

# Bottonificio Padano



## Our eco-sustainable path

"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want."

*Andy Warhol*

# **WATER**

**Our production aims to improve and innovate in the reduction of our environmental impact starting with the one resource we consider the most precious: water and energy.**



**From 1982 all the water used in every productive activity, including water used for colouring and in tumble finishing, is microfiltered and purified through a bacteriological breakdown of harmful substances.**

**It is then re-used in a closed cycle without releasing anything into the external waste.**

**The quantity dispersed internally in the cycle is integrated with collected water and so preserved.**

# ENERGY

Our commitment to eco-sustainability continues with the choice of buying only green energy from certified Italian suppliers.

we provide the energy requirements of the facilities and activities with energetic choices and supplies which save the environment approximately 1.179,59 tons of CO2 equal to:

The energy we are currently running in our production is «Green Energy»: we can in this way control step by step the environmental impact of our activities.



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# COLORANTS

We buy state-of-the-art colorants (the same used in the textile industry) from a German company, leader in the market and TÜV certified.

All our chemicals respect the current European legislation, they do not contain aromatic amines and are under the REACH levels!



# WASTAGE

In Bottonificio Padano we use a strict recycling wastage policy within the whole premise.



# AUDITS

We have recently received the audit from the company P.V.H which uses a H.I.G.G certification system (similar to SA 14.000). Passed with **GREEN LIGHT**. We also passed with positive results audits from Kering.

# COROZO

The attention to the environment permits the ethics of Bottonificio Padano ever since it was founded back in the 60s.

It all started with the decision to invest in the most eco-friendly material existing, Corozo. In the first half of the 20th century Corozo was used for the vegetarian production of clips, rings, buckles and buttons. Corozo is often referred to as «vegetal ivory». Corozo is a nut, the fruit of a palm *Phitelephas Macrocarpa* (also called Tagua) which grows naturally thanks to the Equatorial climate. The nuts contain a milk-like fluid which, upon drying, becomes solid and acquires the resemblance of Ivory.

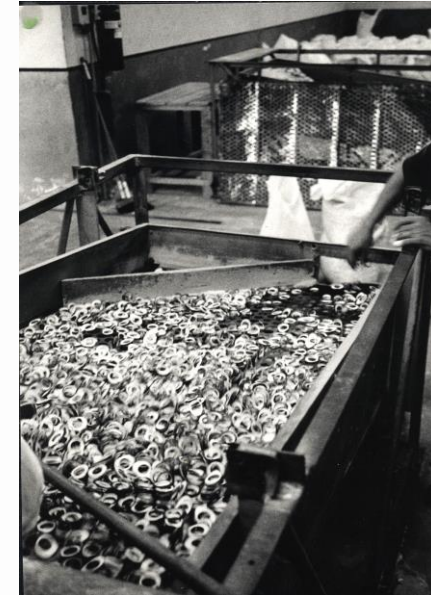


Corozo is grown and cultivated in Ecuador. When the ripe nuts fall from the trees, the farmers collect the nuts circumventing the need to cut any of the palms and thus preserving the forest.

The farmers sell the nuts to local wholesalers and then to the Bottonificio Padano's factory who sun-dries them and proceeds to make a semi-manufactured product until transformed into button 'blanks'.

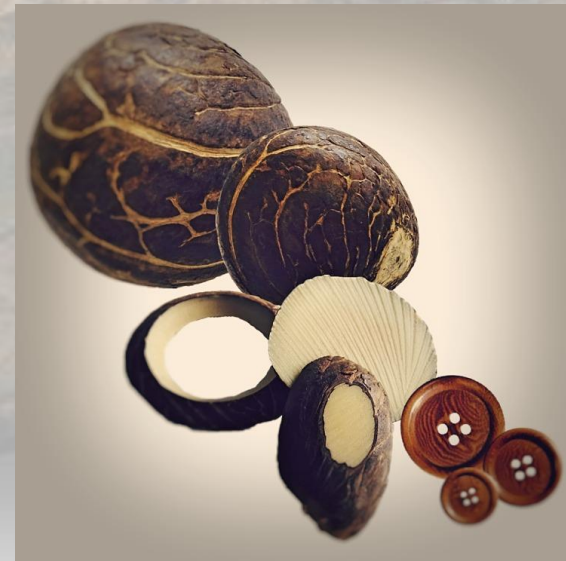
The drying and whitening processes are made simultaneously and 100% naturally in order to avoid oven drying and chemical bleaching which are the standard industry practices.

