

Employees in focus

INTERVIEW WITH KRISTIJAN KRANJEC, ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER OF HOTEL VALAMAR BELLEVUE IN RABAC

Valamar Academy prepared me for such a career challenge

In this issue we are interviewing Kristijan Kranjec, who successfully completed Valamar Academy this year and is working as the Assistant Restaurant Manager in one of our most beautiful hotels.



When did you join Valamar in Rabac? Describe your development path in our Group.

My first experience working in Rabac was during high school when I worked off my practical hours. After graduating from high school, I worked in various restaurants, bars and hospitality properties. One of my memorable working experiences was in Italy. After finishing military duty, I returned to work in Rabac d.d. as a seasonal worker, job position Waiter in hotel Lanterna, today's Valamar Sanfior. After two years of seasonal employment, I was hired on a permanent basis and managed Tropic Bar in Girandella for a season, and later managed the Marina Pool Bar for four seasons.

How would you describe your experience in the Valamar Academy? How much did the Academy help you professionally?

For me the Valamar Academy was a positive experience, meeting employees from other destinations, and exchanging knowledge and experiences; especially working side by side with the mentors at their work place (restaurant, kitchen).

The one year Academy Program was for becoming a Restaurant Manager. I worked in all departments, but with a significant emphasis on the restaurant. The Program took place in Rabac and in other destinations (hotel Valamar Diamant in Poreč). After completing the Academy, I began working as Assistant Restaurant Manager in hotel Valamar Bellevue. My boss is Nataša Vlačić who is also a mentor in the Academy and a great support.

My expectations of Valamar and Rabac are significant. My perception of Valamar and Rabac as an employer is very positive because young hardworking employees who want to further develop are recognized and given the opportunity to advance professionally, as well as achieving personal and professional goals.

You already mentioned being promoted to Assistant Restaurant Manager in hotel Valamar Bellevue, recently being one of the most beautiful hotels in the Group. What does this mean to you?

This position is recognition of my invested efforts. Working in a reputable and respected 4 star hotel is a challenge for me; my professional knowledge and the Academy, which prepared me and ensured that such a challenge is possible to succeed, is the backbone to accepting this challenge.

Can you share an interesting story or anecdote with us for this past season?

On June 27th, for the first time we held a formal dinner for a wedding party at the Valamar Bellevue pool. This event was special because nothing similar was ever organized and held in the hotel. This formal wedding dinner was so remarkable and well organized that we've added it to our hotel offer and special packages. What was even more special is that on the same night another newly wedded couple arrived at the hotel. At first we thought that this was a practical joke. A newly wedded couple (dressed formally in their wedding dress and suit) flew directly from their wedding in Latvia and arrived in our hotel for their honeymoon. During the night, the newly wedded couple from Latvia met and joined the wedding party on the pool in dancing and celebrating this event. The couple from Latvia will always remember this honeymoon for the rest of their life because they could not imagine in their wildest dreams such a romantic beginning.

Please briefly introduce yourself.

I am 30 years old and have a happy relationship with my significant other. In my free time I enjoy swimming during the summer and skiing in the winter; love to read a good book and relax by strolling and socializing with my friends.