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Magazine of the Herend Porcelain Manufactory

No 57

Herend

HERALD

Various styles and epochs
on Herend porcelain

—
Culture –
In pursuit of putti

—
Architectural wonders
of the world



HEREND

PORCELAIN



Herend

TRADITION-INNOVATION



Dear Herend Herald Readers,

Beauty that sustains us.

We meet the brook of boundless beauty each and every day, and we must strive to remain open to its grace even in the midst of our fast-paced lives. Beauty surrounds us, it knocks on the doors of our souls and senses, pleading to be invited in. Harmony, inner peace, our life force, love, temperance and gentleness are all sustained by beauty. Beauty is transient, yet eternal. A pessimist is ever a hostage to their own self-righteousness, but is never content, he is wary of opening himself to beauty, for fear of losing it. Talent, when left barren of beauty, is consumed by its own fruitlessness. An optimist sees the purity of the dawn's rays curbing the anguish of the night, and yielding the blank canvas of a new day. For we know that we are not here to flee from the storm but to learn to dance in the rain. A person open to beauty sees that nature gives birth to perfection, which can inspire him to create lasting treasures. Beauty dwells in the iridescence of the sky, in the orgy of colours in coral reefs, in the lush green of grass, in the works of creative genius, in the crispness of spring water, in the conductor's baton, in birdsong; beauty beats a rhythm in our chest, lights up our eyes and radiates through the ideas conveyed by our words. Beauty begets beauty that then may sustain souls.

The beauty of Herendi that sustains us.

Beauty speaks to us, inviting us for a conversation. When we cradle the Herendi cup filled with our morning coffee in our hands, when we glance at these objects of art we brought into our lives to please our senses, the Herendi pieces start a heart-to-heart with us. They tell the tale of transformation via human hands, where objects of art are wrought from raw potential. They whisper to us of the thousand-year-old history of porcelain, of the traces of shifting sensibilities through the ages, the laughter of cherubs; they regale us with regal tales of Queen Victoria's awestruck countenance, of the Palace of the Tzars, perpetual renewal, Sissi's smile, the class-of-their-own creations of the innovative Atelier of the present day, and of themselves, their journey and their grace. A single touch, a glance, or a smile is enough to bestow grace on our day.

Yours respectfully,

Dr. Attila Simon
Chief Executive Officer



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The legend continues

Formula 1 is the world's most popular and biggest car race followed by tens of millions of television viewers week after week and featuring drivers, who enjoy incredible popularity around the world. This summer, the series was held for the 36th time at the Hungaroring, and the winners (Esteban Ocon, Lewis Hamilton, Carlos Sainz Jr.) got to lift Herend trophies yet again. The Constructors' trophy platter was won by the Alpine team. The winners can proudly cherish the porcelain trophies, as they possess unique Herend masterpieces made exclusively for this race, decorated with the silhouette of the famously difficult 14-turn Hungarian circuit.

Defending titles on the Kék-szalag (Blue Ribbon) Regatta

In one of the tightest races ever, the defending champion RSM2 won Europe's longest sailing events around Lake Balaton, called Blue Ribbon. For the 53rd Blue Ribbon Grand Prix, 556 boats set off from Balatonfüred, including a sailing boat built 125 years ago, Kishamis, which also lined up at the start line after making a sensational comeback. The first three competitors each won a Herend trophy presented to the teams by Dr Attila Simon, CEO of Herend Porcelain Manufactory Ltd. The shapes of the Herend trophies recall the 19th century, while the Apponyi pattern they bear represents the 20th century and the colour of Lake Balaton.





Tradition and innovation at the Anna Ball

Herend Porcelain Manufactory has been a cooperating partner to Hungary's best-known ball, the Anna Ball for several years. This year, the number of young people invited to the event was higher than ever in the past, given that beyond the young ladies of Balatonfüred who turned 18 this year, the invitation was extended also to those who came of age last year, when the ball was cancelled due to Covid-19. Nearly five hundred guests arrived, who were seated at tables set with 3,300 pieces of Herend porcelain tableware decorated with Apponyi motifs. Around their necks, the ladies wore decorative Herend porcelain heart pendants painted in the Hungarian national colours. The participants of the 196th Anna Ball elected Eszter Horváth the belle of the ball, Dorottya Nánási as her first lady-in-waiting and Zita Hadfi as the second lady-in-waiting. The Queen and her ladies-in-waiting were presented with Herend amphora vases decorated with Victoria, Rothschild and Apponyi designs renewed in the spirit of tradition and innovation.

One with Nature

This is the title of a Herend porcelain exhibition launched to accompany the World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition. Located in the Vajdahunyad Castle in the heart of Budapest, the Hungarian Agricultural Museum features some very special and unique objects that are a novelty even for avid collectors of Herend porcelain. The exhibition emphasises the importance of connecting with nature and shows the wildlife of the Carpathian Basin in the form of bravura porcelain pieces of enormous size and special decoration, including a unique ornamental plate with a diameter of 91 centimetres, featuring bathing wild ducks.

IT'S GOING TO BE A NICE DAY, ISN'T IT?

People have always been interested in what the weather will be like in the near and distant future, since not only the fruits of their labours or their financial security, but also their lives may have ultimately depended on the weather.

Even the earliest civilisations tried to draw conclusions from changes in the weather – the Babylonians, for example, tried to predict the weather by the colour and shape of clouds. Aristotle declared that meteorology was the science of the phenomena occurring between the sky and the Earth, and therefore had his own theories about the formation of rain, wind, lightning and hurricanes. The Greek philosopher's observations were so accurate that for almost two thousand years his four-volume book was considered the basis of meteorology.

