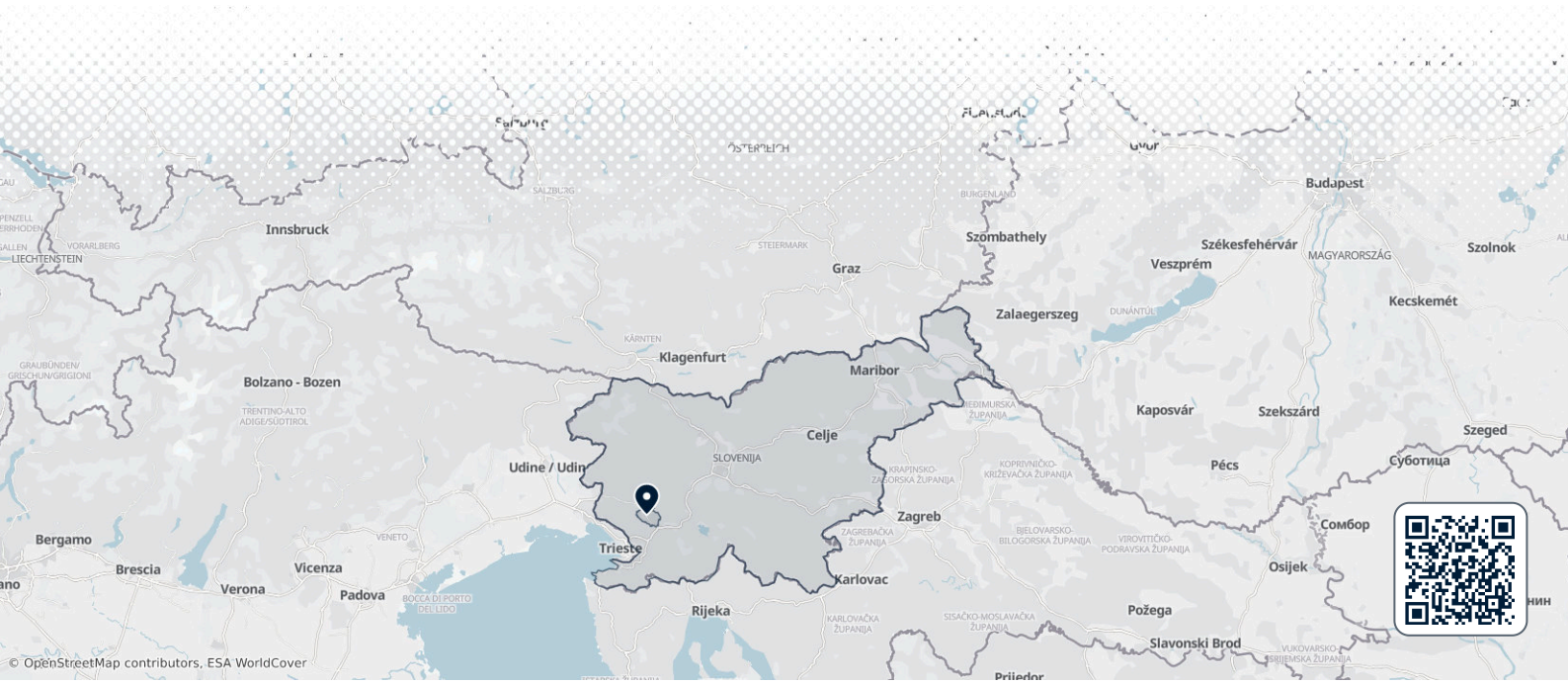


Vipava

Slovenia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Vipava is a small wine town at the foot of the Nanos plateau, where the Vipava River rises from a group of karst springs right in the centre. Stone bridges cross the young river, a ruined castle stands on the rock above, and Baroque mansions recall the noble families who once owned the valley. The diplomat *Sigismund von Herberstein*, famous for his early account of Muscovy, was born here in 1486.

The town is the natural base for the upper Vipava Valley, one of Slovenia's best-known wine regions. Expect family wine cellars, local white varieties such as zelen and pinela, stone villages in the hills and easy access to hiking and paragliding. The valley is also famous for the burja, a cold, gusty wind that shapes daily life here. It suits a slow trip of two or three nights built around wine, food, short hikes and day trips to the Karst and the Adriatic hinterland.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons: mild days, green or golden vineyards and the most wine events. Summer is hot in the valley floor, so plan hikes on Nanos for the morning. Winter is quiet and cool, and cold burja days can bring strong gusts and a sharp wind chill.

