

Pearl of the Adriatic

After crossing the stone bridge
On foot through busy Pile Gate,
I entered Old Town Dubrovnik,
An ancient city in Croatia where
I stood mesmerized by walls
Of stone heretofore a fortress.

Vivid orange tile shielded roofs
Of all structures, created contrast
With the cerulean Adriatic Sea,
Encircling the cape with an inlet
Separating this safeguarded city
From the mainland. What once
Served as a place of protection
During the many wars Croatia
Endured even to modern times
Has metamorphosed to a venue
For celebration; music of folk
And classical styles, some heard
From a stone terrace above town;
Trails for finding stunning views;
Cinemas aglow; fabled restaurants;
And boat tours along the coast.

Hiking the City of Many Stairs, I
Prayed other national strongholds
Would turn to places of pleasure.

Christine Xu has studied poetry privately from an award-winning poet and essayist in California's Santa Clara Valley. With each poem written and polished, she has increased her fascination with this art. Thus far, she has achieved publication with such literary journals as The Avocet in Arizona; WestWard Quarterly in Illinois; and Lone Stars in Texas. She has also four awards from annual poetry contests sponsored by Voices of Lincoln and California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc., the oldest poetry organization in the Golden State.