



In the wake of nearby Gubbio, a thriving pottery production came to life in Gualdo Tadino, in the 16th century (though there is also earlier evidence) and developed further in the 18th century with multiple depictions of the Madonna and Child and *ex voto*

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It found its finest expression, however, at the end of the 19th

century, thanks to Paolo Rubboli, with whom the famous native painter Giuseppe Discepoli and also Alfredo Santarelli both collaborated. Rubboli settled in Gualdo in 1875 and resumed the technique using gold and ruby lusterware, inherited from Mastro Giorgio. The echoes of the *Risorgimento*

can also be found in his productions, like the commemorative plates dedicated to the heroes of the time, such as Giuseppe Garibaldi. Santarelli, in turn, initially carried on the work of Rubboli and then found his own direction, reinterpreting patterns and decorations in the most diverse styles, from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, from Hispanic-Moorish to Liberty and Art Deco. Current production still features the technique of lusterware and the testimony of these

great masters, providing evidence of their creative ability and originality. Lastly, the fascinating history of Gualdo ceramics can be retraced, in the Museo Civico (Civic Museum) at the Rocca Flea castle.