The biggest wine date is the **Zelèn Wine Festival** in nearby Vipavski Križ, held in the castle yard in mid-June. It is a good chance to taste the valley's signature grape from many producers in one place. From St Martin's Day in early November until Christmas, wine cellars across the valley also hold tastings and new-wine events.

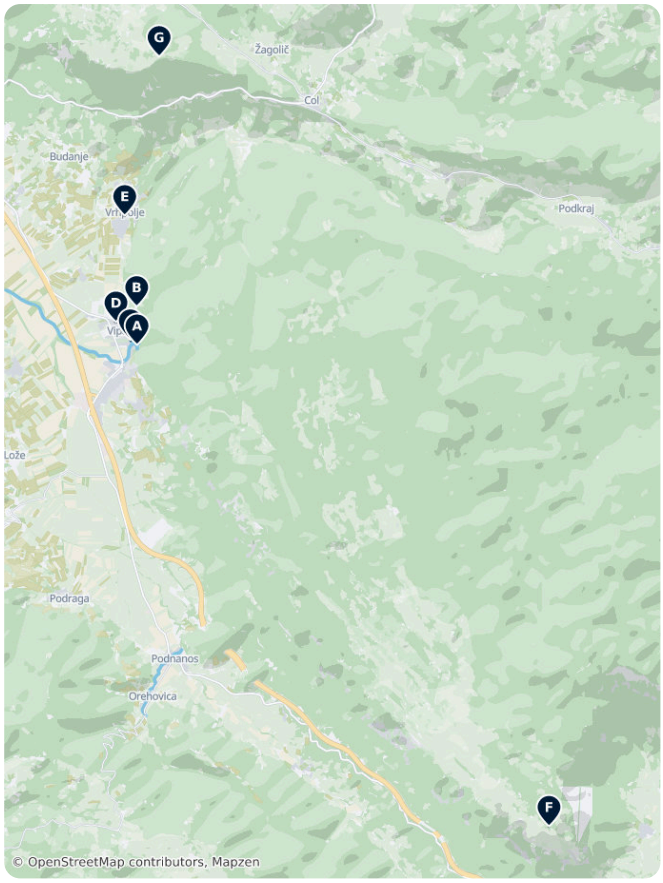
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 3°	0° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Fair Fair for cycling	8° / 14° Feels like 5°	1° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for hiking	13° / 19°	4° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23°	8° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 27°	12° / 8°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 32°	17° / 11°	14 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 35°	18° / 14°	14 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	29° / 36°	18° / 14°	13 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	14° / 9°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 24°	10° / 4°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	12° / 18°	6° / -1°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 12° Feels like 4°	2° / -6°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

The town's sights are close together and easy to see in half a day. The rest of the list is spread across the upper valley and the hills above it.



- **A** Vipava River Springs are the reason the town exists. Several karst springs flow out at the foot of Nanos, under the castle rock and beside the church, and the water stays cold all year. Entry is free.
- **B** Vipava Castle is a ruined medieval castle on the rock above the springs. An easy footpath climbs from the centre in about 30 minutes, and the walls give a wide view over the valley.
- **C** Lanthieri Mansion is a Baroque mansion of the Lanthieri counts on the main square, built around 1659. Emperors stayed here, and today it houses a school of viticulture and winemaking. You can admire the facade and the park in front.
- **D** Church of St Stephen is the parish church of Vipava, a few steps from the springs and the main square.
- **E** Church of Sts Primus and Felician, Vrhpolje in the village of Vrhpolje, 2 km north, has large modern mosaics in the chancel, about 300 m² in total. A stained-glass window recalls the Battle of the Frigidus, fought near here in 394.
- **F** Vojkova koča na Nanosu is a mountain hut at about 1,240 m on the Nanos plateau, just below the summit of Pleša. The view stretches over the whole Vipava Valley and, on clear days, to the Adriatic.
- **G** Kovk is a 961 m hill above the valley on the edge of the Trnovo Forest plateau. Its take-off is one of the valley's paragliding sites, and the summit has a cross and a summit register.

