

## Azure Merger with Dream Croatia

This month has seen the Croatian/British agency, Azure, based in Dubrovnik, unite with Dream Property Croatia in order to create a stronger team in the Dalmatian region. Tomislav Cvjetović and Tatjana Tošić have re-launched the Split business and opened a new office on the Riva in Split. Edin Prguda and Mandy-Jo Walter have integrated into the expanded Dubrovnik office to work alongside Kieran and Vedrana Kelleher and the DPC Dubrovnik team. Azure has been a successful agency in Dubrovnik for over two years with global clientele and their experience plus local knowledge will be invaluable for the expanded Dream Property Croatia business. "We are looking forward to the joint venture immensely; offering an improved service and concentrating on new build developments" stated the Azure team.



## Croatia Predicted to be top destination for UK Tourists in 2006

*Cheapflights.co.uk*, the UK's leading travel price comparison website, released its predictions for the ten destinations set to experience growth in 2006, with Dubrovnik firmly situated in the number one position.



The Croatian city secured the top spot as searches to this destination surged by over 100% over the course of 2005, and show no sign of slowing down. This percentage increase in searches for flights is almost twotimes greater than the increase experienced by the location securing second place – Bulgaria.

## FREE Rental Listing on Largest Property Directory

All Dream Croatia clients qualify for a **free** standard listing on the Croatia Holiday and Home directory. Your property advertisement appears on the website and you take the bookings yourself direct. There are no management fees or commission.

Please contact [andrea@dreamcroatia.com](mailto:andrea@dreamcroatia.com) for more details.

## New Low-Fare Flights to Croatia

Great news for those looking for more choice of airports and cheaper air tickets to visit the region. Recent announcements indicate that EasyJet are starting a Gatwick to Split flight from 2<sup>nd</sup> May with fares starting at €25.99 including taxes. Luton to Rijeka service four times a week starting end of June, also Bristol to Rijeka in July.



Good for Scottish investors is the news from Globespan - May 30th until Oct 2006 the airline will commence flying direct Glasgow (Tues) and Edinburgh (Sun) to Pula in Istria.

Spring sees the start of Wizzair flying into Split and Zagreb from Luton at very favourable rates. Flying direct to Split on Tuesday, Friday and Sundays with return fares including taxes starting from as little as £38. Transportation links really are opening up across the country & when the motorway from Split to Dubrovnik is complete (2009-10) the journey will not seem so long. See [www.wizzair.com](http://www.wizzair.com)



## VISAS NO LONGER REQUIRED

As of March 22 Croatian citizens will no longer require a visa to visit the UK for up to six months. Only those wishing to extend their stay for longer than this period will need a visa. Croatian citizens will still have to go through immigration required by all non-EU members. The visas were introduced on Nov 19 1999 after a great deal of asylum requests came from Croatian passport holders.



## New Property Management Office

The Dubrovnik office of Dream Croatia has recently opened a separate, but linked, business called **Qualitas**, run by Mr Goran Kovačević. The company will represent the legal entities formed by buyers, offer all manner of private accommodation, rental properties, liaise with renovation companies and even propose various furnishing packages. A full feature will appear in the next newsletter.

Please contact [goran@dreamcroatia.com](mailto:goran@dreamcroatia.com) for more details.

## Property Seminars and Exhibitions in April

Springtime is around the corner and thoughts turn to house hunting. Before flying out to Croatia or Montenegro, why not consider increasing your knowledge by attending one of the Dream Property International seminars and exhibitions. To register for any of the seminars, please logon to [www.dreamcroatia.com](http://www.dreamcroatia.com).

### You can see us at the following events in April:

**Buying Property in Croatia and Montenegro Seminar, Copthorne Tara Hotel, Kensington, London** (registration required)  
 Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### A Place in the Sun Live, Excel Exhibition Centre, London

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April

10am – 6pm Fri to Sat 10am – 5.30pm Monday

A limited number of free passes are available for A Place In the Sun Live, contact us for details. For more information or to register, contact [andrea@dreamcroatia.com](mailto:andrea@dreamcroatia.com) or tel +44 (0)1753 831182.

**Buying Property in Croatia and Montenegro Seminar, Hilton Hotel, Charlemount Place, Dublin**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2006, 7.30pm

**Buying Property in Croatia and Montenegro Seminar, Clarion Hotel, Lapps Quay, Cork**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm

**House Hunters in the Sun Live! RDS Exhibition Centre, Dublin**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
 (Easter Weekend)

11am - 6pm Fri to Sun 11am - 5pm Monday  
 10 euros on the door.

## Dubrovnik Port

Work has started on upgrading Dubrovnik's passenger facilities. A loan agreement for 26.5 million euros was signed between the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Dubrovnik Port authority in early 2005.



Anticipated completion will be 2007 at which time the port will be able to accommodate three large ships alongside at the same time. Phase 2 of the reconstruction, valued at €100 million, will commence in 2007 and includes cruise ship terminal, hotels, casinos and shopping complex.

