Gardentour

4 countries in 5 days
Croatia – Slovenia – Hungary – Austria
International Garden Route through the border areas of Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Austria

Take the opportunity to discover the unique landscapes and cultures of four different countries throughout a 5-day discovery tour through the beautiful border regions of Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Austria. On your journey you will be completely enchanted by the magnificent landscapes and will have the chance to immerse yourself in a wonderful variety of gardens. Fascinating parks, impressive palace gardens as well as botanical gardens and orchards await you on this delightful trip.

The international garden route offers a perfect combination of discovering the beauty of nature on the one side and indulging in culinary delights on the other side. You will not only get an insight into the beautiful gardens of four countries but will furthermore be able to visit traditional manufactories which offer regional products using fresh fruits and vegetables from their very own orchards and fields.

This trip is ideal for group travelers who wish to explore the most beautiful gardens of the following regions: Međimurje in Croatia, Pomurje in Slovenia, Vas in Hungary and Eastern Styria in Austria. Alternatively, other destinations located in the aforementioned regions can be added to the route.

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The tour starts in the beautiful region of Međimurje in Croatia. Discover the flora and fauna of the region, enjoy the delicious culinary specialties of Croatia and relax in one of the many thermal baths and spas.

11:00: Arrival in Međimurje

11:00: "Međimurska priroda" - information about the region’s biodiversity and flora and fauna
www.medjimurska-priroda.info/centar

13:00: Lunch at the Medimurski dvori restaurant which offers regional Croatian cuisine.
www.medimurski-dvori.hr

15:00: ‘Perivoj Zrinski’ - guided tour through the museum and walk through the gardens and parks of Čakovec.
http://mmc.hr

17:30: ‘Medeni vrt’ - guided tour and tasting of a wide range of honey products
www.hrt.hr/302477/magazin

19:00: Overnight stay at the LifeClass Terme Sveti Martin hotel. This high-class spa guarantees a relaxing stay.
www.spa-sport.hr

Numbering see map backside
After having enjoyed a most delightful time in Croatia, day 2 of the trip will take you to Slovenia. Taste local delicacies at the ham factory in Markišavci, marvel at the diversity of the tropical regions in the Ocean Orchids garden and relax at Lake Bukovnica.

8:30: Departure from the hotel

8:45: Visiting the mill street in Sveti Martin. Discover the flora and fauna of the river Mura as well as the mill on the river. http://svetimartin.hr/mlinarska-kuca

10:30: Visiting the park and the Valkaj ceramics manufactory in Zelezna Gora. After a relaxing walk through the park, beautiful handmade ceramics await you at the manufactory.
www.keramos-valkaj.com

12:00: Arrival in Slovenia

12:30: Lunch at the Kodila ham factory in Markišavci. The ham factory (Šunkarna Kodila) has been producing authentic homemade ham for three generations.
www.kodila.si/

14:30: Dolgovaške Gorice: Vinarium Observation Tower. The wine route in Lendavske Gorice offers beautiful views over the region, especially from the new 53.5 meter high Vinarium tower.
www.vinarium-lendava.si

16:00: Lake Bukovnica is a beautiful resort located in the middle of an enchanting forest which offers great tourist attractions and relaxing activities for visitors of all ages.
www.bukovniskojezero.si/page

17:00: Guided tour through the Ocean Orchids tropical garden in Dobrovnik. The tropical garden offers a true ‘jungle’ of more than 900 exotic plants and about 100 different species on about 350 square meters.
www.oceanorchids.si

18:30: Arrival and dinner at the Panonska Vas hotel in Tēšanovci. The Villa Panonska Vas offers accommodation made entirely out of natural materials. All apartments are equipped with air conditioning and free Wi-Fi access.
www.panonskavas.si www.panonskavas.si

Numbering see map backside
After an exciting time in the Pomerj region, you will move on to the Kámon botanical garden arboretum and a pumpkin oil tasting at the Batha Porta oil mill in Hungary. You will also learn about the origins and benefits of meadow orchards.