Two more stops are worth the short drive. **Zemono Manor**, a late-Renaissance summer manor from the 17th century, sits on a vineyard hill just west of town. It houses a restaurant, and the interior can be seen by appointment. Goče, in the hills to the south-west, is a stone village with

very narrow lanes, old carved door frames and wine cellars.

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What to experience

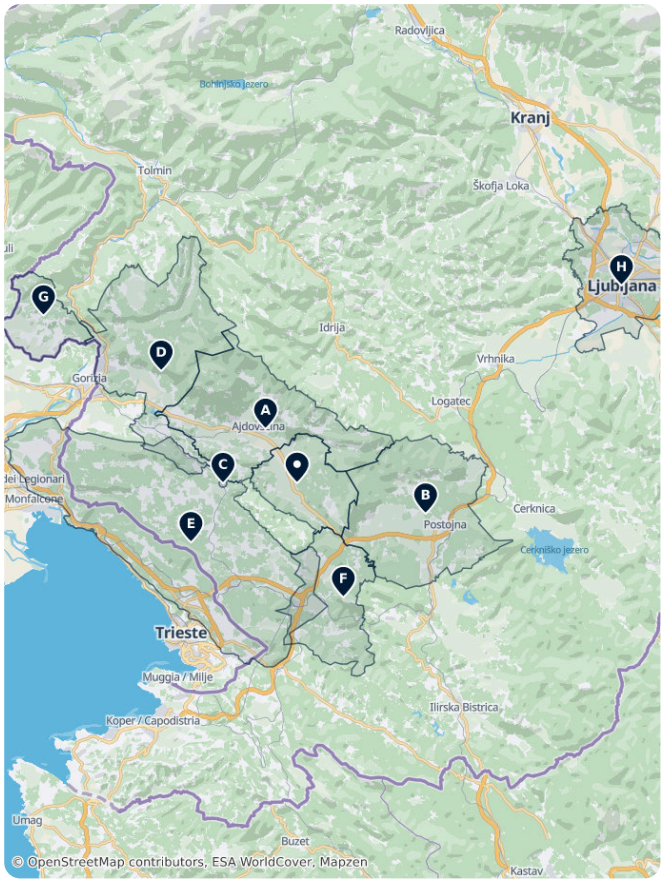
Life in the Vipava Valley follows wine, wind and the seasons. These are the things to do here rather than just see.

- **Taste zelen and pinela**: Visit family wine cellars to try the valley's own white varieties, zelen and pinela, which are rarely found outside this area. Many cellars ask you to call ahead.
- **Eat at an osmica**: Farms open short-term pop-up taverns called *osmica*, serving their own wine with home-made cured meats, cheese and bread. Look for the signs and leafy branches at the roadside.
- **Hike up Nanos**: Walk from Podnanos or Razdrto up to Vojkova koča na Nanosu for a meal at the hut and the view over the valley.
- **Fly over the valley**: The Vipava Valley is one of Slovenia's best areas for paragliding, with take-offs on Kovk and at Lijak near Nova Gorica. Tandem flights with local pilots are available for beginners.
- **Feel the burja**: On a clear winter day with burja, walk up to Vipava Castle and watch the wind sweep the valley. Notice the stones on the roofs of old houses, placed there to keep the tiles on.

Day trips

The upper valley is compact, so most of these trips take well under an hour each way by car. Buses are possible to the larger towns, but a car makes it much easier.

- **Vipavski Križ** (about 15 min by car): a small fortified hilltop town with a castle and a Capuchin monastery, surrounded by vineyards.
- A Ajdovščina (about 15 min by car or bus): the valley's main town, built inside the walls of a Roman fort, with guided tours of the fort remains.
- B Postojna (about 30 min by car or bus): Postojna Cave, one of Europe's most visited show caves, and nearby Predjama Castle, built into a cliff.
- C Štanjel (about 20 min by car): a stone hilltop village on the edge of the Karst, with a castle and the terraced Ferrari Garden.
- D Nova Gorica (about 30 min by car or bus): a modern town on the Italian border, next to Gorizia and the Solkan Bridge.
- E Karst (30–40 min by car): a limestone plateau known for cured ham, teran wine and stone villages. The Škocjan Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are near F Divača.
- G Brda (about 45 min by car): rolling hills of vineyards and cherry orchards along the Italian border, with the fortified village of Šmartno.
- H Ljubljana (about 1 hour by car, 1 h 15 min by bus): the capital, with its old town, river and castle.