Nuts are placed in sunny courtyards adjacent to the Ecuadorian factory and given the necessary time to meet our exacting standard. They are then sliced and transformed into button 'blanks'.



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The Ecuadorian semi-processed product is sent to Bottonificio Padano in Saccolongo (PD) where all the remaining steps are undertaken to fashion a button 'blank' into a finished product. Here the qualitative button selection is made and those 'blanks' which are not perfect are ground together in combination with the working waste producing small Corozo pieces which are recycled and used to polish buttons. Dyeing is executed using natural substances where at all possible.





## **Social Responsibility**

The same values we foster in our Italian mills are mandatorily researched on our Ecuadorian' suppliers:


- Free health care is granted to all workers, with a doctor onsite
- Wages are higher than the average salary offered to other local factory workers
- Our Ecuadorian suppliers do not employ workers under the legal working age
- We encourage the local occupation with charity programs like the production of Corozo handicraft such as our famous Corozo animals!

Every three months Bottonificio Padano directly audits the product quality and the factory in Ecuador.



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## **Corozo: the benefits of choosing Bottonificio Padano**

- **G.O.T.S Certified**  GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD  
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- **A valid substitute for Ivory**
- **A natural vegetal material that grows naturally in the Amazonian rain forest, without any risks to the biodiversity or deforestation (applying for ISO 14021 certification)**
- **No wastage: the mococho is eaten by the pigs after dropping from the trees, the powder produced from the cutting of the nut is used to feed animals as rich in vitamins**
- **Lower energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since ovens are not required for the drying process. Sun-drying makes corozo easier to dye precluding the requirement to use blanching chemicals (according to ISO 14021)**
- **High potential of stakeholder engagement**
- **Great stock availability = respect of deliveries**



## **HORN**

**Our horn is obtained exclusively from the horn of animals that are non-protected and comes from slaughter industry. This supply has consolidated the development of expert artisans in India and Africa (white horn mainly).**

**After the first selection of those materials the rough horn is semi-worked and then we choose the best for our Italian departments before it is turned polished and smoothed for the desired style of the time.**

**We carefully select our suppliers after checking that they share our mandatory values in terms of Social Responsibility especially when it comes to child labour and working conditions.**



## **MOTHER OF PEARL**

- **Our Mother-of-Pearl comes from farms whose priority is obtaining cultured pearls for the jewellery industry. The shells are of secondary concern**
- **The raw material is sourced from advanced countries (AUS, FR)**
- **The semi-worked product comes predominantly from Chinese suppliers, who employ more than 150 people and guarantee working conditions higher than the local average standard**
- **Bain-marie dying allows better quality less colouring use and water recycling**





Our latest *baby*

**BioHORN**

# What is all about?

Padano's long-standing expertise in sustainable natural materials, such as corozo, has encouraged us to search for a 'greener' polyester based material too, while simultaneously preserving the superior quality and standards expected by our customers and to 'do one's bit' to significantly reduce any impact on the environment.

# Why?

One of the largest burdens on our environment are the CO2 emissions inherently involved in, among other factors, production and manufacturing processes. As a consequence of conscience we have strived to reduce the brunt of this by experimenting with new, innovative, alternative raw materials which can minimise these CO2 emissions.

This is how we created the *BioRESIN*, the *eco-friendly alternative to Polyester*.

## Normal Polyester

Polyester contains fossil hydrocarbons which, basically speaking, is derived from petroleum! The CO2 emitted through the combustion of the Earth's fossil resources to produce, among other things, polyester will always result in an increase of CO2 during all phases of the production process(es) into the atmosphere together with its detrimental global warming properties.

## BioResin

By supplanting a resin derived from petroleum with a Bio Resin garnered from trees, leaves and plant material (cellulose) means that this component does not release CO2 as it simply does not contain it - the CO2 emissions from bio-materials correspond to that absorbed by the plants' from which the bio-material is made. These kinds of materials are sometimes referred to as "short-cycle" materials as they are significantly younger than fossil hydrocarbons.

Our Bio Resin raw material supplier are certified ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 (SGS) and registered EMAS