

IGCAT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
GASTRONOMY, CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM



IGCAT Voice

Georgian gastronomy – traditions that warm the heart and fill the soul



Many of Georgia's regions have developed their own distinctive contributions to the country's gastronomic and culinary identity however, it is noteworthy that Zugdidi will be the first city in Georgia to integrate gastronomy into a local cultural development policy as a driver for cultural, economic and social development.

Georgia is considered the 'cradle of wine,' with archaeologists having traced the world's first known wine back to the people of South Caucasus in 6,000BC; and and, with its unique climate and topography, Georgian cuisine is diverse with assimilated flavors and aromas from Iran, Asia, Turkey and the Mediterranean.

As a CEO and Founder of Creative Strategies Lab, an international policy design research center, I have been assisting Zugdidi Municipality (capital city of Samegrelo region) in its first ever cultural development strategy (supported by the EU under 'EU4Culture' project) aimed to position the city as Creative City of Gastronomy. Zugdidi cuisine displays the gastronomic flavors and quality food provided by the Samegrelo region's natural elements, its people and history.

Zugdidi is strongly committed to joining the IGCAT family, as it will be an incredible powerhouse to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices, as well as be a catalyst for networking and cooperation. For this reason, Zugdidi wishes to nominate Samegrelo, as a candidate region for IGCAT's European Region of Gastronomy in 2026 as testament to the great union between urban and rural aspirations.

Levan Kharatishvili

IGCAT Expert

CEO and Founder of Creative Strategies Lab, Georgia

IGCAT News

European Young Chef Award 2022 officially announced

24 January 2022 - IGCAT has officially announced the 6th edition of the European Young Chef Award that will take place in Trondheim-Trøndelag, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2022, on 10-13 November 2022. Under the theme Innovation on Tradition, the European Young ... [Read more](#)



Call open for the Food Film Menu 2022!

19 January 2022 - A call for submissions to IGCAT'S Food Film Menu 2022 competition is now open to collect short food films that showcase awarded and candidate World and European Regions of Gastronomy and their culinary heritage. The competition invites directors from around the world to share inspiring food stories from their regions by creatively de ... [Read more](#)

Call released for the Top Websites for Foodie Travelers 2022

18 January 2021 - IGCAT has announced the 1st edition of the Top Websites for Foodie Travelers Award to acknowledge websites that offer unique, creative, cultural and gastronomic experiences in the World and European Regions of Gastronomy. The websites submitted will be evalua ... [Read more](#)



IGCAT launches the World Food Gift Challenge 2022

13 January 2022 - After two successful European editions, IGCAT launched the first World Food Gift Challenge to be celebrated on 7 April 2022 in Menorca, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2022. IGCAT's awaited competition will gather high-quality food and crafts products from candidate and awarded World and European Regions of Gastronomy that ... [Read more](#)

News from the World Regions of Gastronomy

Aseer recommended for World Region of Gastronomy 2024 title

3 March 2022 - An international jury comprising of four international experts accompanied by IGCAT's President, Diane Dodd PhD considered the application of Aseer region for the title World Region of Gastronomy 2024. After reviewed the bid book submitted on 31 December 2021 th ... [Read more](#)



Trondheim-Trøndelag to host Bocuse d'Or Europe 2024

29 March 2022 - Trondheim-Trøndelag awarded European Region of Gastronomy 2022 by IGCAT will host the Bocuse d'Or Europe 2024 competition. The announcement was made in Budapest during the 2022 championship, held on 23-24 March. "Trøndelag is one of the co ... [Read more](#)

Michelin guide highlights Slovenia's young talent Leon Pintarič

7 March 2022 - Michelin guide released a video starring Leon Pintarič, chef from Gostilna Rajh who was the finalist representing Slovenia, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2021 at IGCAT's European Young Chef Award 2016. The video highlights Leon's and his family's approach to c ... [Read more](#)

