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# The Daily Telegraph

## World news



CHRISTIAN MOSEK

Young people from war zones around the world live in the village and learn conflict resolution and team-building in an attempt to foster understanding between 'enemies'

## Village where enemies learn to be friends

By Nick Squires in Rome

A VILLAGE in Tuscany that has been turned into a centre for conflict resolution is among the contenders for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Young people from war zones around the world come to live in the village of Rondine, near Arezzo, in an attempt to break down prejudice and foster understanding between "enemies".

The formerly derelict village, once owned by the bishops of Arezzo and

now dubbed La Cittadella della Pace or the Citadel of Peace, is one of 275 contenders for the prize - the second highest number in its history. The winner will be announced on Friday.

Franco Vaccari, the psychologist who created the project in 1997, said he was "very happy" about the nomination, "although if we win my main hope is that nothing really changes".

He added: "We want to continue our day-to-day work, which is to try to turn enemies into friends."



The once derelict village of Rondine in Tuscany, known as the Citadel of Peace

Each year around 30 people from places such as Israel, the Palestinian territories, Serbia, Bosnia, Russia and Chechnya are chosen to live and study in the village, spending three months learning Italian then branching out into team-building, communication and conflict resolution.

Rondine was nominated by Marina Sereni, vice-president of Italy's lower house of parliament, who said it was producing a "new generation of leaders" focused on peace.