

# The Sabotin Hotel through Time

Exhibition for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*Solkan, 26. 9. 1957*

*Source: Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica, Department of Ethnology*

Dear visitors,

Long ago, **countesses and counts** walked on the spot where you are standing. They belonged to the **Puppi family** and owned many estates in the surrounding area. According to sources, they were popular among the locals and closely connected to the place and its events. **They lived in this mansion, a late Baroque country villa of the 18th-century Friulian type, from 1807 until 1906.** Not much is known about their life in Solkan, but we do know that they had a magnificent reception hall on the first floor of the mansion, which makes it possible to conclude that the tradition of hospitality, welcoming and entertaining guests in this place began long ago.

Behind the hotel there used to be a special sarcophagus, converted into a **trough, which was used to water the carters' horses.** Its position on the main road leading from the Trnovo Plateau to the Friuli Lowlands made it an ideal stopover and resting place for the carters and other travellers.

**In 1954, the Hotel Sabotin was opened in this baroque building,** which soon became an important venue in Solkan for many travellers to meet up for a short culinary stop, an evening of entertainment or a longer break.

On the occasion of the **hotel's 70th anniversary**, we have collected and displayed reproductions of historical documents, excerpts from books, numerous old photographs, and added interesting testimonies from local people, which summarise the rich and long-standing tradition of hospitality that we continue to offer our valued guests at the **Hit Sabotin Hotel** every day.

We invite you to take a walk down memory lane: we believe that the material on display will help you to recall many of your experiences or familiar scenes from years gone by.

*Hit, d.d.*

*Authors of the exhibition: Jana Jakin Petejan, Špela Lutman, Maša Koglot in Martina Godnič*

*We would like to thank the following for their help in gathering resources:*

*Regional archive in Nova Gorica*

*Slovenian Cultural Heritage Protection Institute, Nova Gorica Regional Unit*

*Egon Bavčer, Arnel Pahor and Janez Jelerčič*

*Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica, Department of Art History*

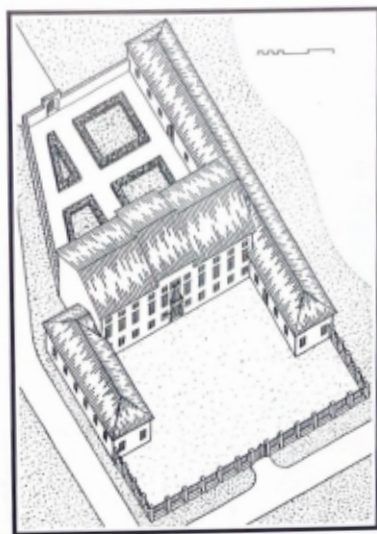
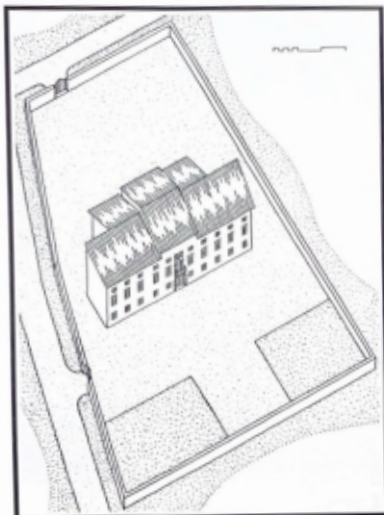
*Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica, Department of Ethnology*



goriški muzej

**The building features indicate that the manor house, which today houses the Sabotin Hotel, was probably built in the first half of the 18th century.** Its first known owners were members of the Mulitsch (Mulig) di Palmenberg family, who came from Saxony and lived in Solkan between 1644 and the end of the 19th century, where they also had a tomb in the parish church and a small manor house.

*Source: Taken from the book by Igor Sapač: Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*



An interesting story is told by a Solkan resident, France Mervič from Ščedne (1900-1980), about one of the last Counts of Puppi who did not go to church. For this reason, the then parish priest of Solkan, Janez Ev. Kolavčič (parish priest in Solkan from 1882 to 1910) visited him several times and warned him that he would not bury him in the church and on church land. Count Puppi replied that this was not a problem for him because he had a large enough burial ground where he could be buried. Count Puppi had a reputation for being a good man who liked to help the farmers of Solkan. He had the road from Zagrad to Podškola built or widened at his own expense.

