

Cella' furnace

Until the early 1900s, brick furnaces were widespread in all the villages around Carnia and their production was mainly a demand for building trade materials, in particular roof top.

The development of these furnaces is related to the change of the roofs which from the straw roof passed progressively to the tile cover. In Upper Carnia the number of furnaces has increased progressively since 1700.

Around the 1920s they were greatly reduced, because their production was no longer compared to the hilly Friuli's furnaces that worked according to industrial systems with large continuous fire at lower prices. Just furnaces of Villa Santina, Enemonzo e Cella hold on.

After the Second World War, these small businesses shut down because they worked periodically and powered by wood.

In 1953 in Cella, the last furnace of Carnia ended its activity: it was the furnace of bricks and pottery managed by Stefano Felice.

Cella is located on an area characterized by clay soils. Exploitation of these resources dates back from the more remote times and the presence of the activity of the furnace dates back to the 18th century by Giovanni Battista Felice. The two elements that testify the presence of this furnace owner are: an inscription discovered in a majolica's Madonna's bust and one ornamental jar. At the same time, appears also the name of Francesco Felice.

The location of the furnace was influenced by the presence of water and by the possibility to find clay with the minor energy expenditure for transport.

From the 1700s, six furnaces start the production of coppies, tiles, bricks and pottery:

- The oldest was near the church of St. Rocco and owned by the Felice family.
- The second one was located at the beginning of the hill of San Rocco church, 200 metres from the previous one and owned by the Michele Felice family.
- The third one was at the beginning of the village arriving from St. Martin and owned by Antonio Felice. Its production mainly consisted in tiled and brick.
- The fourth one was bordering with the one of Antonio Felice and was managed by Antonio Rotter. Currently is the only testimony of Cella's furnaces, here were produced traditional tiles and bricks.
- The fifth one was located in a place called *Fontana* and was run by Michele Felice Family.
- The last furnace was located at the bottom of the village leading to Agrons. It belonged to Stefano Felice. His furnace became famous all around the region for the quality and the beauty of its production. It produced tiles of various colors used to build churches' roof (Liaris' church) or important houses (Micoli-Toscano House). In 1953, due to rising prices, the lack of appreciation of products and the replacement of them with other materials, the activity stopped.