
Variety Lexicon: Carrara / Calacatta / Travertine / Emperador / Granite Classics

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Intended readers: designers / procurement

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Carrara

The collective name for white marbles from the Carrara region of Italy: pale grey-white ground with fine grey veining. The sculptural and architectural classic since the Renaissance. The value-for-money entry point of the white family — control batch colour bands.

Calacatta

A rare premium white marble: whiter ground with bold gold-brown / grey-violet veining; book-matched slabs are dramatically expressive — a staple of luxury hotel feature walls. Priced significantly above Carrara; allow slab-selection lead time.

Travertine

Formed by hot-spring deposition; voids and horizontal bedding are its signature — the essence of ancient Rome. Available vein-cut and cross-cut; voids need filling and re-polishing. Suitable indoors and out; choose dense grades for exterior use.

Emperador

A deep-brown Spanish marble with white veining, strongly luxurious. Light and dark grades exist; watch cloud-like colour variation and white veins — feature walls need slab selection.

Granite ("Ma Stone")

The South-China colloquial term for granite. Mainstream workhorses: G603 (Fujian white granite), G654 (dark grey), G682 (rusty yellow) — high hardness, weather-resistant, excellent value; the mainstay of outdoor and public spaces.

Lexicon or Slabs?

Lexicons build your judgement framework; final procurement must be based on actual slab photos and sealed samples. HSST offers a direct-supply library of 180+ quarries with a live slab album.