*Source: Jernej Vidmar: Kako stara vas na Goriškem je Solkan: zbornik ob tisočletnici prve omembe kraja*

*An 18th century manor house and an attempt to ideally reconstruct the never-completed Baroque design of the building complex*

*Source: Igor Sapač: Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*

In addition to the villa as a residence, there were probably also lower buildings containing a carpenter's workshop, a blacksmith's shop, a piggery, a stable and a storage room.

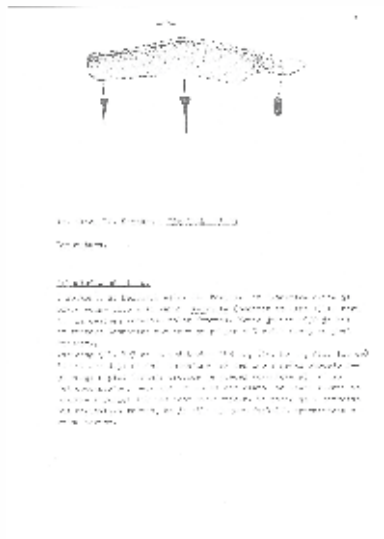
In **1807**, the property and the manor house were bought by **Alojz (Luigi) Count Puppi**, who made it his main residence. The old Puppi noble family had estates in the Solkan area as early as the second half of the 18th century, and its members lived in Solkan from the end of the 18th century. **The manor remained in the ownership of this family until 1906.**

Source: Taken from the book by Igor Sapač: *Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*



*Stone balcony with portal, Main portal, Window in the main façade, February 1980*

Source: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Nova Gorica Regional Unit



*Sketch of the sarcophagus with description*

Source: Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica, Department of Art History

## Archaeological discovery on the doorstep of the Sabotin Hotel

***Sarcophagus with a Greek inscription***, stone, 80 x 198 x 110 cm, today standing in front of the back entrance to the Kromberk Castle



*Photo of the sarcophagus*

Source: Hit d.d. archive



**The mansion is a one-and-a-half-storey building on a long rectangular ground plan.** Today, its historical significance in the area is rather blurred, as a traffic intersection of the two main roads of Solkan was built next to it a few decades ago. Originally, the main façade was the present north façade facing Pionirska Street. This façade has basically **seven window axes** and is symmetrical in design. **The three-bay central part with a rusticated semicircular stone portal** is slightly higher.

**In front of the portal is a gazebo with a balustraded railing dating from the first half of the 20th century.** The windows of the north façade are mostly fitted with simple rectangular stone frames, with profiled lintels on the first floor. **On the right side, a two-storey extension from the first half of the 20th century with a flat terrace and balustrade on the top is leaning against the façade.**

**Above the semicircular rusticated portal on the ground floor, on the first floor, there is a stone cantilevered balcony with balustrade dating from the first half of the 18th century.** The balcony is accessed from the **formal hall** (now hotel rooms) through a **semicircular glazed portal with a heavily accentuated keystone at the top and a flat profiled lintel.**

The flat-beamed ceiling of the vestibule preserves four rectangular stone portals with moulded lintels. The flat beamed ceiling of the entrance hall preserves four rectangular stone portals with moulded lintels. There was a large ceremonial hall on the floor above the entrance hall. The former reception rooms next to it, which were once all connected by doors in a row, have been converted into hotel rooms.

*Source: Igor Sapač: Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*



*Solkan, 26. 9. 1957*

*Source: Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica, Department of Ethnology*



The manor house is a typical noble profane architecture from the beginning or the first half of the 18th century in Goriška. The layout and design of the building masses are particularly comparable to the typical smaller villas of Friuli around 1700, which were also a decisive influence on the design of the Baroque nobleman's palaces in Gorizia.

Source: Igor Sapač: *Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*

*Drawing of the main façade and ground floor plan of the mansion with the building phases marked.*

Source: Igor Sapač: *Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*

“

## Testimonials

"The house where the Sabotin Hotel is today was owned by my mother's grandpa, Mariči Bavčer, born Boltar. Ivan Nibrant, the owner of the Nibrant construction company, was my mother's grandpa.

