

HISTORY OF BURANO'S LACE

Burano's lace production spread in the republic of Venice around 1500. Legend has it that a young Venetian sailor brought a seaweed from far away seas as a gift to his beloved one, and that she copied exactly the delicate margins and the patterns using simple thread to preserve the memory forever.

Over the years Burano's laces became more and more sought-after throughout Europe, so that, thanks to Caterina de Medici and Minster Colbert, some Burano lacemakers moved to France to work the "Punto in aria" (a typical stitch of Burano's lace). In 1665, the "Punto in aria" became "Point de France", thus starting a strong competition with Burano's lace.

Nevertheless, the "Point de France" has never succeeded in matching the Venetian one. The Venetians had made an art from lacemaking, the French an industry. In 1797, with the end of the Veneto republic, the lace production also ended, and became essentially a family-run activity. The winter of 1872 was very cold, and for Burano's economy, based exclusively on fishing, it was a real tragedy. Then, on that occasion, thanks to the interest of Countess Andriana Marcello and Mr Paolo Fambri, the art of lace had a new birth.

The "Punto in aria " and the "Punto rosa" returned to life, and the **Burano Lace School** was set up, so that in 1800 the needle lace became the main resource for the island of Burano.

The school's production continued to grow until 1915, when the First World War broke out, marking a slowdown in Burano's lace demand, followed by a resumption of request from abroad.

During the Second World War and in the following years, the School went through good times punctuated by less prosperous ones, until it was definitively closed in 1972.

The women who still know the art of needle lace today are very few and work in their own houses. This makes this art even more precious and its artifacts are to be regarded as real works of art.

In order to admire the development of this artistic tradition through the centuries, it is advisable to visit the [Lace Museum](#), where over two hundred rare and precious artifacts are collected, which testify to the

production from 1500 to 1900. After complete restoration, the museum was reopened on 25th June 2011.