

THEY EAT, WE WORK!

A message from Clash City Workers (Italy)

Don't believe the hype! Eataly's success has been built on the backs of workers with **no job security, dangerous overwork, and unreliable last-minute scheduling**. Don't believe us? Ask an Italian!

Since Eataly opened its first location in Italy back in 2007, workers have been offered one-month contracts with no guarantee of renewal, an unrealistic and unsafe work pace, and weekly schedules that are disclosed less than 24 hours in advance and constantly change. Overworked and constantly intimidated by the threat of not being renewed, workers are given a variety of different contracts to make it difficult for them to organize together. Workers who complain about these unfair and illegal procedures are quickly out of a job. The message is clear: **if you aren't willing to put up with unacceptable exploitative working conditions, Eataly will find someone who will - for the short time until they too are gone.**

Wherever it goes, Eataly claims that all these conditions are only temporary, while the company gets off the ground. We hear this a lot in America from "boutique" startups, hipster entrepreneurs, and "family businesses". But it didn't take long after Eataly hit Florence for the workers to figure out that these unacceptable working conditions are actually just **how the company does business: inflexibility in what is asked of the workers is mirrored by a great deal of flexibility when it comes to their rights**. And just like in the states, they can only get away with it - and will

continue to get away with it - as long as we don't fight back.

On August 30th and 31st, 2014, some of the workers in Florence whose contracts had not been renewed for the following month called for a **two day strike**. Over 100 people came out to support four striking workers, many of whose co-workers were in support but feared retaliation if they joined in. The situation in Italy remains tense, with the bosses afraid things will pop off any minute.

We stand with these workers, and with exploited workers in Italy, the US, and the world over. Service workers in the US face the same conditions of instability and exploitation in the workplace. The recent publicized struggles of the fast-food workers have brought the **meager conditions of service workers in the US** to the public arena, and the Fast Food Forward (FFF) campaign is only the first step toward a real movement. **Eataly offers no alternative to this model of exploitation, but rather fits right into it.** Despite the company's 'slow food' approach, which makes of terms such as 'responsibility', 'sustainability' and 'sharing' the very key terms and guidelines for business, Eataly's case shows how working conditions in its fancy stores are not very different than those experienced in the ugly kitchen of some fast-food chain.

American workers have more in common with Italian workers than with their American bosses! We stand in solidarity, across a great ocean, against all who treat our lives as cheap and disposable.

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