

24 January 2019

Dear friends of Hotel Gračanica,

Six of our staff members have been with us for more than five years: Ado, Samira, Zorica, Aziza, Denis and Lidija. Most others for more than three years. But last year saw also, to our regret, two staff members leaving us: Hisen and Elvis. And we had to hire **new staff**: Dragan is our new waiter, Nikola replaces Elvis as a night receptionist, and Marina is our new kitchen help.



*Top left to right: Marina, Denis, Mijana, Enis, Ado, Andrijana, Bojan, Lidija, Andreas.
Lower row: Samira, Mira, Aziza, Emanuela, Grada (missing: Dragan and Nikola)*

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Last year has been our most successful one up to now, our occupancy rate increased to 34 %, we finally managed to break even and can now hope for a small profit this year, if politics doesn't thwart our plans. In May, June and September, we are already **booked out on several days** with groups from Switzerland and the UK. So if you are planning a trip to Kosovo this year, it would be a **good idea to book now** (if your plans change, you can always cancel later), preferably on our [website](#). Until 27 January, you have a chance to **win a free one-week stay for two people** at our hotel on Instagram, in a campaign by our partner [Via Fair Travel](#). If you would like to try your luck, go to [@viafairtravelgifts!](#)

These are the people you might meet at our hotel:

Nationalities of our Guests	
2014 - 2018	
1. Switzerland	641
2. Kosovo	424
3. Germany	326
4. Serbia	258
5. United States	132
6. United Kingdom	125
7. France	92
8. Albania	88
9. Netherlands	73
10. Austria	71
11. Croatia	52
12. Turkey	52
13. Italy	47
14. Belgium	43
15. Sweden	34
16. Slovenia	33
17. Saudi Arabia	31
18. Spain	25
19. Finland	23
20. Montenegro	22

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Driton Selmani, one of the best Kosovar artists, has just been featured in the Calvert Journal in an article entitled: "**Conceptual artist Driton Selmani is taking his work to the streets of Kosovo**". We had an exhibition with his works at the hotel in 2013/14 and two of his installations on show in 2017. One of his works featured in the article, "They say you can't hold two watermelons in one hand", is part of our permanent exhibition, together with other works of his.



Selmani's 2012 work *They say you can't hold two watermelons in one hand*. Image: Blerim Raca

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Already in November, the British "Independent" published a "**Prishtina City Guide: Where to eat, drink, shop and stay in Kosovo's capital**" written by Elizabeth Gowing, the founder of "The Ideas Partnership", a great NGO we are partnering with through "Pack for a Purpose". For "where to stay", the article of course recommends us: "The best boutique accommodation in Prishtina is Hotel Gračanica, a short taxi ride from the city centre. Swiss design is stylishly woven with traditional Kosovan features to create an eco-chic modern hotel with a gorgeous pool and views over the archaeological remains of the ancient city of Ulpiana. Doubles from €72, B&B"



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As mentioned in our last newsletter, the **Jimmy Mustafa Band** that plays regularly at our Sunday brunch will go on tour again, from June 7th to 24th in **Germany**, and in October in **Switzerland**. If you can organize a concert in your town, please contact us!



From left to right: Hasib Karaçi, Avni Mustafa, Ersad Bunjaku and Djimi Mustafa

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German speakers: Auf der **Westbalkan-Rundreise** von Background-Tours vom **19. Mai bis 2. Juni** sind noch Plätze frei. Die Rundreise wird von Heini Conrad, dem langjährigen Landesdirektor Kosovo von Helvetas, und seiner Frau Elisabeth Kästli, Autorin dreier sehr lesenswerter Bücher über den Kosovo, geleitet. Über den Kosovo-Teil der letztjährigen Reise schrieb Bernhard Odehnal im Zürcher Tagesanzeiger: [Auf Wandertour im Alpenparadies Kosovo](#).



Kürzer, auf Pristina beschränkt und ebenfalls sehr empfehlenswert: „**Prishtina hautnah**“ unter der Leitung von Tanja Polli, Journalistin und Buchautorin, vom **4. bis 8. September**. Positive Rückmeldungen erhalten wir auch regelmässig zu den [Kultur- und Bildungsreisen](#) Kosovo und/oder Albanien des Journalisten Xhevdet Kallaba. Sie können den Kosovo aber problemlos auch auf eigene Faust erkunden oder sich von uns [Tagestouren](#) organisieren lassen.

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Die Geschichten aus dem Hotel sind nun wieder, in einer leicht ergänzten Auflage, - im Hotel - als Büchlein erhältlich.



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If you would like to get more often **updates** on what is going on at the hotel, follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Best regards,

HotelGračanica 

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Hotel Gračanica supports [The Ideas Partnership](#) Learning Center for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians through [Pack for a Purpose](#). Click [here](#) to find out how you can help by using spare space in your suitcase to bring supplies.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please reply with "unsubscribe"