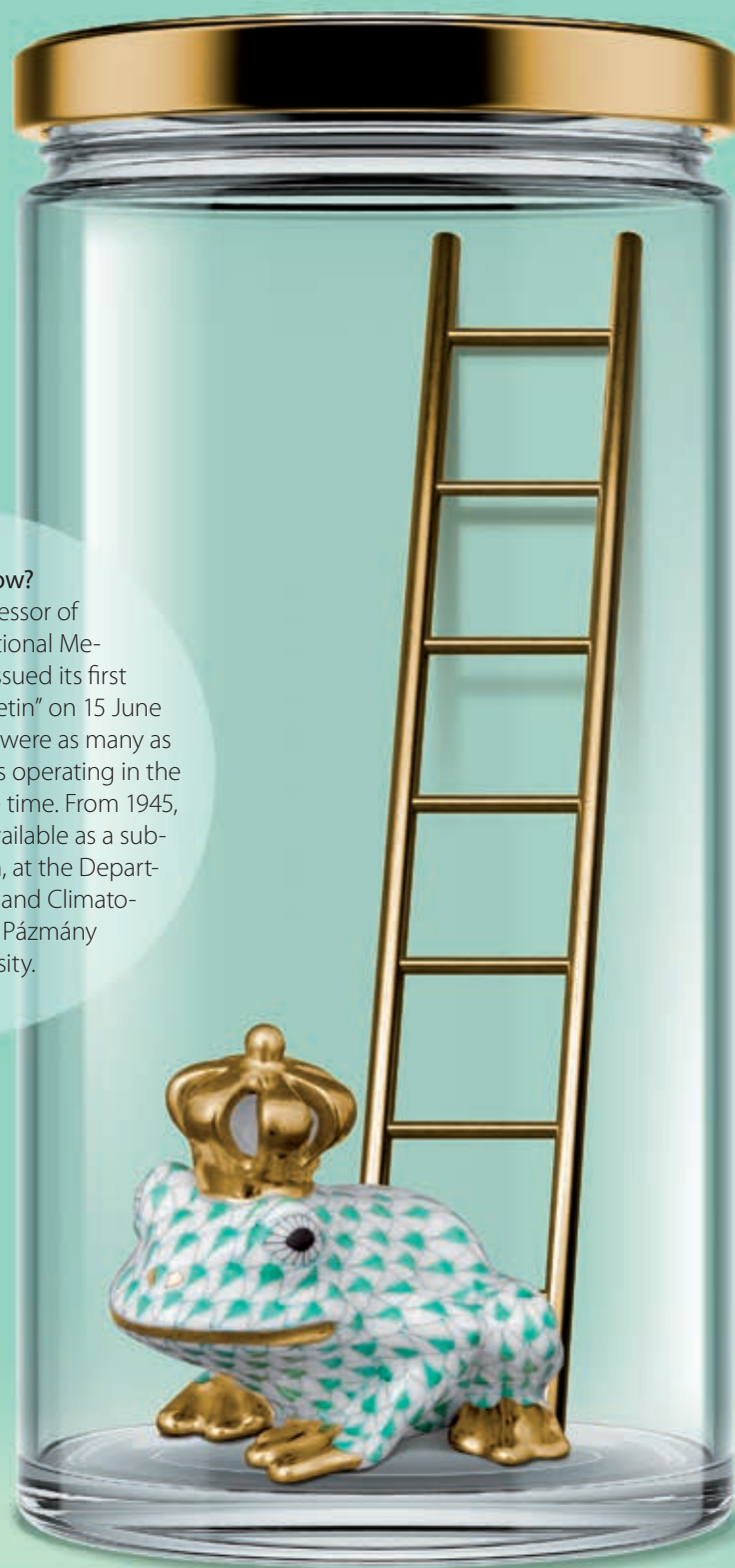
Even in the Middle Ages, people could only rely on folk observations and animal predictions about the weather; the latter include observations concerning the bear, which predicts the length of winter by crawling back to hibernate when it sees its shadow outside, and the tree frog, which crouches in the water when rain is coming. By the end of the Renaissance, it was clear that a better understanding of the atmosphere was necessary for making more accurate predictions. It was around this time that Galileo Galilei invented a rudimentary thermometer – Anders Celsius would not devise his thermometer until a century later –, while Evangelista Torricelli came up with a barometer to measure atmospheric pressure.

Discovering the physical laws of weather little by little has led to weather forecasting emerging as a discipline in its own right. In use for more than a century, meteorological balloons have played a major role: these special balloons filled with helium or hydrogen can rise up to a height of 30 kilometres and their instruments can provide information on air pressure, temperature, wind and humidity. Weather forecast entails summing and analysing this data.

In 1925, the first weather forecast was broadcast by an American radio station, followed in 1940 by the first weather forecast on television. Thanks to the progress in metrology, telecommunications, space research and the revolution in computing, the 1950s saw the emergence of fairly reliable forecasts, while in the 1960s global reports were issued by weather forecast centres. Over the years, the number of meteorological stations – including in extreme locations such as below the summit of Mount Everest at 8430 metres above sea level – has increased, allowing for even more accurate forecasts. And today, it is only natural that all this information is available on your smartphone.

Did you know?

The legal predecessor of the Hungarian National Meteorological Service issued its first "telegraphic weather bulletin" on 15 June 1891, while by 1900, there were as many as 765 meteorological stations operating in the territory of Hungary at the time. From 1945, meteorology was also available as a subject in higher education, at the Department of Atmospheric and Climatological Sciences of Pázmány Péter University.



Frog king with openwork crown 15817091VHV

FLOWERS AND CROWNS

Those who love flowers cannot be bad rulers? Throughout the long centuries of world history, there has never been a queen whose heart did not melt at the sight of a colourful plant or another.

