



COLORADO
STONE QUARRIES

AMERICAN vs. ITALIAN MARBLE





History of Italian Marble

The history of Italian marble dates back to at least the 2nd century BC during the Roman Empire, when marble quarries were very significant. The use of marble in the Roman world was common for public and private building use. One of the most iconic structures in the world was created from Italian marble, including the magnificent colonnade of Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican. After the fall of the Roman Empire, marble production did not recover until around the 11th century. It was then that some of the most highly prized marble in the world was discovered throughout Italy.

Due to the deep history of Italian marble, it has become globally known as the most prestigious marble available. Marble quarried out of the Apuan Alps in Carrara, Italy, has remained the most popular marble throughout history. Some of the most popular Italian marbles are White Carrara, Calacatta, and Bardiglio.

Most buyers are surprised to learn that a large portion of the marble market is, in fact, quarried and produced right here in the United States. With the rising cost of Italian marble, the environmental impact – carbon footprint, and the local availability of stunning marble, purchasing marble within the United States is becoming a better option both environmentally and financially.



History of American Marble

The Pride of America Mine with quarrying roots dating far back in American history lies deep in the West Elk Mountains, in the Crystal River Valley of Marble, Colorado. Yule Marble was first discovered here in 1873. Since then, miners have worked hard to ensure the prestigious Yule marble was highly recognized and sought after in America and throughout the world.

The Lincoln Memorial, an iconic historic structure, was created from stunning Calacatta Lincoln marble – a type of Yule Marble. Other well-known historical structures designed and created using Colorado Yule marble include The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Denver Capitol Building, the Denver Courthouse, and many others.

Today, Colorado Stone Quarries has the honor of preserving and continuing the legacy of America's quarrying tradition. Our team uses the best Italian quarrying techniques, developed over hundreds of years, and the most sophisticated technology to continue to produce and supply the finest marble products to the world market! Our marble is comparable to the highly sought-after Italian marble White Carrara, Calacatta, and Bardiglio.

- Our Calacatta marble is comparable to Italian Calacatta
- Our Statuario marble is comparable to Italian Statuario
- Our Lincoln Silver marble is comparable to Italian Bardiglio



History of Yule Marble and Colorado Stone Quarries

Multiple individuals and companies operated the Yule Marble Quarry over a few decades. In the early 1900s, the Yule Marble Quarry was considered the world's largest and best-equipped marble mill, with a daily output of 1,500 cubic feet. Operations at the quarry were reduced in 1917 due to World War I and closed in 1941 due to World War II. The quarry was re-opened in 1990 and has gone thru a number of owners.

Colorado Stone Quarries was founded in 2011 by R.E.D. Graniti, a world leader in the mining and marketing of stone worldwide based out of Carrara, Italy – which lies in the heart of the Apuan Alps. Since 2011, R.E.D. Graniti began further establishing Colorado Stone Quarries and the historical Yule Marble Mine in Marble, Colorado, naming it The Pride of America Mine.

During the first years of The Pride of America Mine operation, our quarry team operated in the original quarry, which was historically named the "Washington" quarry. Colorado Stone Quarries' first marble mined, Calacatta Golden, was given its name due to the close veining to historical Calacatta marbles from Carrara. The name Calacatta originally stems from "Calacata" (one "t"), originating from a specific area in the Torono Basin of the Apuan Alps, Crestola. A specific type of veined Carrara marble has been quarried for centuries in Crestola.

Our quarry team soon opened a new portal at The Pride of America Mine that they named "Lincoln," patriotically thematic with "Washington." When Sales Manager, Marco Pizzica, received the new marble blocks extracted from the Lincoln portal, he noticed the characteristics and veining were also strikingly similar to the historical and prestigious Italian marble, Calacatta. Naming our new material discovered in the Lincoln portal "Calacatta Lincoln" seemed natural for our team.

The name Calacatta Lincoln represents the significance of the history and culture of Yule Marble and the historical mine and the origination of marble and our founders.

