

Spotlight on Nino Parrucca- Italy's Famous Ceramic Artist

feature

Feature and photography by Sabrina Tosi



The personable and talented, Nino Parrucca was born in Palermo, Italy in 1945. He is the son of an artistic family that was well-renowned for their traditional Sicilian decorative carts (Carretti Sicilian). He left the family business in his early twenties to pursue a career in ceramics. At this junction of his career, he began designing plates, cups and tiles with a uniquely warm colour palette that reflects both the Carretti tradition and the colourful lifestyle of Sicily itself. Parrucca's

subject matter reflects the primitive traditions of daily Sicilian life. Simple, fresh items like: fish, lemons and olives appear as recurring motifs. The warmth of family life is also captured with scenes of wine making and picking fruit under the brilliant blue sky infused with sunlight.

As Parrucca's business and family expanded, he made a decision to incorporate the two. He fully expanded the workshop and in the spirit of Sicilian

family closeness, his four daughters and his wife began working alongside him.

All of Parrucca's ceramics are made using traditional Sicilian methods. The only machine utilized is the potter's wheel. Today, Parrucca's studio is over three thousand square meters, employs three hundred people and produces goods that are sold in virtually every corner of the globe. His work today includes the ceramics that made him famous as well as custom tile and iron work.



Parrucca has been commissioned to create unique items for celebrity and high-profile clients including The Pope. He was recently invited to a contest in the United States in which the jury would choose twenty plates to symbolize the spirit of the new millennium. The jury included such style icons as: Sophia Lauren and Barbara Streisand. Parrucca's plates were later presented to both President Clinton and Italian Prime Minister Dini in a monumental ceremony.

Nino Parrucca is a happy man. He has achieved his dream of going global and spreading cheer to homes around the world with his colourful ceramics. His accomplishments are many but, as the images in his art reflect, nothing means more to him than his family.