

Wave Murano Glass trains glassworkers

Posted on October 5, 2026 by Peter Srinivasan

MURANO, Veneto — Wave Murano Glass employs more than 20 people and trains new glassworkers, keeping a furnace alive in a trade that once employed close to 2,000 on the island, as the Italian government backs Murano glass for EU protection.

Founded in 2017 by physicist-turned-glass-master Roberto Beltrami, the company has grown against that trend. “This trade represents a millenary Italian tradition that we try to carry forward,” Beltrami said. “I don’t want to let it die out. I want to pass it on to a new generation and bring Murano back to the splendour of its historic fame.”

Shrinking island

Murano employed close to 2,000 glassworkers at its peak. By 2023, that had fallen to between 60 and 70 active furnaces and 650 workers, squeezed by energy costs, cheap imported imitations, and a generation less drawn to the trade, according to Il Sole 24 Ore.

The furnace on Fondamenta da Mula now employs artisans, designers, and technicians. Half are women, and four work directly at the furnace, a rare ratio in a trade where apprenticeships traditionally passed from father to son. It also takes Erasmus students and interns, among them Annamaria Pergarido, a glassblower from Spain who arrived to study and stayed.

Source: https://italynow.co.uk/wave-murano-glass-trains-glassworkers-as-eu-label-nears/



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Glassblower and shop, Venice (*Credits: Italy Now*)

Learning by fire

Becoming a *vetraio* or *vetraia* (glassworker) takes years before a piece leaves the workshop clean. “It’s a very laborious job, you have to learn it over many, many years,” Pergarido said, “and it teaches you respect for the people who teach you.”

Part of it, she added, is pure artistry. The other part is harder to romanticize, and “it teaches you to work with all the *maestri*” (master glassmakers).

Wave Murano Glass is also active beyond the physical, maintaining a strong presence on Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

The label

Italy’s Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy cleared a third Veneto craft, Verona furniture, at

national level on October 1, 2026, after Murano glass and Burano lace. The label is a protected geographical indication (IGP), an EU designation that legally ties a product’s name to the place it is made.





Screenshot
Glassblowers, including Wave Murano Glass (*Credits: Italy Now, Wave Murano*)

Long limited to foods, it now covers craft goods, and the EU Intellectual Property Office is examining Murano glass after the July approval, ANSA reported. Murano sits inside Venice and its Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987.

The IGP sits alongside *Vetro Artistico Murano* (Murano Artistic Glass), the regional trademark managed by the Consorzio Promovetro. Neither label, on its own, replaces a workshop willing to teach the craft to someone new.

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