8:30: Departure from Panonska vas

9:00: Murska Sobota: Town park, castle, museum. You will take the “Green road” and will learn about the regional centre and its development as well as the Murska Sobota Castle which is located in the middle of the old town park. www.pomurski-muzej.si

11:00: Guided tour through the Goričko nature park and the Grad castle, the largest castle in Slovenia. www.park-goricko.org

12:30: Arrival in Hungary

13:00: Lunch at the Pajta restaurant. With its design and values, the Pajta restaurant stands for the harmony between man and nature. www.pajta.hu

14:30: Educational trail “Life in the meadow orchard”. You will learn about the origins and benefits of meadow orchards. www.orseg.info

16:30: Guided tour and tasting at the Batha Porta oil mill. The family running the oil mill is a traditional pumpkin seed oil producer. www.bathaporta.hu

18:30: Arrival and dinner at the Gotthard Therme Hotel & Conference spa hotel in Szentgotthárd. www.gotthard.accenthotels.com

Numbering see map backside
The journey continues in the beautiful Eastern Styria region, where you can expect unique guided tours and delicious tastings of regional products. After a visit at the Fandler oil mill for example you can explore how plants live underground in the Pöllau castle park.

9:00: Departure from the hotel

10:00: Guided tour through the Kámon arboretum and botanical garden in Szombat-hegy, Hungary.
www.kamonarboretum.hu

13:00: Lunch at the ‘Zur Lebing Au’ restaurant in Hartberg. The restaurant is located in the middle of the city of Hartberg and will spoil you with many regional delicacies.

15:00: Guided tour and oil tasting at the Fandler oil mill in Pöllau. The oil mill offers more than 30 different types of premium oil.
www.fandler.at

17:00: Visiting the root show garden and the castle park of Pöllau. You can visit the beautiful castle park and watch how plants live underground.
www.naturpark-poellauertal.at

18:30: Arrival and dinner at the Boutique Hotel Erla hotel at Lake Stubenberg. The hotel with its very personal atmosphere is located directly at the beautiful Lake Stubenberg.
www.seehotel-erla.at

Numbering see map backside
On the last day of your trip you will have the opportunity to enjoy the unique products and gardens of the Oswald/Schaffer vinegar factory and the Schloffer organic farm. Visiting the garden of the Herberstein castle will be the perfect ending for your 5-day garden route tour.

8:30: Departure from the hotel

9:30: Guided tour and tasting at the Oswald/Schaffer vinegar manufactory. At this small manufactory you can taste over 20 different vinegars with ingredients grown in the very own garden of the Oswald/Schaffer manufactory. www.essigmanufaktur.at

11:00: Guided tour and tasting at the Schloffer organic farm in Anger. After a guided tour of the garden, you can taste organically grown and freshly produced apple juice, jam, cider, schnapps and more. www.schloffer.at

13:00: Lunch at the Kirchenwirt Hofer restaurant in Puch bei Weiz. The restaurant offers regional Styrian cuisine. www.kirchenwirt-puch.at

15:00: Visiting the castle, garden and zoo of Herberstein in St. Johann bei Herberstein. Take a walk through the garden, enjoy the smell of wonderfully fragrant flowers and marvel at the impressive plants that grow around the historic garden castle. www.herberstein.co.at
In the northernmost part of Croatia, between the Drava and Mur rivers, amongst green hills and rich plains, you will find a charming little place called Međimurje. Both simple and splendid, Međimurje’s unique atmosphere has always attracted people from all over the world and has made itself a name as Croatia’s flower garden (‘Cvjetnjak Hrvatske’). Just a stone’s throw away from several major European cities, the region of Međimurje with its rich culture and history is the perfect combination of tradition and innovation, offering a wide range of activities for everybody visiting the region. There are many reasons why Međimurje is Croatia’s most populated region and you will discover many of them during our trip. You can for example still follow the trails of the legendary Pozoj dragon, watch how the sand of the river banks shines like gold in the sun and enjoy the excellent local food as well as Croatia’s finest wines.

Whether you are a traveler or a local, visiting in a group or on your own, whether you are here for business or pleasure, you are bound to find what you are looking for in Međimurje.

