

Culture and commerce go hand-in-hand in Italy



Statue of Girolamo Savonarola, a 15th century Dominican friar, in Ferrara.

The *Belpaese* (Beautiful Country): from art to food, from stunning and varied countryside to flamboyant fashion, Italy has it all. This is the country that brought us Slow Food, devoted to the promotion of fresh products and fine, traditional cooking. A country of remarkable beauty and varying regional characteristics, Italy is unmistakably a place of cultural achievement and historical pride. Italian culture permeates every aspect of life and, as a result, for those wishing to integrate effectively into Italian society or perhaps hoping to successfully break into the Italian business market, an understanding of this culture is vital. Stainless Steel World makes frequent visits to this ever surprising country since, beside the history and culture, lives a modern vibrant steel community predominantly made up of family companies which are leading the world in technology and expanding into global markets.

By Ivan Gane & Rami David

The perfect finishing partnership

We visited the company Faspar SpA located in Robecco sul Naviglio, near Milan, Malpensa airport, and met with Mr. Paolo Aime (Managing Director) and his sister Dr. Maddalena Aime (Sales Export Manager). Established in 1966, Faspar is a known manufacturer of coil processing equipment. The company started as a press and die machine manufacturer and, since 1977, it designs and produces complete sheet metal working lines for coils: slitting, cut-to-length (also with rotary and flying shear technology), surface finishing (for coils and sheets), punching and press feeding, tension leveling and sandwich panel. Faspar counts over 300 lines installed worldwide in the fields of stainless steel processing, steel, galvanized steel, pre-painted steel, aluminium, titanium, copper, brass, tinplate and special steel. Its headquarters and production plant is located near Milan in a 4,000 sq meter facility. The company sells globally with a current strong focus on eastern European countries including Russia and Serbia. Maddalena Aime told us that the large majority of the Faspar production is for export.

Faspar has formed a partnership with Costa Levigatrici SpA, an Italian machinery manufacturer headquartered in the Veneto region. Costa Levigatrici is a leading manufacturer of polishing, brushing, grinding and deburring machines. The company has 3 production facilities covering an area of 17,000 sq metres. The headquarters, showroom and testing facility are located in Schio. Mrs Aime explained that "Faspar's expertise is in manufacturing coil processing equipment, whereas Costa is a specialized manufacturer of polishing and brushing machines. The two companies have pooled their experience and core businesses to meet the quality and reliability required in the world of finishing. As a result of this partnership, we believe Faspar and Costa are the perfect partners for surface lines, with a range of technology that meets the customer demands in the marketplace".

