

THE DISTRICTS' PERFORMANCES AND A RE-AWAKENING OF THE MARKETS BOOST THE NEW EDITION OF OROAREZZO

Made in Italy gold is back in Arezzo after a recovery in 2017 for the Italian fine and fashion jewellery sector. With 7 billion in exports towards the largest international gold markets and +12% in value, between innovation and emerging markets, expectations for 2018 are optimistic.

Arezzo, 5th May 2018 – Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A. (IEG) fires the starting gun at the 39th edition of **OROAREZZO**, the Show that promotes the best of Made in Italy jewellery production at **Arezzo Fiere Exhibition Centre from today to 8th May 2018**. The event takes place during a moment of recovery for the gold-jewellery industry, which closed 2017 positively after a problematic 2016. The latest data confirm what the Gold-Jewellery Sector Observatory at **Italian Exhibition Group's Business Strategy Department** and more recently the **VICENZAORO Gold-Jewellery Sector Observatory** already highlighted in January. In fact, our analyses, based on figures from Istat (National Statistics Institute) and on data processing by Intesa San Paolo's Study and Research Management and the Club degli Orafi Italia (Goldsmith's Association), show how Italian exports recorded a 12% increase in value for fine and fashion jewellery together (12.7% for precious metals alone, which also saw a 6% growth in quantity).

This evident reprisal in comparison with last year, has benefitted from the **vast improvement in exports towards France (+33.0%**, almost **190 million more** than in 2016), also due to the new Bulgari factory going into production at Valenza. Excellent results towards **Switzerland (+15.7%**, equal to **188 million more**) which is firmly **in first place** on the list of destination countries, towards **Hong Kong (+16.2%)** and the **United States (+19.5%)**. The **sectoral balance**, already historically positive, has **grown further** despite the increase in imports, **exceeding 4 billion Euros**.

The Sector's total turnover index in 2017 grew by an average of 8.9% compared to 2016. Specifically: the average turnover index linked to domestic demand increased by 5.6% while the average turnover index for foreign demand grew by 10.5%. Lastly, the average production index in 2017 increased by 15.6%.

On a worldwide scale, consumer trends in 2017 were growing by +6%. The factor is mainly to be attributed to a recovery in consumption in India which was up by +32%. Excellent rates were also recorded in Russia (+14%), UAE (+10%) and USA (+3%). China, the second destination country, however, registered a trend level of -6%, while drops were also documented in Great Britain (-14%), Egypt (-17%) and Saudi Arabia (-24%). In regard to the latter country, many jewellery and gold stores were closed down in the last few months of the year due to a political economic decision called «saudization». In all the other nations monitored, demand for jewellery was substantially stable compared to 2016.

OROAREZZO, the Show that promotes the best Made in Italy jewellery production, falls into this context. The Arezzo District is, as the latest statistical findings show, the second most important **Italian pole** for fine and fashion jewellery exports. **Arezzo closed 2017 with exports of 1.9 billion Euros, 5.5% more compared to 2016**, creating a optimistic climate for forecasted results in 2018. The increase was determined by the excellent progress in turnover regarding the **Hong Kong area (+21.6%** annual average, the second market outlet behind the United Arab Emirates, with a weight of 14.1% on the overall foreign turnover) and on considerable development in **Turkey (+22.8%)**, which compensates the reduction in the Gulf countries, although figures there are now on the upturn.

ITALIAN EXHIBITION GROUP S.p.A.: FOCUS ON

Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A., with the two expo centres of Rimini and Vicenza, is Italy's first trade fair organizer for profitability and expo portfolio (regarding the Food & Beverage, Green, Technology, Entertainment, Tourism, Transport, Wellness, Jewellery & Fashion, Lifestyle & Innovation trades). IEG operates worldwide, with branches in the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, United States and China. It is Italy's leader in the conference-convention sector with Rimini's Palacongressi and Vicenza Convention Centre. www.iegexpo.it

AREZZO FIERE E CONGRESSI

Arezzo Fiere e Congressi Srl, the company whose stakeholders include the Tuscany Region, Arezzo Chamber of Commerce, Arezzo Council and Province, credit institutions and over 300 jewellery companies, with a capital of Euro 40.8 million, is presided over by Andrea Boldi. For 39 years the company has been organizing the OROAREZZO Show - now managed by IEG as part of the IEG Jewellery Agenda - which recorded about 650 exhibiting companies in 2017 from all the Italian gold-silver districts. The congress facility has a Congress Centre Auditorium with seating for 950 and was designed by the GMP Studio in Hamburg. The company has organized cultural initiatives and workshops in prestigious locations in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Chile and Argentina.

OROAREZZO PRESS OFFICE: Barabino & Partners

Marco Lastrico

E-Mail: m.lastrico@barabinousa.com

Phone.: +1 212 308 8710

Mob: +1 917 634 1685

Camilla Palazzolo

E-mail: c.palazzolo@barabino.it

Phone.: +39 02 72.02.35.35

Mob: +39 3493948511

IEG INSTITUTIONAL PRESS OFFICE, VICENZA BRANCH: MYPRLab

Filippo Nani

T. +39 0444.512550

Mob: +39 335.101.93.90

filippo.nani@myprlab.it

Lisa Scudeler

T: +39 0444.512550

Mob: +39.338.691.03.47

lisa.scudeler@myprlab.it