

- Main cities: PALERMO, Trapani, Siracusa, Agrigento, Messina
- Historical overview: its history can be summarized in a series of periods, which are named Ancient tribes, Phoenician phase, Carthaginian, Greek and Roman period, the Germanic and Byzantine periods, the Arab Period (827–1091), Norman Sicily phase (1038–1198), followed by the Kingdom of Sicily and later on by the Germanic Holy Roman Empire. Subsequently, it opened a phase named “Spaniard-conquest of Sicily”, until reaching the Italian Unification period. The Expedition of the Thousand led by Giuseppe Garibaldi captured Sicily in 1860, as part of the *Risorgimento*. The conquest started at Marsala, and native Sicilians joined him in the capture of the southern Italian peninsula. Finally, Sicily became **part of the Kingdom on 17 March 1861**.
- Spoken languages: Italian and Sicilian language. There are albanian speaking minorities. **Sicilian has the oldest literary tradition among the Italic languages.**
- Climate: it has a typical Mediterranean climate with mild and wet winters and hot, dry summers with very changeable intermediate seasons. On the coasts, currents and summers can be scorching.



«I do not envy heaven to God, I am more than happy of living in Sicily.»
- Frederick II of Swabia

Palermo



Messina



Greek theater, Taormina



Etna volcano





La Vucciria, Renato Guttuso

Luigi Pirandello was an Italian dramatist, novelist, poet and short story writer whose greatest contributions were his plays. He was awarded the 1934 **Nobel Prize in Literature** for "his almost magical power to turn psychological analysis into good theatre." Pirandello's works include novels, hundreds of short stories, and about 40 plays, **some of which are written in Sicilian**. Pirandello's tragic farces are often seen as forerunners of the Theatre of the Absurd.



His **masterworks** are *"Six Characters In Search of an Author"*, *"Henry IV"*, *"The Man with the Flower In His Mouth"*, *"The Late Mattia Pascal"*, *"Shoot!*, *The Notebooks of Sarafino Gubbio*, *Cinematograph Operator"*, *"One, No one and One Hundred Thousand"*.

Nearly all of Pirandello's plays were translated into English. Pirandello's poetry was translated for the first time in 2016 by George Hochfield.