

Of all the villages that dot the mountains above Kalkan the only one that has not had its character irreversibly changed by the illegal building pandemic is Bezirgan.

It is still a farming village, consisting of roads that wind round modest village houses constructed traditionally. Red pitched roofs poke out through the grape vines, olive groves and orchards that give shade to man and beast.

There are a few houses to rent but they have generally been built in keeping and the touristic development appears to sit comfortably with the management of the land for farming.

But this is Turkey where those in charge are too often looking the other way when the dozers and cement trucks move in. And the signs are there for all to see that Bezirgan will be the next village to fall under the wrecking ball. Its collection of village houses, as seen in my slide show above, flattened rather than restored in a race for the "luxury" villa rental market. The slow patient sustainable development of a hundred years erased in a year or two of frenzied and unlicensed building.

It is not too late, villagers of *Bezirgan*. Resist! Do not cut the branch you are sitting on

*'Bindiğin dalı kesme!'*