

VLASOTINCE – “THE PLACE THAT EXUDES WARMTH”

Аутор:

Суза Пешић, ученица 8. разреда ОШ „Свети Сава“ у Гложану
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SUMMARY

Vlasotince is a town, seat of the Municipality of Jablanica district. With over thirty thousand inhabitants, this small town exudes warmth, and there you can find a number of historic buildings and other attractions. The city is known for its wine, the river Vlasina, good people and excellent hospitality.

РЕЗИМЕ

Vlasotince je gradić u Jablaničkom okrugu. Sa preko 30 000 građana, ovaj mali grad odiše toplinom i u njemu možete naći veliki broj istorijskih građevina i ostalih zanimljivosti. Grad je poznat po vinu, reci Vlasini, dobrim ljudima i izuzetnom gostoprimstvu.

Vlasotince, small town, once seen can be never forgotten. When a passenger sets down on the east of the road which leads to Vlasotince, after passing 15 kilometers, he will stop all amazed and impressed. In front of him, like it is in a plain view, lies a town called Vlasotince. It is a splendid and pleasant sight, and also a discovery, especially for the passenger who has seen a lot of places. While you are getting closer to the town, particularly, in sunny days, the town seems like a big garish conch, which had been attached by surges to the fringe of the basin of Leskovac, there where the sun rises.



GENERAL INFORMATION OF VLASOTINCE

Location: Central Europe – Vlasotince stands in the southeastern part of Serbia, 57 kilometres from the famous Vlasina Lake, on the both banks of the river Vlasina.



Vlasotince is located on the 42° 48' latitude and 22° 08' longitude. It occupies 303 square kilometers and 35 thousand people are living in its 48 settlements. It borders with 4 municipalities:

On the north with Gadzin Han, on the northeast with Babusnica, on the southeast, with Crna Trava and on the southwest and west with Leskovac.

The region of Vlasotince stretches on the territory drained by the river Vlasina and its tributaries, namely in the lower and middle parts of the basin, and it has around 18 thousand residents. Vlasotince is 16 kilometers away from Leskovac and 8 kilometers away from the highway Beograd – Skopje. The connection with the Vlasina lake which is 57 kilometers away from Vlasotince, and with the highway Nis – Pirot (60 km) makes Vlasotince a transit place.

Climate: The climate is temperate continental with sunshine in a plain-hill, up to 500 meters altitude. Medium annual temperature is 11.5°C, while the average temperature of the coldest month – January and the hottest month – July is 23.2°C.

HISTORY OF VLASOTINCE

History of Vlasotince begins five thousand years ago in the Neolithic period. Archaeologists say that on the right bank of the river Vlasina, behind the hotel "Grozđ", lies the entire settlement, elder than five thousand years. However, state do not allow digging there. According to legend, the first modern settlement in this region was created at the time of Justinian, fourteen centuries ago.

Vlasotince was first mentioned at the beginning of the 16th century, in the first Turkish census from 1516. Due to that written data, it can be certainly said that in 1516 Vlasotince was agricultural and cultural center of this part of Serbia. At the end of the 16th century Vlasotince had 66 houses and 600 residents.

The Turks stayed briefly in Vlasotince and they have left us a tower, one of the most interesting and most beautiful editions in Vlasotince. Now, there is a museum in that tower. In that period people in Vlasotince have built buildings, and it's great that two of the buildings were saved. The house of Giga and Spaska.

WHAT SHOULD YOU SEE WHEN YOU COME TO VLASOTINCE

The house of Giga



It was built in the middle of 19th century (1850). The house belonged to the family of a wealthy merchant called Stojan Stojiljkovic, and it was named after his adopted son – Giga. Together with his brother called Jovan, Stojan was one of the organizers of the battle against the Turkish army. Both brothers died on the day of Saint Nikola in 1887 on Kosovica. Until recently, this house was the library which represented very significant cultural monument. The library had fifty thousand books. Unfortunately, the library was burnt in the fire by an accident, and made the enormous cultural loss and damage.