For more information please contact:
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V. Nazora 22
40311 Lopatinec, Croatia
00 385 40 856 333
etnoart@etnoart-travel.com
www.etnoart-travel.com
One-day excursion to Međimurje

The wonderful flavours of Međimurje
Cooking class at 'Ethno Art Chef'

Culinary workshop on Međimurje’s ’road of tradition’
The trip offers a unique way to get acquainted with Croatia’s cuisine, regions, people, culture and traditions.
If you enjoy exploring restaurants and wine cellars and are looking for new culinary experiences, then this is most certainly the right tour offer for you.

Dates: upon request
Travel destinations: Sveti Martin na Muri, Jurovčak, St. Jura, Lopatinec-Međimurski Dvori

Schedule:
10:00: Departure to the ’road of tradition’ where you will visit Međimurski Dvori as well as the Ethno garden. After the culinary workshop held by Ethno Art Chef, a traditional dish of the Međimurje region will be served for lunch.
12:00: Time to relax, joint lunch
14:00: Visiting the northernmost point of Croatia - Žabnik, the old mill and the mill house.
15:30: Visiting the family-run Robert Perhoć wild meat production site in Jurovčak
16:30: Visiting the family-run Hažić vinery –tasting of wine and dried fruits
17:30: Visiting the Herbaria family business and immersing in the world of herbs
19:00: Visiting the Poljoposavec oil mill
21:00: Return to point of departure

The package price is based on a minimum number of 16 participants, starting from 45 €.

The price includes:
Local guide
Tour of the aforementioned family-run businesses including various sample tastings
Equipment and preparation material for the culinary workshops

Not included:
transport, minibus, bus
Medimurje – the garden of healthy pleasures

Explore the magnificent Medimurje region with its colourful scenery, beautiful vineyards, fertile plains and hidden idyllic villages covered with wonderful flowers, located between the Drava and the Mura rivers. The best way to discover this green oasis – which is part of the UNESCO Mura-Drava-Danube biosphere reserve – is to walk or cycle along one of the many different themed hiking trails. You cannot leave Medimurje without trying one of the many traditional dishes made from local products such as pumpkin seeds, apples, potatoes or carrots, all of which grow in ‘Croatia’s garden’ - as this enchanting region is called by locals. ‘Tiblica’ meat (marinated in pork fat), ‘turoš’ cheese or ‘medimurskgibanica’ layer cake (with cheese, poppy seeds, apples and walnuts) are only some of the many traditional dishes which go perfectly with the traditional pušipel wine and a number of other fine white and red wines which you should not miss out on. When visiting the historic wooden river mills, oil mills and grape presses you can literally experience a product’s journey from ‘the field to the table’. You can also enjoy various typical dishes and delicacies of the region in one of the many restaurants or a nice glass of wine in one of the family-run vine cellars. Let your day end with a relaxing trip to the Sveti Martin spa which is located in this ‘garden of healthy pleasures’.
The region of Pomurje is situated in the north-eastern part of Slovenia. It is surrounded by rounded hills covered with blooming meadows, orchids, wide fields, forests and hilly vineyards with its wind-rattles (called klopotec) offering the most beautiful views over the region. This is the land of healing thermal and mineral waters, storks, energy points, floating mills, lakes, fishponds, the river Mura and many traditions. Pomurje is also home to several natural reserves and parks where you can find rare species of flora and fauna. Enjoy the peace and harmony, listen to the sounds and feel the serenity of nature. Taste the traditional flavours of the region such as pumpkin seed oil, delicious wines and home-made brandies and juices. Come and visit the nature of parks of Goričko, Negova, Jeruzalem, Mura-Natura 2000 and The Tropical Garden. You will also have the chance to taste the local cuisine at one of the many farms, guest houses, restaurants or wineries. You can enjoy all of the above and more if you join us for our tour to Pomurje - Slovenia on the Garden Route. Come and enjoy the silence!
One-day excursion to Pomurje

In addition to the 5-day Garden Route, take a day-trip to Pomurje and discover how man and nature live in harmony.

