

# Types of Italian Clay used to produce ColleZione's containers:

*There are three main regions in Italy in which terra cotta pots and containers are produced. These are Impruneta, (Tuscany) which is just south of Florence, Siena, which is in the region surrounding the town of Siena, and Umbria, in the central heart of Italy.*

Terra cotta from **Impruneta** is the most durable in the world. Containers made of Impruneta clay are prized above all other Italian terra cotta for durability, frost resistance and beauty. Impruneta clay is rough, red-colored and must be worked entirely by hand, as machines would be damaged by its demanding components. These pots are frost resistant to as low as -35°F; we have seen Impruneta pots filled with water and frozen solid, which do not crack under this pressure. The finest clay artisans in Italy use Impruneta soil to express their artistic talents. ColleZione searches out the most highly skilled artisans, in small family workshops in this region and offers their most unique and beautiful creations to our clients here in the United States.

Terra cotta from **Umbria** has a softer quality in both texture and appearance. This clay develops a 'patina' more quickly, getting more beautiful over time as the initial light pink color darkens. Umbrian clay produces pots that are frost resistant to about -20°F. The residents of northern Europe, who have traditionally furnished their gardens with classic Italian terra cotta from this region, attach great value to urns from Umbrian clay. The shapes and forms in Umbria are ancient in origin; if you are looking for beautiful, classic urns or containers, you will be delighted with ColleZione's Umbrian collection.

The **Siena** region produces clay similar in feel to the Umbrian but with a redder hue and a fine grain that makes it easier to work by hand. Because pots from this region are somewhat easier to produce, ColleZione can offer beautiful forms at a lower cost than pots made of Impruneta clay. While not quite as robust as the Impruneta or Umbrian clay this is still a fine handmade product with frost resistance to about 10°F, and like Impruneta and Umbrian terra cotta, will endure for many generations.

## ColleZione

Showroom:  
3485 Edison Way  
Menlo Park, California 94025  
650.327.1342

[www.collezioneusa.com](http://www.collezioneusa.com)