

THE ART OF IMPOSSIBLE
The story of an exclusive brand
of Czech crystal glass





GENESIS OF THE CRYSTAL LEGEND

1857

At the age of 24, a talented engraver Ludwig Moser opens his first shop in Karlovy Vary. He benefits from his apprenticeship years spent with master engravers Anton Heinrich Mattoni and Wilhelm Hoffmann. In the flourishing spa town, Moser enchants the high society from all over Europe with his ornated goblets.



1873

Thanks to the success at the World Fair in Vienna, Moser becomes the supplier to the court of Emperor Franz Joseph I. He also has sales representatives in London, Paris, New York and St. Petersburg.



1878

The Emperor grants Ludwig Moser a privilege "for decorating crystal with enamel paints and gold with a special technique".

1893

Moser builds his own glassworks. Together with his eldest sons Rudolf and Friedrich he founded the company Ludwig Moser and sons.



NEW CENTURY, NEW WAYS



1900

At the World Fair in Paris, Moser enjoys great success with Art Nouveau engravings made with the new "Eckentiefgravur" technique. Floral motifs fluently blend between the adjacent sides covering the entire surface of tinted vases.

1906

A series of vases combining engraving with inlays is awarded a prize at a show in Milan. Colourful fusions in shapes of blossoms and the spread of engraved floral motifs over the edges of the vases bring greater liveliness to the decoration and the entire object.



1900-1908

Moser receives medals from World Fairs and orders of merit from eminent rulers. Thanks to the success of the Royal collection, Moser becomes the court supplier of Edward VII, the King of England.



LEO MOSER PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES

1908-1932

Leo Moser (1879-1974) becomes the Technical (1908) and then Art Director of the glassworks (1916). In the laboratories of Berlin, he develops new types of coloured glass using precious metal oxides. These complement the unique range of Moser colours inspired by precious stones.



1911

Under the direct guidance of Leo Moser, the Splendid collection is created with a typical oroplastic - a relief gilded border with an ornamental motif.

1923

An extensive collection for Pope Pius XI gives the name to the so-called papal cut - style of cutting with facets ending in arches. The papal cut also appears on Cromwell and Lady Hamilton collections.



1925

The niece of Leo Moser, the painter and designer Lotte, enjoys success in Paris with an Art Deco vase called the Fan. Moser opens a representative sales gallery in Prague's "Černá růže" Palace.



FUNCTIONALISM REPLACES ART NOUVEAU



1934

Moser designer Rudolf Eschler creates timeless collections Bar and Culbuto. His drinking sets and vases are sought after by collectors to this day.

1936-1938

The Art Director is Arnold Zadikow, a sculptor of Polish origin with experience from Munich and Paris. In addition to cubist designs, he also created the Baroque collection inspired by history.



1940

Moser is awarded the Grand Prix at the seventh year of Milan Triennial for his refined cut vases designed by architect and designer Wolfgang von Wersin.

1930-1945

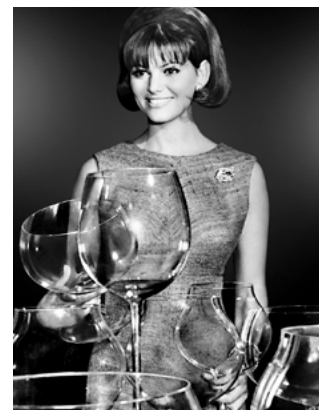
The most progressive designers of the pre-war and war period are Josef Hoffman, Siegmund Schütz and Alexandr Pfohl with his iconic Flying Set.



CENTURY OF MOSER CRYSTAL

1957

Moser celebrates 100 years of existence and establishes the Giant Snifters Club. Countless personalities, such as the Spanish King Juan Carlos I and his wife Sofía, the Japanese Princess Sayako, Louis Armstrong and Claudia Cardinale pass the special rite of passage.



1958

Moser Collection created by Věra Lišková, Adolf Matura, Jiří Harcuba, Oldřich Lípá, Miluše Roubíčková, Karel Jasný and other artists wins the Grand Prix Award at the World Fair in Brussels.



1960-2000

Several generations of artists, who become living legends of Czech and world glassmaking, meet in the glassworks. These include Ludvíka Smrčková, René Roubíček, Luboš Metelák, Vratislav Šotola, Vladimír Jelínek and František Vizner.



FAMOUS ARTISTIC ENGRAVING



Artistic engraving has always been one of the superior Moser techniques. The "royal crown" was passed from Ludwig to Johann F. Hoffmann, Konstantin Hable Sr., his son Konstantin Hable Jr. and Ivan Chalupka.



Engravings by Vladimír Skála, Milan Holubek, Roman Chalupka and Vlastimil Selinger are admired in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore or Taiwan. Tomáš Lesser has been recently awarded the Order of Arts and Literature by the French Minister of Culture.

Famous works of art and biblical scenes, floral or figural compositions become the themes of the engraving masterpieces. Hunting and animal themes are also popular.



GOLDEN CZECH HANDS

1992

Copenhagen becomes the exclusive drinking collection of Czech embassies around the world. Like Splendid, it also represents the Prague Castle.



2000

The Crystal Globe, designed by Tono Stano, becomes the prize and symbol of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Spanish director Carlos Saura became the first owner of the 42 cm high and 5 kg weighing statuette with a polished crystal ball. Later he was joined by Robert Redford, John Malkovich, Judi Dench, Danny DeVito, Morgan Freeman, Jude Law or Miloš Forman.



2018

Moser also prepared the magnificent decorative collection for the Spanish Hall of Prague Castle for the celebration of Czechoslovak Republic Centennial.



TRADITION AND EXPERIMENTS

2000-2020

Renowned artists as well as younger designers have been working for Moser. Works by Rony Plesl, Libor Doležal, Kateřina Doušová and Jan Čtvrtník appear side by side with objects of František Vizner, Jiří Suhájek or Jiří Pelcl. In 2012, the Art Director of the glassworks, Lukáš Jabůrek, won the Czech Grand Design Public Award with his Pear vase.

2004

The Moser drinking collection shines at the weddings of royal couples in Spain, Denmark and other countries. The Splendid thus adds a shine to the festive table in Copenhagen, the Copenhagen collection in Madrid.



2011

The Ludwig Moser Award, an annual competition for talented glass artists, was announced for the first time. The winners in the following years will be Tadeáš Podracký, Filip Dobiáš and František Jungvrt.



THE ART OF IMPOSSIBLE

2016

The glassworks has new owners who start to implement an ambitious plan to restructure the company to become the world's most luxurious brand of crystal.



2018

The company strengthens the share of the exclusive bespoke and signature projects and addresses customers with a new presentation of its hand-blown and decorated lead-free crystal, unparalleled in the world.



2019-2020

Moser presents a new visual identity. Hana Soukupová, a world model and a Karlovy Vary native, appears in the campaigns The Art of Impossible and It's a Matter of Taste.

