

Isle play!



Cricket is thriving in a most unusual place – a Croatian island, reports Nada Farhoud

Cricket came to Vis with the British in the 19th century.

Ask a Croatian to name their favourite island from the 1,185 on offer and it is likely to be Vis. Clear, sardine-rich waters surround a coast of palm trees and caves where Tito's resistance fighters hid in World War II.

The new Vis team are chasing their first win



It's not the first place you'd expect to hear the twack of leather on willow. But near the olive trees, wild vines and sea is Croatia's first cricket club.

The sport first came to the island during the Napoleonic Wars. To relieve boredom in the years before his troops defeated the French nearby in 1811, English Captain William Hoste encouraged his men to go ashore on Vis,



Horvátországi krikettezés

Vis szinte minden horvát kedvenc szigete. A pálmákkal szegélyezett partszakaszokon és hálszában gazdag tengervízben kiváló itt található még Horvátország első krikett klubja is.

A krikett a napóleoni háborúk idején bukkant fel a szigeten, amikor az angol csapatok szexuális és analómikés céljából ragadtak ott. 2002-ben bukkantak rá egy magazinlevele, amelyben William Hoste szövege a sport népszerűsítéséről szólt. Ez a levél inspirálta Oliver Lóti, a helyi bortermelő és restaurátor, hogy felkísérje a régi hagyományt és megalapítsa a krikett klubot. Igaz, az 3000-szer még várat magára, de ki tudja, lehet hogy a nyáron tervezett Eton-Vis ösürcsapás meglepetés: tartogat.



CROATIA

Krykieta po chorwacku

Nikt nie spodziewał się chyba, że na Vis, jednej z chorwackich wysperek, istnieje klub krykielowy. Sport ten pojawił się tu w czasie wojen napoleońskich. Zanim kapitan Hovse pokonał Francuzów, zachęcał swoich żołnierzy, żeby - dla zabicia czasu - grzywał w krykieta.

200 lat później, zakochany w wyspie miejscowy restaurator, Oliver Roki, postanowił wskrzesić angielską tradycję. Jego zamiarem został doceniony przez Europejską Fedę Krykieta, otrzymał dotację na sprzęt, boisko i dwójce angielskiego trenera.

then known as Lissa, and play cricket. He wrote home to his mother and told her how the islanders joined in with the game.

This letter was discovered in 2002 and inspired Oliver Roki, restaurateur, wine-grower and man-about-island to resurrect the game.



Going for four beside Vis harbour

Since then he has restarted on the Adriatic island the English traditions of googlies, over-arms and afternoon tea, although



cucumber sandwiches have been replaced with sardine sarmies.

"Nobody knew the rules at first - except me," says Roki. "But it was in our history. And now everybody talks about cricket."

His enthusiasm has been richly rewarded, with a £7,000 grant from the European Cricket Council for equipment, a new pitch and even a new visiting coach - Englishman David Gelling, who also coaches Hampshire Cricket Club.

Fishing the cricket ball out of the harbour



Vis has now played a side from nearby Corfu, the Royal Navy and a pub team from Cambridge, UK. But despite 45 members to call on, Vis Cricket Club has yet to win a game. Eton College could be their first victims. They've already booked a game for this summer.

Get a game

To play Vis Cricket Club, contact Oliver Roki through his restaurant on the old road between Vis and Komiza, Komoba Roki's. Tel: +385 (0)2 171 4004. *

Walk-the-plank proof gadget

The hip iHome iH19 takes first place for gadgets-on-the-go. The water-resistant sportscase ensures your iPod is in safe hands, man over board or not. Zip it up and charge your iPod while your beats blare out. There's an



external remote and two handy brackets so you can even attach it to your yacht mast for those evenings of dancing on deck. ihomeintl.com £59.99

Getting there

Sail away

Take the early morning two and a half hour ferry from Split - it goes about 9am - or the evening hydrofoil. Or step things up a notch and onto your own yacht for the iconic route. Sail Croatia has one week's lazy sailing for six at £2,750 (£4,050) where you can leave the gung-ho yacht maneuvering to the your knowledgeable skipper and settle back to watch the Dalmatian coast slip by.

Refueling: Captains Orders

Sail Croatia's Luka Grubor advises: "Breakfast at Tihana's is where we

head for traditional Mediterranean fare and sipping wine on the terrace. It's a favorite with the yachting and jet-set celebs like Goran Ivanisevic, Sydney Pollock and Candice Bergen.

We stay at Villa Kalkopa for its fabulous palm tree sheltered garden. At Bileva, Senko Karuzza entertains guests on an invitation only basis, regaling tales of the island for the ultimate Croatian experience. And then there's Pododa in Kut. Their fish risotto is magical!"



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