



COR

Getting to
the heart
of things



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HR

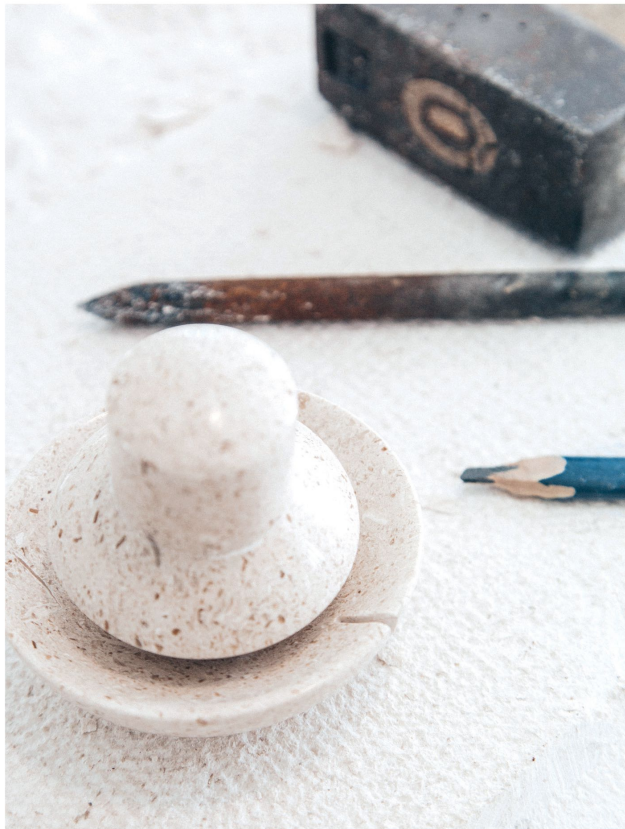


For centuries, the skills of Brač's stone masons were passed down from one generation to the next; from father to son, from craftsman to apprentice. Following the growing demand for exquisite hand-crafted pieces, the PUCIŠĆA STONEMASONRY SCHOOL was established in 1909.

Over the last 110 years the school has become a unique educational institution welcoming pupils not just from Croatia but also from all over Europe. Here they learn modern carving methods, while at the same time working with tools which have been in use ever since Roman times. Each tool leaves its characteristic mark on the stone, giving it a special warmth, softness or translucence, depending on the skill of the master carver.

The school is also a tourist attraction in its own right, having been partly built by the pupils themselves, under the guidance of their teachers. Each year at least one new detail is added to the beautiful portal, continually refining its appearance. The pupils will gladly take visitors on a journey of discovery, guiding them through the school corridors and workshops.

Making use of EU and other international projects, the school encourages student mobility so that, after graduation, newly-qualified stonemasons can hone their craft in other European countries. Conversely, stonemasons from all over the EU can come to work and study in Brač's Stonemasonry School, enabling the preservation of this unique craft for the benefit of future generations from all over the continent.



THE CROATIAN ADRIATIC COASTLINE stretches for some 1777 kilometres, while as many as 1246 islands and islets add another 4058 kilometres of shore. Against a magnificent backdrop of untamed nature and ancient towns, the Croatian coast exudes the exquisite fragrance of an extraordinary wealth of plants and herbs.

Visitors are constantly drawn to these maritime oases: if one visits the island of Hvar during June, for example, the fields will be ripe with lavender in full bloom.

The mild Mediterranean climate of the island of Krk, or "the Golden Island" as it was known in ancient times, makes it a perfect home for sage, a plant renowned for its healing properties. As well as boasting Stiniva, Europe's most beautiful beach, the island of Vis offers the soothing scents of rosemary, a trademark herb of Mediterranean cuisine.

The northern Adriatic island of Susak is unique in being composed of thick layers of white-yellow sand, and is nowadays the subject of environmental protection policies. Its name

originates from the Greek word for oregano, which one finds in abundance while strolling Susak's alluringly beautiful pathways. The nearby island of Lošinj has long been famous for its natural aromatherapy, its air filled with the scents of rosemary and thyme, crowned by tall pines which provide shade in hot summer days.

The Istrian peninsula, the largest in the Adriatic sea, enchants visitors with beautiful landscapes and charming historical towns such as Pula, Poreč, and Rovinj, although it is the vast yellow fields of immortelle that arguably represent Istria at its most mesmerizing. The captivating fragrance and extraordinary healing properties of this plant more than justify its exotic name.

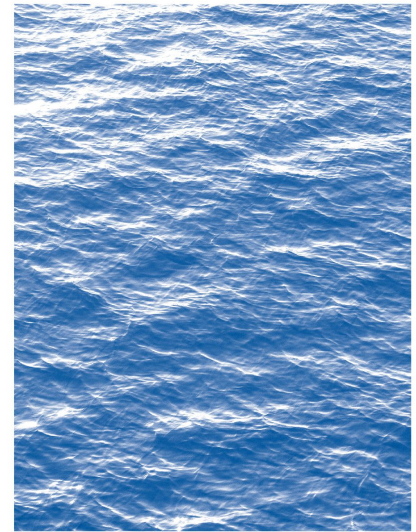
Travellers are drawn to the Croatian coast in order to connect with the essentials of nature, and they can take some of its riches back with them. A rosemary branch or a piece of thyme set against the Brač stone in Cor will evoke a feeling of endless seaside summer.

Croatia's natural environment is rich in colours, scents and textures. Extracting the best from them is *Cor*, a beautifully crafted object inspired by the traditional mortar and pestle. It is designed for mixing, grinding and playing; delving into the essentials of nature and discovering the flavours of the world around us.

Fitting comfortably into the palm of the hand, the mortar comes with a slit which serves to separate the leaves from the stems of the herbs, releasing the seductive perfumes of the Croatian coast: lavender, rosemary, basil, thyme and sage. A myriad of earthy flavours will soon dust both the pestle and the fingertips of whoever is using it, providing a rich and homely evocation of the traditional Croatian kitchen.

The stone for *Cor* comes from the Dalmatian island of Brač. The island abounds in a unique marbled limestone that has bestowed character on architectural wonders from many epochs, from Diocletian's Palace in Split to Šibenik cathedral and the parliaments of both Vienna and Budapest. It has even found its way into the vestibule of the United Nations building in New York.

Unsurprisingly for an island with such a rich heritage of quarrying and carving, a Stonemasonry School was established in the picturesque town of Pučišća in 1909. Today the school remains an international hub for students eager to learn age-old skills, as well as being the place where the elements of *Cor* came to life. Under the guidance of leading craftsmen, the school's students are taught to manually process Brač stone, a task mostly performed using hand-forged tools.



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1
Choose from the variety of aromatic, medicinal, and flavourful herbs and plants, and pick a few branches.



STEP 3
Grind the leaves with the pestle, add spices, or mix several aromatic herbs to your liking.

STEP 2
Remove the leaves from the plant's stem by pulling the stem through the slit on the mortar's rim in the opposite direction of the leaf's growth.



STEP 4
After using *Cor*, clean it with a wet cloth. When you're not using it, it makes the perfect display item in a well-designed home.