68 years of love

A leghosszabb ideje regnáló brit uralkodó rajong a virágokért, ezt jól tudja. The longest-reigning British monarch has a passion for flowers, as evidenced by the fact that she attends the world's most prestigious horticultural exhibition, the Chelsea Flower Show, every year. Elizabeth II's favourite flower has always been the lily of the valley, a symbol of love, affection and virginity, which was the focal flower in her coronation bouquet – along with orchids, bridal wreaths and garden carnations; also her residence, Buckingham Palace, is full of this shade-loving plant with tiny white petals that form a bell.

A waft of fragrance at any price

The queen of the Nile, who seduced both Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, went to great lengths to preserve her beauty, even using flowers to enhance her charms – her favourite being the lotus flower. Cleopatra hoped that the flower that is capable of being reborn every day would keep her young forever if she bathed in its water every day. She also used lotus flowers to make her perfume, which she not only sprayed on her skin but also on the sails of the ships carrying her. Researchers have calculated that the waft of floral fragrance that enveloped the last pharaoh must have cost more than \$800 a day.

Did you know?

Camomile, also known as “water of youth”, has long been known in folk medicine. But how long? Even Hippocrates, Dioscorides and Galen, who laid the foundations of medicine, praised the positive effects of the herb on the human body in their writings.

Shield from the wind

One of the most prominent tsarinas in Russian history adored the queen of flowers, the rose, but not just any rose. During her reign – which also marked the heyday of Russia – Catherine the Great planted a special rose bush in the garden of her palace in St Petersburg, and she was so concerned that the harsh weather could harm it that she ordered it to be guarded 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The tsarina's instructions were taken so seriously that guards were still watching over the spot a hundred years after Catherine's death, when the bush had been reduced to nothing.

I love you so much, I could just eat you up

It is no exaggeration to say that Hungarian Queen Elisabeth Wittelsbach was obsessed with violets. Sissi loved the tiny, purple-petalled flower so much that she painted the walls of her room in Gödöllő the colour of violets and used cosmetics made from violets to care for her skin. The queen was known to be fastidious about her slender figure, still she was unable to resist violet ice cream and candied violets. She may have been aware that the flower, also known as a medicinal herb, has many beneficial properties: it is an excellent immune booster, rich in antioxidants and a great anti-inflammatory.

Teacup with saucer
20724200VIOLET-RI; 20724100VIOLET-RI
Teapot with crown knob
20606091VIOLET-RI
Vase 07052000VIOLETL



PLANT CRAZE

In recent years, ferns and ficuses, succulents and herbs have dominated everything – literally and figuratively. And we are all pretty pleased about that.

While leaf patterns are trendy in interior design, fashion trends are moving towards stylised floral patterns; luxury stores, fine dining restaurants and even office buildings are seeking to bring the look of their interiors as close to nature as possible. As numerous recent studies have shown, houseplants not only improve air quality (NASA recommends 15-18 pots to be placed in a 170 square metre house), but also improve general well-being, reduce stress and even increase concentration and productivity by up to 15 percent.

Clearly, one of the triggers for this plant craze was the confinement caused by the pandemic: during the long months spent within the four walls, everyone tried to improve the looks, comfort and liveability of their homes, and plants were one way of bringing some of the much-desired freedom into our living spaces. Nowadays, many people have realised that caring for plants is not a chore, and can even be a meditative, mood-lifting activity: a study by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) found that horticultural therapy can also be effective in improving the mental wellbeing of people suffering from depression, anxiety and dementia.

Many houseplants owe their popularity to the fact that they require no special care and even adapt to their indoor environment. The shade-loving Japanese sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*) adds a tropical feel to dim rooms, the lacy philodendron (*Philodendron bipinnatifidum*) is high on NASA's list of the most effective air-cleansing indoor plants, while winter-blooming amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) with its trumpet-shaped flower can be a fantastic decoration for the holidays. Of course, avid hobby gardeners and curiosity hunters also benefit from the current trend: the most exquisite varieties of monsteras (such as *Rhaphidophora tetrasperma*) fetch up to \$20,000 at auctions, while the uniquely beautiful Shenzhen Nongke orchid, worth \$290,000, represents the result of eight years of artificial development.

Once you become a houseplant lover, you won't want to give them up. And the best thing about this interior design trend? Not only that it celebrates the beauty of nature, but also that everything inspired by plants is on trend: they appear on blankets, cushions, decorative and porcelain items to make our everyday life even greener.

Did you know?

Nowadays, you can buy beautiful houseplants for pennies; for centuries, however, keeping them was considered a pastime of the upper class. In antiquity, the rich kept them in decorative terracotta pots, while during the Renaissance, European aristocrats boasted tropical plants brought from far-off lands.

—
Flowerpot 07214000VIOLETL
Vase with button knob
 06576015SP876
Flowerpot with twisted handle
 07215006VIOLET

IN PURSUIT OF PUTTI

Chubby, bubbly infant-like figures who have taken centre stage in so many works of art – including quite a few pieces of Herend porcelain. But just who are they, really?

Putti derive their name from the Latin word 'putus', meaning boy or child; they have left their mark on history from very early on. They were primarily depicted in the company of the gods or goddesses of love: in ancient Greek mythology they appeared as the helpers of Eros and Aphrodite, while ancient Romans associated them with the figure of Amor, also known as Cupid. They were often portrayed in situations inappropriate for their young age (drinking wine, quarrelling, or attacking goats), but they always oozed a zest for life. The image of a child god shooting arrows without restraint is still with us today, having become the ultimate symbol of Valentine's Day, the celebration of love.

