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10 Villages You'll Fall in Love With

February 2, 2013 by **Jamie Moore**

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Motovun, Croatia

Population: 983

It's 1,052 steps up a stone staircase to the top of this medieval village on a hill, and the higher you climb, the older it gets. Overlooking the Mirna River valley in northern Istria, Motovun dates to the Middle Ages, and evidence of its past is everywhere. You can walk along the original 13th-century town walls, passing by palaces and small churches en route to the bell tower that crowns the village. From here, you'll have a panoramic view of the vineyards below. The truffles that grow in the surrounding forests are a prized feature (with aphrodisiac effects) on Motovun restaurant menus. In summer, don't miss the film festival.

Places We Love The walls of the main city gate are hung with Roman tombstones, and a museum inside the gates houses antique artillery and art. Within walking distance, Pod Voltom restaurant incorporates either black or white truffles in dishes that you can enjoy from a table on the terrace.

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