

ITALGRANITI GROUP

ITALGRANITI IMPRONTA ITALSTONE

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Press Release
TECNAwards 2026

Italgraniti Group is “Made in Italy Champion” at the TECNAwards 2026.

The Group was recognised for its ongoing commitment to innovation and investment in the most advanced Italian technologies. An award that celebrates a manufacturing model firmly rooted in Italy and geared towards competing at the highest level in international markets.

Italgraniti Group is “**Made in Italy Champion**” at the **third edition of the TECNAwards 2026**, the awards dedicated to excellence in the international ceramics industry, presented during the 29th edition of **TECNA – The Global Expo for Ceramics and More**, held in Rimini from 22 to 25 September. The award recognises the Group's ongoing commitment to investing in **innovation** and in the most advanced **Italian technologies** in pursuit of manufacturing excellence. It rewards a growth path in which the significant **investments** made in recent years have translated into distinctive industrial and technological assets.

“I am particularly proud to receive this award – said **Francesco Maturo, CEO of Italgraniti Group** – because it recognises a choice we have always believed in: continuing to invest in Italy, in innovation and in the best technologies our country has to offer, in order to compete at the highest level in international markets.”

Investing in Italy to build the future

One of the most significant expressions of this journey is **the technological upgrade and expansion of the production site in San Martino in Rio (RE)**, where, between 2023 and 2025, Italgraniti Group built a new plant specifically designed for the production of large-format porcelain stoneware slabs. The result of an investment of more than €60 million, the new facility has enabled the Group to strengthen its production capacity, innovation and competitiveness, while keeping the heart of its manufacturing operations firmly in Italy. The Group's production site incorporates advanced technologies designed to expand the aesthetic and technical possibilities of porcelain stoneware. Solutions such as **RealUp®**, which achieves perfect alignment between high-definition graphics and the three-dimensional structure of the surface, and **StrideUp®**, developed to combine high slip resistance with a surface that is pleasant to the touch and easy to clean, reflect research aimed at overcoming the traditional compromises between material appeal, functionality and performance.

These are complemented by **Grain-Tech®**, a technology that integrates the grains visible on the surface directly into the ceramic body, extending the distinctive material character of the texture throughout the entire thickness of the slab, and **Sana®**, which harnesses the antimicrobial properties of silver ions to help prevent up to 99.9% of bacterial growth on ceramic surfaces. Together, these innovations support the ongoing evolution of Italgraniti Group's product offering and reflect research consistently focused on combining aesthetic quality with technical performance.

Among the equipment installed in the new facility, the sorting line incorporates an advanced vision system dedicated to quality control, designed to detect potential defects in ceramic surfaces quickly, accurately and

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consistently. Using artificial intelligence, the system progressively learns from the reference models provided by the operator, refining its recognition capabilities with each inspection and helping to ensure increasingly high quality standards.

Innovation and environmental responsibility

Technological innovation and process sustainability go hand in hand in the strategy of Italgraniti Group, a Benefit Corporation and certified B Corp since 2022. The new San Martino in Rio facility will achieve **complete electrical self-sufficiency** thanks to a photovoltaic system, currently nearing completion, which will generate 1.38 million kWh per year at full capacity, together with a 5 MW cogeneration unit. Within the production cycle, **100% of process water is recovered**, while unfired and fired production waste is fully recycled and reintroduced into the manufacturing process. The Group's environmental strategy also includes a structured Carbon Management system. In 2026, the Group **introduced renewable natural gas**, which is expected to account for 5% of total consumption by the end of the year, with the goal of reaching 35% by the end of 2027. Once fully implemented, its use will make it possible to avoid 21,619 tonnes of fossil CO₂ emissions each year and reduce exposure to costs associated with the ETS.

Packaging also reflects this approach: **packaging materials use cardboard made from 100% recycled fibres**; for samples, the Build to Zero project **has eliminated polymers and plastic materials**, replacing them with paper and cardboard solutions containing a high percentage of recycled material.

The recently awarded **TECNAward** recognises the Group's vision of Made in Italy, one that brings together a **strong manufacturing base in Italy, investment capacity, technological research and environmental responsibility**: values that have always been part of Italgraniti Group's history and continue to guide its development strategies.

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Founded in 1994, Italgraniti Group is one of Italy's leading manufacturers of porcelain stoneware surfaces for architecture and interior design, combining innovation, aesthetics and sustainability. A family-owned company now in its third generation, since 2022 it has been a Benefit Corporation and certified B Corp, a prestigious recognition of its commitment to pursuing a business model that structurally integrates innovation with economic, social and environmental sustainability. Italgraniti Group provides designers and architects with some of the finest ceramic solutions for indoor and outdoor applications: surfaces characterised by innovation and versatility, with a wide range of applications in architecture and interior design. The Group's collections are a perfect expression of Made in Italy excellence, the result of design research in architecture and design, increasingly sustainable production processes, and some of the highest aesthetic and technical standards in the industry.

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