

FORGE

April 2020

Quality | Tradition | Original



The magazine for adventurers,
gourmets and enthusiasts of
authentic craftsmanship

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Dear Forge de Laguiole enthusiasts,

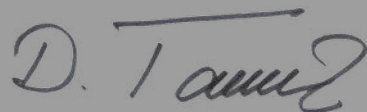
I am very pleased to welcome you to this first issue of our new FORGE magazine. A magazine for you. For loyal customers who have already appreciated Forge de Laguiole for years and who use our knives. For people who have just recently dived into the world of Laguiole. For adventurers. For gourmets. For wine and cigar lovers. For anyone who appreciates true craftsmanship, tradition and the highest quality "made in France".

I am sure: You will all love our new magazine. Because while reading this magazine and the issues to come you will understand better and better that we at Forge de Laguiole do not simply produce knives, but why there is so much more behind them. Beginning with the history of these legendary knives from a small village called Laguiole, all the way to the present time, where we combine innovation and tradition to spread the heritage of this region to the world.

For this purpose, we will open the doors of our Manufacture: our master cutlers will give you exclusive insights into their work and answer your questions. Be the first to learn about new products from Forge de Laguiole. Learn from experts about the correct handling of our knives. Benefit from exclusive private sales for magazine readers only. And most importantly:
let us surprise you, what else our Laguiole world has to offer.

Enjoy!

Derek Tanner
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Tanner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line above the "T".

Forge Focus

Because your cigar deserves perfection

You don't smoke a cigar, you enjoy it. Whether alone or in company - a good cigar brings calm into the hectic everyday life. A ritual that begins with the cut. And that is exactly why we at Forge de

Laguiolle have created a cigar cutter for the highest demands. As a magazine subscriber, you benefit from our exclusive private sale.



The Cigar's exact geographical and cultural origins have not been clarified to this day - but their history is even more exciting. Indigenous peoples of South America used it to get in contact with the gods. Christopher Columbus is said to have been the first European to come into contact with it. In colonial times, British sailors took them all over the world. The cigar.

Today it is the symbol of pure pleasure. Especially because in our increasingly hectic world - driven by digitalization and globalization - time has become a luxurious asset and the ritual of smoking a cigar demands and promotes just that much desired inner peace.

This does not begin with the actual smoking, but much earlier - with the cut. We at Forge de Laguiole have therefore created a cigar cutter that we ourselves have always wanted.





dark horn



briar



light horn



juniper



thuya

Forge Inside

"The human hand cannot be replaced by any machine"

In our interview series "Forge Inside" we open the doors of our Manufacture in Laguiole and let the people speak who make each of our knives so unique. In this issue: knifemaker Victorien explains why his work at Forge de Laguiole is much more than just a "job".

Victorien has been working as a cutler for Forge de Laguiole for over seven years. He creates knives for the whole world just with his hands. In this interview he gives an insight into his daily work and has useful tips for every knife lover.

Forge Magazin: Hey Victorien, you've been working with us as a cutler for seven years. But what actually brought you to knifemaking?

