

IMMEDIATE RELEASE / MARCH 19, 2007

ATTN: Garden Editor

Design/Home Editor

Economic Editor

SUBJECTS: Garden and Home Ornaments;

US-China Trade / US-Italy Trade

Marble Gardens News

Italian marble ornaments rebounding thanks to shoddy China production, and the surge in demand for stone kitchen counters.

"We are receiving many more inquiries for this time of the year than in the past 2 – 3 years, " says Ted Rosen, president of Marble Gardens, Andreas, PA. "Quality is becoming more important than price when it comes to marble garden ornaments," Rosen says.

Marble Gardens is a specialty producer of top-of-the-line, made-to-order marble ornaments, including benches, columns, fountains, bathtubs, sinks, vases, and ornaments of all types. The Marble Gardens workshop is located in Carrara, Italy, the world capital of marble.

"If you are putting a fountain in your garden, does it really matter if your total installed cost is \$5,000 or \$7,000 for an art object that will be there for generations?" says Rosen. "At first look I can understand the appeal of China's low prices, but the work is shoddy and China marble is much softer than Italian marble. When it comes to maintenance, our Italian marble and finishing technique resist dirt and ageing much, much better than China marble."

"We can also thank Home Depot and the hot market for marble and granite kitchen counter tops. American designers and consumers have become better informed, and are demanding higher levels of stone and workmanship," Rosen says. "They won't accept less than top quality stone work in their kitchens, and the same attitude, thankfully, is moving to their gardens."

Marble Gardens is a custom fabricator of Italian marble, granite and sandstone ornaments. Its workshop is in Carrara, Italy. Marble Gardens also offers a dozen exclusive designs for benches, columns, fountains, sinks and vases from its Frequently Requested Collection, which can be seen at www.marblegardens.com.

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For more information: (570) 386-3455

www.marblegardens.com

info@marblegardens.com