

The great devotion to relics through the centuries has pushed the people of Agrigento to the expensive and precious search for containers rare beauty relics.

The small crystal bottle dating back to the historical period between the X and XVI century, is one of the specimens among of the six objects of Fatimid culture (Shiite Muslim dynasty that ruled over much of northern Africa, Egypt and Syria from the 10th to the 12th century) , in rock crystal preserved in Sicilian churches.

Thanks to a recent study from the University of Oxford, our small crystal bottle has been compared to the following museums and collections:

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; British Museum, London; Keir Collection, London; Victoria and Albert

Museum, London; Musèè du Louvre, Paris; Museo diocesano Fermo; Musei di Palazzo Pitti, Firenze; Tesoro di San Marco, Venezia; Museum fuer Kunst, Berlin; Museo del Ermitage, San Pietroburgo; Davids Samling, Copenhagen; Collection al-Sabah, Arabics art, Kuwait.

It has been found that the small crystal bottle of Agrigento from the rock is native of the Indian ocean and was then transported and marketed during the ninth and twelfth centuries to the central Islamic lands where it was worked and decorated with precious works and then introduced in the Swabian Norman court.

Subsequently, in 1598 under the bishop Giovanni Oroczo Covarruvias, the small bottle is thought to have been covered with silver till today.



## THE CRYSTAL RELIQUARY OF ROCCA SAN GERLANDO