Around 500,000 cruise passengers visit Dubrovnik a year with 2006 season set to rise further. A number of US lines are increasing their calls this year including Carnival Cruise Lines, HAL and Princess Cruises. Regular visitors are Silverseas, Seabourn, SeaDream and Star Clippers.

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## New Transportation Links

At the end of the year, the Croatian Government will begin investing in a mega construction project. An investment of 12.5 billion Kuna (approx €1.8 billion) will create two transport routes of exceptional economic importance for Croatia. The first is the channel to connect the Sava and Danube Rivers in eastern Slavonia and the second is a railway line which will connect Rijeka via Zagreb to Botovo in Hungary. The channel will be completed in 2013 and the 8 billion Kuna rail line completed 2011.



## Hotel Libertas

After a lengthy interlude of renovation to the Hotel Libertas, Dubrovnik, due to the delay of relevant permits, the rebuilding has finally commenced. Pre-war this hotel was one of the best in Dubrovnik and has unfortunately lain in disrepair since the troubles. **Rixos-Libertas** is due to re-open as a 5 star, May 2007, offering 320 rooms and 640 beds, 3 restaurants, conference centre, wellness centre and casino. Good to see another hotel in the area on its way to being restored to more than its former glory.

## Sales Consultant – Andrijana Barzut

has been working with Dream Croatia in the Dubrovnik office for nearly two years. She graduated from the



Economic University of Foreign Exchange and began working in property thereafter. Bright and cheerful, Andrijana, 25 years old, has experience with all aspects of the property business from consultations, viewings, closing the sale to after sales.

## Ryanair to fly to the Balkans?

Ryanair is considering entering the market of Montenegro on the Adriatic coast, the Podgorica daily Vijesti said recently, quoting a government document.

The paper said the government welcomed the idea of the airline entering Montenegro, a move opposed by Montenegro Airlines, the official flag-carrier in the tiny republic, which is heavily reliant on tourism. No low-cost airlines fly to Serbia and Montenegro at the moment.

Citing a preliminary report on the introduction of low-cost carriers to the country, Vijesti said it would likely take until autumn for Ryanair to launch regular flights.



'The Irish company informed the Airports of Montenegro of its intent last December, Vijesti said. 'The Ministry of Tourism supports the activities on opening Montenegro for low-cost airlines. The Ministry of Shipping and Transport has taken a positive stand on Ryanair using airport capacities in Montenegro,' Vijesti said quoting the document.

The document added that low-cost carriers were the biggest opportunity for Montenegro to dramatically increase its visitor numbers, and so boost hotel and car-rental revenues.

## First direct flights from Ireland to Montenegro launched.

Concorde Travel, Ireland's specialist for holidays to Croatia and Montenegro will launch the first charter flight from Ireland to Montenegro this year. The weekly flight from Dublin to Tivat airport will run from the 4<sup>th</sup> of June to the 29<sup>th</sup> September and is expected to be of huge interest to Irish people visiting Montenegro. Popular areas like Kotor Bay and the coast will now be just three hours from Ireland.



Says Mr Jas Kaminski, Managing Director of Concorde Travel, "We are operating a weekly flight to Montenegro following a huge investment and improvement in the quality of accommodation and, we expect to see growth in this market."

"Tivat airport is only 20 minutes from the beach resorts", he says. "Also Montenegro uses the Euro and has sandy beaches, as well as the typical historical Mediterranean towns of Budva and Sveti Stefan," he adds.

Concorde have announced a package whereby Dream Property Croatia and Montenegro clients can purchase a book of 10 flights to either Split, Dubrovnik or Tivat Montenegro at a special discount and where the actual traveller's name need not be confirmed up to 14 days before travel. This will suit many clients who want to take advantage of a good discount where they are unsure who will travel over the period.

For more information contact Helen in our Dublin office on 01-6629484 or visit [www.concordetravel.ie](http://www.concordetravel.ie)

## Montenegro to vote on Independence

The Government of Montenegro confirmed last week that the citizens of Montenegro will go to the polls on the 21st of May 2006 to answer whether the majority agree to split from Serbia and become a republic. This is certainly a momentous occasion for Montenegro.

Montenegro, which is the size of Northern Ireland, is the only one of the six constituent parts of the erstwhile Federal Republic of Yugoslavia not to have achieved independence after the communist state collapsed in 1991. If it votes to become autonomous it will be Europe's first new country since 1993 when Slovakia and the Czech republic divorced. It will automatically be on course to join the E.U., where it would be the smallest member after Luxembourg and Malta.

The parliament voted on the referendum after it was approved in principle by EU foreign ministers on Monday, who agreed the poll could go ahead on condition that independence would be declared only if the proposal was supported by a voting margin of more than 55 per cent to 45 per cent.



Montenegro already has a considerable degree of autonomy from Serbia, which is more than ten times its size. It has a separate parliament, government and currency – it uses the euro. The joint policies are defence, foreign affairs, internal trade, EU integration and human rights. Both have Serbian as the official language and both are predominantly Orthodox Christians. Montenegro – which, unlike Serbia, was largely bypassed by the Balkan wars – has a relatively vibrant economy, based on tourism, aluminium and food production