

**Newsweek International**

## **The Gene Rush:**

Staking claims to the genetic wealth of Italian villages

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The mayor of Gioi walks the streets of his village like a doctor making the rounds in an intensive-care unit. He greets the few people he meets with forced heartiness, because Gioi is in danger of dying.

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**Guardian Unlimited**

## **Meet the people of Genetic Park**

Centuries of isolation have turned the inhabitants of remote Italian villages into a living laboratory

[Special report: the ethics of genetics](#)

**Rory Carroll in Rome**

**Monday October 30, 2000**

[The Guardian](#)

Ten remote villages in southern Italy are this week becoming a "genetic park" where scientists can harvest the racially pure inhabitants' DNA to identify the causes of disease. Isolated for centuries by mountains and forest, the villagers' genetic history stretches back to the Greeks and could hold the key to cures for Alzheimer's disease, asthma, cancer and hypertension.

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**Villagers of Cilento share a common genetic heritage**  
**By BBC science correspondent David Concar**

Land of hilltop villages and chestnut forests, Cilento in southern Italy has always been a backwater. Unvisited and unloved, it has been ignored by just about everyone for centuries - until now.