



March 4, 2011

FIRST PAGE STORY

Boxer Dejan Zavec Visited Embassy

On Thursday, March 3, 2011, Ambassador Kirn welcomed at the embassy Slovenian boxing champion Dejan Zavec and his trainer Tomi Jagarinec.



From left: Tomi Jagarinec, Ambassador Roman Kirn, Dejan Zavec.

Zavec, married and father of two daughters, is a well known sports star in Europe. His kind character got him the nickname "Mr. Simpatikus", which was coined by his coach, who said that Dejan has »the ability to surprise with a smile at times when everyone has the hardest time«.

February 18, 2011, was a special day for Dejan Zavec. In front of the 12,000 spectator crowd in the newly built sports hall Stožice in Ljubljana, he retained his International Boxing Federation world welterweight title with a fifth-round knockout of Paul Delgado of the United States. The win was Zavec's third successful defense of his IBF title since he first won it in December 2009 in a knockout win over South Africa's Isaac Hlatshwayo.

After achieving all what is possible in Europe, Zavec's team now focuses on continuing his career in the United States. As Zavec said after the match with Delgado: "I really hope this will be it -- a green card to America".



It seems that his hopes are becoming reality. Zavec is currently visiting Washington, where he is exploring the options for continuing his career in this country.

We have invited Dejan and his coach Jagarinec to visit our embassy, where they viewed the pictorial exhibition of Lipizzaner horses created by his fellow-country person photographer Alenka Slavinec. Zavec, a big horse lover himself, posed in front of the picture "New Wave", which symbolizes the year 2009 in Slovenian history. The picture is dedicated to him, since that is the year when, among other Slovenian sports successes, Zavec won his first IBF world championship title.

Dejan Zavec in front of the picture dedicated to him.

This time, no boxing was involved, but the embassy team gave him the promise to keep their fingers crossed for his career in the U.S. and that he can always count on our cheering for him when he will do what he knows best – boxing in the ring.



BUSINESS

Wine Tasting at the Embassy



From left: Pullus oenologist Kobal, Ambassador Kirn, storymaker Mandl.

On March 2, Slovenian Embassy hosted a presentation of Slovenian wines. On display were wines from the largest wineries in Slovenia: Ptujksa Klet, and Klinec-Medana Wines.

Slovenia's winemaking tradition has historically been influenced by Austria to the north and Italy to the west. Slovenia has been producing quality wines for centuries and, since becoming independent in 1991, it has become a source of highly decorated private production wines.

At the Embassy sommeliers presented over 20 different wines that in previous years won various prizes. The wines were from the two mentioned vineyards, located in two different regions of Slovenia: Štajerska and Primorska.

Štajerska is the largest of the three major grape-growing regions in Slovenia. Its best vineyard sites are on hillsides with southern exposure, and Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio, Riesling, Traminer, and Yellow Muscat produced there are outstanding.

Located in Slovenia's west and southwest, Primorska is considered one of the most charming and scenic regions of the country. Its vineyards are open toward the Adriatic Sea and take full advantage of about 2,900 hours of sunshine per year.

All lovers of Slovenian wine living in the United States can get more information about purchasing Slovenian wines on the East coast at www.vinumusa.com or takkuker@earthlink.net.



Spring is coming!



Traditional kurent outwear.

If you're looking forward to experiencing Slovenian culture first-hand, consider visiting Slovenia during the country-wide carnival, called "Kurentovanje", which this year will take place on March 8.

The biggest such carnival takes place in Ptuj and always features traditional costumed characters known as "Kurenti," who help to chase away the winter. The carnival is a festival of joy and has deep roots in Slovenian history. According to the legend, it drives away winter and calls for spring to come in.

In Slovenia, many old folk customs have been preserved, and some of the masks involved have been typical of our region. The date of the carnival varies from year to year, depending, ultimately, on the date of Easter Sunday, as it falls on Shrove-Tuesday (same as Mardi Gras), the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the time of fasting and penance.

In Slovenia, "kurent" is the best known mask - it is a typical carnival mask from Ptuj and its surroundings. According to tradition, the severe racket (bell ringing), which kurents create by jumping around, drives the evil winter spirits from the land and calls for spring and good harvest. Kurents wear sheepskin clothing with bells attached to it. On their head, adorned with embroidered ribbons, they have horns, and a long red tongue is sticking out of their mouth. They take part in many carnival parades and events; they even visit the Parliament to see what our politicians are doing. Beside the kurents, other masks -- the "škoromati", the "Green George", "witch Ursula", "laufarji," and many others -- join the carnival.



