



The beginnings of the Catering School and the development of the Hotel Industry Educational centre in Dubrovnik



The fact that the Tourism and Catering School Dubrovnik has existed for more than a half of century should not be surprising, since the tourist industry is the keystone of the overall economic development in this area. Having accepted tourism as a philosophy of life, Dubrovnik and its citizens have always been aware that a high quality education in this economic branch is a prerequisite for work and development of tourism. Immediately after the

Second World War, in 1947 the Junior Catering School opened in Dubrovnik, the only of that kind in Croatia, apart from the one in Opatija. Over its two-year existence it functioned as a part of various hotels. As the pupils of this school were not qualified for actual professions in catering, but for administrative services in catering, it was discontinued in 1947. A three-year Catering school with practical training was founded instead. Villa Mimosa was allocated to this school, and this was the first time that the school got a facility for its own needs. All of its teachers worked part time.

Upon graduating from this three-year school the pupils were qualified as cooks, waiters and pastry cooks.



1951 was the year when, for the purpose of practical training, the school acquired the Hotel Dubravka permanently and thus became the first Croatian catering school with practical training. In terms of results and organization of professional training, there was not a single branch of economy of those times that could have matched the success achieved by the Catering school of Dubrovnik. The number of pupils kept growing which is

best illustrated by the fact that a total of 150 pupils finished school in the first ten years, while in the academic year 1966/67 a total of 275 pupils graduated from this school.

The 60ies marked an accelerated construction of hotel capacities, and yet the demand by the foreign market exceeded by far the accommodation possibilities of that period. The whole situation was also reflected in the work of catering schools.

The number of pupils increased considerably, and in 1960 the Catering school of Dubrovnik introduced one more educational programme for hotel porters and housekeepers, beside those for cooks, waiters and pastry cooks. The present school building was built in 1961 and nowadays the pupils who walk its halls are not only from the Dubrovnik region but also from all of Dalmatia and Croatia. It is precisely the Tourism and Catering School Dubrovnik that has produced numerous professionals who, with their skills, will and affection, have made the Croatian catering and tourism renowned.

