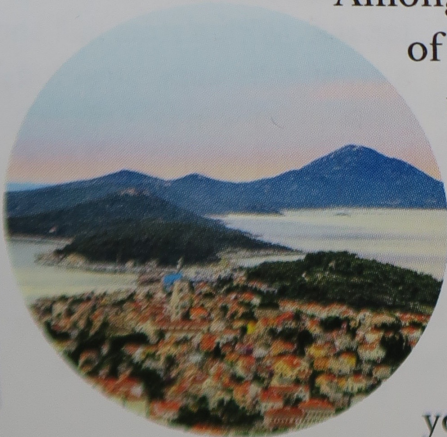


Say aahhh-driatic

Low season has arrived and Croatia is winding down from a busy summer. There are still hidden gems in this increasingly popular cruising destination in the Adriatic.

One is Lošinj, Croatia, a picturesque island redolent with pine scent. A former marine hub, Lošinj reinvented itself as a health retreat in the late 19th century. The island is hard to access, as there is no international airport, but boats can dock at the port of Mali Lošinj, anchor in Artatore bay or on nearby Cres where a marina (about a 45-minute drive away) has slips for yachts of up to 164 feet.



Among people who found the island to their liking were members of the aristocracy under Austro-Hungarian rule, who built mansions on its shores. One became the Alhambra, a hotel full of charm but a little worn. It has now been reinvented as a five-star boutique hotel with 51 rooms and suites and a private beach looking out to the crystal-clear waters of Čikat Bay. The hotel's spa offers a full menu of health programs, from massage and beauty treatments to fitness yoga. www.alhambrałosinj.com - *Necce Regis*