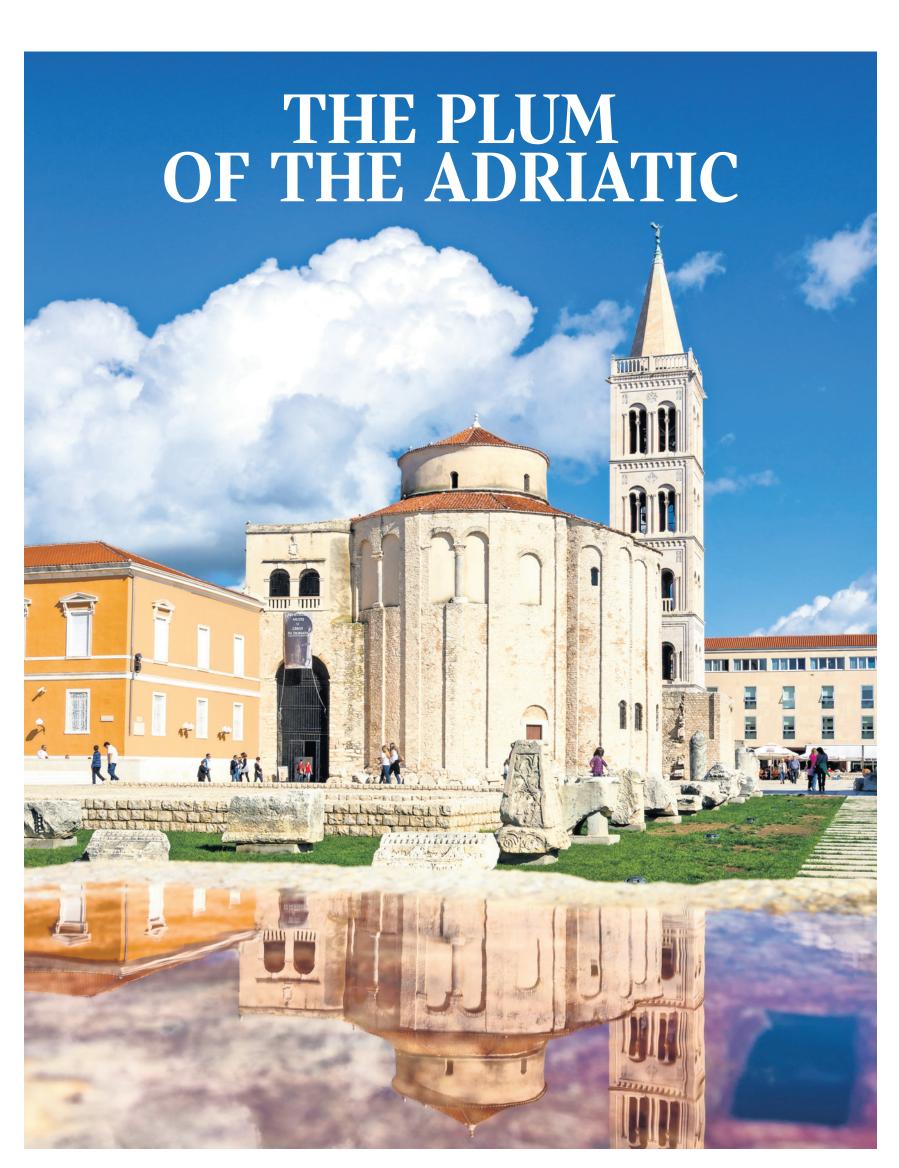
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014



Globe Travel

EDITOR: DOMINI CLARK

THE ESCAPE



Not content to coast on an impressive history, Zadar offers up some of Croatia's most novel ideas

SUZANNE MORPHET ZADAR, CROATIA

y goal is to export," says Dubrayko Vitlov, watching over a pot of bubbling cream. "I want to make more people happy," he adds with a boyish enthusiasm.

Vitlov is a master chocolatier here in Zadar, Croatia, and he's demonstrating his technique for a television crew shooting a story about high-end travel experiences.

Vitlov has already made his chocolate moulds using Belgian couverture chocolate worked on a slab of cold marble. Now he's fussing over the filling, flavouring the cream with cinnamon, vanilla, star anise, cardamom and surprisingly – green pepper extract. It tastes ... exotic.

If Dubrovnik is the pearl of the Adriatic, then Zadar is surely the plum. Not only does it have more history than its famous sister city to the south - it's much older, founded 3,000 years ago - but Zadar also seems to be bursting with fresh flavours, new ideas and a youthful vigour.

No doubt I'm so enamoured partly because I arrive with the first flush of spring. Trees stagger under the weight of their blossoms.

Croatia, Page 2

St. Donat church, built in the 9th century, features extraordinary acoustics. IVAN CORIC/CROATIA TOURISM