

[home](#)[about](#)[pictures](#)[works](#)

## Fighting the godfather February 11, 2007

Posted by [japanesemaple](#) in [comment posts](#), [trackback](#)

The stereotype of stereotypes about my country goes: "Italiano, pizza, pasta, mandolino, Mafia". Personally I've never taken it bad. First, because it's kind of funny. Secondly, because it's well-known that cliché always describe the slightest part of reality.

Even so it's a blow to remember that there's a touch of truth in it. And I'm not referring to the gastronomical/entertaining part. An article in last week's *Economist* reminded me that the Mafia issue in Southern Italy is still an open wound.

In regions such as Campania, Sicily, Calabria, honest people and *mafiosi* live and work side by side. The former in the daylight, the latter in the darkness of the racket. Sometimes they run into each other like when Mafia's initiates broke into the workshop of Cooperativa Valle del Marro, in the town of Gioia Tauro.

If at first sight seems that mafia rules without interferences, a closer look reveals that a number of people refuses to stay idle.

Cooperativa Valle del Marro is a good example. A group of young people gathers and seeks to establish a legitimate business in Calabria with assets seized from the Mafia. Racketeers attack it because no one should defy the criminal organization's power. Yet, the co-operative's only answer is to double the cultivated area and increase the production of olives.

Southern Italy is not only Mafia. This might sound rhetorical but it is also brave people who challenge Mafia's widespread power. Racketeers try to shut down any attempts of rebellion. Yet, these keep on existing, silent and stubborn. A sort of non violent – in this case – farming struggle.

In the light of what said, will Italian stereotype ever change to "pizza, pasta, mandolino", and olive fields?

### Comments»

no comments yet – be the first?

message

name

search

go!

#### February 2007

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

[« Jan](#)

#### Recent Posts

- Fighting the godfather
- Italy I love you, but...
- The importance of a 'mens sana in corpore sano'
- Thoughts of a depressing day.
- Earth, Earth burning bright.

#### Categories

- comment posts
- personal
- randomly
- reviews

#### Archives

- February 2007
- January 2007
- December 2006

#### Blogroll

- WordPress.com
- WordPress.org

#### Pages

- About
- Pictures
- Works

FEEDS FULL COMMENTS