The house of Spaska



The house of Spaska Near the river Vlasina, on its left coast, lies the house of Spaska, over 200 years old. This monument from the orient time was renovated by the building firm “Crna Trava”. The restaurant-club called “Vinska kuca” (The house of vine) was in this house. Literary

evenings, promotions of books, evenings of sentimental music and a following program of “Vinski bal” (The vine ball) are organized in nice and neat courtyard of the house.

The house of Milan Valcic

Is the most monumental building in the town. From the stylistic view this pearl of architecture of Vlasotince contains elements of renaissance, baroque and neoclassicism. The house was built in the year of 1931/1932. After the state took care of the house, it served for the accommodation of the towns' council. Today, here is situated the administration of a construction company, which regularly maintains the interior and façade and keeps this unique architectural beauty lasting.



The mill

Proka Crnilovic and Gavriilo Popovic built the mill on the river Vlasina in the year of 1890 which because of its distinguished look remained the symbol of the town. While you look at the mill from the bridge on the river, you will have an impression that you are watching a wonderful spectacle. Because of that, it is no wonder that this monumental building served to lots of artists and poets as an inspiration. At the same time, the mill is also a utility object, which is continuously working over one century.



Monument to the patriots

On the main square of the town, like an arrow which had run into the centre of a circle, upraises the monument built for the killed patriots in the liberation war from 1912 to 1918. The monument was projected by the famous Russian architect and academic, Nikolai Krasnov. It was built in the year of 1931. The picturesque memorial and fountain, with its unique and simple beauty and stateliness still attracts the attention of the locals and visitors.



VLASOTINCE – THE TOWN OF VINE

Vinski bal – The vine ball



The best time to visit Vlasotince is during the spectacle called “The vine ball”, which is the most important tourist, cultural and economic manifestation, usually held at the end of August or at the beginning of September. It is unique and authentic spectacle, organized in the honor of work and vine.

Every year during the manifestation, which is held on the Nesic’s quay, one of the most beautiful girls from the municipality is being chosen for the Goddess of vine. Besides the vine tasting, rich cultural and artistic programme is organized, which is followed by the march-past of the duke through the main streets of the town. Famous musicians entertain the locals and numerous visitors. All kinds of music are played on the ball. The night before the “Vinski bal” the town becomes the metropolis of vine, while the numerous party-colored lanterns and the water of the river and the lake make this place look like a small Venice.



River Vlasina

The most significant factor for the development of tourism are natural values of the municipality of Vlasotince – clean air, favorable climate, clean environment and the unpolluted river Vlasina which is among the twenty rivers with the cleanest water in the country. The Vlasina is the right confluent of the river Juzna Morava, 60 kilometers long. The town, which lies on the 350 meters altitude, is surrounded by two artificial lakes. One of the lakes is in the town, built for the necessity of water supplying and the other is 3 kilometers up the river Vlasina – the famous **Vlasina lake**.



Vlasina Lake

Vlasina Lake is an artificial lake in southeast Serbia with an area of 15 square kilometers and a depth of 35 m. The lake is located in the municipality of Surdulica. On the shores of the lake are located three villages. This lake was formed from 1949. to 1954.

Natural beauty and rarity of the area that consists of mountains, gorges, waterfalls, springs, rivers, flora and fauna, as well as the benevolent influence of climate and the silence of the mountain nature make this place ideal for staying in different periods of the year.



Swimming for the Holy cross

Every year, on 19th January, the race for the Holy Cross is held in the whole country. People in Vlasotince, mostly men, are swimming in river Vlasina to grab the cross which floats in the water. But this year, beside the 53 men, there was one woman. More precisely, a teenager. Believe or not, she won. She jumped into cold water just before the man, who let her win. We congratulate her and the other men on bravery!



Closure:

Vlasotince is the magnificent town with interesting sights, colorful history, rich cultural life and many entertaining manifestations, which offers an unforgettable experience to any visitor. If you ever want to visit Vlasotince, people in there will welcome you with open arms and hospitality.



As already stated, Vlasotince is the gem of the south of Serbia. It is the town which once is seen, can be never forgotten because it has both – heart and soul.