Their behaviour became much more subdued when they were rediscovered in Italy during the Renaissance period: putti holding bunches of fruits or flowers, bearing coats of arms or scrolls peered down from the walls of churches and public buildings at people in the 15th century – they were a recurring element in the works of Donatello, for example. By the end of the century, they had evolved from minor figures in religious sculptures into key figures in paintings, with the greatest artists of the period adding dozens of winged putti to their canvases. Perhaps the most famous are the ones ogling near the bottom of the painting 'Sistine Madonna'; the anecdote goes that Raphael modelled them after children hankering outside a bakery window.

After a few centuries of neglect, chubby angels were discovered also by porcelain art in the mid-19th century when neo-styles were flourishing all over Europe. The so-called Humboldt décor, created by Mór Fischer in 1857 in the Neo-Rococo style and named after naturalist Alexander von Humboldt, also features putti. Painted in soft pastel colours, the figures reclining or crouching or perched on shimmering golden clouds are reminiscent of Raphael's little angels, with their curly locks wreathed with a garland and their naked, winged bodies modestly covered by pink and azure butterflies. The tiny putti, depicted in light brushstrokes, play violins, lutes or flutes, pensively hold books, flowering branches, snow-white doves or laurel wreaths of glory in their hands. The Humboldt pattern has remained one of the most distinctive designs of Herend Porcelain Manufactory to this day.

Did you know?

For his 88th birthday, the eponym of Herend's Humboldt décor was presented with a coffee set for two adorned with the jewel-like design. Alexander von Humboldt was impressed by the porcelain items, and the elderly statesman expressed his gratitude for the luxurious gift in a heartfelt letter accompanied by a signed photograph; his words of appreciation are still kept in the archives of the Herend Porcelain Manufactory.

—
Saucer
03929100HUMB-MFB
Vase
06668005HUMB-MFP

CASH OR TEA BRICKS?

Nowadays, it is only natural that you pull out a few banknotes from your wallet at the checkout or pay contactless with your smartphone. Until history and technology have ended up here, there have been countless forms of payment. The most extraordinary examples can be found among commodity money.

A bunch of eels

In the Middle Ages, this snake-shaped fish was such an important food source that it counted as one of the most valuable currencies in England. According to contemporary records, it was sold in “bunches” of 25; users of water mills had to pay their landlord at least a thousand bunches of eels. In 1273, King Edward I introduced price controls on food, setting the worth of a bunch of eels at two pence, which would be roughly equivalent to six pounds sterling today.

The essential salt

The value that salt has always represented for mankind is vividly demonstrated by the fact that the word ‘salary’ comes from the Latin equivalent of our most important flavouring and preservative (sal). The salarium was the dues paid in salt to the ancient Roman army and to officials on secondment. At the time, a Roman barber had to shave 13 men to earn a good kilo of salt.

One tooth, one canoe

If you lived in Fiji in the 18th century and owned at least one tooth of va large sperm whale, you could live a golden life. The teeth, which were called tabua, demonstrated wealth, but were also used as props for various religious ceremonies. Moreover, the whale teeth could be exchanged for tangible goods: a single tooth of the large mammal could buy a huge canoe or even a bride.

Drinkable currency

Tea, which we drink today for enjoyment, has served many purposes throughout history. In the ancient Far East, it was used as medicine, then became a substitute for money – in China, a part of the taxes were levied in tea. In the 19th century, tea leaves were pressed into small bricks and then used as payment throughout China, Mongolia and Tibet. Twelve tea bricks bought a sheep, while 20 were enough to buy a horse.

