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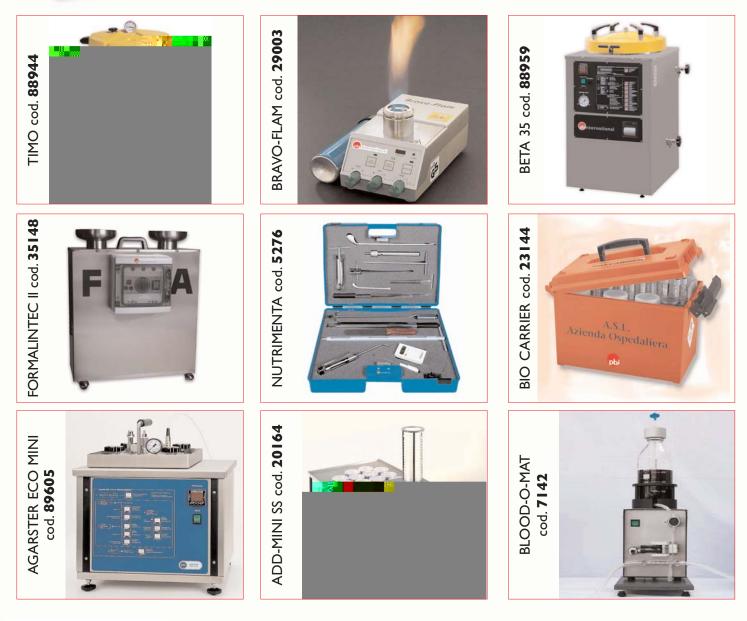


The Tower of Pisa, one of the most charming and well-known Italian monuments, has been proposed as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. Its construction began in August of 1173 and, after 1000 years, the Tower still dominates the Square of Miracles obliquely looking at everyone who thinks it can not last.

In the past, it was widely believed that the inclination of the Tower was part of its original design, but now it is known that it is not so. The Tower was design to be "vertical" (and even if it did not lean it would still be one of the most remarkable bell towers in Europe), and started to incline during its construction. Efforts were made to halt the incipient inclination through the use of special construction devices; later colums and other damaged parts were substituted in more than one occasion. Today, interventions are being carried out within the sub-soil in order to significantly reduce the inclination and to assure the Tower will have a long life.

It represents the Italian talent to come to an agreement with the physical laws to realise something sole and original. Hovering between heaven and earth, between tangible and transcendent, between science and creativity, the Tower of Pisa is the metaphor of Made in Italy.





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