

# Trinacria

What is the meaning of Trinacria?

Trinacria – the three-legged symbol of Sicily

The term means “three-pointed” and was coined by the Greeks, who were drawn to the island's triangular shape with three stunning endpoints: Cape Pachino, Cape Peloro, and Cape Lilibeo. The name Trinacria also refers to a symbol that represents Sicily and its culture.

The symbol of Sicily known as the Trinacria or Triskelion is said to be derived from a myth about three nymphs. They are said to have danced all around the world gathering the best fruit, stones, and soil, they then threw all of it into the sea and created Sicily.

The symbolism of Medusa: Why is Medusa on the Sicilian flag? The three legs of the central figure represent a Trinacria, or triangle, from the Greek name for Sicily, Trinacria, as well as the island's three corners: Peloro (northeast), Passero (southeast), and Lilibeo (west).J

The Trinacria was "adopted" by the Sicilian Parliament in 2000 and is found at the center of the flag on a red-and-yellow-colored background.

Why are Sicilians different from the rest of Italy?

While both Italy and Sicily have Italian as their official language, Sicilians have their own regional dialect that includes influences from Greek, Arabic, Norman French, and Spanish. This is due to Sicily's unique history and position as a crossroads between Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

## **Trinacria: The Symbol of Sicily**

The Trinacria Symbol is known worldwide as the emblem of Sicily. But **why a woman with three legs?** And what does it mean? Let us find out more about the history of Sicily.

## **The history of Trinacria**

The **Triskelion**, known in Sicily also as the **Trinacria**, is the **three-legged woman** that symbolizes Sicily. First **adopted in 1282** by the **Sicilian Vespers**, it is currently the **official flag** of the autonomous Sicilian region.

Officially, Trinacria became the **Sicilian flag in 1943**, during **World War II**. The leader of the independence movement, **Andrea Finocchiaro Aprile**, was the first to adopt this symbol. During WWII, the **Sicilian independentists helped the Allies** to land in the coasts. After winning the war, the Allies helped Sicily become independent from Italy.

Eventually, independentists used a **yellow and red flag**, with the **Trinacria** in the center. They wanted to remark their detachment from the Italian government. After the end of When World War II, the Italian government recognized Sicily as an autonomous region.

## **Trinacria Symbol in Sicily Mythology**

### **Medusa**

In the Ancient Mythology, the **Gorgon** is a mythological figure who was each of the three daughters of two **Gods of the sea**. The Three daughters were **Medusa**, **Stheno** (“strong”), and **Euryale** (“the large”). Medusa was known for her ability to turn mortal men to stone with one gaze. But the goddess was also known for her help to fight the forces of evil. In the Trinacria, **the head of Medusa** stands in the center.

In the Symbol of Sicily, the head of Medusa appears with **entwined serpents hair** and **ears of corn**. The **ears of wheat represent the symbol of the fertility** of the land.

## **The Three Legs**

The **three legs** in the Trinacria Symbol stand for the **three promontories of Sicily**. Those promontories are **Cape Pelorus, Cape Passero, and Cape Lilibeo**. Moreover, in ancient mythology, the arrangement of the three legs suggests a **rotation**. Researchers linked this shape to the Eastern religious symbol of the **God of the Moon**, where the Scythes replaced the three legs.