



Alfarería Los Puntos

Calle San Leonardo, 30
04800 Albox (Almería)

elpuntas@gmail.com
679 882 888

alfarerialospuntas@gmail.com
670 673 640



Pottery Tradition



ALBOX (Almería)

THE POTTERY TRADITION OF ALBOX

The origin of the ceramic tradition in Albox probably dates from prehistory, when objects were baked in rudimentary ovens dug out in the ground.

Argaric tombs have surfaced in the area of Cerro de Castillo containing ceramic burial items that are around 4,000 years old and ceramics from the *terra sigillata*, the Roman period, between 1st to 3rd century BC have been found in Cerro de las Copas.



However the glazed and polychromatic ceramics of today were introduced to this region in the 8th century by arabs from the East. Given the existence of suitable raw materials in inexhaustible quantities, there were important producers of ceramics in Albox for centuries.

The pottery tradition has survived throughout the centuries in the same style, with small variations, until today.

At the beginning of the 19th century there were 25 potteries and between 50 and 60 potters in Albox. During the forties and fifties this number was reduced to twelve potteries where scores of master potters baked clay and trained a large number of apprentices in this trade. Today, and during the last decades, as a result of greater mechanisation, nearly all of the potteries have disappeared and only one remains, "Alfarería Los Puntos".



THE PROCESS - EARTH, WATER AND FIRE

The primary material is clay extracted from the ground whose elastic properties, once dampened, make it easy to shape. This clay is subjected to a traditional process of sifting to obtain a paste that is free from impurities and has a great plasticity.



Once the paste has been kneaded well, the potter forms a ball with the quantity of clay required, and places it in the center of the wheel where the skills and art of the potter give form to the piece.



The finished piece must be left to rest, protected from the sun, for a period of time so that it can slowly dry and harden. Then comes the application of a slip, a suspension of materials plus water, to change the external appearance, providing a non-vitreous earthy texture.

Finally the fire. By introducing the piece to the oven, the structure of the clay, as well as the slip, metal oxides and enamels is permanently changed, giving the brightness that characterises it.



LOS PUNTAS POTTERY

Albox continues to be the home of one of the oldest active workshops in Almería, "Alfarería Los Puntos", located in Calle San Leonardo, with arab ovens with 300 years of history, and named by the Ministry of Tourism as "An Artisanal Point of Interest in Andalusia".



In the workshops, the master potters continue to bake pots, jugs, basins, water containers, plates etc in the traditional style. The attraction of their pots and jugs lies in their small imperfections.

