

**IN CASTILE- LA MANCHA THE WORD CRAFT** is written with capital letters. Men and women continue to work with their hands in trades whose origin is lost in the fog of history as the wrought iron, pottery, woodwork, stonework, embroidery or leather goods. Traditional techniques, expression of our most popular culture, learned from generation to generation, but with a **vocation for innovation and modernity.**



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**IV CENTENARIO  
DE CERVANTES**



**HANDCRAFT**





Working with Esparto grass, leather and mud.

Mud, water, wood, iron, fibre, leather, glass, paper or fabrics and threads. Humble materials, Yes; but that expertise, skill and creativity are transformed into unique and unrepeatable pieces, expression of our popular culture.

### CLAY, TIMBER AND METAL

They say that working with mud is very grateful. The potteries of Castile- La Mancha have been prodigal to making objects for everyday use: jugs, bowls, jugs, pots, dagger boards or jars, coveted today in artistic decoration pieces. With that traditional basis, our craftsmen continue to create attractive pieces which acquire the status of art. In Talavera de la Reina and El Puente del Arzobispo, you will see why ceramics and tiles (recently declared a property of Cultural Interest) are so appreciated in National and International markets. Their traditional colours blue, green, or yellow, as well as their original and beautiful designs, give it an unmistakable hallmark.

To dominate metals with fire and force is ancient work. In forges and smithies of Castile-La Mancha you will see how great gates, lamps, or structures for furniture are forged. You will be marvelled as much as the dexterity which swordsmith from Toledo guard the secrets of tempering of steels and its sharp engraved leaves.

Historically, timber has been the most used material for the production of objects. Visiting Castile- La Mancha you will see as people continue working with expertise making barrels, assembling furniture, manufacture musical instruments, carving images, floats or altarpieces, making railings, stairs, coffered complexes or humble shepherds craft parts. It is this land, the offices of the wood are numerous and surprising.

Traditional cutlery art has its grand shrine in Albacete. And let us not forget the great amount of amazing Damascus and chiselled pieces craftsmen create of Toledo, perpetuating legendary oriental arts.

Embroidered shoes / Damasquino / Pastoral woodwork / Navaja.



### THREAD, LEATHER AND WICKER

The lacework of Almagro and embroidery of Lagartera are known worldwide. Impossible filigree carved in thread and subtle canvases. They are samples of textile crafts in our region, which also include the production of carpets, cabinets, regional costumes or paintings in silk.

The skin is flexible, elastic, durable and beautiful. Craftsmen express themselves in their saddlery, shoemaking, leather goods, shoes, accessories and clothes of coat or elegant saddles for horses.

Most Spanish wicker, which skilled hands turn into beautiful furniture or furnishing, is produced in the province of Cuenca. You will still find, in villages in the region, artisans braiding the enea, esparto, or old-fashioned cane.

As long as men and women continue being determined to convert mud, skin, iron or wood in beautiful objects, the craftwork of Castile- La Mancha will remain being a hallmark of a region that is waiting for you. Do not delay your visit. 🍷

Bobbin lace.

