The full Monte!

A discover a hidden Mediterranean gem – tiny, unspoilt Montenegro...
Next on our itinerary were the Kotor Vista apartments that sit across the bay from Kotor’s old town. By night, when the ancient walls are illuminated, the view is stunning. All the apartments have terraces and floor-to-ceiling windows and there are also two pools and a kids’ play area on site.

Luxury hotel group Amansorti has recently moved into the area, renovating the island of St. Stefan. This former fishing village, connected to the mainland by a causeway, was purchased and converted into a hotel in the 1960s. There are some 58 rooms and suites on the island and the adjacent Villa Milocer, once the residence of Yugoslavia’s royalty, is also part of the resort.

**Where should I go?**

If you’re after Monte Carlo glamour and a St. Tropez beach vibe, head to Porto Montenegro, a former naval base that’s been transformed into a glitzy marina development comprising luxury residences, quayside restaurants and swanky bars, as well as berths for around 200 luxury yachts. New for this summer are some 12 pop-up retailers, including MOOi (for Chloe, Pucci and Celine), Wolf & Badger and Heidi Klein. Another new addition is PortoBeach, a chic beach club with outposts in Marbella and Palm Beach.

Overlooking Kotor Bay, PortoBeach has a huge pool, daybeds, rooftop bars and a restaurant. You can party all day and night as well as relax with sunrise or sunset yoga. If you like Mediterranean walled towns, a visit to Budva and Kotor is a must.

The coastal town of Budva is one of the region’s most popular tourist spots and its old town is a charming warren of alleys and crumbling mansions, while Club 88 on Richard’s Beach is the place to hang out. Kotor’s old town, with its red-tiled houses, ornate churches and white stone alleyways, is a real architectural gem. After dark, head to Club Maximus and the all-glass restaurant Galler on the city’s ramparts.

**Where can I eat?**

The cuisine here has a distinctly Italian flavour, with squid ink risotto, octopus salad and Parmesan on many menus, alongside local cheeses, seafood and wines such as the Vranac label.

Within the old city walls of Budva, OK! dined at Konoba Stari Grad. Inside this cozy, traditional trattoria, our hostess started off proceedings with a glass of Rakija, the local firewater, and advised us not to exceed two. After five, we decided to stop counting! We tucked into plates piled high with seafood risotto, prawn salad and an array of grilled meats to the soulful accompaniment of the resident guitarist, all for €22! Just down the coast from St. Stefan, we enjoyed a leisurely sun-drenched lunch at Langousa, where delicious salads and seafood risotto came in at under €8.

**What should I do?**

The best way to view the stunning coastline and towns that cling to the shoreline is from a boat. OK! recommends taking a Pajo boat trip from Kotor Marina. We whiled away a gorgeous sunny afternoon gently sailing out to the church island of Our Lady Of The Rocks, where legend has it local sailors created a man-made island by sinking enemy ships laden with stones.

If adventure activities are more your scene, Montenegro offers many options. OK! signed up with Black Mountain Montenegro Adventure Travel for a fairly gentle hike through the mountains above Kotor Bay, where we enjoyed unrivalled views from the ridge, down to the bay on one side and the Adriatic to the other. We finished up in the village of Gornja Lastva for another restorative Rakija!

**How do I get there?**

Explore Montenegro (020 718 1002; www.montenegroholidays.com) offers more than 50 villas and apartments in Montenegro. For example, a seven-night package, including return flights with Montenegro Airlines from London Gatwick to Tivat, self-catering and welcome hamper, staying in a two-bedroom apartment at Kotor Vista, costs from £880pp, based on two adults and two children under 12 sharing. A similar seven-night package, including flights and car hire, staying in the two-bedroom Villa Vista, costs from £1,000pp.