

The Craftmanship of Horezu ceramics

➤ Is a unique traditional craft, from the northern part of Valcea County, practiced both by men and women, the fabrication process being divided between them.

➤ Men select and extract the soil, which is then cleaned, cut and wetted, kneaded, trampled and mixed, becoming thus the clay body from which the famous red pottery of Horezu is produced.

➤ The women are those who decorate the objects using specific techniques and tools to draw traditional motifs.

➤ Their handicraft and talent to combine decorations and colours define the personality and uniqueness of this type of ceramics.

➤ The colours are vivid and include dark brown, red, green, blue and the “Horezu ivory”, being used to depict motifs such as the fish, the snake, the rooster, the tree of life, the oak leaf.



Men’s group Colindat, Christmas time ritual

❖ This is an old tradition characteristic of the Romanian culture. Its Latin origin was analysed many times, being universally accepted.

❖ This ritual has accompanied the Romanian people for centuries, guiding its life according to the laws of popular ethics and aesthetics. It encompasses important values of the musical, literary and choreography folklore, which have been retained through orality.

❖ The performing of the festive songs includes all the members of the community, each of them having their own role as part of the whole group.

❖ The custom, in full accordance with tradition, has played an educational role for hundreds of generations of children and young people, who have thus shaped and transmitted the intangible cultural heritage.



Intangible Cultural heritage in Romania

The Intangible Cultural Heritage includes oral traditions and expressions, having the language as its main vector, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and the skills necessary to produce traditional crafts.



9 elements inscribed in intangible Cultural Romanian heritage

- 2022: Lipizzan horse breeding traditions
- 2022: The art of the traditional blouse with embroidery on the shoulder (altiță) — an element of cultural identity in Romania and the Republic of Moldova
- 2017: Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March
- 2016: Traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship in Romania and the Republic of Moldova
- 2015: Lad's dances in Romania
- 2013: Men's group Colindat, Christmas-time ritual
- 2012: Craftsmanship of Horezu ceramics
- 2009: Doina
- 2008: Căluș ritual



Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March

Was inscribed in 2017 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity



The art of the traditional blouse with embroidery on the shoulder (altiță)

The art of the traditional blouse with embroidery on the shoulder (called altiță) is an essential part of Romanian folk dress for men and women. It juxtaposes a simple cut with rich and colourful ornamentations that are stitched using complex sewing techniques. The blouses are white and made of natural fibres (flax, cotton, hemp or floss silk), and the complex stitch combines horizontal, vertical and diagonal seams that result in a specific pattern and texture.