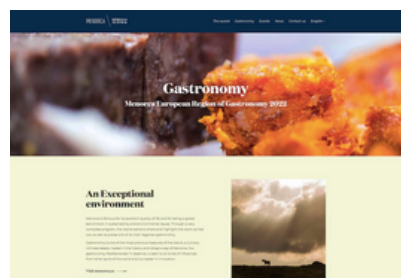


South Aegean is a laboratory for sustainable tourism

7 February 2022 - The innovative Rhodes Co-Lab project has been launched in the South Aegean, awarded European Region of Gastronomy 2019 by IGCAT, for Rhodes to become a leader in sustainable tourism and destination management. Developed by the Government of the South Aeg ... [Read more](#)

Food lovers can now visit Menorca 2022's official website

1 February 2022 - Menorca, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2022 has launched its official website. Available in four languages (English, Catalan, Spanish and French), the website offers a glimpse on Menorca's gastronomy and some of its most emblematic products, highlig ... [Read more](#)





Kuopio 2020-21 is a finalist at the EMBLA Nordic Food Awards

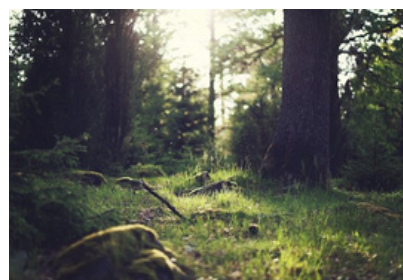
20 January 2022 - Kuopio, awarded European Region of Gastronomy 2020-21 by IGCAT, is a finalist in the EMBLA Nordic Food Awards in the Food Tourism Destination category. EMBLA aims to strengthen the knowledge of Nordic food and give international visibility to the gastronomy of the ... [Read more](#)

Current news from around the globe

No public health without planetary health

By The Lancet

31 March 2022 - April 7 marks WHO's annual World Health Day, which this year has the theme "Our planet, our health". The future health of the planet and human health are inextricably linked. An estimated 13 million deaths annually are attributable to avoidable environmental causes, a ... [Read more](#)



How Russia's invasion of Ukraine will worsen global hunger

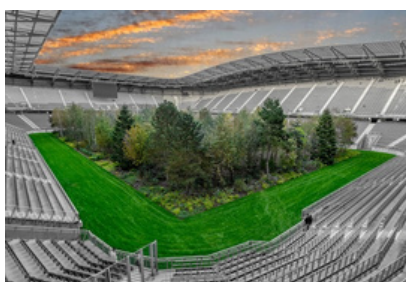
By Thin Lei Win

From higher prices in nations already struggling with hunger crises - such as Yemen and Lebanon - to reduced harvests in disaster-prone Bangladesh, the food impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine will likely be lo ... [Read more](#)

Green Key International signs UNESCO Sustainable Travel Pledge

By Marlena Rendeiro

29 March 2022 - By signing the UNESCO and Expedia Group's Sustainable Pledge, Green Key further strengthens its mission of promoting sustainable travel, community resilience and heritage conservation globally ... [Read more](#)



How Should Art Reckon With Climate Change?

By Zoë Lescaze

28 March 2022 - As the environmental crisis accelerates, contemporary artists have taken up the mantle of addressing the precarious present. The art world has been making up for lost time in recent years, its overdue compensation crescendoing in the past six months, when more ... [Read more](#)

New ATLAS Bread Museums in Europe published

By Dimitrije Vujadinovic

15 March 2022 - A new electronic edition of the ATLAS Bread Museums in Europe, edited by IGCAT Expert Dimitrije Vujadinovic has been published and is available on the Academia.edu website. "The ATLAS is based on key information collected among 59 museums throughout Europe ... [Read more](#)



IGCAT carries out research, collects knowledge and develops projects to support creative solutions in regional and local development. This newsletter is just a small selection of news from the past three months. IGCAT compiles trends and facts from around the world.

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