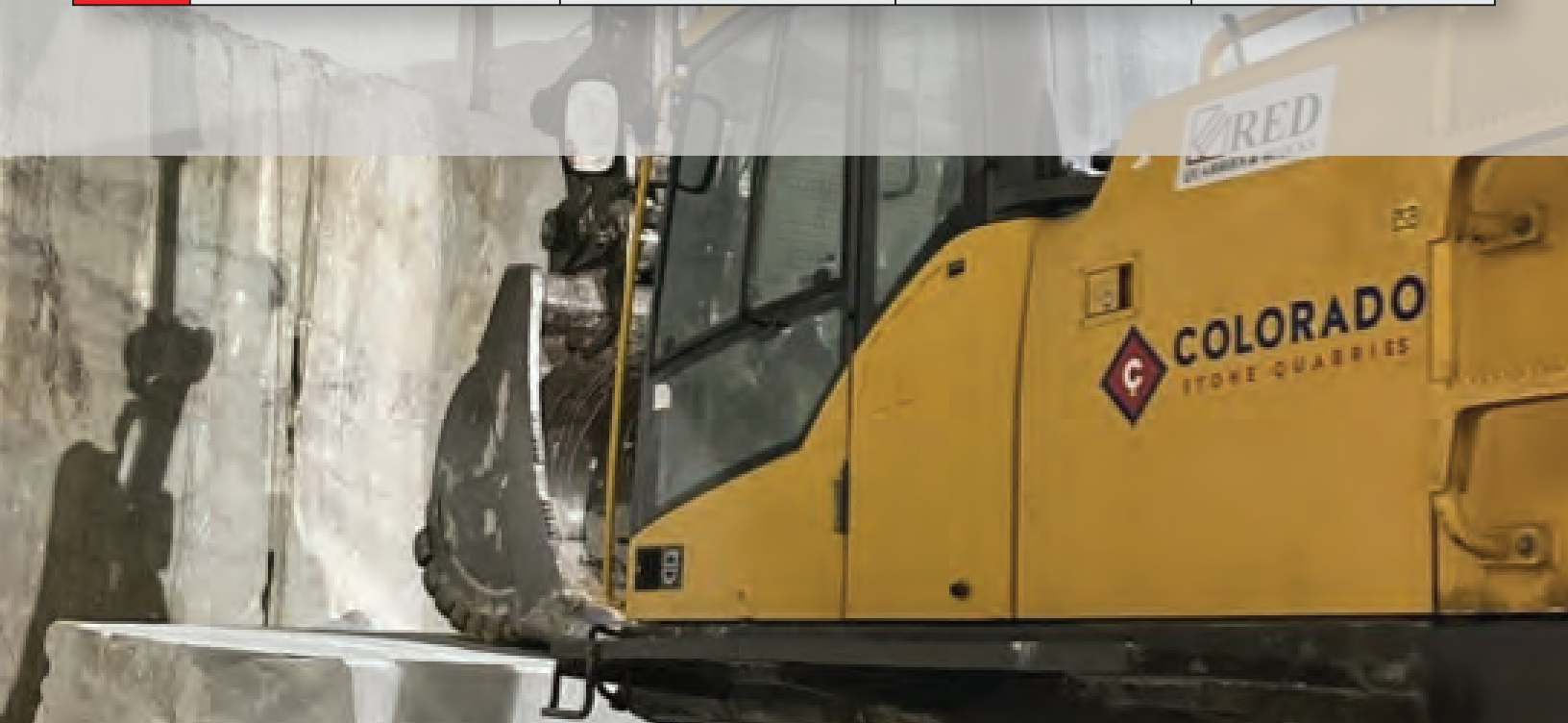
Colorado Stone Quarries' marble holds deep ties to Italian marble, and due to different aspects, our marble is competitive and comparable to the historically sought-after Italian Marble.

Below is a deep dive into the pros and cons of purchasing Italian vs. American marble and what buyers can expect:



Italian VS American

	AVAILABILITY	LEAD TIME	CARBON FOOTPRINT	COST
ITALIAN	<p>Most Italian Calacatta and Statuario quarries are underground and open year round. The problem with the availability of Italian Calacatta and Statuario marbles, is more of consistency in characteristics than availability of marble as a whole. There is a huge amount of quarries in Italy, but each has their own Calacatta and Statuario characteristics.</p>	<p>Italian marble has a much longer lead time for American buyers- the distance is greater and it is more difficult to ship overseas. Shipping from overseas increases leadtime, and the import process adds another layer of time and complexity.</p>	<p>The increased distance to ship marble from Italy results in a larger carbon footprint. The shipping and freight emissions contributions are high!</p>	<p>The freight costs of shipping marble overseas is also higher. Due to the rarity of some of the more desirable Italian Calacatta and Statuario marble, prices are often much higher.</p>
AMERICAN	<p>Multiple quarries, including Colorado Stone Quarries, are underground mines that quarry year round. This creates large and consistent availability of premium white marble with extremely timeless and elegant veining and patterns.</p>	<p>The lead time of American marble is naturally faster than overseas purchases. Shipping and freight requirements and process are simpler when shipping via ground. Marble slabs are ready to ship and loaded- it's both faster and more convenient.</p>	<p>Shipping from within the United States is, comparatively, more environmentally friendly. International shipping leads to higher risk and a negative impact on the environment.</p>	<p>Ground shipping is more economical than overseas freight. Also, considering the availability of American marble, prices are very often more competitive than many Italian Calacatta and Statuario.</p>





Why USA Marble

Yes, the most yearned for and stunning marble has come from Italy for centuries. However, many would be surprised the gorgeous marble and the true quality that is quarried right here in the USA.

CSQ's marble was used in the Lincoln Memorial and has been chosen for some of the finest projects. Vermont Quarries Danby Marble was chosen to complete the Jefferson Memorial, the Supreme Court, and the Arlington National Amphitheater.

In fact, the price of Italian marble has risen so much, that between convenience of location and a lower carbon footprint, many buyers are noticing locally sourced USA marble as the more viable and cost-effective option.

Your budget can go further without sacrificing on quality.





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