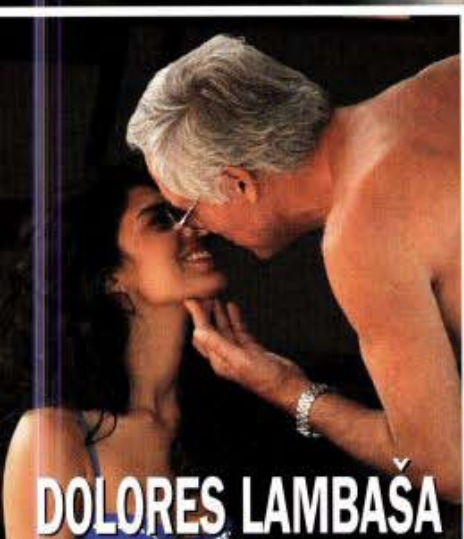


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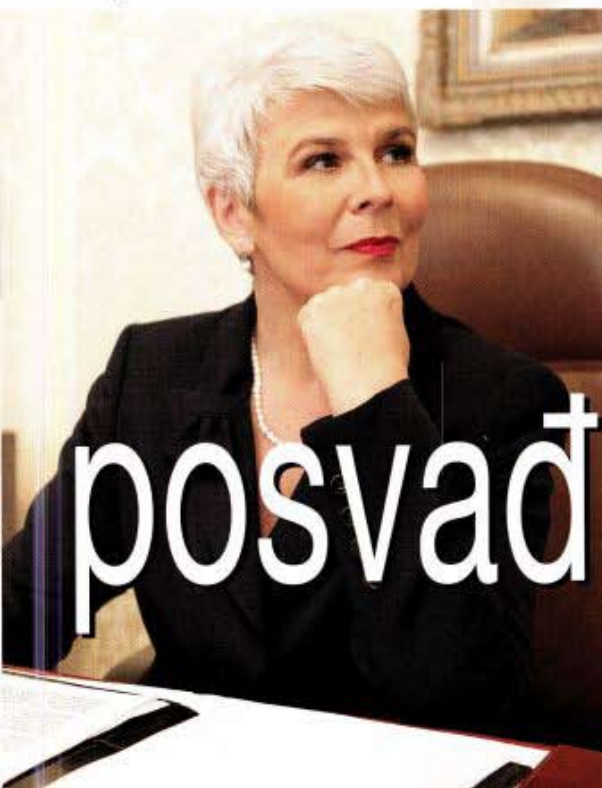
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# Gloria