EU-Supported Films Win Big at the Academy Awards

Several films supported by the EU MEDIA Fund for Cinema were successful at the 83rd Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood, including "The King's Speech," which was awarded four Oscars.

The film, which received 562,000 euros in distribution support, won prizes for

Best Picture, Best Director (Tom Hooper), Best Actor (Colin Firth) and Best Original Screenplay (David Seidler).

The film "In a Better World," directed by Denmark's Susanne Bier, won the Oscar for best foreign language film. Also nominated for Oscars were two other EU-supported films.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Legislative Referendum on Mini Jobs Act

The National Assembly of Slovenia has called a legislative referendum on Mini Jobs Act, which will take place on [April 10, 2011](#). When received, the electoral register will be open at the representations of Slovenia in Cleveland, New York and Washington D.C. Voters will be able to check their information and, in case of incorrect data, request a correction.

Slovenian citizens with registered residence in the United States can vote in person at the above listed representations or by mail by registering at the National Voting Commission by [March 26, 2011](#) (unlike in the case of elections, no referendum material will be sent automatically by mail).

Slovenian citizens with registered residence in Slovenia and visiting or temporarily residing in the United States can

vote in person at the listed representations or by mail. In either case, [voters need to register at the National Voting Commission by March 26, 2011](#).

In order to register, a completed and signed registration form which can be found on: www.dvk.gov.si, must be sent directly to the National Voting Commission.

All registration forms must be received by [March 26, 2011](#), and can be sent by fax to [\(011\) \(3861\) 43 31 269](#) or by e-mail to rvk@gov.si (due to the signature requirement, only scanned documents may be e-mailed).

More information can be found at the National Voting Commission's web page www.dvk.gov.si.

PERSONAL STORY



Experience of Slovenian Independence

Dear readers, in a previous Newsletters, we invited you to send us short (not more than 350 words) reminiscences about how you experienced, wherever you were, the Slovenian declaration of independence and the process of gaining Slovenian statehood.

We still encourage you to send us your contributions to: vwa@gov.si, with the subject title [My experience of Slovenian independence](#).



Lifting Slovenian flag.



List To Do

1. Wines of Slovenia at LeDu's Wines, New York

A selection of Slovenian wines will be available at a free in-store wine tasting at LeDu's Wine, in New York. A selection from Slovenia's best wine region includes the following wines: Santomas Malvasia 2008, Tilia Pinot Gris 2009, Zanut Sauvignon Blanc 2008, Crnko Yellow Muskat 2009, Santomas Grand Cuvee 2004, Batic Valentino 2007, Movia Veliko Bianco 2004.

When: Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 4 pm to 7 pm

Where: LeDu's Wine, 600 Washington Street, New York, NY

More info: www.leduwines.com/main.asp?request=EVENTS&event=422& and www.slovenianpremiumwines.com/WineMakers.aspx

2. 11th Annual Slovenian Wine Experience

For the fourth year in a row, Aries is selecting all the wines for this fabulous food- and- wine event benefitting local Westchester welfare food pantries. Over 150 wines (including Slovenian wines) will be available for tasting and ordering through Aries at a 20% discount per case.

When: Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 1 pm to 4 pm

Where: 126 West Post Road, White Plains, NY

For more info go to: www.westchesterwineexperience.com

3. U.S. - Balkans Business Summit

The summit that will strengthen economic and commercial ties amongst the United States and the countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

When: March 23- 24, 2011

Where: Baltimore (MD)

More info: www.usbalkanssummit.com

4. U.S. - Slovenia Business Bridge

Conference will focus on opportunities for U.S. investors who will have a chance to interact with high-level Slovenian Government Officials and network with Slovenian firms of interest.

When: April 7-9, 2011

Where: Ljubljana, SLO

More info: <http://www.amcham.si/resources/Documents/Events/Application/ba260e0b9b07485e8738de543a46484d.pdf>

5. Welcome Home 2011

For the 20th Anniversary of Slovenia's Independence, various events will take place both in Slovenia and around the world. One of the biggest events will be the WELCOME HOME event, a Slovenian get-together, which will be held in Ljubljana.

When: July 1, 2011

Where: Ljubljana, Slovenia

More info: www.slovenia.info/homecoming.

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www.washington.embassy.si.

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