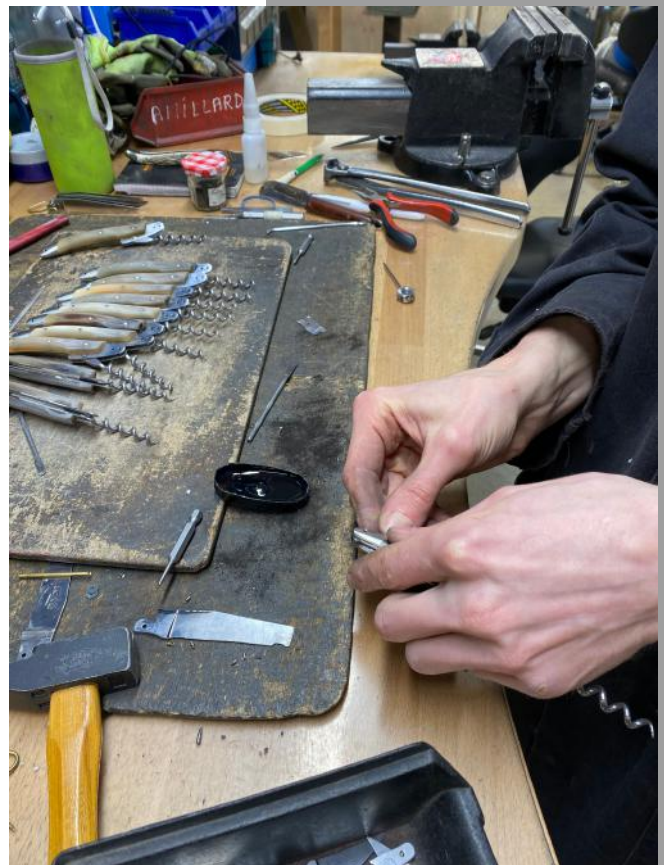
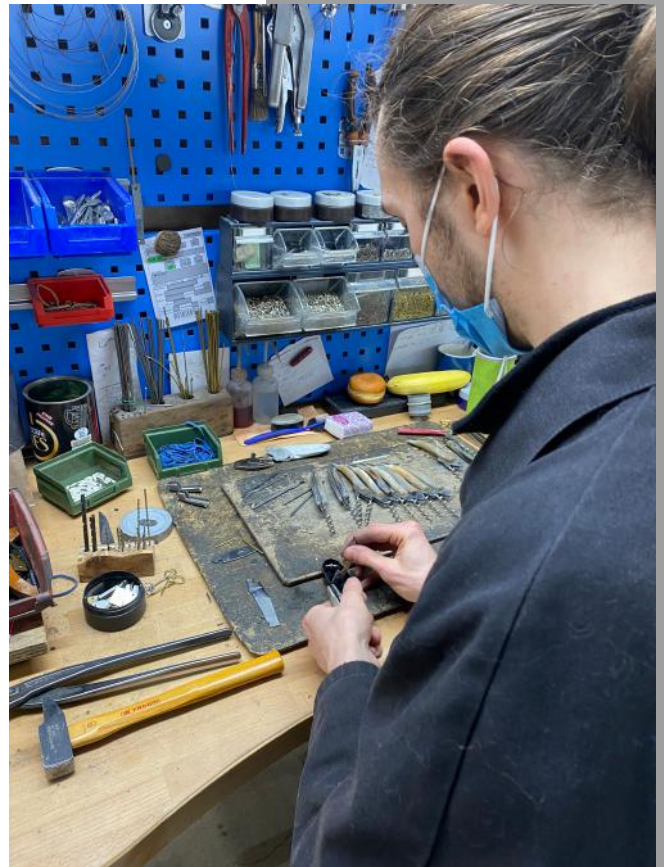
Victorien: Originally, I worked as a stonemason. However, at some point I got to the point where I wanted more fulfillment in my job. So I retrained and after a few internships, I immediately knew that I wanted to make cutlery. So I wanted to dive deeper into the subject. After all, I had the theoretical knowledge but no practical experience yet.

And that's where Forge de Laguiole comes in....

V: Right! Forge de Laguiole gave me the opportunity to learn the craft of cutlery and what can I say? I liked it so much that I stayed until today.

Did you already know Laguiole knives and the stories and traditions surrounding it when you started working here?

V: Genuine Laguiole knives have an excellent reputation, especially here in France. In the summer of 2005, I went to the village of Laguiole to learn more about the knife. From that point on, I understood what these knives really mean. Behind every knife is this special tradition and the desire to preserve it. For me, it's important to help with that. The rootedness with the homeland here on the Aubrac Plateau plays an elementary role for the people. The Laguiole knife is part of this homeland. And that's why it's so important to protect the knife and the craft.





I won't hand over the knife until I'm
100 percent satisfied.

What are the special challenges when you create a knife?

