

## KOSTIC Memorial in Vršac



The **Bora Kostic Memorial**, **honoring the first chess globetrotter** was (mostly) a bi-annual invitation gm tournament, organised in **Vršac**, the city of his birth, originally held between 1964 and 1989. After a long break of 17 years, the series returned for some years (2006 — 2012) into the chess calendar with the best local players mixed with strong international guests. **Vršac is a small town in Yugoslavia, placed about 80 km northeast from Belgrade, on the Yugoslav-Romanian border.**

























The winners include Mecking, Ehlvest, Nikolic, Sax, Smejkal, Stean, Tarjan, or Velimirovic; *with many stars failing to triumph! Among the prominent non-winners are Petrosian in 1981, Bronstein, Geller, Gligoric, Ivkov, Ljubojevic, Szabo, Portisch, Uhlmann, or Torre.*

**Bora Kostic**, the first Serbian grand master and one of the most famous citizens of Vrsac, travelled around the world as the ambassador of the Yugoslav chess. He played with the master minds such as Euwe, Alekhine, Capablanca, Tartakower, Tarrasch, Nimzovich, Bogoljubov, Maroczy, Mieses, Spielmann, Reti, Rubinstein, and Vidmar (no particular order).

In 1935 he became the champion of Yugoslavia (together with Pirc), and in 1938 the winner of the international tournament in Ljubljana, which was recognized as the championships of Yugoslavia at the annual assembly of the Yugoslav chess association. He was the champion of Romania in 1936, as well as the winner of the championships in India, hors concours.

For several times he was the Olympic representative of Yugoslavia, and he was the most successful Yugoslav player at the first board, first official Olympiad in London, in 1927.

### No. Year Winner(s) Kostic Memorial

- 1 [1964](#)  [Milan Matulović](#)
- 2 [1965](#)  [Predrag Ostojić](#)
- 3 [1969](#)  [Dragoljub Janošević](#)
- 4 [1971](#)  [Henrique Mecking](#)
- 5 [1973](#)  [Georgi Tringow](#),  [Bruno Parma](#)
- 6 [1975](#)  [Nino Kirow](#),  [Enver Bukić](#)
- 7 [1977](#)  [Jan Smejkal](#)
- 8 [1979](#)  [Michael Stean](#)
- 9 [1981](#)  [Gyula Sax](#)
- 10 [1983](#)  [James Tarjan](#),  [Georgij Agzamow](#),  [Predrag Nikolić](#)
- 11 [1985](#)  [Dragoljub Velimirović](#)
- 12 [1987](#)  [Dragoljub Velimirović](#),  [Jaan Ehlvest](#)
- 13 [1989](#)  [Ognjen Cvitan](#)
- 14 [2006](#)  [Ivan Ivanišević](#)
- 15 [2008](#)  [Stelios Chalkias](#),  [Nikola Sedlak](#)
- 16 [2010](#)  [Ivan Ivanišević](#),  [Aleksandar Kovacević](#)
- 17 [2012](#)  [Dmitrij Swietuszkin](#)

The traditional Kostic Memorial was a pretty strong series of international invitation tournaments, in honour of legendary Bora Kostic.

Borislav Kostic (1887 - 1963) was born in Vrsac and the first serbian grandmaster, awarded in 1950 on its inaugural list of only 27 players.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Kostic Memorial Tournament has been held in 1964, the 17<sup>th</sup> (and last to-date) in 2012**, mostly in a two years cycle, with longer breaks, all played in **Vršac**.

<Milan Matulovic> won the inaugural edition of the Kostic Memorial in 1964. Brazilian prodigy <Henrique Mecking> won ahead of <Lajos Portisch> in 1971, <Michael Stean> won in 1979. <James Tarjan>, <Georgy Agzamov>, and <Predrag Nikolic> shared for first in 1983. Moldovan GM <Dmitry Svetushkin> took the 17th and last edition in 2012 outright.

The most prominent participant at Vrsac was former World Chess Champion <**Tigran Petrosian**> in the 1981 tournament (won by <Gyula Sax> ahead of <Jan Smejkal> who had won the Kostic Memorial at Vršac in 1977).

Tournament record winners at the Kostic Memorial, are <Dragoljub Velimirovic> (in 1985, and 1987 shared with <Jaan Ehvest>) and <Ivan Ivanisevic> (2006, and 2010 shared with <Aleksandar Kovacevic>), both with two wins each.

Other winners include some of the usual suspects, <Janosevic>, <Tringov>, <Parma>, <Bukic>, <Cvitan>, and <Halkias> from Greece.

*The players **not winning** at Vrsac, Kostic Memorial, are even more prominent:*

***Petrosian, Bronstein, Geller, Gligoric, Ivkov, Kurajica, Ljubojevic, Szabo, Portisch, Csom, Uhlmann, Benkö, Rossolimo, Quinteros, Chandler, or Torre.***

#### **Recapitulation - The winners were:**

1964 (inaugural edition) Milan Matulovic, 1965 Predrag Ostojic, 1969 Dragoljub Janosevic, 1971 Henrique Mecking, 1973 Bruno Parma and Georgi Tringov shared first, 1975 Nino Kirov and Enver Bukic shared first, 1977 Jan Smejkal, 1979 Michael Stean, 1981 Gyula Sax, 1983 James Tarjan, Georgy Agzamov and Predrag Nikolic shared first, 1985 Dragoljub Velimirovic, 1987 Dragoljub Velimirovic and Jaan Ehvest shared first, 1989 Ognjen Cvitan,

2006 Ivan Ivanisevic, 2008 Nikola Sedlak and Stelios Halkias shared first, 2010 Aleksandar Kovacevic and Ivan Ivanisevic shared first, 2012 (17<sup>th</sup> and last edition) Dmitry Svetushkin

[Borislav Kostić](#) (English Wikipedia)

[Memoriał Borislava Kosticia](#) (Polish Wikipedia)

<http://www.thechesspedia.com/blog-post/kostic-memorial/> (Chesspedia)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20071025025434/http://chess.vrsac.com:80/vrsac/BoraKosticE.asp>

(**A Tireless Chess Traveller**: Biography of Borislav Kostic)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20071025025439/http://chess.vrsac.com/vrsacE.asp>

(Archive of the Official Website)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20070704204110/http://chess.vrsac.com/vrsac/IstorijaE.asp>

(History of **Chess in Vrsac**)

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