My mother's cousin's father, Viktor Nibrant, was born in this house when it was already theirs, in 1905. The house was demolished during the First World War and later rebuilt.«

Egon Bavčer



*Ivan Nibrant - owner of the construction company*



*House of the Nibrant family*



*House of the Nibrant family – view from the present summer garden*



*The inscription - company headquarters - can be seen on the façade at the top left*

”

### Interesting fact:

The mansion was not seriously damaged during the First World War. Therefore, after the war, the ceremonial hall on its first floor was used as a replacement for the ruined Solkan parish church until it was rebuilt after 1922.

Source: Taken from the book by Igor Sapač: *Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*



Postcard: Villa Montesanto

Source: unknown (Hit archive reproduction)

In 1933, Karel Kumar bought the mansion and converted it into a hotel with a restaurant, calling it Albergo & Ristorante Villa Montesanto.

After the Second World War (after the annexation of this part of Primorska to Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1947), the building was nationalised, but the hotel continued to operate there.

Source: Igor Sapač: *Grajske stavbe v zahodni Sloveniji*

### Headquarters of the district committees

After the annexation to Yugoslavia (September 1947), Solkan, with its Local People's Committee, once again became the municipal centre, and also the seat of the Gorizia District People's Committee, or Gorizia District, with all three forms of state power.

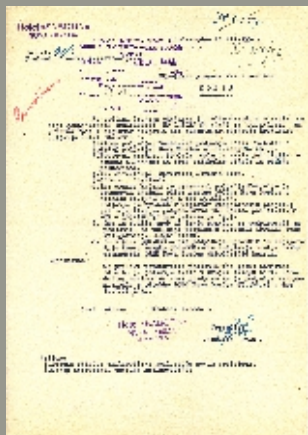
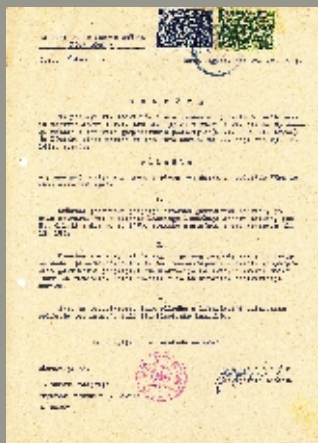
The district institutions had their headquarters in various parts of Solkan. The building where the local authority is today housed the court. The Villa Lenassi and later the Villa Bartolomei were the headquarters of the internal affairs authorities. It still hosts a prison today. Panjakovo was the headquarters of the OLO Gorizia. The former Kumar Hotel, now the Sabotin Hotel, was the seat of the district committees of the KPS (Communist Party of Slovenia), the LMS (Liberal Democracy of Slovenia) and the SKOJ (Union of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia), as well as other social and political organisations (DPO).

Source: Tomaž Marušič, *Štirideset let krajevne skupnosti Solkan (1967 – 2007)*

## 1954: The Sabotin Hotel is opened

25 Dec 1953 The decision to dissolve the state-owned commercial catering company "Mestno gostinstvo Solkan" gives the green light for the establishment of a new catering company "Hotel Sabotin".

In 1954, the building with its new name Hotel Sabotin became an independent hotel with a restaurant.



## Solkan postcards

Source: Provincial archive SI\_PANG/0667 Collection of town postcards (Solkan 1919-1945, after the year 1945)

Source:  
Provincial archive SI\_PANG/0080 OLO Gorica TE 230/364  
Provincial archive SI\_PANG/0974 District Court N.G. TE 691



## Socialising and parties at the Sabotin Hotel in the 1950s and 1960s

Source: Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica,  
Department of Ethnology



*Carnival dance 1957*



*New Year's Eve 1959*



*1957*



*New Year's Eve 1959*



*Women's Day dance 1960*



*Carnival dance 1960*



*Carnival 1957*



*Forest guards in Sabotin 22 April 1960*



*Carnival 1957*

“

### **Anecdotes and memories**

#### **Sabotin Balls**

Saturdays and Sundays were reserved for dancing in Sabotin in the 1970s. Sometimes, as for New Year's Eve in 1975, the party even extended to the first floor, as the demand was huge.

