

of ribald criticism in the fescennine verses with which they hailed the conqueror, filled Diocletian with disgust, hastened his departure from Rome and confirmed him in his desire for a retreat in his native Illyria. As he had created a new scheme for the Roman Empire, so at Spalato he launched on the world a far-reaching innovation in architectural construction; and Dalmatian Spalato acquired from the Emperor a claim to a high place in the general stream of history.

The reason why Diocletian chose Spalato as the site of his great villa was the fact that he was born close by, or somewhere in the neighbourhood of, the great Roman city of Salona, and, roughly speaking, he could call himself a Salonitano. The exact place of his birth has long been in dispute; but the researches of Mons. Bulić of Spalato, than whom there is no greater living authority, lead to the conclusion that Diocletian was born, not at Dioclea or Docla, in Albania or Montenegro, but either at the little village of Kučine on the hill slope, lying east of, and visible from, Salona, in the district of Mravince, with the stony, pyramidal mound (Sasso) of S. Tecla rising in front of it and hiding it from the main road that leads from Spalato to Salona, just where Diocletian's aqueduct crosses