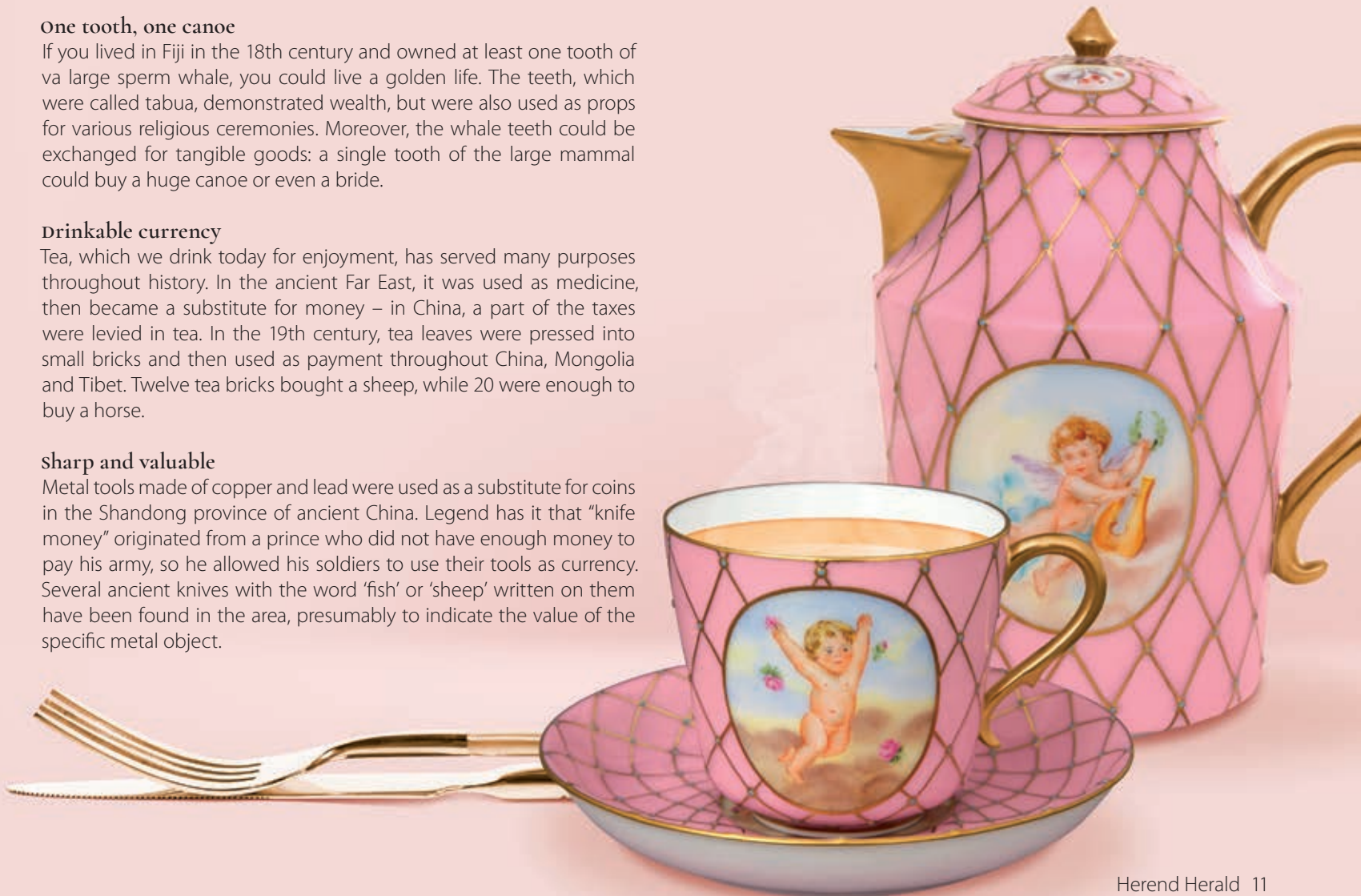
sharp and valuable

Metal tools made of copper and lead were used as a substitute for coins in the Shandong province of ancient China. Legend has it that “knife money” originated from a prince who did not have enough money to pay his army, so he allowed his soldiers to use their tools as currency. Several ancient knives with the word ‘fish’ or ‘sheep’ written on them have been found in the area, presumably to indicate the value of the specific metal object.

Did you know?

On the post-1946 gold-exchange standard, the United States guaranteed unlimited convertibility of the dollar into gold at a fixed rate. Since other countries pegged their currencies to the dollar, their currencies were indirectly backed by gold. The US suspended the Bretton Woods system in 1971.

Coffeepot with button knob 03925015HUMB-MFP
Moccacup with saucer 03929200HUMB-MFP; 03929100HUMB-MFP



HEREND PORCELAIN – A HUNGARIAN SPECIAL



1700

Baroque

Ming teaset

1800

Empire

Rococo scallop bowl

1826

Romanticism

Biedermeier

Countless style trends have emerged and flourished since the foundation of Herend Porcelain Manufactory. And over those nearly two hundred years, almost every one of them has left its mark on porcelains: the product range includes lots of special pieces, from works preserving the characteristics of artistic styles from past periods through to modern pieces that shape the contemporary approach of the 21st century.

Ever since its foundation, Herend Porcelain Manufactory has consistently maintained the concept whereby premium porcelain should always be refined to the highest artistic standard and technical perfection but should always be crafted strictly by hand – this has made Herend the largest luxury porcelain manufactory in the world today.

From China to Europe

The story of porcelain began in China, where it truly started to flourish in the 14th century, i.e. the Ming period. Paradoxically, it was first carried to Europe in the cargo holds of the East India Company's sailing ships as a packaging material that protected expensive teas and spices from moisture. Soon, however, the wealthiest began to import the richly decorated, luxurious porcelain artefacts for their own sake. Until the invention of European porcelain, this Orientalist, Far Eastern style dominated our continent.

Enter Herend Porcelain Manufactory

Europe had to wait until 1708 for the recipe of high-fired hard-paste porcelain – which is credited to German alchemist Böttger. Right in the middle of the Baroque period, the first European porcelain collections were also created in the Baroque style. The two main styles – Eastern and Western – were running parallel in the world of luxury porcelains from the 18th century on. It was amid this rich variety of styles that Herend Porcelain Manufactory emerged in 1826. Mór Fischer demonstrated great business acumen when, starting from 1839, he undertook to replace damaged Far Eastern and European porcelain items from the castles of the aristocracy, and thus provided his manufactory with a collection of specimens representing masterpieces of art. Such a case was, for example, when he supplied a replacement to a Ming set, and

LUXURY REFLECTING VARIOUS PERIODS OF STYLE



Empire teapot and teacup

Art deco vase

King and queen chess pieces

Classicism

Art Nouveau

Pop art

Contemporary

astounded the king of Sardinia with it. One of Mór Fischer's innovations deserves special mention: a Rococo scallop-shaped bowl – the scallop being considered the namesake of European Rococo – decorated with the classic Chinese Siang Noir pattern. The result was an ultimate iconic masterpiece that represents a symbiosis between European and Far Eastern styles in perfect harmony at Herend.

From Baroque to Pop-Art

A crystallized wealth of motifs from the East and the West constitutes the backbone of Herend Porcelain Manufactory's collection of patterns and forms accumulated so far and available for creating millions of variations. The major European periods of style and style trends that succeeded the Baroque – Classicism, Biedermeier, Romanticism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and even Pop Art – each appear in a fine Herend collection. They are complemented by the Manufactory's contemporary novelties intended to create a new style.

Classics revisited

Art Deco was a popular style among the bourgeoisie in the first half of the 20th century. Elek Lux's Veil Dancers represent typical, sophisticated examples of Art Deco. Nowadays, there is renewed interest in the style, to which Herend has responded with a variety of Art Deco inspired

novelties, such as the VH collections featuring a gold on black fish scale pattern. Alongside the preservation of established period styles, a re-design process that further develops and reinvents them is also at play, for example by using platinum and cool colours to give a new aesthetic quality to classic Herend shapes and decorations. It is highly important that Herend Porcelain Manufactory – in search of the latent desires of 21st century man – is consistently expanding its assortment today with completely new seminal works of art focusing on new functions, technical challenges and changes in taste, in order to further strengthen its global leading position in the world of handcrafted luxury porcelain through original, fresh creations that appeal to the today's generation.

