

Messina Denaro – the “last godfather”

Cosa Nostra’s last “secret-keeper” is believed to hold the key to some of the most heinous crimes perpetrated by the Sicilian Mafia



■ **Apr 26, 1962:** **Matteo Messina Denaro** – known as “*Diabolik*” – born in Castelvetro, Sicily, to head of local Mafia

■ **1980:** Denaro believed to have carried out first killing, aged 18



■ **1992:** Involved in murders of anti-mafia prosecutors **Giovanni Falcone** and **Paolo Borsellino** (above). Subsequent crackdown leads to arrest of **Salvatore Riina** (right), undisputed “boss of bosses”



■ **1993:** Denaro held responsible for bombings in Rome, Florence and Milan that kill 10 people in bid to force end to government war on Mafia

■ **Nov 1993:** 12-year-old son of mafioso-turned-state witness kidnapped, tortured for two years and killed. Denaro later found guilty of involvement

Denaro, in hiding, continues to issue orders. Police rely on digital composites to reconstruct appearance (above centre)

■ **2002:** Sentenced to life in jail in absentia for dozens of murders

■ **2013:** Arrest of sister **Patrizia** and several other associates leaves Denaro increasingly isolated

■ **2016:** Mafia head **Bernardo Provenzano** dies in prison – Denaro seen as unchallenged boss of bosses

■ **Jan 16, 2023:** **Messina Denaro** detained in private clinic in Palermo, where he is receiving treatment for cancer under fake name