

## Albarello Drug Jars 17C



The Lip around the top of the jar allows a parchment cover to be held in place with string. The wasted form allows removal from a shelf full of these jars positioned side by side.

This style of jar originates in the Near East in about the 12th century and it was a fairly common production by Moorish potters in late 15th / 16th century Spain.

They were imported into Italy where they were immediately copied by Italian Maiolica potters – it is possible that Malaga wares (opus de Melica) were the origin of the name Maiolica.

Apart from drugs, they were used to store pigments, scents, cosmetics, and sweetmeats.

The helping hand motif relates to medicines.