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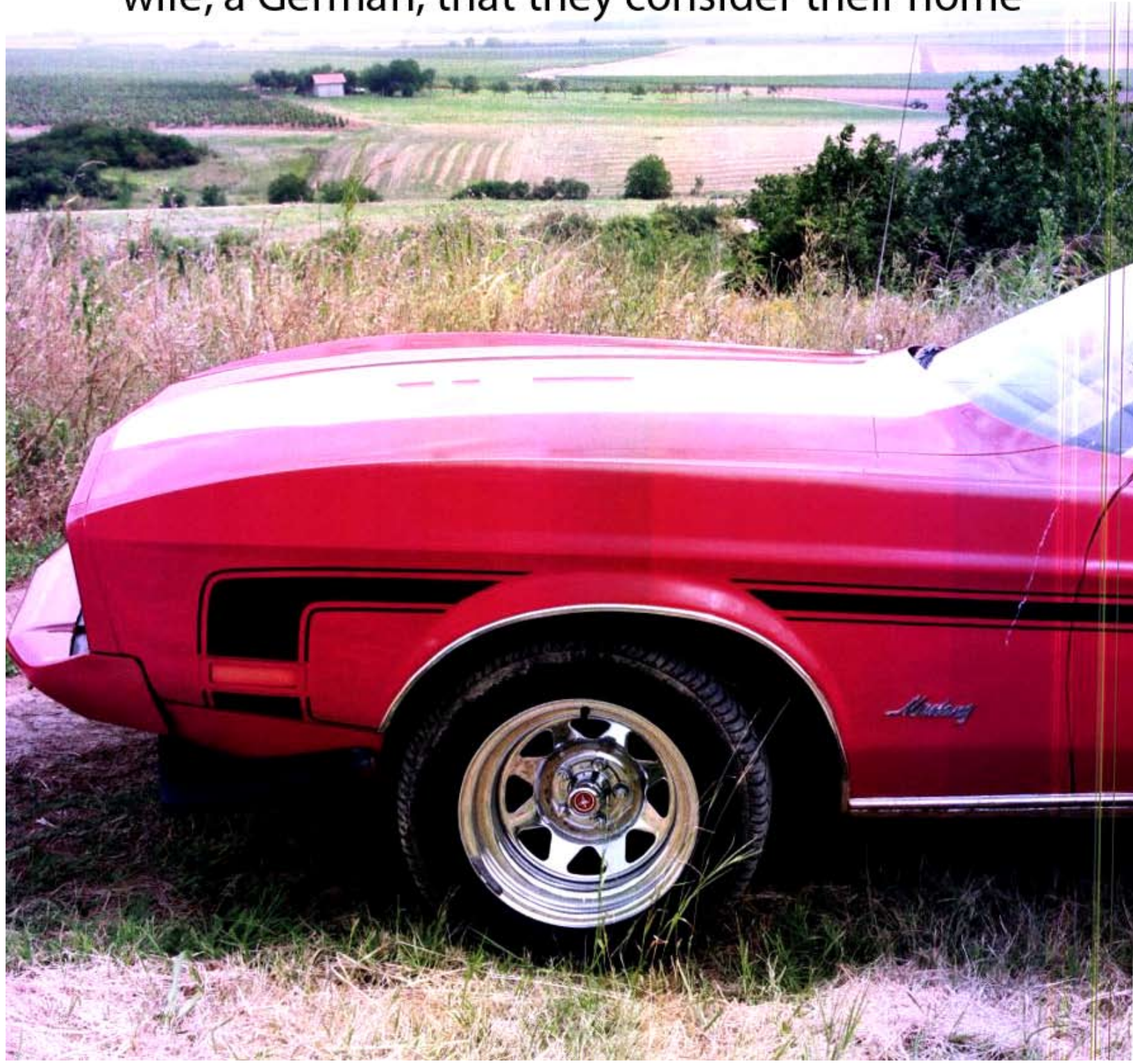
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Our Home: Boris and Ines Miksic

# Croatian Obama In Love In Countryside

The American entrepreneur of Croatian origin and the owner of five villas throughout the USA recently redecorated a wooden house in Beli Manastir with his third wife, a German, that they consider their home





The Miksic's cruise the Croatian roads in a 1973 Mustang purchased in Beli Manastir



Entrance to the Eco-Farm stretching over one acre.



Resting kit in the traditional entrance to the garden house



The host is in charge of bringing firewood for the baker's oven

Written by Jagoda Zamoda

Photographs by Mario Kucera

"I have so far proclaimed myself as a Croatian and an American, but recently I have also become Bavarian and a Baranian. With my third wife, the German born Ines, whom I married seven months ago, I redecorated our first joint home in Beli Manastir. Though I already have houses in Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, Colorado, and Wisconsin, this is in my smallest but dearest house. It has soul and warmth, and positive energy gushes from the old wood it is constructed from; we feel mutual closeness in it, as well as oneness with nature and the fertile soil - we simply have the feeling of being in a genuine home." Boris Miksic (60), born in Zagreb, a mechanical engineer, entrepreneur, and innovator living in the United States for 35 years, says. As a boy from the Tresnjevka neighborhood, he claims to have realized his American Dream there.

Miksic became interesting to our public five years ago when he ran for the Croatian presidency, and he is getting ready for the campaign this year as well. He first constructed a factory that produces biodegradable films, EcoCortec in the business zone of Beli Manastir in Spring 2007. As he got tired of staying in hotels all the time, he decided to buy a house there. Accompanied by Ines, he started searching; they saw a few houses - until last fall, on the Plalina hill above the town they spotted a derelict construction with an orchard.

"As soon as I saw it, I said: What will I do with castles, this is the thing! We immediately fell in

love with the location: the whole town of Beli Manastir seems to be in the palms of our hands; the view stretches as far as Osijek, Papuk, Hungary, and the Danube. The house, forty years old, was in poor condition, and I knew we were in for a thorough reconstruction, but we were not too worried about this. What was left were the supporting walls, everything else was torn down and rebuilt" - Miksic says, who left the complete decoration, according to own and wife's ideas, to a top master - the carpenter Stjepan Hanuljak from Donji Andrijevi, specializing in ecological production: he uses old wooden materials. Oak beams which were used for all wooden elements, as well as rustic furniture - starting from the marital bed, chests of drawers, nightstands, linen chests, to benches, tables, and chairs, were hauled from Turopolje. The redecoration of all rooms, the bedroom on the first floor, the living room, the kitchen, and the terrace on the second floor, and the guest room in the attic, including the creation of furniture, was completed in seven months.

