



Neumarkt, 13 November 2022

Roof culture!

Dear conservationist, architects and roofers!

We are very pleased to be able to participate again with Molinà at the "Denkmal 2022" in Leipzig. I'm convinced that what we are still producing today, like at the time of our great-grandfather, should not be missing at this fair.

I'm talking about handmade plain tiles and monk & nun roof tiles, bricks and terracotta floors, hand-painted majolica.

Everything is made in more of 300 different shapes, materials that cannot longer be found, at least not in Europe.

But they do at Molinà, and there are bricks with unique natural color nuances, just like the roof tiles of the past years, which were still fired in coal or wood-fired ovens.

At the same time, they provided the best quality and, even after centuries, they still adorn roofs, houses, palaces and castles all over Europe.

The modern industry was able to take us away from the beauty of these natural color nuances, especially in the last 80 years: it tuned us otherwise and so we have forgotten this beauty to the detriment of our landscapes.

All the roof tiles today, once fired, have a uniform, boring red color. Why is that?

Because of economic reasons, only tiles made with natural gas are fired today. Lime-containing clay *1. is frowned upon to make the firing process faster and the automation of the kiln easier.

To add a little color to the roof, roof tiles are artificially colored with engobes, artificially "aged".

Can that it be on the interest of the preservation of historical monuments?

We at Molinà are still producing a lime-rich clay as we did back in the past, and through a "secret-full" firing in the old Hoffmann kiln we still achieve colors and color nuances like the tiles of the past age.

The secret?

No, we do not fire with fossil energy, with gas, heavy oil or coal, but the energy is provided by the waste product of a noble fruit, as the olive!

These are the pomace that are left over as a residue from the olive oil pressing process, specifically from olives that grow on our doorstep in Sicily. Not only we do achieve these unique color tones, but also an absolutely best, frost-proof quality.

Ton Gruppe®

Via Nazionale/Reichstraße, 15
I-39044 Laghetti - Egna
Laag-Neumarkt (BZ)

T +39 0471.888000
F +39 0471.888040
info@ton-gruppe.it
www.ton-gruppe.it

Credito Valtellinese,
agenzia di Trento
IBAN IT97R052160180000004445491
BIC SWIFT BPCVIT2S

P.IVA/MwSt.Nr. 01662580214
REA Nr. Handelskammer
Camera di Commercio
BZ 155222



But distilling with olive pomace also has another "friendly" advantage that provide benefits to our customers: we are not dependent on any gas supplier, whether it comes from the East, the South or America.

That why our prices have been always the same in these years!

Our roof tiles are, of course, tested according to German standards and fulfill them even beyond that: we have achieved more than 500 freeze-thaw cycles with our Monk and Nun roof tile in the laboratory of the Brick Institute in Essen, compressive strengths of more than 22 N/mm² with the hand-made bricks in the public laboratory in Bolzano, and more than 36 N/mm² with the extruded ones.

We grant a 30-year guarantee on our roof tiles.

What I am writing here about roof culture should make us all think a little bit about what is done wrong today out of opportunism, but also out of sometimes exaggerated perfectionism. Old building culture should never be forgotten.

If you are interested, we will very pleased to welcome you with all wishes you may have. We are able to produce almost any shape and size of brick in natural color shades.

But if you want uniform red high gloss roof tiles from us, or artificially aged ones, then you are in the wrong place with us.

Glossy in the case only hand-glazed plain tiles in majolica technique.

We are working with great idealism on this clay project and we want to do our part, side by side with architects, conservationists, together with craftsman, for the preservation of old monuments, but also to create something new and beautiful.

Thank you for your attention!

Ulrich Pinter from Neumarkt in South Tyrol

Brick and clay expert with long experience, building consultant.

*1 If you are interested, please ask for our study on the history of lime-containing and lime-free clay roof tiles at: molina@ton-gruppe.it.

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