

Palmižana: Back to nature

When locals in Hvar town say they are going to the beach, they don't mean the modest spots by the harbour. They take a quick taxi boat to the Pakleni Islands, to relax, naked if they feel like it, amid the smell of fragrant pines, uninhibited in uninhabited nature. Facilities are equally bare, but there is one stellar exception: Palmižana.

Set in a natural harbour on the north-east coast of the main island of Veliki otok (also known as Sv.Klement), Palmižana flourished thanks to early 20th-century botanist Eugen Meneghello, who created a unique garden of rare, exotic species here. His son Giorgio-Toto, and his wife Dagmar, then built a holiday

complex around it, and it is now run by their three children: the **Pansion Meneghello**.

Offering culture, gastronomy and idyllic relaxation rolled into one, the Pansion Meneghello (021 717 270, 091 478 3110, fax 021 717 268, www.palmizana.hr) hires out its dozen comfortable stone bungalows by the week from Saturday to Saturday, April to October. Prices are set at about 250kn per night per person, with Dagmar Meneghello's superb cuisine at 150kn per meal. Art workshops, diving courses, fishing, sailing, sandy beaches and classical concerts, all is here. And the nightlife of Hvar town is only a boat taxi away. Book well in advance.