– Ákos Tamás

Did you know?

Márton Kakas was the pen name used by Hungarian writer Mór Jókai. Referring to his literary double, his friends presented him on one of his birthdays with a Herend porcelain rooster, decorated with a scaly pattern resembling a bird's feathers – this is the origin of Herend's current VH pattern, one of the world-famous patterns of Herend Porcelain Manufactory.

THROUGH THE SPECTACLES OF HISTORY

“Eyes are better witnesses than the ears”, said ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus. But what is a man to do if his eyes are not as sharp as an eagle’s?

For legibility’s sake

Many people cannot imagine living their days without their eyeglasses, despite the fact that this tiny accessory helping our eyesight is not as old as mankind. The first, very rudimentary vision aids date back to around 60 BC; Roman philosopher Seneca used a glass sphere filled with water as a magnifying glass. The next milestone was reached nearly a millennium later, when Arab physicist and mathematician Ibn al-Haytham came up with the innovation of a polished lens to help far-sighted people read. This induced 13th-century Italian monks to make semi-circular lenses of quartz that could be placed over the text to be read, whereby the letters would appear larger. Although the so-called reading stones were very useful, there was room for improvement. Fortunately, by the end of the 13th century, Italian glassmakers had discovered that by placing two convex lenses in wooden rings and connecting the rings with a rivet, they could make use of the magnifying properties of glass in everyday life. The first spectacles had to be held in front of the face, and only later were they given curved temples and an ergonomic design.

From status symbol to object of use

Because medieval spectacles were made of expensive materials (silver or tortoiseshell), vision correction was the privilege of the wealthy. If someone wanted to show off their wealth, all they had to do was pull out a pretty eyepiece and everyone knew they were well-off. The widespread use of spectacles was triggered by the invention and spread of book printing: from 1453 onwards, demand skyrocketed for not only books but also for vision aids, and craftsmen began to make spectacles from cheaper materials (glass instead of crystal).

Rivalry with contact lenses

The eyeglasses we know today have been available since the mid-19th century, and it was around this time, in 1862, that Dutch ophthalmologist Herman Snellen created his vision chart (also known as the Snellen chart), which may be familiar from doctors’ surgeries, given that ophthalmologists still use it to determine visual acuity today. At the end of the century, spectacles found a huge rival; still, even though contact lenses can now correct almost all types of refractive errors, we seem to like looking at the world through our own spectacles.



Did you know?

The bifocal lens, which allows you to see sharply both far and near, is also known as the Franklin spectacle because it was created in 1784 by Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States, inventor, writer and philosopher.

FLY, BIRD, FLY!

In the heart of Asia's desolate wastelands, a dying tradition is celebrated for two days every year. Since 2011, eagle hunting has been listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.

Every October, around eighty eagle hunters gallop through the Altai Mountains on their way to the Bayan-Ölgii province. Many ride up to 250 kilometres to the barren valley, where there are no trees or bushes, not even a blade of grass. They make the long journey to take part in a prestigious competition and thus keep alive a millennia-old tradition. The Kazakh minority in Mongolia has been training golden eagles since ancient times – mainly females, because they grow bigger and are easier to work with. Unfortunately, the knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation is nowadays increasingly rare.

The Golden Eagle Festival, which has been held since 2000, is one of the most important traditional events for Kazakhs. The two-day eagle hunting event, where everyone watches the speed, agility and accuracy of the birds of prey with hawk-eyed keenness, attracts a large number of visitors. No wonder, given that even the opening ceremony offers a spectacular sight: seventy to eighty eagle hunters in ornated costumes parade on horseback, each with a huge, awe-inspiring golden eagle perched on their right arm. Participants in the weekend-long contest will compete in several events; for example, the eagles released from a hilltop must recognise the call of their respective owners, who are kilometres away on horseback in the valley, and then land on his or her arm. The judges also take into account the authenticity of the riders' costumes and the decoration of the horses' equipment.

The golden eagle is the second largest bird of prey in the world, with a life span of 20 to 30 years. An average male can weigh 3.6 kilograms, while an average female 5 kilograms, with a wingspan between 1.8 and 2.5 metres. The trained eagles are given a name, and after six or seven years of work they are released at a farewell ceremony.

Did you know?

The Eagle Huntress, a documentary directed by Otto Bell, tells the story of a 13-year-old Kazakh girl who fights to become the first female eagle hunter and compete in the prestigious Golden Eagle Festival. The film was nominated for the BAFTA Awards in 2017.

Eagle 15058000 VHFBM

HOW DOES A SHIP GET INSIDE THE BOTTLE?

Just because something seems impossible at first sight it does not mean it is indeed impossible. This is proven by masterpieces – many of which defy the laws of physics – that have kept people fascinated for more than half a millennium.

Just how time-consuming can it be to make something that was considered even in the 16th century such a painstaking task that it got the name “impossible bottle”? The ornamental object, also known as “ship in a bottle” was originally a representation carved from wood or bone placed inside a narrow-necked glass bottle. There are basically two ways of making it: either by using wire hooks and tweezers to assemble and glue the tiny elements together inside the bottle, or by making a single-piece construction that can be folded and slid into the bottle, then opened. Most often, impossible bottles are horizontal, and hold a minutely detailed boat each. The oldest surviving pieces, made by Giovanni Biondo in the late 18th century, were, for example, miniature replicas of Venetian ships of the line: one is owned by a private collector, another by a museum in Lübeck, and a third one by the Naval Museum in Lisbon.

