

VareseNews

Owner of D. Lazzaroni & Co. arrested

Pubblicato: Giovedì 22 Marzo 2012

Fedele Ragosta, the owner of **D. Lazzaroni & Co.**, the historic firm that makes the famous “Amaretti di Saronno” biscuits, and which, until a few years ago, had its head office Saronno, has been arrested. The operation **Bad Iron**, carried out by **the tax police in Naples**, succeeded in arresting about sixty people for a variety of crimes, including **external involvement in the Camorra crime organisation, money laundering and corruption**.

Among these people, there are also many representatives of the **Ragosta Group**, including **Fedele Ragosta, his wife Anna Maria and several people who collaborate with the holding company**. The group not only owns the biscuit company, but also operates in a variety of fields, including the iron and steel industry and real estate, with 4 hotels.

D. Lazzaroni & Co. **no longer has any premises in Saronno**, and should not be mistaken for **Paolo Lazzaroni & Sons**, the Saronno-based company that also produces the famous biscuits, especially to make the well-known liqueur. There has always been bad blood between the two companies; for many years, there has been a legal battle for **the official title of producers of “Amaretti”**.

D. Lazzaroni & Co. **went into financial difficulty already in the '90s**, when it still had premises in Saronno. The owner decided to move production to **Isola del Gran Sasso**, maintaining only a logistic base in town. But in the early years of 2000, **the closure of this base became likely**. Even Varese Province intervened in the situation, not only to save the employees involved (about a hundred), but also to try **to keep the historic brand in the town**. Unfortunately, the company closed, and after several changes of ownership, it was **taken over by the Ragosta Group** in 2008. According to data, in the last few years, the company has even grown considerably, **and begun to produce a healthy profit for the Group**.

Now the inquiry in Naples has led **to the arrest of the top managers of the Group**. According to the inquiry, which was reported in the newspapers of Naples, the Ragosta family used **money from the Fabbrocino clan**, which operates in the area of Vesuvius. It was the group's most important business, iron and steel, that gave the operation its name. But the inquiry **has only just begun, and we expect new developments after the recent blitz**.

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