



**European
Honey
Contest**
Koper - Slovenia

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Press Release

The Coastal Beekeeping Association of Koper, in collaboration with the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and the Municipality of Koper, organized the 1st European Honey Contest in Koper.

The event took place on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at Martinčev Square and in the Hall of St. Francis, where a program for all age groups was prepared for the general public. The event featured animations and workshops for children, stalls with local products, honey cuisine, coffee and tea with honey, presentations of honey from European quality schemes, all accompanied by a rich cultural program.

Simultaneously, lectures on honey and other bee products were held in the Hall of St. Francis. The following distinguished Slovenian and foreign experts gave lectures: **On honey and bee pollen** – Aljaž Debelak, food safety advisor at the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association; **Royal jelly – elixir of life** - Dr. Boris Kovač, University of Primorska, Faculty of Health Sciences; **Authenticity of Honey from the Perspective of Legislation and Consumers** - Dr. Jasna Bertonec and Dr. Mojca Korošec, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty; **Why is Chinese honey so cheap?** - Dr. Dražen Lušić, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine.

In the atrium of the Economic and Business School of Koper, awarded honey samples were exhibited. Visitors could taste the best honeys from all five categories and vote for the best honey according to the audience's choice.

At 2:00 PM, the award ceremony took place, attended by the hosts and other distinguished guests, including the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food **Mateja Čalušič**, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Koper **Jasna Softić**, and the President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and the European Beekeeping Association **Boštjan Noč**.

All speakers emphasized the problem of adulterated honey imported into the European Union and highlighted the importance of control and promotion of authentic and high-quality honey. Events like the European Honey Contest and EU Quality Schemes are crucial for this purpose.

During a pleasant cultural and dance program, awards were given to the top three samples in each of the five categories: acacia, floral, forest, linden, and chestnut honey.

A total of 114 samples from 11 European countries were submitted for evaluation. After careful examination and sensory evaluation by a 10-member international expert commission led by Slovenian expert Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mojca Korošec from the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana, the best samples underwent further analyses to ensure the authenticity and safety of honey in an accredited laboratory in Germany.



The owners of the best honey samples, who passed this rigorous selection and earned the titles of European champions, are as follows:

Acacia Honey

1. Josip Pintar, Croatia
2. Peter Kolar, Slovenia
3. Dr. Balázs Kolics, Hungary

Flower Honey

1. Franc Hočevar, Slovenia
2. Vesna Komac, Slovenia
3. Gyula Ács, Hungary

Forest Honey

1. Beekeeping Jelenc, Slovenia
2. Jozef Volansky, Slovakia
3. Jernej Benedičič, Slovenia

Chestnut Honey

1. Tilen Velkovrh, Slovenia
2. Luka Jurečič, Slovenia
3. Simon Korošec, Slovenia

Linden Honey

1. Zvonko Sedmak, Slovenia
2. Róbert Hanzel, Hungary
3. Marjan Lapanja, Slovenia

The award for the best honey according to the audience's choice went to **forest honey** from **Beekeeping Jelenc**.

More at <https://www.honey-contest.eu/>

Coastal Beekeeping Association of Koper and Slovenian Beekeepers' Association.