Young people had fun, and many love stories were born that are still alive today.

Of course, it wasn't just dancing: the kitchen always smelled good and it is said that the guests' favourite dishes were the home-made charcuterie and the fried cheese with tartar sauce.

”

“



### **Anecdotes and memories**

#### **Waitress MARTA**

She was one of the personalities who shaped the events of the 1970s, when Sabotin lived as a place for gatherings and dances. She was a very hard-working and enthusiastic waitress - you never went hungry, much less thirsty. It is said that Mrs Marta wore an apron, a skirt and gym shoes. Sometimes she even wore a national costume!

”



*Wedding of a couple from Brda  
2 February 1961*



*Culinary exhibition  
27 October 1957*



*Draught*



*Draught*



**1954:** Decree establishing the Hotel Sabotin is issued

**1972:** opening of the renovated Hotel Sabotin under the auspices of the VIATOR Company

**1973:** Hotel Sabotin is merged with Hotel Park

**1977:** merger into TOZD Hotels and Catering Nova Gorica

**1983:** Hotel Sabotin becomes part of HGP, the predecessor of today's Hit

**1984:** Hit is established

by the end of the 1990s: Hit has its offices and Daimond store in the hotel

**late 1990s:** the Sabotin Gallery comes to life and various exhibitions are organised; the restaurant hosts foreign cuisine: Chinese, Dalmatian, Sumadian

**1997:** first mushroom exhibition in cooperation with the Mushroom Society of Nova Gorica

**1998:** major renovation of the restaurant, reception and hotel rooms in the central part of the building

**2003:** renovation of the remaining hotel rooms in the building extension

**2015:** renovation of the bar and the summer garden with a canopy

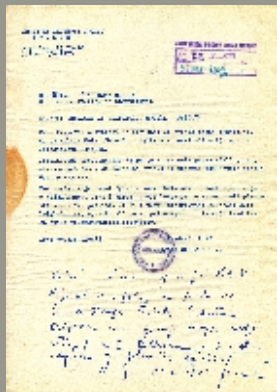
**2019:** the hotel is included in the Slovenian Green Tourism Scheme with the "Green Key" certificate

**2022:** renovation of the kitchen



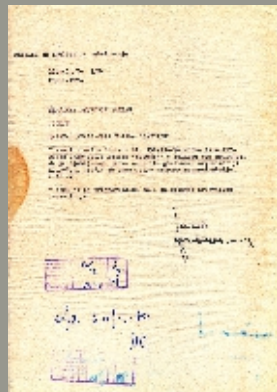


## 1972: renovation of the hotel



On 6.6.1970, the Solkan Municipality submitted a proposal for the redevelopment and adaptation of the Sabotin Hotel, as the hotel is in a difficult situation due to the dilapidated state of the building.

Source: Provincial archive,  
SI\_PANG/0104 Skupščina občine N.G.  
TE 1150, 1645

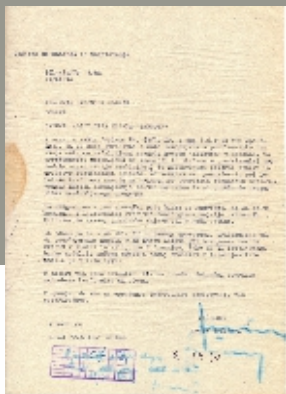


Approval of a loan for the renovation of the hotel in 1970

Source: Provincial archive,  
SI\_PANG/0104 Skupščina občine  
N.G. TE 1150, 1645

Resolving the difficult situation of the Sabotin Hotel in the early 1970s

Source: Provincial archive,  
SI\_PANG/0104 Municipal Assembly  
N.G. TE 1150, 1645



## Demolition of the canteen on IX Korpus Road and plans for a new extension, 1971

Source: Provincial archive, SI\_PANG/0104 Skupščina občine N.G. TE 1150, 1645





Source: Goriška Museum Kromberk - Nova Gorica,  
Department of Ethnology

“

### **Anecdotes and memories** Sabotin Sports Association

Did you know that the Sabotin Sports Association was born in today's "Kraška Izba", but unfortunately never officially registered? The members were young Solkan boys, aged between 16 and 22, who liked to hang out in the evenings and dreamed of a bright future. But they didn't miss the events that enlivened Solkan in the 1970s: cycling from Solkan to Plave, kayaking from Plave to Solkan, football matches at the Solkan School, handball and basketball matches, and even a shooting competition.