8:00: Visiting the town park, castle and museum of Murska Sobota. By taking the ‘Green road’ you will learn many interesting facts about the region and its history. The Belmura castle is located in the middle of the old town park. Travel through time and visit the permanent collection of the Murska Sobota regional Museum.

10:00: Departure from the bus station Murska Sobota.

10:30: Dobrovnik: Guided tour through the Ocean Orchids’ tropical garden in Dobrovnik. The tropical garden is a true jungle which is home to about 900 exotic plants and over 100 different species living on a surface of about 350 square meters. You can also see a part of the biggest orchids growing production site within a radius of 500 km.

11:40: Bukovnica Lake is a beautiful resort in the middle of an enchanting forest offering great tourist attractions and relaxing activities for visitors of all ages. In the park you will find 50 energetic healing vibration points which will help you relax. A 500 meter walk through the forest will take you to Saint Vid’s Chapel and its healing spring.

13:00: Markišavci: Lunch at the Kodila ham shop. For three generations, the Kodila ham shop (Šunkarna Kodila) has been producing authentic homemade ham, sausages and different kinds of pâtés.

15:00: Petanjci: The Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship is a memorial landscape and a rich botanical collection of more than 450 different donated plants from different parts of the world. It is located not far from the banks of the river Mura.

16:30: Grad: Goričko Nature Park offers natural science seminars for groups in various natural habitats as part of Europe’s Natura 2000 nature conservation program. Visit the largest castle in Slovenia with its 365 rooms as well as its historic workshops such as the pottery, distillery, weaving mill, room of herbs, blacksmith’s shop and wheelwright’s shop.

18:00: Returning home
Any time of year is a good time to visit Pomurje.

In Spring is the season when nature awakens and shows us its beautiful springtime colours. It is the time for Easter exhibitions which feature products diligently handcrafted by the locals of Pomurje. The temperatures are just right for activities in nature such as biking, hiking or discovering the Mura river. In May, the endless yellow fields of Pomurje look especially charming, and when summer arrives the fields change to its beautiful wheat-golden colour.

Summer is the time for cultural and culinary festivals. It is also the best way to experience the famous hospitality of the people of Pomurje. And if it gets too hot, you can cool down in one of the thermal baths or in the shadow of large trees, but it’s also great fun to discover Pomurje by bike.

The rows of pumpkins which are almost lined-up like soldiers on the fields of Pomurje and whose seeds will be made into pumpkin oil announce the arrival of autumn. Every now and then you will hear the distinctive sound of the klepotec – a windmill-like scare-crow – which lets everybody know that the time of harvest has arrived. Autumn is also the perfect time to discover the many wine routes everywhere along the numerous peaks of the wine growing areas of Goričko, Jeruzalem, Kapela and Lendavske gorice. At this time of year the fields are harvested and the farmers can finally take a short rest. But it is no time to stand still. On the many St. Martin’s Day festivities throughout Pomurje farmers use must to turn it into wine.

When winter arrives and it starts getting cold outside, you can warm up in one of the many thermal spas or with good food that warms your soul. Stopping by at the workshops of the many hard-working craftsmen is always a worthwhile experience as well. You can learn about the life and work of Pomurje’s potters, millers and oil producers, to name only a few. You will also get the chance to taste the regional gingerbread, see how creative locals are crafting with straw and other natural materials and you will also witness firsthand how much local products are cherished in Pomurje.
Welcome to the county of Vas, the western gate of Hungary, where the West meets the South-West and where the heights of the Alps merge into river and mountain valleys. When visiting Vas County you can sense the calm of gentle harmony. The people of Vas care immensely about their land and have been fostering it for thousands of years. In return, the beautiful region rewards them with its incredible diversity.

The Vas county is famous for its arboretums, gardens, natural sights, castle parks, roman ruins, nature and national parks. All these places - from the Kőszeg Mountains or the Őrség region to the beautiful landscape of Vendvidék or the inner part of the country - are worth visiting all year around. You can explore parks, flower gardens and nature attractions and will find breathtakingly beautiful floral towns, landscapes, lakes and nature trails.

