

# BURJATIK

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## Sustainability report, January 2025

### Our Mission

We strive for sustainable, responsible, and green tourism. We want to preserve our nature and culture for generations to come. That is the core of the reason to operate in small groups to lower the impact on the environment and the local community. We walk and cycle only on existing paths, and we respect and support every individual winemaker, farmer, or any other local producer who preserves the family heritage and has high sustainability standards. Our guests recognize and support our values and therefore help us to maintain our destination healthy, clean, and green.

### Key Updates and Achievements (2023-2025)

#### 1. Soft Mobility

- **Employee Initiatives:** We expanded our workplace bicycle program with additional e-bikes to facilitate commuting.
- **Guest Activities:** New itineraries, including "Wine Tour: Two Regions" and "Organic Wine Tour," encouraged exploration of wineries, farms, and landmarks.
- **Family-Friendly Additions:** Purchased a kid trailer to ensure that even the youngest can enjoy cycling adventures.
- **Accessibility:** We have added a tandem e-bike for disabled people (an OPair wheelchair bike), allowing all guests to experience the beauty of the Vipava Valley.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborated with local municipalities to improve bike-friendly infrastructure.

#### 2. Mobility

- **Wine Train Evolution:** The Wine Train, introduced in 2022, gained popularity and expanded routes to include historical landmarks. Each stop now features curated cultural and culinary experiences.
- **Wheels and Wine:** Our new offer allows wheelchair users to experience the Vipava Valley's magical landscape uniquely. Using a specially adapted tandem bicycle for disabled people, equipped with stable support and safety systems, people with disabilities can go on a cycling tour in complete comfort and safety.

### 3. Energy & Paper Consumption

- **Paper-Free Initiatives:** In 2025, we did not print new brochures, instead creating a large wall poster for selecting cycling routes. This cycling tour poster has become a valuable resource for guests.
- **Device Management:** Enhanced "switch-off" policies, ensuring all equipment powers down during inactivity.

### 4. Waste Management

- **Innovative Repairs:** The inner tube repair initiative was extended to include other cycling gear, reducing waste and encouraging a circular economy.
- **Event Sustainability:** Reusable cutlery, glassware, and locally sourced compostable materials were mandatory at the Wine Train and other tours and events.

### 5. Purchasing Policy

- **Local First:** Expanded sourcing to include more small-scale producers, focusing on organic and seasonal goods.
- **Fair Trade:** Ensured pricing agreements that reflect fair compensation for all local suppliers.
- **Eco-Friendly Packaging:** Prioritized vendors offering biodegradable or reusable packaging.

### 6. Local Communities

- **Economic Support:** Increased collaboration with local artisans and craftspeople, integrating their products into our guest experiences. We added Art on Train (purchasing) exhibition in our program, promoting Bosa Rosa, a local artist from the Vipava Valley on our Wine Train.
- **Cultural Respect:** VeLo Pilon Cycling Tour - Conducted research and developed a new cycling tour highlighting Veno Pilon's work and legacy, including visits to the Pilon Gallery and Rustjeva Hiša in Ajdovščina.
- **Community Awareness:** In cooperation with our municipality we co-organized events on organic and local food for local schools and businesses, fostering a collective mindset toward sustainability.
- **Community Investment:** Initiated a fund to support community projects, with partial contributions from our tour revenues.
- **Wage Increase:** Raised employees' wages to support their well-being further and promote a positive workplace environment.

### 7. Clients

- **Eco-Friendly Practices:** Expanded guidance for guests to include using public transport, avoiding single-use plastics, and participating in local conservation efforts.
- **Sustainability Education:** Introduced educational sessions for clients on responsible tourism and Vipava Valley's unique ecology.

### 8. Events and Workshops

- **Participation:** Frequently took part in local and international events and workshops that support responsible travel. Shared our story with new listeners, agencies, producers, and coworkers in the tourism sector.

- **Hosting:** Welcomed new partnerships and dialogues through active participation in events promoting sustainability and cultural preservation.

## Looking Ahead

In 2025, we aim to:

- Host 'Vipava Valley Bike Day', an annual event promoting cycling in the municipality of Ajdovščina, Vipava Valley.
- Organize and host the 'Punk and Trail Fest' in Ajdovščina, an event that combines mountain biking and music. The festival supports families in need, especially those with one or more disabled members.
- Continue refining our operations to achieve carbon neutrality.

Our dedication to sustainability and the support of our guests, partners, and community ensure a brighter, greener future for the Vipava Valley.