Unfortunately, all the stories end when love and family commitments come into play. But despite this, beautiful memories and everlasting friendships remain.

”

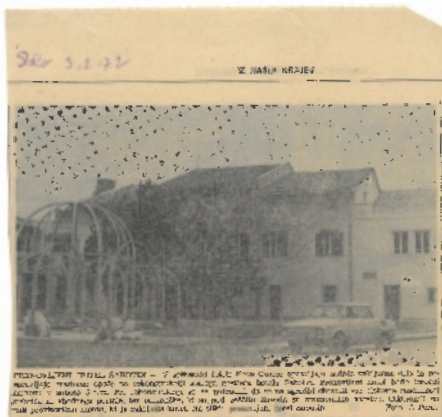
*Floor plan of the hotel with new extension and garden in 1972*

Source: Provincial archive, SI\_PANG/0104 Skupščina občine  
N.G. TE 1150, 1645



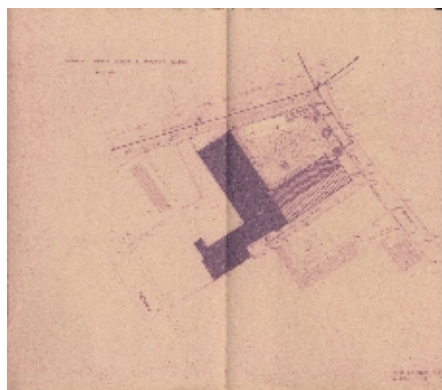
### *ARTICLE The renovated and extended Sabotin Hotel opens, 1 February 1972*

Source: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of  
Slovenia, Regional Unit Nova Gorica



### *ARTICLE The renovated Sabotin Hotel, Delo, 3 February 1972*

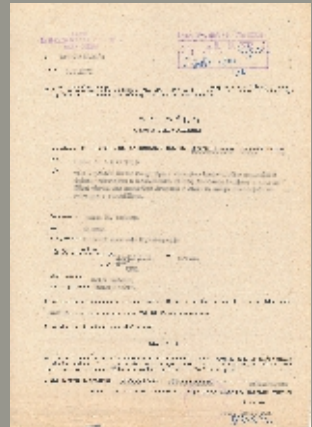
Source: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of  
Slovenia, Regional Unit Nova Gorica



## Hotel Sabotin as a listed building - a late Baroque country villa of the Friulian type

9 May 1972 The hotel was included in the Register of Immovable Cultural Heritage

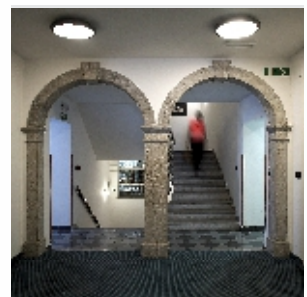
Source: Provincial archive, SI\_PANG/0104 Municipal Assembly  
N.G. TE 1150, 1645



Source: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Regional Unit Nova Gorica



Source: Hit d.d. archive



Source: Hit d.d. archive

## Attic fresco - former frieze of the upstairs hall

Source: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Regional Unit Nova Gorica







**1984: Hotel Sabotin starts operating under the umbrella of the newly created Hit Company**

Source: Hit d.d. archive

### *Solkan postcards*

Source: Provincial archive SI\_PANG/0667 Zbirka razglednic krajev (Solkan 1919-1945, after the year 1945)



## Chinese kitchen - uniform for serving staff and part of the restaurant decorated in Chinese style

Source: Hit d.d. archive



## ARTICLE History woven with the present, Primorske novice, 11 December 1987

Source: Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Nova Gorica Regional Unit



## Hotel Sabotin in the 1990s

Source: Hit d.d. archive



February 2024

---

Hotel Sabotin\*\*\*, IX.Korpusa 35, 5250 Solkan  
[www.hotelsabotin.com](http://www.hotelsabotin.com) | [www.hit.si](http://www.hit.si)