raining, as all of Istria will have had the same idea and you could end up in traffic. You can always take the scenic route to Rovinj through Bale, though, which is longer but you will save time and Bale is nice to visit too (excellent gelateria and a couple of good restaurants, ranging from the upmarket Hotel Grisa to good pizzas and pastas at Mali Mol, next to the roundabout leading down to the beaches or on to Rovinj).

La Grisa <http://www.la-grisa.com> tel. 00385 52 824 501

Mali Mol Tel. Slavko 00 385 99 798 0325

Internet

There is wifi internet access in the Konoba. The password is

stancijamani

If the connection stops working, you may have to reconnect via the wireless gateway. To do this please follow the following steps:

- enter the following address in your browser (in the address window)

<http://www.192.168.1.1>

- enter the user name “admin” and the password “admin” and press enter

- from the “home” menu, reconnect using the blue icons at the top right.

Please do NOT change any of the other advanced settings or security settings!!

Please - although the internet works all around the Konoba, we would ask you to use computers either on the back terrace or, if it's raining, inside. The front terrace is a culinary and communicative space, reserved for eating, drinking and socializing!

Books & CDs

There are books and cd's in all the houses and the konoba. Feel free to read and listen to whatever you find. We'd ask you to leave the books and cd's from the konoba there (they are part of our personal collection) but if you find yourself in the middle of a thrilling read with one of the books from your house, feel free to take it with you. It would be great if you could leave a book here for other guests in exchange or, failing that, contribute a little something to the crocodile in the konoba kitchen.

There are some maps in the konoba which you're welcome to use while you're here. It would be nice if you could return them and any of the Istrian guide books that you will find in the houses and konoba for other guests when you leave.

In the konoba, there are some books published by the Austrian publishing house Wieser Verlag, which has been disseminating south-east European literature in German speaking countries for decades. Some of these books are available for purchase (approx. Euro 15) – please ask us. For literary accompaniment to your time in Istria, we can recommend *Europa Erlesen Istrien* and Silvia Hinzmann's first Istrian detective story, *Der Duft des Oleanders*.

If you're running low on wine or sparkling water, we tend to have a fairly steady supply at home so do feel free to ask. We have someone who delivers water, beer, and juice if you'd like whole crates – again, please ask us if you're interested.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to come and ask (or call us). We wish you a fantastic holiday in Istria!

There is a guest book in the konoba – please leave us a message when you leave....

We would also be grateful if you could leave us a review on Trip Advisor, Airbnb or your preferred web platform and do feel free to like us on facebook.

Konoba

The konoba is open for all guests.

We'd be grateful if you could keep to the following guidelines:

- ≡ please keep the front terrace free of computers – it's nice to have a space for food, relaxation and “real” communication. There is plenty of space inside and on the back terrace to use the internet.
- ≡ please keep the kitchen clean and tidy. Crumbs and food attract ants and other insects that are hard to get rid of.
- ≡ feel free to move pots, pans, cups, saucers, cutlery, glasses etc. from your house to the konoba but please put things back where you found them!
- ≡ please only use the big fridge in the konoba for drinks – you should have enough space for food in the fridge in your house.
- ≡ if no-one else is using the konoba when you leave, please turn off the lights and lock the doors.

If the key to the main door (front terrace) is not in the keyhole, it will be on the left-hand side of the outside fireplace (probably hidden behind a brick or piece of wood).