#### The Big Bang

"When I first entered the finished house, I was pleasantly surprised - it was more than I expected. Everything seemed a harmonious whole, it was not overcrowded, and it fit in the surroundings. In the morning I hear birds, the I look over never-ending vineyards, while in the evening I enjoy the sunset with my husband - the 47 year old Ines Miksic says. As a girl she vacationed in Rovinj, and now, thanks to her husband, she got to know other Croatian regions. The opening of the Baranja house, stretching over 120 square meters, occurred last October, precisely on Miksic's 60th birth-



The arbour in which Boris Miksic and his Ines have morning coffee



The newlywed's "Apartment"



Bavarian Ines plucking Baranja plums in her orchard

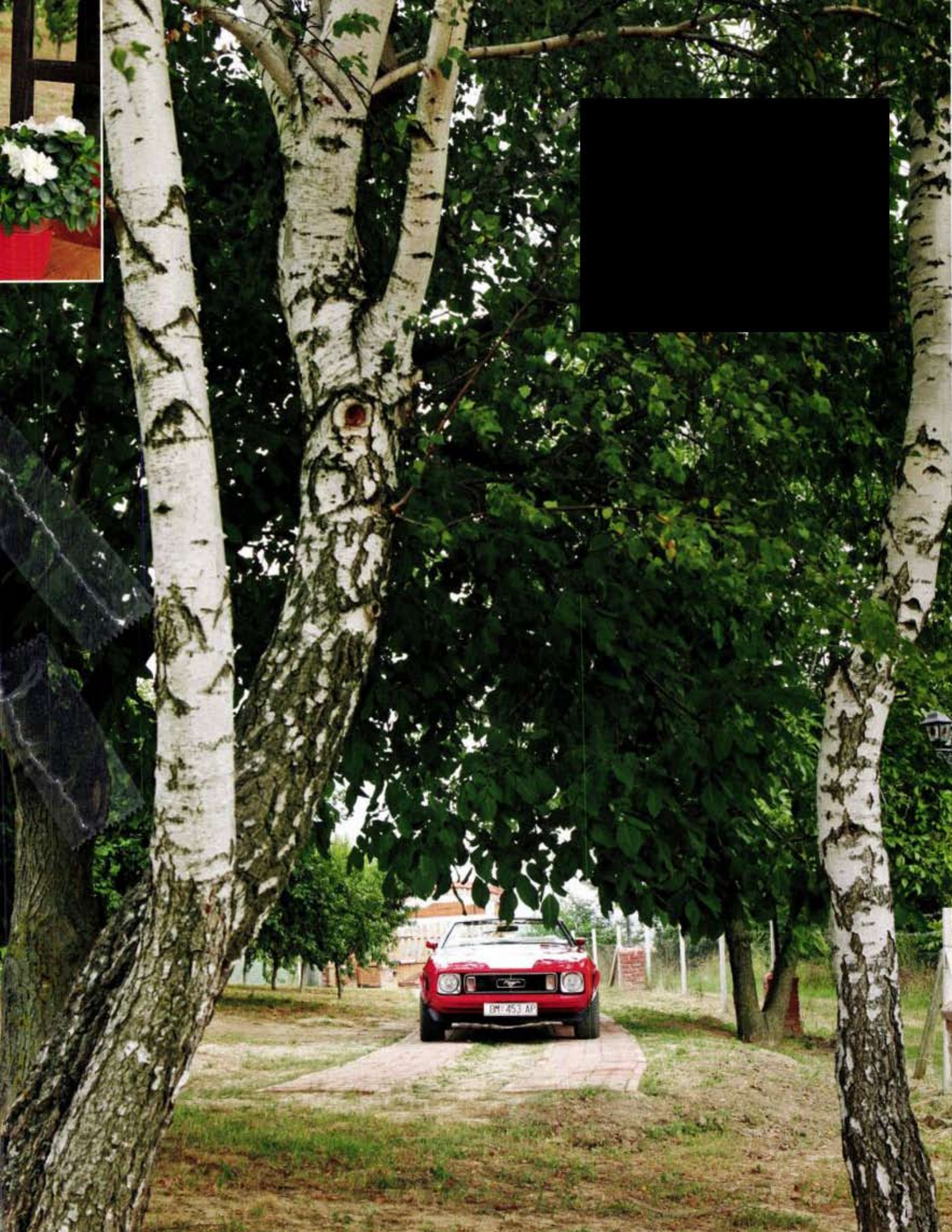


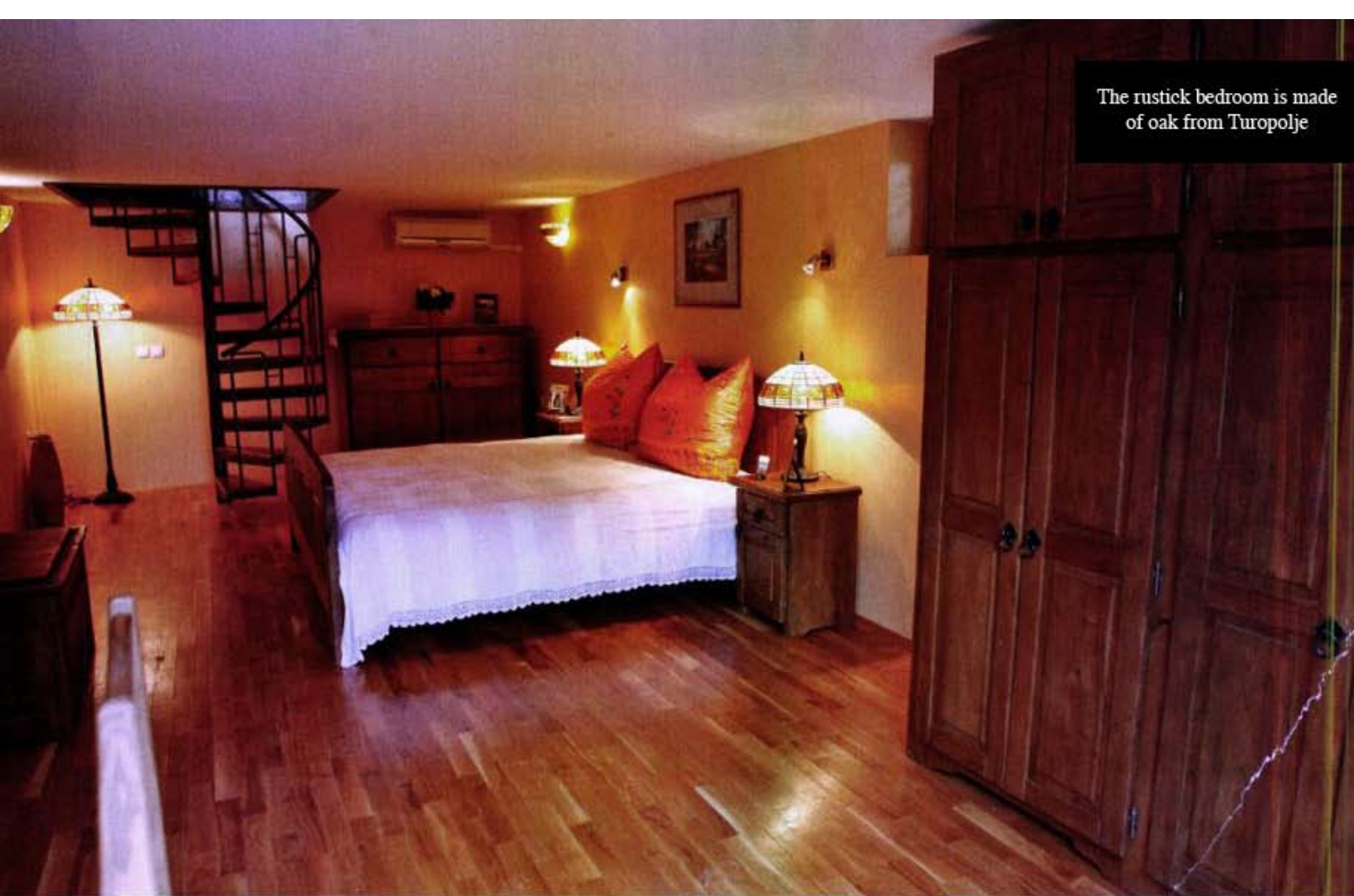
A museum piece of yarn spinning wheel



"Ines likes to please me in every way," Boris Miksic says.

Jacuzzi for massage and relaxation in the front yard where the vantage point used to be.





