

## **A study in elegance : Deruta Albarello drug jar c 1505.**

### **Contributors**

The Distillers Company (Biochemicals) Limited

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*A study  
in pharmaceutical  
elegance*



DERUTA ALBARELLO DRUG JAR c 1505

DERUTA ALBARELLO DRUG JAR c. 1505

The early XVth century Italian drug jar in our illustration was made in Deruta. It once contained Madiera, an electuary of zanzibarium seeds, the fruits of sumach and myrobolan (still used in tanning and dyeing) and the dried flowers of the wild pomegranate. Ground to a powder and moistened with a little vinegar, these ingredients were mixed with powdered ashes of ivory, mastic gum and gum arabic and cooked in myrtle syrup. The electuary was highly astringent and was given internally for its dramatic haemostatic effect.

*Painted from the original in the possession of  
MR. H. E. BACKSON, M.F.S., OF SALINGTON.*

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