Where to explore

Vipava sits between the Karst, the Adriatic hinterland and the Julian Alps, so several other Slovenian destinations are close.

- **Rest of the valley and nearby wine country**: Ajdovščina, Nova Gorica and Brda.
- **Karst and caves**: Karst, Štanjel, Postojna and Divača.
- **Further afield**: Idrija, with its UNESCO-listed mercury mine, and the capital Ljubljana.

Getting there

- **By air**: Trieste Airport in Italy is the closest, about 45 minutes by car. Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport is about 1 hour 10 minutes away and Venice Marco Polo Airport about 1 hour 45 minutes. There is no direct public transport from the airports to Vipava, so most visitors rent a car or book a shuttle.
- **By car**: The motorway from Ljubljana towards Nova Gorica has its own Vipava exit. An e-vignette is required on Slovenian motorways.
- **By bus**: Regular buses link Vipava with Ljubljana, Ajdovščina and Nova Gorica. Arriva bus timetables
- **By train**: Vipava has no railway station. The nearest useful stations are in Postojna, on the Ljubljana–Koper line, and in Nova Gorica. Slovenian Railways

Getting around

- **On foot**: The town centre, the springs, the main square and the castle path are all within a short walk.
- **By car**: The easiest way to reach wine cellars, villages such as Goče and Vrhpolje, and the trailheads for Nanos.
- **Buses**: Local buses run along the main valley road to Ajdovščina and Podnanos, but services are infrequent, especially at weekends.
- **By bike**: The valley floor is good for cycling, and marked routes link wine villages. The side roads into the hills are steep, so an e-bike helps. Strong burja days are not good cycling days.
- **Tourist information**: The information centre on the main square has maps, trail guides and winery lists. Vipava Valley tourism

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The small town centre, springs and castle path are easy to walk; wine villages and trailheads need a car or bike.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The flat valley floor and marked wine routes suit cycling, but side roads are steep and burja days are unpleasant.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Yes. Wine cellars, hill villages and trailheads are spread out, and buses are infrequent. Plan a designated driver for tasting days.
- **Parking**: There is a large car park at the edge of the town centre, a short walk from the springs and the castle path. Parking at wineries and in villages is usually easy.
- **Burja**: Strong burja gusts can exceed 100 km/h and can overturn vans, caravans and trucks. Restrictions for some vehicles are then posted on the motorway and main roads, so check the traffic news and drive carefully on exposed stretches.

Food & drink

The Vipava Valley cooks in the style of the Slovenian Littoral, with influences from nearby Italy. Look for *frtalja* (an omelette with wild herbs), *jota* (bean and sauerkraut stew), Karst cured ham and seasonal fruit from the valley's orchards. Meals here are usually built around a glass of local white wine, especially zelen or pinela.

For a special meal, **Gostilna pri Lojzetu** in Zemono Manor is one of Slovenia's best-known restaurants, with one Michelin star and a seasonal menu built on local ingredients. For a simpler experience, eat at a farm osmica or at one of the family inns around the main square in Vipava.

What to eat & drink

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Potica · potica
A rolled nut cake, traditionally served at holidays.

Kremna rezina · kremna rezina
A vanilla and whipped-cream custard slice, associated with Bled.

DRINKS

Slovenian wine
Wine from the Vipava Valley, Štajerska, and Primorska regions.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Štruklji · štruklji
Rolled dumplings, sweet or savory, boiled or baked.

Kranjska klobasa · kranjska klobasa
A protected (PGI) pork sausage, usually boiled and served with mustard and horseradish.

Jota · jota
A hearty stew of beans, sauerkraut or turnip, and smoked meat.

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Safety & health

Vipava is very safe, and petty crime is rare. The main risks are natural rather than criminal.

