



The International Trappist Association (ITA)

The International Trappist Association (ITA) currently brings together 15 Trappist abbeys around the world, in which trappist monks and nuns market and/or produce a varied range of products for sale themselves. It is a non-profit association. The association aims to guarantee the exceptional quality of these products. In addition, the ITA protects the name "Trappist®" and the core values with which the products are associated.

- **Members and their values**

All abbeys affiliated to the ITA belong to the Order of Cistercians of Strict Observance (OCSO). Trappist monks and nuns live according to the Rule of St. Benedict (480-547) and Cistercian spirituality.

Prayer and silence

The economic activities carried out by the affiliated communities are permeated by prayer, silence and responsibility. Trappist monks and nuns participate directly in the management or production. They take care of the well-being of their employees and provide correct information to their consumers. In addition, they pay attention to environmentally friendly and sustainable production. Quality comes before quantity. Ethical and solidarity considerations influence the marketing policy and sale of their products.

- **Objectives of the IVT: vigilance and care**

With their productive activities, the members of the ITA are part of the market economy. The monastic values, which influence their production policy, guarantee the unique identity of each individual product. The ITA ensures that the affiliated abbeys find the right balance between their spiritual tradition and business objectives. To do this, it provides assistance and support:

- protecting the Trappist® brand and the common economic interests of Trappist communities;
- to provide correct information about the Order of Cistercians of Strict Observance;
- to promote collaboration between abbeys;

- further develop the network of solidarity and collaboration with other Trappist abbeys and strengthen it.

Trappist®, a protected name

To certify the origin of their products, all Trappist abbeys in the world can associate the name Trappist® with their products. The "Trappist®" trademark is protected. Outside of this context of Trappist communities, no one can or has the right to use the Trappist® name.

Authentically sourced

Since monastic life stimulates the imagination of many producers, the ITA scrupulously watches that the name Trappist® is not misused. It is precisely in this protection that ITA finds its origin: the association was founded in 1998 to unequivocally inform the consumer about the origin and authenticity of Trappist® brand products.

TRAPPIST® product with ATP brand

While all Trappist abbeys have the exclusive right to use the Trappist® label, ITA members – after completing the necessary application and approval process – can boast the Authentic Trappist Product (ATP) quality label.

A Trappist® product with the ATP label guarantees not only monastic provenance, but also that it has been produced in accordance with the strict guidelines set by the IVT for the award of the label.