

THE COFFEE FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IMPORTED BY ALTROMERCATO AND ROASTED AT CAFFÉ SANT'EUSTACHIO

Junta Monseñor Romero is a co-op founded in 1998 by associations of farmers with the aim to start a social development program; it is active in Guaguá, next to the city of La Vega. In Dominican Republic land property is one of the major problems for farmers. In the region where the **Junta** is active, 2% of the population owns almost 40% of the land, which is occupied by large estates used for extensive livestock breeding. Here, farmers work the land on behalf of others and earn little money, so the youngest ones look for the opportunity to leave rural areas, where the poverty rate is getting higher and higher. The few farmers who own their land live in great difficulty.

The Junta has the objective to improve the life standard of its associates. It works for **social self development and to create public services**, it promotes the attainment of economical and material resources, it encourages supportive relationships with alike organizations and it offers trainings on its work. In cooperation with MLAL (Movimiento Laicos para America Latina – Lay Movement for Latin America), Junta Monseñor Romero developed the project to build the **Factoria de café La Unión** – a premise where the coffee of the associates is processed (stoned, washed, dried in the sun, mill-cleaned, selected and stored). In 1991, the Junta exported, by means of Ctm, the first **50 coffee bags** destined to fair trade.

Despite all the ups and downs - Hurricane George that destroyed the 1998/99 crop, the loans taken out by the Junta and the “broca” insect that destroyed part of the stored beans – the coffee from the Junta, since its establishment, comes regularly to Italy. The **coffee** from Dominican Republic, positively influenced by the ocean warm streams and continuous breezes, was brought to the island by some French agronomists in the 8th century (one of the oldest settlement of America). The coffee, **100% Arabica** blend, is favoured by the geographic conformation of the mountain ranges located in the West of the island. This coffee distinguishes itself among products with the same origins for its good body, chocolatey aroma, low-medium acidity and a remarkable creaminess in the Espresso extraction.

Who is Ctm Altromercato?

Ctm Altromercato is a Consortium made out of 120 non-profit organizations that are active in the fair and supportive trade in Italy. Altromercato cooperates with organizations of small scale farmers and crafters from Africa, Asia and South America; it is involved in the financing, the production and the sale of typical food and craft products and it offers training on the problems linked to the economical relations between North and South of the world. In 15 years of activity, Altromercato started cooperation programs with more than 150 groups of small scale producers from 40 countries. Altromercato guarantees a fair import of products that values the effective costs of production, guaranteeing a minimum price considered as fair to producers; it assures clear and long term trading relationships; it partially pays in advance (up to the 50% of the cost of the ordered product) and it actively supports organic farming. Ctm (originally Cooperazione Terzo Mondo – Third World Cooperation) was born in 1989 in Bolzano. Today it manages 118 World Shops (called Botteghe del Mondo), with 230 points of sale in Italy. It employs more than 200 people helped by the contribution of about 3,000 volunteers. In 2003 it had sale proceeds of 30 million euro, with a rate of growth exceeding 30% during the last years. Currently, it is the most important Italian Fair Trade organization (the second in the world).