



Tinder Box[®]
Since 1928

**Ascoriti Christmas
Pipe History
1986-2011**



Tinder Box
Since 1928

Ascorti Christmas Pipe History



1986

A brief look at the production of the Ascorti Christmas Pipe made from 1986 to the present by Roberto Ascorti for Tinder Box 1986 – 2011



1989



1990



1991



1992



1993



1994



1995



1996



1997



1998



1999

In the years 1987, 1988, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, no Christmas pipe was produced. Other commemorative pipes were released in those years, such as an Ascorti 20th Anniversary Pipe in 2000, an Ascorti Special Edition Pipe Argento in 2001 and Tinder Box 75th Anniversary Pipe in 2003, but no pipe stamped “Christmas” or “La Pipa del Anno.”



2005 Katrina Auction Piece
(See addendum)

1986



The first Ascorti Christmas Pipe was an open edition. It debuted at the Tinder Box Annual Convention in the summer of 1986 and was released the following Christmas. It featured a distinctive Calabash shape with an Olive Wood accent at the bowl top. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1987 - No Christmas Edition Made This Year

1988 - No Christmas Edition Made This Year

1989



Edition of 500 pieces, the 1989 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was produced in a fumed top New Dear in a classic bent shape with a gold band. The Lucite stem was a Dunhill Cumberland style color.

1990



Edition of 500 pieces, the 1990 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a classic blonde Business in a cavalier shape bent with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was blonde in color.

1991



Edition of 200 pieces, the 1991 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a dark Russ finish in a straight panel billiard shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1992



Edition of 200 pieces, the 1992 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a fumed top Business in a bent shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1993



Edition of 125 pieces, the 1993 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a brown Business finish in a straight semi bulldog shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was a mottled ox blood brownish-red in color.

1994



Edition of 200 pieces, the 1994 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a red Business finish in a half bent shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1995



Edition of 100 pieces, the 1995 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a red Business finish in a poker shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1996



Edition of 100 pieces, the 1996 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a red Business finish in a quarter bent flat bottom egg shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1997



Edition of 125 pieces, the 1997 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a red Business finish in a quarter bent square shank billiard shape with a nickel band. The military fit Lucite stem was black in color.

1998



Edition of 98 pieces, the 1998 pipe was also produced in Russ, Nus and New Dear finish. The Lucite stem was black in color.

1999



Edition of 500 pieces, the 1999 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a red smooth finish in a quarter bent panel shape with a nickel band. The Lucite stem was black in color. The name was changed to La Pipa Del Anno for one year.

La Pipa Del Anno

2000 - No Christmas Edition Made This Year
2001 - No Christmas Edition Made This Year
2002 - No Christmas Edition Made This Year
2003 - No Christmas Edition Made This Year

2004



Edition of 150 pieces, the 2004 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a red Business finish in a full bent oom paul shape with briar extension. The Lucite stem was black in color. There were also a few smooth Rus and Nus finish pipes in this edition produced and sold.

2005*



Edition of 60 pieces, the 2005 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a classic smoke rim blonde Business finish in a remake of the 160 shape from the original Caminetto shape chart. The military fit Lucite stem was yellow in color with a sterling silver tenon. *A smooth natural version of this pipe was produced (1 pipe only) and donated by Roberto. It was auctioned off for charity on eBay with the proceeds going to the Red Cross for Katrina victims. (See addendum.)

2006



Edition of 60 pieces, the 2006 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a bulldog shape in a brown Business finish with a viola color Lucite ferrule. The military fit Lucite stem was viola in color.

2007



Edition of 60 pieces, the 2007 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a half bent poker shape in a red combination Business and smooth finish. The Lucite stem was white in color. The unique packaging was a red felt covered “tube”.

2008



Edition of 60 pieces, the 2008 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a full bent pumpkin shape in a brown Business finish. The Lucite stem was fitted with a brier ring insert extension and was black in color. This pipe was not stamped with an edition #. The edition size and number was included on a card accompanying the pipe.

2009



Edition of 60 pieces, the 2009 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a horn shape in a red Business finish with a viola color Lucite ferrule. The military fit Lucite stem was viola in color.

