

Alcohol and Drinking Culture

Croatian transcript:

A: Dalje, u Primorju ljudi se dosta bave vinogradarstvom, maslinarstvom; dakle, uzgajaju... Recimo, prave izvrsna vina, bijela, crna vina, maslinovo ulje, također, ovaj, raznorazne rakije, znači¹ ta naša ljuta, ta naša žestoka tradicionalna pića... Znači, šljivovice, razne travarice. Recimo, u Dalmaciji, koliko sam ja uspjela primjetit, ljudi su, pa relativno umjereni u količinama, znači, alkoholnih pića, dok naprimjer u Zagorju, Zagorci su poznati po tome da stvarno vole popit, i neumjereno znači, tako da se često napiju, znači stariji ljudi, dok recimo u Primorju, dole u Primorju to nije toliko česta pojava.

Danas, evo mladi dosta piju, i znači normalno je, normalna su ta okupljanja, što je uredu, ali okupljanja uz alkohol i uz neumjerene količine alkohola. Problem je u tome što zbog, je li, ograničenog budžeta, oni kupuju ona najjeftinija vina, onako kvazi-vina, znači... Ovo što se tiče alkohola, dakle, dobna granica prije koje se alkohol ne smije zakonski piti je osamnaest godina. U trgovinama, znači prehrambenih proizvoda, uredno imate i alkoholna pića na policama, i obavijest, dakle, upozorenje da se ta ista ne smiju prodavati djeci, znači mlađim od osamnaest. Međutim, to često se ne poštuje, znači često možete vidjeti petnaestogodišnjake s alkoholnim pićima u rukama, koji šetaju ulicom, uredno se opijaju i kasnije često završavaju ili na neakvim ispumpavanjima u bolnici, ili se navuku na taj alkohol. Alkohol se ovdje u Hrvatskoj dosta pije, ali, ja bih rekla u prosjeku u neakvim umjerenim količinama, ne znam, za ljude koji zakonski smiju pit alkohol. Znači, piju se vina uz ručak, pije se rakija ujutro, znači za srce, krvožilni sustav vam pobudi cijeli, za dušu...

Monika: ...vinograde, u Zagorju i Dalmaciji.

A: Da. Evo recimo, znači puno je vinograda u Zagorju, Dalmaciji, znači ljudi dosta prave to vino, piju ga... Također, nije rijetka pojava da roditelji svojoj djeci, znači uz ručak isto natoče čašicu vina, ne znam, prije osamnaeste godine.

Dakle, u Zagrebu isto imamo znači Medvedgrad, koji proizvodi svoje pivo, koje se... Znači koje možete pit u „Zlatnom medi“ i u „Malom medi“ također možete tamo i jesti, što je dosta popularno među studentima, znači, pivo i hrana.

¹ *Znači*: (lit. trans. “meaning”) A filler more common in South Serbia and northern Montenegro than in Croatia. In this transcript, it was translated as “I mean” to clearly mark it as a filler in English as well. Please note that this word has other meanings, and that it sometimes might be difficult to discern whether it is a filler or a regular part of speech.

English translation:

A: Furthermore, in Primorje² people work on their vineyards and olive tree orchards, so they grow... For instance, they make wonderful wines, both white and red, olive oil as well, all sorts of *rakija*³, so, our traditional hard drinks... I mean, plum *rakija*, all sorts of herbal *rakijas*. For example, in Dalmatia⁴ people are relatively moderate in their consumption as far as I know, I mean, of alcoholic beverages, while for instance in Zagorje⁵, people from Zagorje are known for the fact that they really like their liquor, and with no moderation, I mean, so they get drunk often, I mean, older people, while for example in Primorje... It is not that common in Primorje.

Today, the youth drinks a lot, I mean, it's normal, social gatherings are normal, which is okay, but gatherings with alcohol and immoderate amounts of alcohol [are not]. The problem is that, because of their limited budget, they buy the cheapest wines, the quasi-wines, I mean... As for alcohol, the legal limit before which one can't consume alcohol is 18 years of age. In stores, I mean, grocery stores, you can also find alcohol on their shelves, along with a sign, a warning that you can't sell those to minors, which means those younger than 18. However, this is often neglected, I mean, you can often see 15-year-olds with alcoholic beverages in their hands, walking down the street, getting drunk, and they often end up either getting their stomach pumped at the hospital or they get hooked on this alcohol. Alcohol is consumed quite a lot here in Croatia, but I would say that it is in moderate quantities on average, particularly by those people who can legally drink. I mean, usually one would have wine with lunch, or *rakija* in the morning, since it's good for your heart and your cardiovascular system; it jumpstarts your whole body and soul...

Monika: [inaudible] vineyards, both in Zagorje and Dalmatia.

A: Yes. For example, there are many vineyards in Zagorje, Dalmatia, I mean, people make wine a lot, they drink it... Also, often parents will pour a glass of wine for lunch to their kids, even before they are 18.

Also, in Zagreb we also have *Medvedgrad*⁶; they make their own beer, which... Which you can have either at *Zlatni medo*⁷ or *Mali medo*⁸ where you can also eat, which is quite popular with students, I mean, beer and food.

² Primorje: A county in Croatia on the northern part of the coastal area, including surrounding hills and mountains.

³ *Rakija*: an alcoholic beverage that is produced by distillation of fermented fruit; it is a popular beverage throughout the Balkans. Often translated as “brandy” in the U.S.

⁴ Dalmatia: A county in Croatia on the southern part of the coastal area, including surrounding hills and mountains.

⁵ Zagorje: A region in Croatia, north of Zagreb.

⁶ *Medvedgrad*: A microbrewery from Zagreb.

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⁷ *Zlatni medo*: A restaurant/microbrewery from Zagreb.

⁸ *Mali medo*: A restaurant owned and operated by the Medvedgrad microbrewery.