



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Nuraghic complex of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ *Pithoi*

The *pithoi* are oval or tapered shaped containers, with a large opening, usually used for storing foodstuffs (e.g. oil, wine).

In the *megaron* temples, the lack of direct water was solved by having large *pithoi* inside the temple, that contained water for the ritual ablutions (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Greek *Pithos* coming from Crete (from [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/84/Pithos\\_Louvre\\_CA4523.jpg/800px-Pithos\\_Louvre\\_CA4523.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/84/Pithos_Louvre_CA4523.jpg/800px-Pithos_Louvre_CA4523.jpg)).

In building 3 of *insula* 1 at the religious complex of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros (fig. 2) *pithoi* with cylindrical necks, decorated at the base with false plastic ropes and pinched, and with plastic decorations that are reproductions of stylised ram protomes (fig. 3).



**Fig. 2** - Photo of area of *insula* 1 of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros-Villagrande Strisaili site (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



**Fig. 3** - *Pithos* (from FADDA 2014, fig 338, p. 212).

The large *pithoi* discovered inside the rooms of *insula* 2 are interesting (fig. 4).





**Fig. 4** - Photo of area of *insula* 2 of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros-Villagrande Strisaili site (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

Of these one, from room 3, has an ear-shaped handle, decorated by a herringbone pattern and a plant motif engraved vertically. Below the floor of hut 2, a *pithos* used as a store for bronze, lead, iron and copper items was found. It contained more than 400 kilos of metal, hypothesized as the result of a gradual accumulation of items from the 12th-9th to the 6th century B.C.

A fragment of a *pithos* used to transport oil comes from the Antigori nuraghe in Sarroch in Sardinia.



## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

## ■ Bibliography

FADDA M.A., *Il villaggio santuario di S'Arcu 'e Is Forros*, Sardegna archeologica. Guide e itinerari, 48, Sassari 2012,

FADDA M.A., *S'Arcu'e Is Forros: Nuragici, Filistei e Fenici fra i monti della Sardegna*, in «Archeologia Viva» n. 155, a. XXXI, Giunti editore, Firenze 2012, pp. 46-57.

FADDA M.A., *Villagrande Strisaili. Il santuario nuragico di S'Arcu 'e Is Forros e le insulae degli artigiani fusori*, in *Nel segno dell'acqua. Santuari e bronzi votivi della Sardegna nuragica*, Sassari 2014, pp. 199-227.





UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



**REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA**  
**REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA**

## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea  
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a