2010



Edition of 40 pieces, the 2010 Ascorti Christmas Pipe was a classic small Canadian shape with a Dunhill Cumberland style color mouthpiece.

2011



2011 was a very special year in the making of a Tinder Box 2011 Ascorti Christmas Pipe. Roberto & Silvana were at the Convention and Trade Show for tobacco retailers in Las Vegas in July of 2011. An idea was presented by Roberto to make an individual Christmas pipe for each specially selected Tinder Box location. He hand carved pipes based on shapes that each Tinder Box store designed and he hand stamped the pipe with that store location and or pipe designer name. Several Tinder Box stores were invited to participate in this very special edition.

2005 Katrina Auction Piece
Addendum

Ascoriti Pipe eBay® Charity Auction



For **Hurricane Relief**

Ascoriti

Tinder Box®
Since 1928



Connoisseurs the world over recognize that Ascorti pipes are simply the best. This well cured, century old briar is carved by hand to the optimum shape dictated by the natural grain of the wood itself.

Pipemaking craftsmanship at its very best by the master pipe maker Roberto Ascorti. Ascorti's briar is carefully cured and seasoned until all excess resin and moisture disappear, leaving a feather light and absorbent briar block. No two Ascorti pipes are ever exactly alike, as each is carved by hand to the optimum shape indicated by the natural grain of the briar. Fitted with a hand-carved Lucite stem which never tarnishes and with a glove. Production and availability are limited, but the wait is worth it.

In celebration of Christmas 2005, Tinder Box International had commissioned Roberto Ascorti to handcraft a simply exquisite Ascorti Pipe. This pipe was the wanting desire of any Ascorti pipe smoker or pipe collector in the world. Roberto had come up with a beautiful Business finish pipe in a fancy quarter bent Dublin shape with a silver spigot special yellow acrylic Lucite mouthpiece. The pipe had a special finish that was a traditional trademark of Ascorti Pipe in the 1970's. It is the distinctive "smoking ring" top that Peppino Ascorti made so famous. Only 60 of these pipes were made and allocated to only a very few Tinder Box stores.

Upon hearing of the disastrous hurricanes that ravaged the gulf coast and Florida during this past hurricane season in the United States, Roberto and his wife Silvana wanted to do something special that would benefit a hurricane relief charity. And that they did. Roberto hand carved one very special Ascorti Pipe, a smooth blonde natural finish pipe, in the same shape as the Business. This pipe, as with the Business is stamped "Special Edition Christmas 2005 for Tinder Box." But unlike the series of 60 Business finish that were individually numbered, this special pipe is numbered 00 of 60. This special Ascorti Pipe is custom boxed and accompanied with a special green pure cashmere glove. This pipe is new and unsmoked.

The entire proceeds of this auction will be donated to the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund under the names of Roberto & Silvana Ascorti and the winning bidder.

This pipe was on eBay starting Sunday, January 1, 2006 at 3:00 AM EST. This pipe remained on auction for 10 days.

It was won by Mr. Mario Persico of Downy California for the winning bid of \$355.01.

Tinder Box

INTERNATIONAL

January 11, 2006

Dear Mr. Persico:


Congratulations on having the winning eBay bid on the gorgeous Ascorti pipe so graciously donated by Roberto & Silvana Ascorti.

This pipe is marvelous. I have been in this business for many, many years, and this is one of the best I have ever seen from Roberto. It was inspired by reminiscing of some of the shapes Peppino used to carve back in the late 1970's. Beautiful. You have gotten yourself one gem of a smoking pipe.

A donation of the entire proceeds has been made in your name as well as the names of Roberto & Silvana Ascorti to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund.

Congratulations again, and thank you for your generosity on behalf of all the hurricane victims that will benefit from your kindness.

Kindest regards,



Gary Blumenthal
President
The Tinder Box International, Ltd.



Excerpt from the Mr. Persico email upon knowing he had the winning bid for this special Ascorti pipe.

Hello

I am very honored to win this pipe auction. I met Roberto at the R.T.D.A. show in Las Vegas in 1999. He made a special calabash pipe for me. I hope he remembers me...

...Again, I am honored to win this auction and proud to include my name with Roberto & Silvana for such a worthwhile cause. Thank you to the Ascorti's and the Tinder Box.

Sincerely,

Mario Antonio Persico

