

Legend about Monaco origin

Presenter: The origin of the name Principality of Monaco goes back to the 4-th AD, to antiquity. According to the legend in Mariana (Corsica) there was a young lady, her name was Devot. (On the stage appears the girl accompanied by the people with a cross in the hand)

Presenter: from an early age she decided to devote her life to God and she was preaching Christianity among her fellow citizens.

Devot: Brothers and sisters! Follow the covenant of our God Jesus Christ and you will find favor with God. (God's grace be with you!) (making the sign of the cross, from behind the stage, voices)

Voices: That is she! Hold her! Kill this Christian.

Presenter: By order of the Roman prefect barbarian Devote was caught and threw into prison, where she was in torment and executed for faith. (At this moment roman warriors catch Devote and take away backstage, snatch the cross from out of her hands).

Devot: Brothers! Rescue me!

Presenter: After her death roman ordered to cremate her so her body doesn't become the object of veneration. But her body was saved from the fire by her friends Christians.

Christian: Brothers! St. Devote was in torment and executed for faith! We will send her body on ship to Africa. There it will be buried with dignity. Our friends captain Grecian, priest Benedict and deacon Appoliariy will escort her body.

All: So be it! (gone away)

Presenter: Devote's body was delivered on the ship, and the ship sailed to Africa, but the ship ran into heavy weather. Priest Benedict noticed that from the Devote's mouth flied out the dove. He ordered captain Grecian to follow dove. In the morning the ship reached the shore. There was a tribe "monoikos", that meant "those who live separate".

A Tribal Chief: The tribe monoikos greets you. Welcome to our land.

Benedict: we got a long way, finally the angel has brought us to this place, and we would like to bury the body of our saint great martyr Devote.

A Tribal Chief: Do you worship this goddess?

Grecian: St. Devote was in torment and executed for faith and she deserves the worship.

A Tribal Chief: Monoikos tribe willing to host you and to bury your saint.

Benedict: And on that place, where we are going to bury her we will built the chapel in her honour, the St. Devote Chapel.

Grecian: Your tribe's name is monaicos isn't it? Let's build a town its name will be Monaco in honour of these kind people. And saint Devote will be protector of this sacred place.

All: So be it! Monaicos land will become the Monaco town.

Presenter: So is the legend about the origin of Monaco. Every year on January 27 in Monaco is holding solemn ceremony, when the members of the royal family letting go the white dove.