**Legend about Veronika of Desinić**

 Even today, at long winter stormy nights, together with the weeping of the night owl, from time to time can be heard Veronica's moaning.

 She was beautiful young girl who lived in 15th century bellow the walls of big fortified castle Veliki Tabor. The owner of the castle was Herman II. Celjski, croatian governor. His young and handsome son Fridrich, while riding through fields, saw Veronika and deeply fell in love with her. Their love was not by the will of his father because Fridrich was a member of a noble family and Veronika poor girl from the village beneath the castle.

 The two young lovers ran away to the hunting manor Fridrichstein, far away, in the middle of the forrest. But soon, Herman's guards found them, cought Fridrich and took him to Veliki Tabor. His enraged father even didn't want to take a look upon him, but ordered to put him in jail where he spent four long years.

At first Veronika ran away, but she was unlucky, too. Herman's guards caught her and prisoned her in the castle. She was accused to be a witch and brought to court. Judges investigated the case but after two days, in the evening, they declared: *„Your highness, this girl has no guilty, nieder did a crime. She is only desperately in love with your son Fridrich. But love was never a sin, nor a crime. Love is one of the prettiest human virtues. Finally, it seems our work here is accomplished.“*

 But Herman was not satisfied. Immediately after judges left the castle, he ordered servants to catch Veronika. They drowned her in the woodden vat in the middle of the courtyard and buried her body into the wall beside the entrance door.

**VELIKI TABOR**

**Veliki Tabor is a first-class monument of zero category, one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Croatia and a representative of late-medieval fortificational architecture, late Gotic feudal town (burg) transformed into a manor.**

**Veliki Tabor is a** [fortress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortress) **and** [**museum**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum) **in northwest** [**Croatia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia)**, dating from the 12th century. The castle gained its final appearance in the 16th century. Most of it was built by the** [**Croatian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croats) **noble family** [**Rattkay**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rattkay&action=edit&redlink=1)**, in whose ownership it remained till 1793.**

**The castle was built on a narrow and long raised plateau. It has around 3,340 m2. The oldest part of the castle is the Five-Cornered Tower – the keep, built in the twelfth century. The other towers date from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.
The keep is a pentagonal structure surrounded by a ring of walls and towers that close an inner court of irregular shape. The pentagonal keep was always primarily residential, and only then did it have a defense function. The castle interior has galleries with round pillars. There is a large well, 31 m (102 ft) deep, and a former wine cellar. The large hall is decorated with** [**halberds**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halberd)**. The castle chapel on the first floor contains the skull of the legendary** [**Veronika of Desinić**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Veronika_of_Desini%C4%87&action=edit&redlink=1)**, found 1982.**

Perched at an altitude of 333 m, Veliki (Great) Tabor Castle has for centuries kept watch over the Croatian Zagorje. Long ago, in early medieval and Renaissance times, it was the westernmost point of the fortificational system that stretched up to the eastern slopes of Ivanščica and included the fortification of Mali (Small) Tabor, Kostelgrad, Gorica, Cesargrad, Loborgrad, Oštrc, Pusta Bela, Milengrad, Greben-grad and Konjščina.