

Raising the baa
Valle d'Aosta, Italy

Preface

Based in the Italian Alps, Valgrisa shows an alternative to mass-production by using locally sourced lambswool and centuries-old techniques.

Writer

Ivan Carvalho

Photographer

Alex Subrizi

When Italian label Valgrisa unveiled its first handcrafted jackets to the public in 2005, the company decided against a flashy presentation on Milan's catwalks. Instead, the owners made their debut in a medieval castle in Valle d'Aosta, a remote region of Alpine valleys in northwest Italy that the company calls home. "Unlike the big multinational firms where there's this ambiguity about where the product comes from, we wanted to celebrate the fact that we are very much a local business," explains Alessandra Fulginiti, Valgrisa's managing director.

Wool used in the label's classic outerwear is sourced from the surrounding valleys, where Rosset sheep graze in pastures as high as 3,000m. Valgrisa works closely with dozens of shepherds to protect this local breed as its numbers have fallen to below 2,000. Fulginiti values the Rosset's



01



02



03



04

- 01 Valgrisa's Silvia Tambosco (left) and Alessandra Fulginiti
- 02 Les Tisserands Cooperative
- 03 Emy Maguet works on a loom
- 04 Tailor Albino Lavo
- 05 Rosset sheep
- 06 Lodra' jacket



05



06

On the wool path

01



Shearing

The sheep are sheared twice a year, once in the autumn when the wool tends to be cleaner and once in spring. Each sheep provides 3kg of wool a year.

02



Weaving

Using a foot-treadle floor loom, an artisan from the Les Tisserands Cooperative weaves the wool into a heavy, coarse cloth that protects from rain and cold.

03



Cutting

With a piece of tailors' chalk, the clothes maker marks the outline of a jacket onto a swathe of fabric and begins cutting the necessary pieces.

04



Sewing

A seamstress sews the jacket's interior lining and then sews buttons, made from stags' horn, on to cuffs and collar.

05



Final touches

A tailor checks the sleeve length. The finished jacket is then placed on a hanger carved from cherry wood by Valle d'Aostan craftsmen.

All'aperto eats
Global

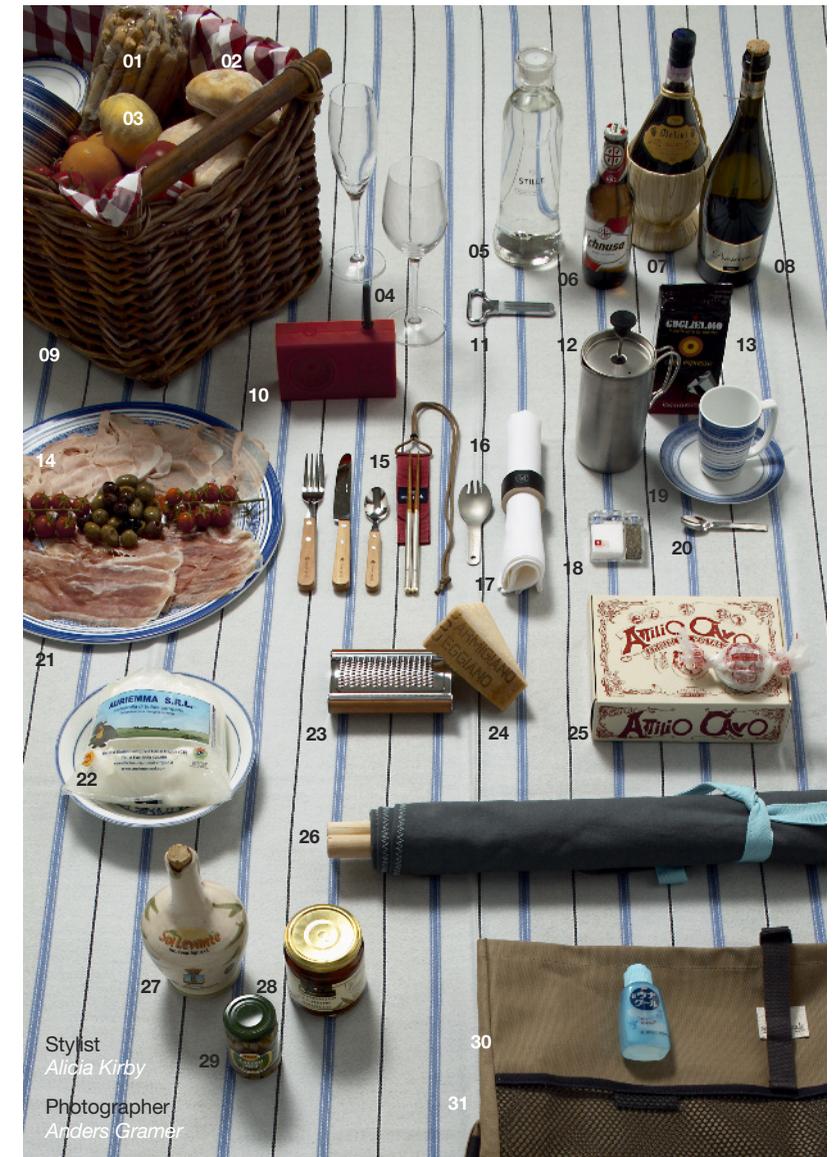
Preface

The best tableware, deli treats and everything else you need for a civilised, late summer lunch on the lawn. For an authentic Italian lunch at Monocle HQ we turn to Daniela's Deli in W9.

01 Grissini by Panealba, panealba.it, milletre.co.uk 02 Fabric by The Cloth Shop, theclothshop.net 03 Picnic food from Daniela's Deli 04 Glasses by Spiegelau, spiegelau.com, thesampler.co.uk 05 Water by Lurisia, lurisia.it 06 Ichnusa beer, birraichnusa.it 07 2006 Melini Chianti 08 Prosecco Contarini 09 Rug by Johnstons Home, johnstonscashmere.com 10 Tykho

radio by Lexon, lexon-design.com

11 Monopol bottle opener for Design Within Reach, monopol.de, dwr.com 12 Cafetière by Snow Peak, snowpeak.com 13 Coffee by Guglielmo 14 Parma ham negroni and Parmacotto from Modena 15 & 16 "Wood party" cutlery set, "Carry-on chopsticks" and "Spork" by Snow Peak 17 Napkin ring by Side by Side, sidebyside-design.de, thelollipopshoppe.co.uk 18 Salt and pepper holder by Swiss Spice, swiss-spice.com, dwr.com 19 Blaane cup and saucer by Wik & Walsøe, wik-walsøe.no 20 Teaspoon by Holland and Holland, hollandandholland.com 21 Blaane Plate by Wik & Walsøe 22 Campana Mozzarella, auriemmasrl.com 23 Alessi cheese grater, alessi.com 24 Parmigiano-Reggiano 25 Amaretti di Voltaggio from Pasticceria Cavo, Genoa, cavo.it 26 Solazy Chair, solazy.com 27 Sol Levante Extra Virgin Olive oil 28 Agromonte dried tomatoes, agromonte.it 29 Capers by Pucci, pucci.it 30 Muhi insect bite soother, ikedamohando.co.jp 31 Barbecue box carrier by Snow Peak



Stylist
Alicia Kirby

Photographer
Anders Gramer