V: Throughout the entire process of creating a knife, we control the current state. After all, we work with natural materials. This means that imperfections can creep in that are not visible at first glance. We take our time for each knife. Only when I am 100 percent satisfied, I hand over the knife.

How long does it take you to finish a knife?

V: It varies depending on the model and complexity of the knife. We not only assemble our pocket knives here, but we also make all the individual parts in our forge. To give an example: For guilloching the spring and chiseling the bee, we need between ten minutes for a simple knife and sometimes several hours for more complex orders.

Where do you draw your inspiration for guilloching and engraving?

V: On one hand, I look to what's already out there for designs. Another source of inspiration is also nature. In the future, I would also like to include more and more personal elements, such as from illustrations or video games. There are exciting patterns there. That way I can give the knives my own touch.



Your knives are sold all over the world. How does that feel for you?

V: I feel proud whether one of my knives is used in another continent or in France. To make something with my mind, heart and my hands that is so popular all over the world fulfills me. The human hand cannot be replaced by any machine. You can't just mechanically put our knives together. That is out of question. Craftsmanship will always be at the heart of our knives.

What tips can you give Laguiole lovers?

V: Don't let your folding knife snap shut. When you close your folding knife, you should hold the blade. On a folding knife, the stop serves to prevent the blade from dulling when you close the knife. However, it does not prevent the edge from going onto the spring with momentum. My second piece of advice is to take care of your knife. Natural materials are alive. Therefore, they need to be taken care of. A knife that is not taken care of, even if it was of good quality to begin with, may eventually deteriorate

And what knife are you carrying right now?

V: I have a folding knife with a juniper handle. A colleague made it for me and I'm very happy with it!



La Mouche

The Legend of the bee

Is it a bee or maybe a fly? The symbol of the Laguiole knives still causes discussions among enthusiasts. There are many theories, explanations and stories. This is ours.



First of all, when a French knifemaker speaks of the "mouche", (means "fly" in english) he is referring to the headpiece of the spring that is responsible for locking the blade. The "fly" is therefore a technical term. However, in the early days of Laguiole knives, this part of the knife was still undecorated. In his book "Histoire du couteau de Laguiole", Christian Lemasson describes that the first decorated Laguiole knives appeared in the 1880s. The decoration of the mouches were ciseled out of the solid metal and were often in the shape of flowers and plants, such as lilies, daisies or shamrocks. Based on the different styles, the mouches thus became the distinguishing feature of the different knife artisans.

The knives for peasant use remained undecorated for a long time, only the knives intended for the wealthy clientele were guilloched.

The heyday of art. The development reached its "peak" in the following years at the end of the 19th century, as the mayor of Laguiole at the time, Dr. Salettes, stated in a letter. Intellectuals and artists discovered Laguiole knives in the capital's bistros, which were owned by people from the Aubrac region. The fashion of the magnificent Laguioles was at its height. Knifemakers competed with each other with ever new models," Lemasson outlines the heyday of the knives, in which "bird heads, horse hooves or little women's boots" were also popular symbols of the mouches.



The bee is born. Floral patterns were the decorative standard. It was only between 1908 and 1909, according to Lemasson, that a turning point occurred in the history of Laguiole knives. The blacksmith Jules Calmes is said to have been the first to decorate mouches with the motif of a bee at this time. Exactly why he did this is not documented. And this is exactly where the legend about Napoleon Bonaparte begins. The story goes that Napoleon has granted the people from Laguiole the use of the bee, his imperial symbol, in recognition of their heroic services during his many wars - this would suggest that it took almost 100 years for them to find a meaningful usage of this noble gift.

This leaves room for speculation. However, it is a fact that both the flower and the bee represent elementary components of the home of Laguiole knives. The flower as an element of the "rural imagery, fertility symbol and part of the food of the Aubrac cow". The bee, on the other hand, as pollinator of those flowers and renewer of this miracle of nature. The bee thus becomes an irreplaceable part of rural life for the people of the Aubrac region. A worthy symbol for our knives.



From Laguiole. For the world.

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www.forge-de-laguiole.com



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