



Information about the mountain

Name of the mountain	Stromboli
Country	Italy
Region	Sicily
Altitude	924 m
Surface area	1.260 ha
Surface of protected area	1.052,50 ha
Name of local organization in charge of management	Gal Tirreno Eolie
Number of municipalities	1



World Heritage List:
Mar Mediterraneo Isole Eolie (EN)
Sicilia N382916.3 E145644.1

The Aeolian Islands provide an outstanding record of volcanic island-building and destruction, and ongoing volcanic phenomena. Studied since at least the 18th century, the islands have provided the science of volcanology with examples of two types of eruption (Vulcanian and Strombolian) and thus have featured prominently in the education of geologists for more than 200 years. The site continues to enrich the field of volcanology.

Justification for Inscription

Criterion (viii): The islands' volcanic landforms represent classic features in the continuing study of volcanology world-wide. With their scientific study from at least the 18th Century, the islands have provided two of the types of eruptions (Vulcanian and Strombolian) to volcanology and geology textbooks and so have featured prominently in the education of all geoscientists for over 200 years. They continue to provide a rich field for volcanological studies of on-going geological processes in the development of landforms.

<http://unescoitalia.it/wp/project/isole-eolie/?lang=en>

Contact details

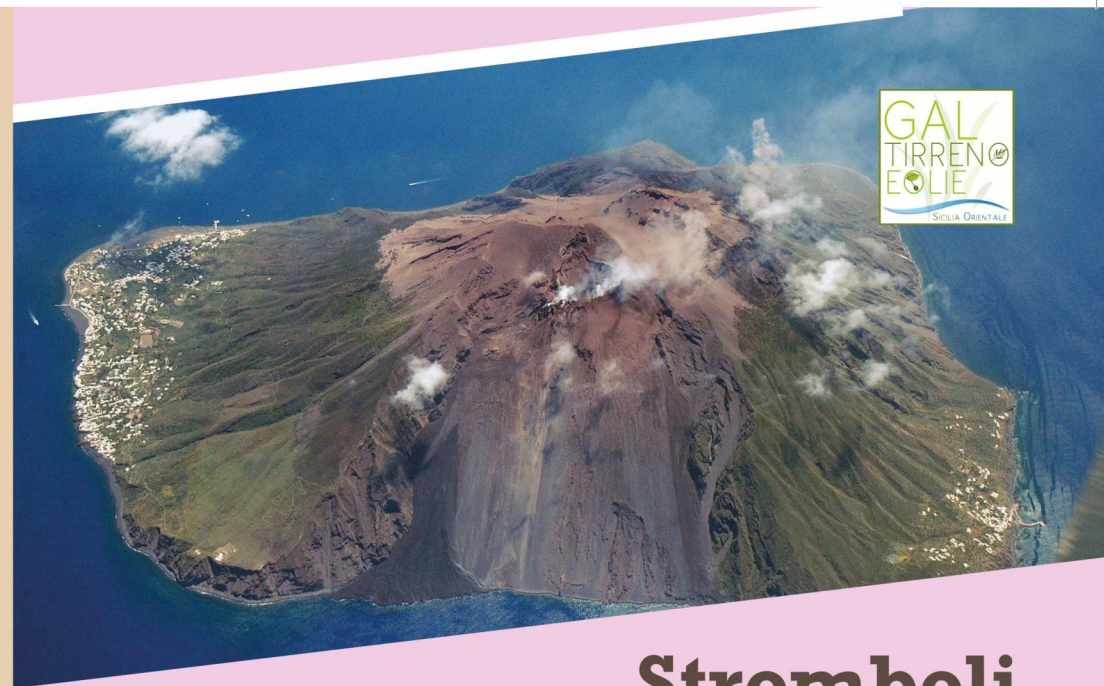
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Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund



Stromboli

**Stromboli is the perfect synthesis
of the four elements: earth, air, water and fire.
If you don't believe us, come and
experience it by yourself.**

Stromboli is a small island in the Aeolian archipelago, in the north of Sicily. The island is an active volcano with eruptions of different intensity, visible from many surrounding points: hence the nickname Lighthouse of the Mediterranean. Its volcanic activity is characterized by explosive and violent eruptions, and it has an open vent with frequent eruptions, called Strombolian and made of lava bombs and incandescent lava fragments.

The economy has always been based on typically Mediterranean agricultural productions and fishing. After 1930 the economic conditions worsened due to eruptions and earthquakes that exterminated the last vines already damaged by the attack of phylloxera in 1860. For this reason, the majority of Strombolani migrated and the island was in danger of being abandoned. The movie "Stromboli, God's land" (1949) by Rossellini favoured the tourism, which is today the main engine of the Aeolian economy. Stromboli has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.



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Pietro Lo Cascio (Photographer)



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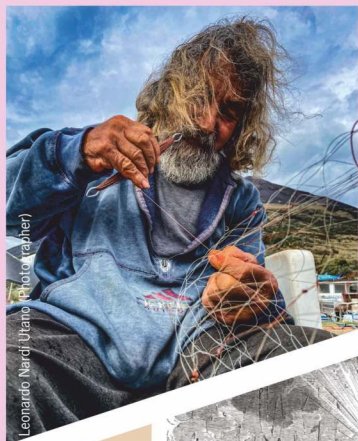
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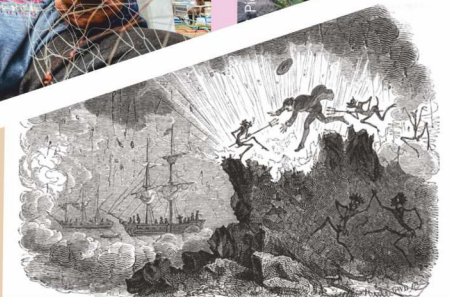
Cornelia Musulas