Get information about the international Garten Route in the Vas County here:

Self-Government Office of Vas County
1. Berzsenyi Square
9700 Szombathely, Hungary
00 36 94 515 715
info@vasmegye.hu, www.vasmegye.hu
Besides the 5-day Garden Route, you can discover many different sights in Hungary on an additional one-day tour.

10:00: Kámoni Arboretum in Szombathely - www.kamoniarboretum.hu

You can taste the wonderful smell of nature by walking under the 80 to 120 year old Rhododendron, Magnolia and Hortensia trees as well as under the young Japanese maple trees. With its lakes, waterfalls and different kinds of animals, the arboretum is a true paradise for photographers.

12:30: Lunch at the ‘Pajta’ Restaurant - www.pajta.hu

Pajta stands for the harmony between man and nature both with its design and intrinsic values. The restaurant’s cuisine is based on local products.

14:00: Pityerszer - Folk architecture monuments - www.orseginemzetpark.hu

In the Middle Ages, the border guards built their homes (so-called ‘szer’) on hilltops and near forests. The historical complex of folk architecture in Pityerszer was founded to preserve and present this century-old settlement structure.

15:30: Batha Porta - www.bathaporta.hu

The Batha family is a traditional pumpkin seed oil producer. They manufacture oils and other healthy products from various kinds of seeds. Visitors can get an inside look of the manufacturing process.

17:00: Dinner at the ‘Bognár’ restaurant - www.bognaretterem.hu

The restaurant welcomes its guests with homemade traditional foods.

One-day tour through Vas County
## Event tips for the gardens of Vas County

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All year around</td>
<td>Kámoni Arboretum, Szombathely</td>
<td>Visiting the arboretum with a professional guide</td>
<td>Understanding the characteristics of plants, learning about the most significant people related to the development of the botanical garden as well as about urban legends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arboretum of Sárvár</td>
<td>Visiting the arboretum</td>
<td>Exploring the world of plants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneipp Garden, Ölbô</td>
<td>Visiting the garden</td>
<td>Visiting the Kneipp barefoot garden, learning about herbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chernel-Garden Arboretum, Kőszeg</td>
<td>Visiting the experience trail</td>
<td>Observing birds, visiting the only educational trail of Hungary presenting living protected plants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Arboretum of Jeli</td>
<td>Rhododendron blossom</td>
<td>Visiting the Rhododendron blossom, the arboretum's educational trails and the evergreen plants collection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last weekend of June</td>
<td>Óriszentpéter</td>
<td>Órség Fair</td>
<td>The fair of the year in the Órség region. Traditional fair bustle, craftsmanship fair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle of August</td>
<td>Óriszentpéter</td>
<td>Land of 'Seven Meadows'</td>
<td>Community fair organized by the local villages and farmsteads, visiting open farmsteads.</td>
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<tr>
<td>One weekend in September</td>
<td>Óriszentpéter, Nagyrázos, Magyarszombatháfa</td>
<td>Órség Pumpkin Festival</td>
<td>The most significant event for cultural and heritage tourism and the biggest gastro-tourism event of the Western Transdanubia Region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second weekend of October</td>
<td>Velem</td>
<td>'Velem Chestnut Days' Festival</td>
<td>Traditional festival and gastro-nomy fair dedicated to the chestnut which is the characteristic plant of the Kőszeg Mountains.</td>
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</table>
The region of Eastern Styria offers an unforgettable experience for all your senses: SMELL the fragrance of the flowers, HEAR the birds sing during a walk through the gardens and forests, TASTE the delicious regional delicacies and FEEL the enchanting garden atmosphere of Eastern Styria with your eyes closed.

Endless alpine pastures, wild herbs and orchids, romantic flower villages, sunny fruit gardens and beautiful vineyards - in the eastern part of Styria you can find an incomparably peaceful country idyll which is home to people pursuing a traditional and sustainable lifestyle. The special and unique gardens of Styria invite you to enjoy and marvel at their different botanical and cultural attractions. And you can even join us for a garden scavenger hunt!

