

Michael E. Stone: Don't Eat Olives

**Don't eat olives in Armenia,
you get black ones with no taste.
Not Kalamata black,
with meaty, half-bitter flesh,
pungent and almost erotic.**

**Nor the really bitter pounded green olives
that leave the mouth alive and assault the senses
with the bitter taste of their land of birth,
my land.**

**In Armenia, eat as they do,
meat and salad and thin, thin bread,
yoghurt, cheese and apricots.
Just not olives.**