Leonardo Nardi Utano (Photo: rabner)



Pietro Lo Cascio (Photographer)



Pietro Lo Cascio (Photographer)



Power of Inspiration

In 1949 Roberto Rossellini shot "Stromboli, God's land", with Ingrid Bergman. The movie was very successful, creating the myth of the Aeolians called the "Wild Islands". The film, entirely set on the Stromboli, left a strong print on the island's culture. Stromboli was an island used to solitude, but this film, thanks to its success, changed the cultural dimension of the place. Stromboli also inspired various artists like the painters Jurgens and Houel. Several poems are also dedicated to Stromboli and it's the place of the final scene of the "Journey to the center of the Earth".

Picturesque Landscape

In the remains of ancient cataclysms - such as the Sciarra del Fuoco - as well as in the lava flows that built the island over time, Stromboli reveals the impetuosity of a young and dynamic volcano, a place apparently hostile and inhospitable. However, man and the volcano coexist since thousands of years as you can see from the ancient crops now invaded by reeds, the harmonic white houses scattered on the two edges of the most accessible coast and again the wide black sand beach which hosts the boats aground offering a refuge during the storms. Even on the steep walls of Strombolicchio there is a sign of human presence, a small lighthouse well known by the navigators.

Particular Ecosystem

Stromboli is both an island and a volcano. Its geographical isolation has produced interesting evolutionary stories that improve its biodiversity; the volcanic activity shaped its features through peculiar adaptations. The 99% of the global population of the Aeolian broom lives here, a memorable plant described by Theophrastus more than 2,000 years ago, together with other endemic or rare species of the rest of the Mediterranean. The island is also important for the migratory birds that move between Europe and Africa. The small islet Strombolicchio hosts one of the last populations of the Aeolian wall lizard, an endemic species considered among the most endangered of the European fauna.

Proud Local People

For the island's inhabitants, Iddu, the volcano is a friendly presence. The island is an exotic and fascinating destination that offers wilderness and amusement without losing its almost enchanted atmosphere that the inhabitants proudly protect. In fact, although they have recently accepted the electric power, they are adamant about lighting, that's why their slogan is: "At Stromboli, at night, you can see the stars". The only night lights are the flashlights (indispensable), the lights of the Ape and the lighthouse of Strombolicchio. This last one helped through the years navigators from all over the world but also numerous local fishermen of the island, proud to be part of it.

Reputation

Among the Aeolian Islands, Stromboli was the first to be discovered by tourism in '50s, becoming famous after Rossellini's movie and French documentaries on the volcanoes; it is still difficult to imagine the archipelago without immediately thinking about this island. But even earlier, travellers on the Grand Tour, pioneers of geology and volcanology, scholars and artists from all over Europe landed here in search of unique and outstanding suggestions. Stromboli is one of the emblematic places of the Mediterranean, portrayed on hundreds of old prints, narrated in as many travel and adventure books and, today, an irreplaceable destination for dozens of thousands of visitors every year.

Legends and Myths

During the Middle Ages the Aeolian Islands were converted from Hephaestus' forges into the gates of hell. Pope Gregory the Great was the first to theorize in his "Dialogues" the underground setting of hell in the volcanoes of the Aeolian Islands and Etna. Numerous travellers say they heard voices in explosions of the Stromboli crater that warned of the next otherworldly fate of a recently deceased person welcoming the future damned. The last episode we are aware of is the one related to the ghost of Mr. Booty. On June 15th 1687, three commanders of English vessels swore that they saw the ghost of Mr. Booty being chased by a demon, fall into the Stromboli's cauldron on the day of his death.

Mediterranean Cultural Identity

The Mediterranean culture is visible in both architecture and gastronomy. The typical dishes are related to Sicilian and Mediterranean tradition that uses very simple ingredients. Among the typical products we mention capers, sweet wine Malvasia, bread cunzatu, caponata. The architecture of Stromboli is characterized by houses made of lava stone (often plastered with white lime). They follow a system of modules including cube elements with flat roof (astricu), not communicating with each other but opened on the Bagghiu. It is the characteristic terrace-courttyard, the heart of the house and meeting point. The houses evolved over time to adapt to an unfavourable climate and earthquakes.

Sustainability and Anthropogenic Environment

Strombolian inhabitants are committed to pay great attention to ecological practices that can reduce the impact on the environment and thus preserve the almost uncontaminated nature of the island. At Stromboli, separate collection of waste has been implemented. Mobility in the island is based on electric vehicles. The lighthouse is 100% self-sufficient from renewable energy, thanks to the installation of a photovoltaic system. Ginostra, small village of Stromboli, with 40 inhabitants, will be the first village among the smaller Italian islands to be 100% powered by renewable sources. The project will be funded by a national power company which has signed a memorandum of understanding.

Historic Places

In Stromboli you can't miss the village of San Vincenzo, where boats moor, with its characteristic white houses, the homonymous church rebuilt in '800 and the Madonna Pellegrina chapel. The archaeological site of San Vincenzo, preserves remains ranging from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. The hamlet of Ginostra is located on the rock and can be reached only by boat. The district Piscità hosts the Church of San Bartolomeo of the eighteenth century and the characteristic white houses. A necropolis of the Greek age is located in the district Ficogrande. Finally, the rock of Strombolicchio, surmounted by a lighthouse and born from one of the oldest volcanic eruptions of the Aeolian islands.