



Canadian Slovenian
Chamber of Commerce

Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce Update

February 2023

CSCC Member Appreciation Night Slovenian Wine Tasting Seminar

February 23, 2023
Slovenian Hall, 739 Brown's Line, Toronto

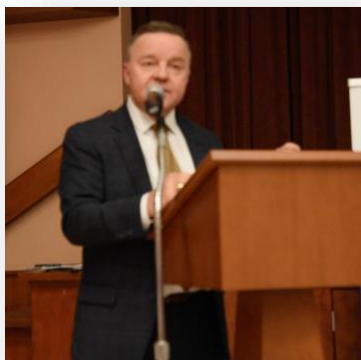
This was the first Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce event for 2023 – an evening of celebration for Slovenian commerce and culture. As luck would have it, we had a bad snowstorm the day before our event, which prevented some of our expected guests to travel but we still had a group of 44 attendees, which was a nice size for all to speak to one another. Featured for the evening were presenters Moya Financial Credit Union and Croatia Unpacked.



Guests were treated to wine tastings of the 6 new Slovenian wines available at the LCBO and through Croatia Unpacked Wine Distributors accompanied with delicious appetizers from Julie Doma's International Meats and Deli.

Ms. Tanya Schmitt, our featured speaker, hosted the wine tasting tables and shared her insights on the wines that Croatia Unpacked imported from Klet Brda and Gasper wineries. Everyone was also asked to vote on their favourite wine and to enter into the raffles for wine baskets.

The evening's presentation was led by H.E. Ambassador Andrej Rode, who appeared virtually via a pre-recorded video because of the bad weather. He highlighted the cooperation between the CSCC and the Slovenian Embassy in Ottawa, the increased scope of our reach across Canada from British Columbia and into Quebec, and the varied business sectors that we support and promote. The ambassador also highlighted that the other Central European countries actively helped the Slovenian wines expansion into Canada, especially Croatia.



The CSCC appreciates the support and cooperation from Ambassador Rode, the Embassy's First Counsellor Mr. Blaž Slamič and from the Slovenian Trade Commissioner, Mr. Simon Pribac. The embassy co-sponsored this event and we appreciate their collaboration on this and future events to promote Slovenian business interests in Canada.

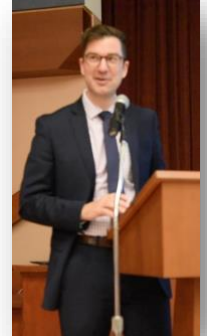
Next, we had Mr. John Doma, the Honorary Consul General for the Republic of Slovenia, Treasurer for European Union Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce shared his insights about the wine regions of Slovenia. He also spoke about the importance of participating and supporting our various Slovenian community groups to ensure future sustainability of our culture.

Mr. Doma was thanked for his commitment and sponsorship of the Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and his unwavering support for the Slovenian community. It was also reiterated that the community is fortunate to have Mr. Doma as an example of leadership and of commitment for the preservation of our shared Slovenian heritage.

We were pleased to have Mr. Marjan Kolarič, Member of The Council Representing Canadian Slovenians at The Government of Republic of Slovenia join us and be available to speak to our guests. He will be meeting in Slovenia later in the year to represent us and share insights about Slovenians in Canada.

The Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce is only a portion of the many organizations that make up our Slovenian community here in Canada. Our Slovenian Churches, The Canadian Slovenian Historical Society, Slovenski Dom, the VSKO All-Slovenian Cultural Committee and Slovenian business leaders were represented at the event and everyone was invited to share the projects that are preserving and promoting our Slovenian identity in Canada.

This was an event that featured Moya Financial Credit Union's CEO, Mr. Andrew Rovanišek discuss their plans and to formally introduce himself to the community. As mentioned, Moya Financial Credit Union had its start in the Slovenian community but this doesn't mean that it is exclusive. Moya means "our" in Slovenian, and they strive to be your financial partner. Andrew shared planned upgrades and expanded services that are underway and to come. He has been very active in the community since joining Moya in May 2022 and has continued to support Slovenian parks and organizations through sponsorship and participation. We appreciate that Moya agreed to be a co-sponsor of our very well attended CSCC evening.



Our guest speaker, Ms. Tanya Schmitt graciously agreed to host the wine tasting stations with help from Ms. Kristy Turk, who got some first-hand lessons on Slovenian wines from the wine expert and co-founder of Croatia Unpacked. Tanya and her partner, Mr. Saša Muradori were the wine importers who brought in 6 Slovenian wines to the LCBO together with help from the Croatian Embassy.

