

Video transcript

A few weeks ago, I visited the "Blažeković medičar i voskar" workshop where the spouses Josip and Antonia run sixty years old family business of making of making licitar decorations. Licitar is a traditional Croatian gingerbread like biscuit which is completely handmade, and it is so special that the craft of making it has been listed on the UNESCO list of the intangible cultural heritage. You might remember the wreath I posted on my facebook a month ago which was completely made of these ornaments. The story of the wreath begins in the Blažeković workshop in 2014 when I decided to surprise my mom with the Christmas present as I was in Australia at the time. So, she was over the moon when she got it and I fell in love with it when I saw it live this Christmas, so I had to show you how these little things are made. Their preparation takes around two or three weeks and first dough is made and knead than the shapes are cut out and placed on the baking trays and then they are baked for about five minutes and left on the side to cool. The process of gluing, it is very interesting as they glue two pieces together with a string in the middle, so you were able to hang them on your Christmas tree or anywhere for that matter. After the glue has completely dried, the little houses and Christmas trees or hearts which are the most known shapes are dipped into a special colour mixture and once again left to dry. The final part of the whole process is decorating of the ornaments with frosting and this is where Antonia really shows how incredibly steady handed, detail-orientated and concentrated you have to be to make these delicate designs. She also showed me one of the bigger pieces of their Christmas collection which was this magical Christmas tree with red decoration and some mirrored details. Another incredibly interesting piece of information for me as a linguist especially, is that there are heaps of words adopted to the Croatian language from German that are only used in the context of the licitar production. "Tunkanje" which stands for dipping of the ornament in colour, than we have "abzecanje" which is the process of placing them on baking trays "štehanje" which is the process of cutting out the shapes from the dough and there is also one that I liked the most is "ajzanje" and that is the process of the final decoration of the ornaments. After a few very informative hours with Josip and Antonia, it was my time to try out how hard it is to do the decoration part. Antonia was reassuring me that I wasn't that bad, but when you look at these two together you can clearly see which one was made by me. I hope you liked this video and seeing a little bit of

Croatian tradition. If you did, let me know in the comments and subscribe to my channel for more awesome videos from all around the world, and if you ever come to this part of the world, make sure to get yourself one of these authentic Croatian souvenirs. I'll see you in my next video and until then leave the fear and live you dreams.