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## **The Alphabet of the Flavors of Slovenia**



# Čompe / Potatoes

[chompe]

Čómpe is one of the 132 Slovene dialect words for potatoes; it is used in the Soča Valley, particularly in the Bovec area and in some parts of Primorska.

Potatoes and the word used for them spread to this part of Slovenia from the neighbouring Friuli. Otherwise, the Slovene word for potatoes (*krompir*) is derived from a number of expressions used for this tuber in Carinthian and Styrian German, similar to the standard German term *Grundbirne*, which literally means a pear of the earth.

In Slovene, the expression "the apple of the earth" was also used. Slovenes gradually became acquainted with potatoes from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. At first, they did not like them. In Carinthia (now in Austria) it was valued as a raw material for making brandy. Only poor annual crops and the related famine, as well as the measures taken by the Empress Maria Theresa, gradually improved the popularity of the potato and its possible use in different dishes. One dish that became very popular was sautéed potatoes with onions,

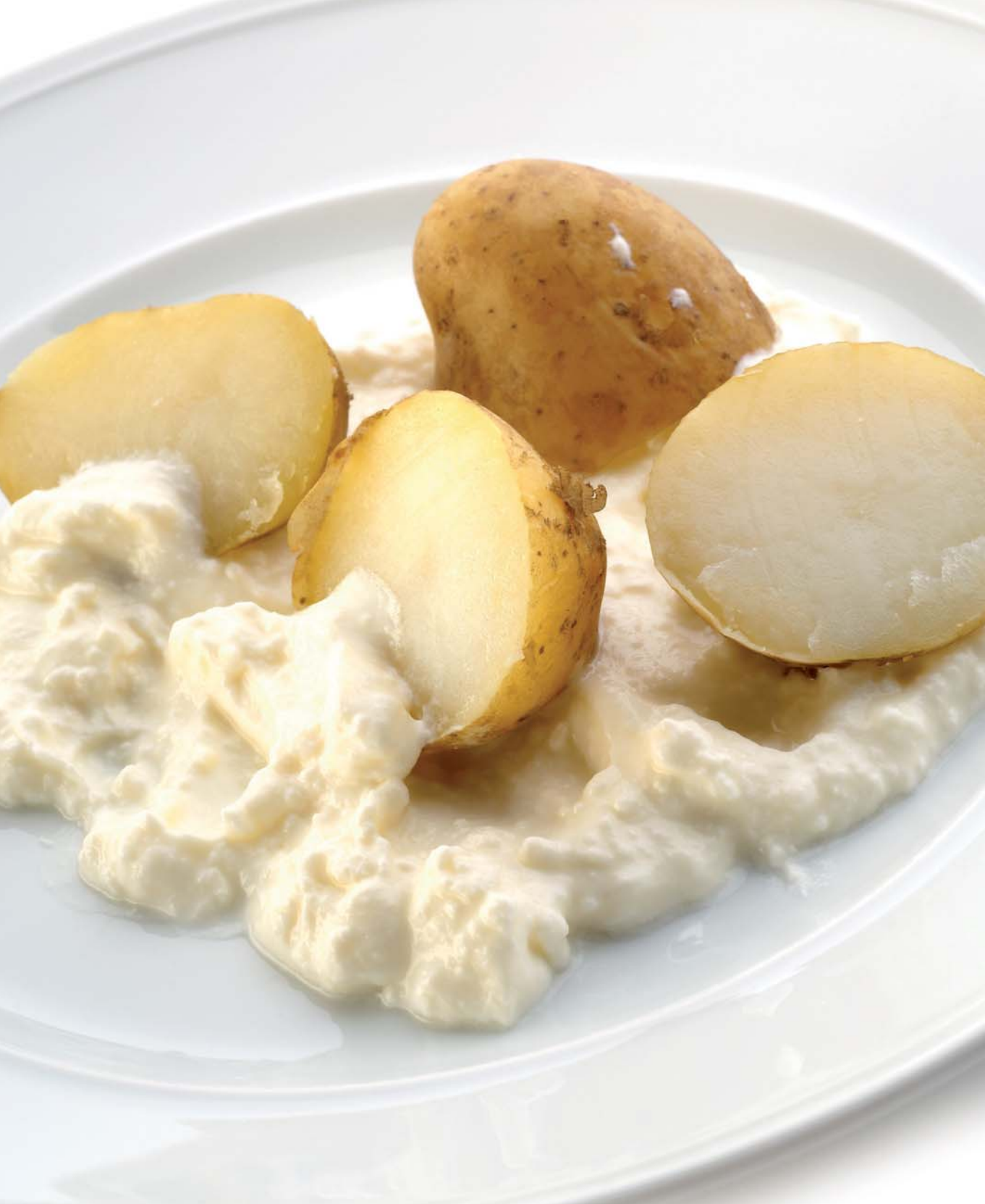
which turned into a more or less obligatory part of Saturday and Sunday lunch in both urban and rural homes. In 2000, the "Society for the Recognition of Sautéed Potatoes with Onions as an Independent Dish" was founded in Ljubljana, which has over 1000 members and every year organises the International Festival of Sautéed Potatoes with Onions. The society is forging links with other countries around the world, has its own flag, anthem and the rule that every member must, at least once a month, in a public place or in the company of more than three people, consume a portion of sautéed potatoes with onions as an independent or main course.



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# Čompe s skuto/ Potatoes with curd cheese

## INGREDIENTS

1000 g medium size potatoes

500 g curd cheese

salt

1. Wash the potatoes, halve them and boil them in their skins.
2. Drain the boiled potatoes and serve them with fresh curd cheese.



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