

RUSSIAN SANTAS FROM SANTAS.COM

Russian Santas are hand-carved from a solid piece of wood and hand-painted by select artists from all over Russia. The wood used is from the Linden tree (lime), commonly known in North America as basswood, and is carefully selected and typically dried for at least two years. More often than not the master carvers and painters are two different people, with the painter being referred to as the 'artist' and the one that signs the finished carving. Most artists work directly with several master carvers depending on the size and style of carving they wish to paint.

Carvings were traditionally carried from village to village to be exquisitely hand-painted by selected, talented artists. In some cases, figures travel over a thousand miles and it may take several weeks or months to complete a single piece. The magnificent painting on each woodcarving is unique to that artist and usually portray scenes from the winter holiday seasons and characters from Russian folklore.

It is very common to see carvings of Russian Santas and Father frost with characters such as the Snow maiden, angels, children (representing the coming year), or a traditional Troika (three horses pulling the sleigh) in a winter scene. Modern (since the late 1990's) pieces have become Americanized with beautiful scenes of the American version of Santa Claus and our own holiday traditions painted on the carvings. For centuries carvings were highly lacquered to protect the painted scenes and the wood from the elements of time, whereas some of the newer carvings have a matte finish for a different look.

Unlike mold-cast figures, the result of a hand-carved, solid piece of wood is that each and every piece is an original, one of a kind piece of art – not uncommon in the art world, however very unique in the collectibles industry.

Santas.com works with dozens of Russian craftsmen and artists specializing in Russian Santas, known in Russia as Father Frost or Ded Moroz figures. This classic collection of majestic Santa carvings, each carved and painted in the rich detail characterized by traditional folklore, is certain to bring you good tidings of the season as well as a valuable heirloom to be passed on for generations.

