

Mauritian investment to bear fruit in Šolta

A super luxurious €40m resort to be built in Maslinica

The hotel will employ around 200 people, and the management of the future five-star resort are already learning Croatian and the local culture. This makes the meaning of the joke curse "may you end up in Šolta!" become history.

When the Secret Bay project comes to life in Maslinica, in the western part of Šolta, the neighbouring Hvar may face a difficult opponent in the race to be the jewel in the crown of middle Dalmatian tourism. The wealthy Mauritian investors recognised the beautiful Šipova bay as a position worthy of their €40m project. The foundations should be laid in September next year.

The mayor of Šolta, Nikola Cecić-Karuzić shows us 3D plans for this paradise on Earth. A witness to the scale of the project is the fact that it will employ 200 people all year round.

OPEN ALL YEAR

This is an incredibly significant project for our island, Maslinica, a village where 90 people live in the winter. The village is in that sense predetermined in its touristic trajectory, and the initial step was made by the owners of the former castle Martinis Marchi, who have renovated it and made it into a characteristic boutique hotel. With facilities in the Šipova bay, Maslinica will become a representative of elite tourism - says the mayor.

In the steep Šipova sand bay, a dispersed complex comprising of 82 hotel suites of 120 m², 21 hotel apartment and 5 luxury villas, a hotel reception and beach restaurant. There will be no high-rise buildings or group accommodation, the units in even rows and in separate areas will be steeped into the nature. Their roofs will be covered with vegetation and the relaxing lounge outdoor areas will be framed by overflow pools. The attractive facilities will justify an idea of pure luxury for the guests of the resort, who will enjoy the five planned stars in every centimetre of the resort.

Along with the hotel facilities, there will be a small marina for yachts and sailboats. We will have a thermal spa centre, lakes, as a basis for something very important, an all year-round offer. The resort will not be closing its doors with the end of the main tourist season, as the plan is for it to function as a luxury wellness and spa. This means that it will also operate in the winter months, during which the costs for accommodation will be less. As stated by the investors, such a project is yet to be found in Croatia. We are excited for the construction to start, and to meet our first guests within two years as planned - says the mayor.

There will be 360 beds in the resort, out of which 125 in the dispersed hotel units, which the guests will reach using electric vehicles. The seriousness of their intentions lies in the fact that the investors have already quietly visited Šolta twice and have considered even the smallest details. The financial construction from their side is rounded up, and as far as the municipality is concerned, they are ready to do their part of the job.

MAY YOU END UP IN ŠOLTA

The preparations are already in a late stage. Within a few months there will be a connecting road to Šipova, which the investors are financing in advance out of their municipal contributions. All the planning documents needed for the infrastructure will be provided. The matter of training people is also in progress. Through a job vacancy, they have employed a professor from Split, who is already in Mauritius, teaching Croatian to the management of the future resort. Not only the language, however, but also our culture and tradition. I am under the impression that they want to be part of every aspect of work and life in Croatia so that they would properly execute their plans. I was pleasantly surprised to hear them speak Croatian in a video conference. Together with the professor, there are a couple of Croatian architects in Mauritius, who are enriching the company's existing project team. They leave nothing to chance - says the mayor.

The details have been well thought out with the management team, who will live in Šolta for three years, to see the business start off right. After that, it will be handed over to people who will be trained for it. The human resources manager has already been to Šolta to look at accommodation and has been asking us to help set up new job vacancies. This will employ a minimum of 170 people. The investors will look for young people between the ages of 18 and 30, a workforce of all profiles, and one of the interview questions will be that of their ability to speak foreign languages. All of this opens possibilities for the workforce coming in from the continent to potentially settle in Šolta. Any trace of that curse "may you end up in Šolta", still?

-That joke has long lost its initial meaning. "May you end up in Šolta" now has a completely new meaning. The resort means a huge deal to us. We are very happy that they chose our island to realise their project. How, why us? I think the deciding factor was probably the fact that the chairman of the company has already fallen in love with Dalmatia and Maslinica enough to decide to come here and bring his idea to life - says Cecić-Karuzić.