After many years, it was Harry Eng who restored the popularity of impossible bottles in the 1980s. The Californian inventor, illusionist and teacher has created more than 600 seemingly impossible creations, including not only ships in bottles, but also entire decks of cards, shoes and books, whereas collectors are willing to pay thousands of US dollars for his impossible bottles! Considered a master of impossible bottles, Eng has worked mainly with wine or whisky bottles, and so he would certainly have tipped his hat to Prakash Chandra Upadhyay,

Did you know?

Franklin D. Roosevelt had a passion for the sea, which was reflected, among other things, in his enthusiasm for collecting ship models. The 32nd President of the United States also owned a number of bottled sailing boats, including some real rarities.

who has recently built the world’s smallest impossible bottle. The Indian record holder’s creation made in 2019 measures just 1.5 x 0.5 x 0.15 centimetres. This tiny masterpiece would probably be but a needle in a haystack, should it fall into the world’s largest impossible bottle. Yinka Shonibare’s gigantic bottle, which houses a giant flagship, was exhibited in London’s Trafalgar Square in 2010. The British-Nigerian artist’s memorial measured 4.7 metres long and 2.8 metres in diameter.

For lovers of impossible bottles, the Dutch town of Enkhuizen may be a bucket-list destination, as the Flessenscheepjes Museum houses the world’s largest collection of impossible bottles. More than 750 works of art are on display, from miniature light bulbs to 30-liter wine jugs.



MAN-MADE ISTHMUS

Just as we cannot talk about ancient Greek architecture without mentioning the Parthenon, the Corinth Canal is equally inescapable in the architectural history of modern Greece.

An ancient idea

The purpose of the construction of the artificial waterway, which is 6,343 metres long and only 21.3 metres wide, was to avoid the need for ships to navigate around the Peloponnese peninsula to cross from the Aegean to the Ionian Sea and on towards the Adriatic. Although the idea of crossing the strait had been mooted several times in antiquity, it was not actually implemented until the 19th century, when the navigable waterway was inaugurated in 1893 by King George I of Greece.

Hungarian contribution

The Corinth Canal took 12 years to build – using the most modern techniques of the time and with the help of several Hungarian experts. Engineer Béla Gerster, for example, was not only responsible for the design but also for the management of the construction, which employed 4,000 workers, while four other Hungarian engineers (István Kauser, László Nyári, Garibaldi Pulszky and István Stéghmüller) assisted him in the construction.

So narrow!

The artificial waterway, also known as the Greek Suez Canal, is used by around 11,000 vessels every year; most of those are tourist boats and

Did you know?

Unfortunately, not even tourists have been allowed to cross the Corinth Canal in 2021 as the strait had to be closed in January because of landslides. In July 2021, the waterway was again blocked due to collapses, making it unfit for navigation for an unforeseeable period.

cargo ships that do not need great depths to pass through, given that it is too narrow for modern cruise ships. In 2019, the successful passage of the MS Braemar, a cruise ship over 21 metres wide and carrying 1,200 passengers, through the canal was a huge sensation (and broke records) – never to be equalled. The narrowness of the passage is aptly illustrated by the fact that it can even be jumped over by motorbike: in 2010, Australian motorbike stuntman Robbie Maddison ‘flew’ over the 100-metre-deep passage at 125 km/h.



Sailing boat 06871000VH
Vase 06409000VIT



ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Certain places and built environments of outstanding importance must be preserved for all mankind and passed on to future generations, such as these five buildings listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The objective of UNESCO's World Heritage Programme is to safeguard the natural and cultural heritage of humanity, which was laid down in a Convention in 1972. The World Heritage Committee has been expanding the World Heritage List every year; however, the criteria for inscription are challenging: for example, buildings are often required to be an outstanding testimony to the genius of their creators, or represent a significant stage in human history. Recognition also comes with an obligation: a country must assume responsibility for the conservation of its own World Heritage sites. In 2021, the list consists of 1,154 sites in 167 countries.

Taj Mahal *Agra, India*

One of the most famous sights in the world, the ivory-white mausoleum was built in the 17th century by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to lay his beloved wife to rest. The Taj Mahal was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1983, and over the next two decades it was declared one of the 100 most endangered monuments in the world, as well as one of the new seven wonders of the world. Displaying Indian, Persian and Islamic stylistic features, the marble complex includes residential buildings, gardens, water pavilions and markets, apart from tombs.

La Sagrada Família *Basilica Barcelona, Spain*

With Barcelona's number one tourist attraction, Antoni Gaudí has enriched the Catalan capital's skyline with a religious building that is (designed to be) the tallest in Europe. Built in an organic architectural style, the structure of the Sagrada Família is so complex that it has been under construction for more than 130 years – the same length of time was enough to complete even the pyramids of Giza – and is not due to be completed before 2026, even though 3D modelling and 3D printers are used now to assist in its design and construction. The building, also known as the Basilica of the Holy Family, is not only unique on the outside: inside, there is not a single straight line motif; even the supporting columns represent trees, for example.