- **Burja**: On strong burja days, take care on exposed paths and ridges and secure doors, bikes and anything light. The wind is cold, so carry an extra layer even when it is sunny.
- **Hiking**: Paths on Nanos and Kovk are well marked, but the plateau is open and hot in summer. Carry water and start early.
- **Summer heat and storms**: Afternoon thunderstorms are common in summer, so plan hikes and flights for the morning.

History

The area has been settled since prehistoric times, and the Romans built a road and a fort through the valley at what is now Ajdovščina. In 394, the Battle of the Frigidus was fought nearby, close to Vrhpolje. The Roman emperor *Theodosius I* defeated the usurper *Eugenius*, and the victory helped make Christianity the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. The stained-glass window in Church of Sts Primus and Felician, Vrhpolje recalls the battle.

In the Middle Ages, Vipava Castle guarded the springs and the road below. Its oldest tower probably dates from around 1100. The town later passed to the Habsburgs and became a centre of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. From the 17th century, the Lanthieri counts shaped the town. They built Lanthieri Mansion and the summer manor at Zemono, and they hosted emperors as overnight guests. After the First World War the valley became part of Italy, and in 1947 it became part of Yugoslavia. Since 1991 it has been part of independent Slovenia.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Slovenia at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



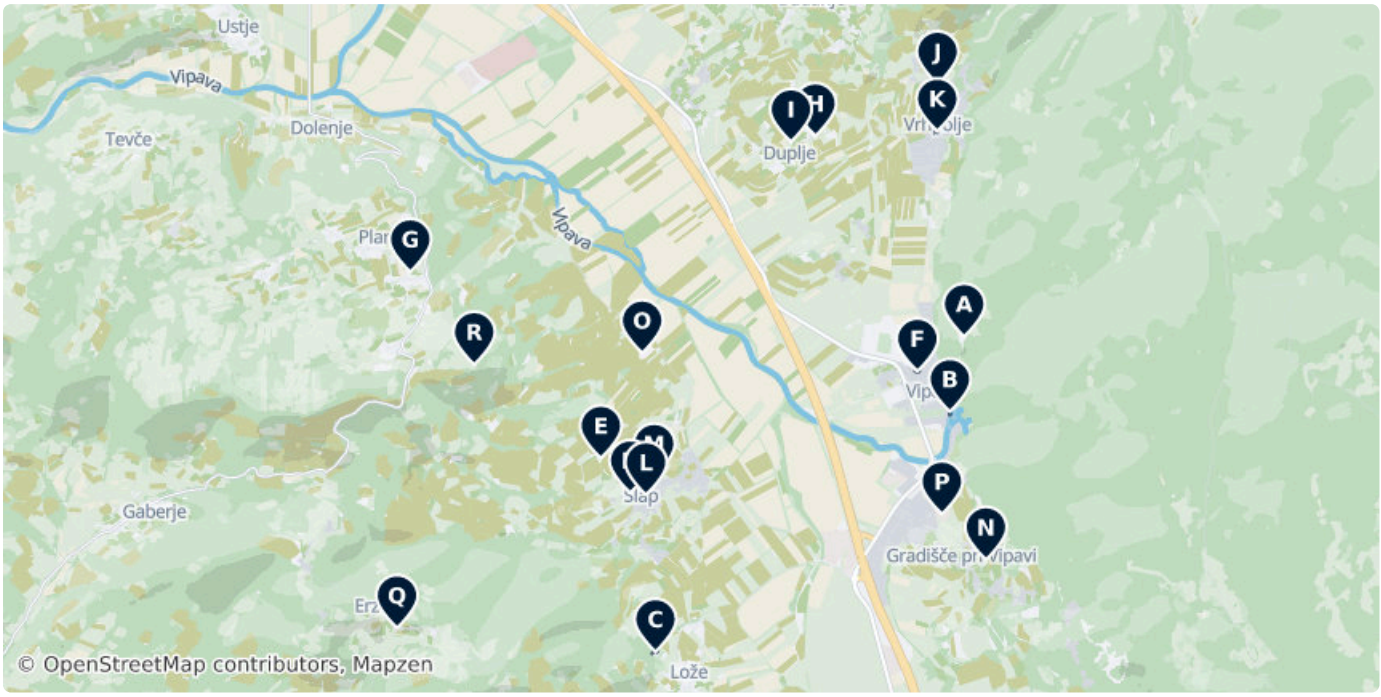
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Slovenian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Vipava's Essential Treasures

Explore the historic architectural and viticultural heritage of the Vipava Valley. This selection features medieval ruins like Vipava Castle and the 17th-century Lanthieri Mansion, which now houses a specialized wine museum. The region's spiritual history is represented by the frescoed Church of St. Stephen and the hilltop St. Paul's Church. Complementing these landmarks are numerous family-run estates and wine shops offering local varieties such as Pinela and Zelen, alongside the historic Vipava 1894 cellar.