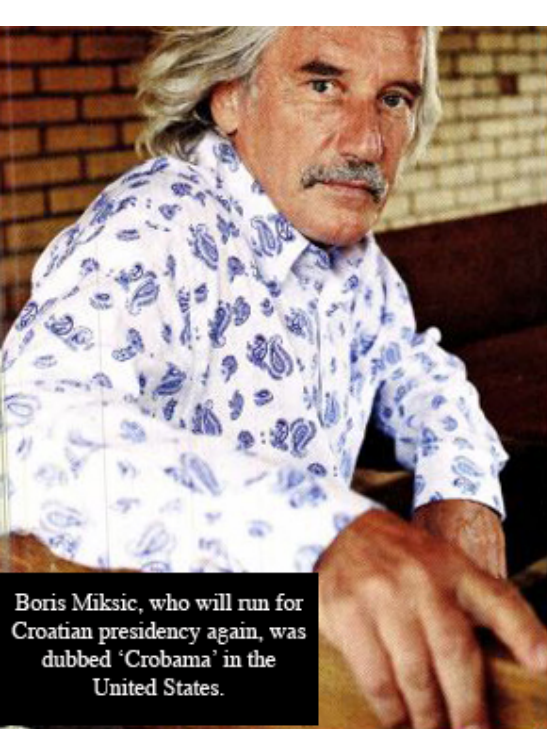
The rustic bedroom is made of oak from Turopolje



The fireplace was in the house and was just polished up.



The living room on the first floor contains precious trinkets.



Boris Miksic, who will run for Croatian presidency again, was dubbed 'Crobama' in the United States.



The chair with the coat of arms of the Miksic family, whose origin is from Turopolje.



The added loggia behind the house is a place for afternoon rest.

day. The celebration, where the mood was provided by local mandolin-like tamburice, featured invitations to Mayor of Beli Manastir and business partners from several European countries. Even though the supreme designer of their home was Ines, the entrance arbour is her husband's idea, just like the garden Jacuzzi, which was placed on a historical vantage point. The walls have paintings by Ivan Lackovica Croata mostly, who Miksic was friends with. The tablecloths and bedcovers were created by women from Baranja, and selected by Ines. The back side of the house was added a loggia with a baker's oven, while they moved a countryside wooden structure to the orchard, which served as the wedding night 'apartment', and was dubbed the 'Big Bang'. The newlyweds used to stay there for as long as it took for their child to be born. Their Pekinges dog got a garden house as well, which even has its name on it. They continued caring for the one acre orchard that was planted five years ago, while they donate the fruits of 350 peach trees, 80 plum trees, as well as apples, cherries, service-trees, and figs to neighboring kindergartens. However, they made brandy out of part of peach

fruit (of which there were 10,000 kilograms this year), which they give to business partners throughout the world. Even the red 1973 Mustang, a convertible, parked in front of the Miksic's Baranja house, which they use to cruise the islands in the Adriatic, was purchased in Beli Manastir. They found it in a shed, it could not run, and had - German paperwork. It was serviced in Zagreb, and the original Mustang insignia and the racing engine were retained. **Fisherman's Luck** Even though, Miksic admits, he had not hoped for new love in his sixties, it was precisely then that he was struck by Amor's arrow. This is his third marriage (he has two grown children from his first), and in case of Ines, who is 14 years his junior-her second. Regarding his wife, who spent some twenty years in America, and had run a female clothing boutique in Munich earlier, he claims her profession is a housewife, and she likes to please him, welcome him with dinner, and that she genuinely enjoys this. "Boris adores sour and red cabbage but we often have fish, that we catch by ourselves. I learned how to make some Croatian cakes too from his mother, such as nut

and poppy cakes"-Ines says. She met Boris two years ago, thanks to his parents who were visiting their son in Florida. She was divorced, and Miksic himself was divorced from his second wife at the time. "We were actually next door neighbors in Florida. Our houses are five hundred meters apart, and we had never met. Ines was walking down the beach, just like my parents. As my mother is a German teacher, Ines found the common element right away. And she invited her to our place for coffee. Next, I invited her to go fishing, after which she passed an important test-she 'earned' her ticket to the marriage: last year, in Hawaii, she caught a fish that weighed 162 kilograms and was 2.25 meters long, a very rare swordfish, in the largest world's tournament. We got married this year in January on my ship called Saga, dressed in casual clothes, wearing polo shirts and pants, just like when we had met, and we took our vows before the ship's captain"- Boris Miksic says. He then went straight from Beli Manastir to Hawaii with his wife to hunt swordfish, hoping for fisherman's luck this August as well.