



140  
YEARS

ALBINI GROUP × MONOCLE

## FITTING CELEBRATION

### *Albini Group, Italy*

For 140 years family-owned Italian company Albini Group has woven premium natural fibres with passion to create some of the finest shirting fabrics in the world. Its high-quality cotton seeds are selected and cultivated in Egypt; one is the rare Giza 45. Spinning, weaving and finishing take place at its base in Bergamo, where Albini Group opened its doors in 1876; it now has about 1,400 employees and seven industrial sites in Italy and wider Europe. Today, led by fifth-generation Silvio, Fabio, Andrea and Stefano Albini, the company honours its commitment to heritage and craft, having named actress, model and philanthropist Elisa Sednaoui as the “godmother” of its anniversary. Sednaoui and Albini Group are a natural fit. Born to an Egyptian father and an Italian mother, Sednaoui established the Elisa Sednaoui Foundation (ESF) in 2013 to develop educational programmes aimed at fostering creativity in young people. Albini Group’s support of the ESF is another example of the textile leader’s contribution to a brighter future.

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**1876**

*The company was founded by Zaffiro Borgomanero with 40 looms and 44 workers*

**1992**

*Two historic British brands were acquired: Thomas Mason and David & John Anderson*

**1996**

*The path of vertical integration was started by the acquisition of a finishing plant near Varese*

**2009-2010**

*Albini Group opened a weaving mill and a dyeing plant in Egypt and began an innovative project of cultivation of the best-quality cotton in the country*

**2016**

*Marks 140 years of operation naming actress, model and philanthropist Elisa Sednaoui as the godmother of its anniversary*



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**ELISA SEDNAOUI AND  
 ALBINI GROUP**

*Weaving the future*

Elisa Sednaoui was heartened when she heard that Albini Group had decided to honour Egypt, its raw materials' country of origin, for its anniversary. "It is important to celebrate what is positive: quality work, determination and models of sustainable production

and solidarity," she says. "Albini Group has pledged to train staff on the fields, even in Egypt; the company respects the people who work with it; and its fabrics are traceable. It is possible to know exactly where each fabric comes from." She hopes their work together will continue. "Mr [Silvio] Albini and I are already discussing how to create an entirely experiential programme around the production of cotton for young people."



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**Q&A**

**Elisa Sednaoui**

*Actress, model and founder of the Elisa Sednaoui Foundation (ESF)*

**Q** *What made you decide to work with Albini Group?*

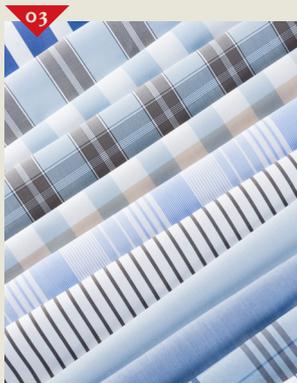
**A** Our collaboration seemed obvious and natural. The Albini brand is Italian like me and it fights for the production of natural cotton of the highest quality, which is made in Egypt, a country close to my heart.

**Q** *Can you tell us more about your foundation?*

**A** Some years ago, while working on a project in Egypt, I visited a rural school run by volunteers. The children were about six years old. That day I was shown again, after my childhood in Egypt, the thirst for knowledge of these children and their need for more educational opportunities. The ESF creates cultural centres that provide after-school programmes that focus on the arts in the broadest sense. Children can have lessons in painting, music and more. The basic idea is to create sustainable centres that can be replicated around the world.

**Q** *What is next for the ESF?*

**A** In May we held our first national workshop in Bra in Italy to train operators and others who work in centres created by Save the Children all over the country. This was to build the foundations for our weekly classes, which will start in September.



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**Q&A**

**Silvio Albini**

*Albini Group co-owner*

**Q** *What does the 140th anniversary mean to the company?*

**A** Our mission for 140 years has been to create perfection, starting from the simplicity of the cotton seed. The Albini family has woven a strong relationship with its territory and its employees. We move onwards with solid roots to discover new horizons.

**Q** *Why did Albini Group choose Elisa as anniversary 'godmother'?*

**A** For her affinity with fashion and her connection with Egypt but also for her ethical values, synonymous with a beauty that goes far beyond pure aesthetics.

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**01** Albini Group is the only Italian cotton textile company to have total control of its production cycle, every stage of which is carried out in Italy

**02** The company produces more than 20,000 fabrics for customers in more than 80 countries

**03** State-of-the-art technology combines with an artisanal approach for high-quality results

*Albini* •1876•

[albinigroup.com](http://albinigroup.com)

**Instagram:** @albinigroup1876

[elisasednaoui.org](http://elisasednaoui.org)

**Instagram:** @elisasednaouifoundation