A Vipava Castle

Vipava Castle is a castle ruin above the town of Vipava in the Municipality of Vipava in southwestern Slovenia.

5271, Slovenia (45.85034, 13.96421)



B Lanthieri Mansion

A Baroque mansion built in 1659 by the Lanthieri family. It currently houses the Vipava Wine Museum and a branch of the University of Nova Gorica.

Lanthierijev most, 5271 Vipava, Slovenia (45.84533, 13.96285)

C Grad Lože / Dvorec Cobenzl

A 17th-century Renaissance-Baroque mansion, historically owned by the Cobenzl family, featuring a distinctive rectangular floor plan with corner towers.

26 Lože, 5271, Slovenia (45.82932, 13.93463)

D Vino Petrič

Family winery in the village of Slap, specializing in indigenous Vipava Valley grape varieties including Pinela and Zelen.

(45.83991, 13.93220)

E Izletniška kmetija Majerija

Traditional restaurant and guesthouse set in a restored 18th-century farmhouse, focusing on seasonal ingredients and local herbal cuisine.

18 Slap, 5271, Slovenia (45.84223, 13.92940)

majerija.si



F Cerkev sv. Štefana

Parish church in the center of Vipava, notable for its 19th-century ceiling frescoes painted by Franz Kurz zum Thurn und Goldenstein.

18 Beblerjeva ulica, Vipava 5271, Slovenia (45.84803, 13.95974)

zupnija-vipava.si, +38641713879

G Posestvo Ferjančič

Wine estate located in Planina, producing traditional varietals like Pinela, Zelen, and Merlot.

(45.85467, 13.91114)

ferjancic.si

H Posestvo Lavrenčič

Boutique winery offering tastings of local white and red wines in the Duplje area.

(45.86372, 13.94996)

lavrencic-estate.com

I Wines Ranarum

Local wine producer focusing on sustainable viticulture and traditional Vipava varieties.

(45.86333, 13.94761)

jeij.si

J Vina Krapež

Wine estate in Vrhpolje known for aging wines in oak barrels and producing indigenous Pinela and Zelen.

(45.86718, 13.96166)

vinakrapez.si



K Sts. Primus and Felician Church

Late Gothic church in Vrhpolje, featuring extensive modern mosaics by artist Marko Ivan Rupnik.

42A Vrhpolje, Vrhpolje 5271, Slovenia (45.86403, 13.96164)

zupnija-vrhpolje.rkc.si/index.php/content/display/60/20/20

L Rondič Wine House

Family-run winery in Slap offering guided tastings of indigenous and international grape varieties.

(45.83979, 13.93373)

rondic.si, +386 5 3645 751

M Vino Žorž

Large family estate in Slap with a tradition dating back to 1696, specializing in high-quality bottled wines.

(45.84101, 13.93451)

N Vina Poljšak

Wine producer in the upper Vipava Valley, specializing in white varietals and traditional winemaking methods.

(45.83546, 13.96630)

vinapoljsak.com

O Vinska klet Rouna

Winery located in Slap, producing a range of local wines including Zelen and Pinela.

(45.84925, 13.93336)

vina-rouna.si, +386 5 3645783

P Vipava 1894 d.o.o.

The oldest and largest wine cellar in the region, established in 1894 as a cooperative.

(45.83850, 13.96207)

vipava1894.si

Q Vinarstvo Dora Erzelj

Small family winery focusing on traditional production in the village of Erzelj.

(45.83090, 13.90987)

doraerzelj.com

R Sv. Pavel

Hilltop church and archaeological site above Vrtovin, featuring Roman-era fortifications and panoramic views of the valley.

(Unnamed Road), 5271, Slovenia (45.84847, 13.91727)

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