Come and enjoy all of these things and more on the Garden Route in Eastern Styria. We invite you to explore the orchard of the Schloffer bio farm, to get an insight into the work of the unique Oswald/Schaffer vinegar factory and to have fun at the zoo and garden castle of Herberstein. Spend an unforgettable holiday!

For more information please contact:

Tourismusregionalverband Oststeiermark
St. Johann bei Herberstein 100
8222 Feistritzal, Austria
0043 3113 20 678
gardentour@oststeiermark.com
www.oststeiermark.com
One-day tour through Eastern Styria

In addition to the attractions covered during the 5-day trip, the region of Eastern Styrian has many more things to offer. On this one-day trip you can engage in Styrian culture and cuisine and can discover beautiful gardens.

10:00: 'Kräftereich' exhibition (exhibition about powers) and garden in St. Jakob im Walde – www.kraeftereich.at
A guide will lead you through an exhibition area of over 1,600m². At various interactive stations you can try out and see how powers affect us and how we use them.

12:30: Lunch at the Kutscherwirt restaurant in Vorau – www.kutscherwirt.at
The restaurant is famous for its Styrian hospitality and its regional cuisine.

14:00: Augustinian monastery in Vorau – www.stift-vorau.at
The Augustinian monastery was founded in 1163 in the midst of the charming Joglland region. The baroque church is a popular tourist attraction.

16:30: Ebner confectionery shop in Pöllau – www.konditorei-ebner.at
For three generations, the Ebner family has been producing ginger bread specialties using only the finest ingredients. You can taste their love and dedication in every bite of their products.

18:00: Dinner at ‘Buschenschank Schweighofer Ziegls Laube’ (traditional Styrian wine tavern serving regional food) in Pöllau – www.zieglaube.at
At the Buschenschank Schweighofer tavern you can enjoy regional and homemade delicacies served with a breathtaking view over the Pöllau nature park.
**Tips for your stay in Eastern Styria**

If you come to Eastern Styria between the 1st of March and the 31st of October, you will receive the GenussCard which will make your holiday even more special and will guarantee you free entry to more than 120 attractions. The card is your key to the most beautiful destinations and attractions of Eastern Styria, among them more than 50 culinary stations and numerous gardens. You will have the chance to enjoy guided tours of local manufactories and will spend an unforgettable and relaxing time in the beautiful and enchanting gardens of Styria. You will receive the GenussCard upon booking a stay (one night or more) at one of our 150 partners (hotels, inns and private accommodation providers).

GenussCard season: from 1st of March to 31st of October
The card is valid for the entire duration of your stay!

Get your free Eastern Styria travel guide, excursion maps and GenussCard information brochures here:
email info@oststeiermark.com, telephone +43 3113 20678.

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<tr>
<td>Every last Sunday in April</td>
<td>Apple blossom festival in Puch</td>
<td>Enjoy Austrian folk music and regional apple dishes under the flowering apple trees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every first and second week of May</td>
<td>Dandelion days in the Almenland nature park</td>
<td>Exclusive culinary treats and events celebrating the dandelion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every first weekend in June</td>
<td>Garden fun festival</td>
<td>You have the chance to visit different gardens where lectures, readings, art, music, dance, rare plants and more await you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every first or second weekend in September – every second year (starting in 2017)</td>
<td>'Styrian Flower Road' parade</td>
<td>Every two years, the 'Styrian Flower Road' parade takes place in one of the ten Eastern Styrian flower villages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every third Sunday in September</td>
<td>Wine festival in Schönauberg/Pöllau</td>
<td>Excellent wine specialties as well as delicacies made from the famous 'Pöllauer Hirschbirne' (a popular regional pear variety).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every last Sunday in September</td>
<td>Traditional wine festival in Bad Waltersdorf</td>
<td>J’Watch how the Styrian ‘Junker’ wine is made and enjoy regional delicacies, live bands and a great lottery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every first Sunday in October</td>
<td>Harvest and wine festival in Hartberg</td>
<td>Gourmet festival in the historic town center of Hartberg with regional wines and culinary delights.</td>
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