As our featured speaker, Tanya shared Croatia Unpacked's journey to achieve the very difficult task of getting the wines listed and purchased by the LCBO, which is the world's largest purchaser of spirits. Each of the Slovenian wines that has been brought into Canada by Croatia Unpacked has been highly awarded by Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest and most influential wine competition.

A part of Tanya's presentation also included a short video from Gašper Čarman, the owner of Gasper wines. The two wineries that were featured, Klet Brda and Gasper Wines actually work together. Tanya shared the fact that the Brda region is especially gifted as a wine producing region due to its excellent geographical location by the Alps, the Adriatic and blessed with mineral-rich soil.

Slovenia also has many other regions that excel in wine making and Tanya and her partner are committed to finding more Slovenian wines to bring to our shores. Tanya invited people to contact her with suggestions and recommendations for other wineries and wines to review. You may contact her directly at tanya@croatiainpacked.com or the CSCC. We hope that the enthusiastic response from our guests will encourage Croatia Unpacked to discover more wines that can be brought to Canada for us to enjoy.

Of course, to ensure that we can have Slovenian wines available in Canada, we must purchase them and demonstrate to the LCBO that they deserve to have a place in stores. Our guests were given leaflets with LCBO item numbers and the link to Croatia Unpacked where they can buy their own supply of Slovenian wines after the event. We know that our guests enjoyed experiencing the special and unique Gasper and Klet Brda wines. They enthusiastically discussed the different varietals and then voted on their favourite.



It must be revealed that the winning wine for the evening was the Gasper Penina Brut Chardonnay, LCBO# 28454.

Guests had the opportunity to enjoy more of their favourites at the bar while nibbling on the very appealing and tasty appetizers from International Meats and Deli.

At the end of the night, we had a draw for six delicious wine gift baskets donated by Croatia Unpacked, International Meats and one of our newest CSCC member, Florence Meats.

Also, welcome to Emilian Jewellery, they joined Florence Meats as our two newest additions to the CSCC network, which made our evening even more special. Please see their websites to learn more about these Slovenian-owned companies. You can find out more about all our members by checking our www.canslo.com directory!

This was a night for CSCC members and guests to mingle and network and we hope that it recharged everyone for the coming year. As we said, let's keep the momentum of positive and innovative ideation, let's continue to communicate, to share and to support each other so that we can be a positive force in our communities!

Thank you again to our evening's generous sponsors: Bateman Mackay LLP, Moya Financial Credit Union, and the Slovenian Embassy in Ottawa. This event was also made possible through funding from Spirit Slovenia and Urad Vlade RS Za Slovence v Zamejstvu in Po Svetu.

KEEP IN TOUCH & CONNECT!

We look forward to our dialogues with the Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce network of organizations and professionals. Participate in our events, contact us with information that you would like to share and get involved!

See our website at canslo.com or email Sonya at sonya@canslo.com or check us out on Facebook, LinkedIn or YouTube!!

On behalf of the Canadian Slovenian Chamber of Commerce, Hvala Lepa in Nasvidenje,

Sonya

Sonya Rosenwirth

CSCC Executive Director

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Connect with us: <https://www.canslo.com> YouTube ^{CA}



KLET BRDA WINERY
Klet Brda Winery was founded in 1957 as a cooperative of the local wine growing families. It remains to this day under the same collective ownership, resulting in an organization that has become intrinsic to the life of the local community, in effect uniting four hundred families that cultivate vines on the steep slopes across the region's hilly landscape. It is Slovenia's largest cooperative, and despite its size, is very forward thinking and innovative. Regular international awards speak to the quality and consistency of production.



GAŠPER WINERY
Gasper Winery is the brainchild of Gašper Čarman, a voracious student of wine, who has been voted Slovenia's best Sommelier twice - in 2013 and 2015. It was in 2013 that he created his own wine label, working in partnership with a selection of the Klet Brda cooperative families. His mission is to make a modern style of wine which reflects the unique terroir of Goriška Brda. The Gasper brand has been quickly embraced by the international community, and has received many Decanter awards during its young life to date.



Click on the QR code below for more information:



Available Online at www.croatiaunpacked.com:

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Photos by Boris Ulcar, Ultek Systems / CSCC Board Director