Persian musician with flute 15197000CD1
 Old Turkish 15416000CD
 Turkish 15412000CD1
 Scheherazade 16160000CD

Kremlin Moscow, Russia

The Kremlin complex, surrounded by a red brick wall, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 along with Russia's most famous square, Red Square. Several of its buildings were designed by Italian architects, which is why they display elements recognisable from the Italian Renaissance. One of the largest and oldest complexes in Russia has a surface area of 275,000 square metres and was commissioned by founder of Moscow Yuri Dolgorukiy in the 12th century. The Kremlin includes five palaces, four cathedrals and several towers, among other buildings, and also accommodates the official residence of the President of Russia.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum New York, USA

Eight of Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic buildings are on the UNESCO list. When he was commissioned to design the Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan in the 1950s, his clients (Solomon R. Guggenheim and Hilla Rebay) asked him to do one thing: "The building should be unlike any other museum in the world." The spiral building, which houses mostly abstract works of art, is a textbook example of organic architecture. It is easy to feel dizzy on the museum's over 400-metre long, seven-storey high concrete spiral ramp but that is not the reason why the walls look tilted: Wright wanted them to mimic the tilt of an easel, so instead of a right angle, they are at a 97 degree angle to the floor.

Luis Barragán House and Studio Mexico City, Mexico

Luis Barragán taught himself about architecture, which makes it all the more remarkable that he not only won the Pritzker Prize, known as the 'Nobel Prize for Architecture', but his house and studio built in 1947 and 1948, now functioning as a museum, were declared a World Heritage Site in 2004. The street façade of the building in Mexico City is quite plain, but behind it lies a wealth of extravagant solutions: vibrant colours, vast open spaces and a contrasting play of light and shadow.

Did you know?

Herend Porcelain Manufactory was the first Hungarian art exhibitor to have the opportunity to hold an exhibition in the Kremlin in 2009. A total of 250 porcelain pieces were on display for visitors to admire.

THE SALT OF LIFE

We are used to having the salt shaker within our reach at the table; nevertheless, our most basic food seasoning could tell us a story of many adventures. Below are ten interesting facts about salt.

1. Salt is essential for the human body, with the average adult's body containing around 250 grams of salt dissolved in water. However, deficiency as well as excessive intake of salt may equally be detrimental to our health.
2. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends a maximum daily intake of five grams of salt, whereas the average daily salt intake is currently double that amount.
3. Salt is our oldest food seasoning. Discoveries dating back to around 6000 BC show that people in Transylvania extracted salt from water by boiling it, and that salt was already being produced in China at that time.
4. Because pathogens are unable to grow in salt, it has also been used for thousands of years as a preservative.
5. In early civilisations, salt used to be just as important as oil is today. And yet, with the exception of Japan and the Scandinavian countries, it is found in underground deposits virtually all over the world.
6. Whole towns and villages have been built around salt mining. The Austrian town of Salzburg grew rich and powerful thanks to the salt mined there, as its name - 'city of salt' - aptly suggests.
7. The most expensive salt in the world is the Korean bamboo salt, also known as Jukyeom or Jugyeom. Sea salt burnt in bamboo tubes is special because it becomes purer and tastes more intense when repeatedly exposed to heat, up to nine times. It sells for as much as 400 USD a kilo.
8. When thinking of salt, snow-white table salt comes to mind; yet there are so many colourful variants out there. Hawaiian black salt, for example, has a dark colour and an intriguing flavour due to the active charcoal it contains, while Himalayan salt has a rosy hue due to its magnesium, calcium, iron and potassium content.
9. Salt also has healing properties, as evidenced by halotherapy, or salt therapy, which mimics the microclimate of salt caves. Inhalation treatment is recommended with excellent outcomes for almost all respiratory conditions.
10. Although the Dead Sea is ten times saltier than seawater, it is still only the fifth saltiest body of water on Earth. The top of the list is Antarctica's Don Juan Pond: just ten centimetres deep with a 44-percent salinity level, so it cannot freeze over.



Did you know?

In addition to preserving and seasoning food, salt is also used in metal casting, glass making and porcelain painting.

Recepe

IBÉRICO BELLOTA

ham with the treasures of Eden

Spanish hams are considered among the best in the world, but if you are looking for the ultimate in finesse, you should definitely take a closer look at ibérico hams.

Jamón ibérico is made from a breed of pig (credo iberico) native to the Iberian Peninsula, and comes in several grades of quality – classified according to what the pig feeds on. The most noble of all is the jamón ibérico de bellota: the name implies that the free-range animal exclusively feeds on acorns, so that its meat is of the best possible quality. Of course, making a fine ham requires time, as the curing process takes several months: salted with sea salt, the pork legs are first dried in a cold place, then washed and brushed in warm water, transferred to a drying room, and finally cured to perfection in a special place.



Ibérico bellota ham with figs
and green and yellow tomatoes

Serving plate 20158000VBOGD



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Gift ideas

Whether it is a leisurely breakfast, a Sunday lunch or a romantic dinner, sharing a meal together means quality time together. Let's find a way to make these ordinary, but not self-evident, occasions special - for example, by serving them in remarkable tableware.

- 1 Three tier fruit stand 04768092BABOSH-OR
- 2 Teacup and saucer 03361221VE-FN; 03361100VE-FN
- 3 Samovar 06501015VE-FN
- 4 Wall plate 08439050SP766
- 5 Apponyi orange (AOG) decorated products
- 6 Clock 08081000VBO
- 7 Platter 00422000EVICT1
- 8 Teacup with saucer 00724200AV2; 00724100AV2
- 7 Dragon 15601000CHRY
- 10 Vase with button knob 06576015SP752



Brand Shops

Scully & Scully *New York*
www.scullyandscully.com

Bergdorf Goodman *New York*
www.bergdorfgoodman.com

William Ashley *Toronto*
www.williamashley.com

Thomas Goode and Co. *London*
www.thomasgoode.com

Abu Dhabi Store *Abu Dhabi*
www.almazroui.com/business-activities/home-fashion/herend
Ambiance *Baku*
www.italdizain.az/brand/herend

Dom Farfora *Moscow*
www.domfarfora.ru

Club Herend Japan *Tokyo*
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Herend Shop *Sogo Taipei*
www.curio.com.tw/collections/herend

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