

Island reborn

A volcanic island submerged off the coast of Sicily could soon reappear. When it last emerged 170 years ago, it sparked a diplomatic spat over ownership – but divers have planted an Italian flag on the rising peak to forestall any new rows



ITALY
Mediterranean Sea

TUNISIA

SICILY

100km

60 miles

Ferdinandea (Graham Bank):
Peak now 8m under surface. Last rose 1831 – sank six months later

Undersea eruption

Magma explodes on contact with sea, then solidifies in cold water

If cone rises above surface, lava can form rocky shell. If not, waves wash island back to deep ocean

