

Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro [GOIH ComM](#) (Portuguese pronunciation: [\[kɾiʃˈtjenu ɐɐˈnaldu\]](#); born 5 February 1985) is a Portuguese professional [footballer](#) who plays as a [forward](#) for and [captains](#) both [Saudi Pro League](#) club [Al Nassr](#) and the [Portugal national team](#). Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, Ronaldo has won five [Ballon d'Or](#) awards,^{[\[note 3\]](#)} a record three [UEFA Men's Player of the Year Awards](#), and four [European Golden Shoes](#), the most by a European player. He has won [33 trophies in his career](#), including seven league titles, five [UEFA Champions Leagues](#), the [UEFA European Championship](#) and the [UEFA Nations League](#). Ronaldo holds the records for most [appearances](#) (183), [goals](#) (140) and [assists](#) (42) in the Champions League, [most appearances](#) (25), [goals in the European Championship](#) (14), [international goals](#) (130) and [international appearances](#) (207). He is one of the few players to have made over [1,200 professional career appearances](#), the most by an outfield player, and has scored over [890 official senior career goals](#) for club and country, making him the top goalscorer of all time.

Ronaldo began his senior career with [Sporting CP](#), before signing with [Manchester United](#) in 2003, winning the [FA Cup](#) in his first season. He would also go on to win three consecutive [Premier League](#) titles, the Champions League and the [FIFA Club World Cup](#); at age 23, he won his first Ballon d'Or. Ronaldo was the subject of the then-[most expensive association football transfer](#) when he signed for [Real Madrid](#) in 2009 in a [transfer](#) worth €94 million (£80 million). He became a key contributor and formed an attacking trio with [Karim Benzema](#) and [Gareth Bale](#) which was integral to the team winning four Champions Leagues from 2014 to 2018, including *La Décima*. During this period, he won back-to-back Ballons d'Or in [2013](#) and [2014](#), and again in [2016](#) and [2017](#), and was runner-up three times behind [Lionel Messi](#), his perceived [career rival](#). He also became the club's [all-time top goalscorer](#) and the all-time top scorer in the Champions League, and finished as the competition's top scorer for six consecutive seasons between 2012 and 2018. With Real, Ronaldo won four Champions Leagues, two [La Liga](#) titles, two [Copas del Rey](#), two [UEFA Super Cups](#) and three Club World Cups. In 2018, he signed for [Juventus](#) in a transfer worth an initial €100 million (£88 million), the most expensive transfer for an Italian club and for a player over 30 years old. He won two [Serie A](#) titles, two [Supercoppa Italiana](#) trophies and a [Coppa Italia](#), became the inaugural [Serie A Most Valuable Player](#) and became the first footballer to finish as top scorer in the English, Spanish and Italian leagues. He returned to Manchester United in 2021, finishing his only full season as the club's top scorer, before his contract was terminated in 2022. In 2023, he signed for Al Nassr.

Ronaldo made his international debut for Portugal in 2003 at the age of 18 and has earned more than [200 caps](#), making him history's most-capped male player.^{[\[10\]](#)} With 130 international goals, he is also the [all-time top male goalscorer](#). Ronaldo has played

in and scored at eleven major tournaments; he scored his first international goal at [Euro 2004](#), where he helped Portugal reach [the final](#). He assumed [captaincy](#) of the national team in July 2008. In 2015, Ronaldo was named the best Portuguese player of all time by the [Portuguese Football Federation](#). The following year, he led Portugal to their first major tournament title at [Euro 2016](#), and received the [Silver Boot](#) as the second-highest goalscorer of the tournament. This achievement would see him receive his [fourth Ballon d'Or](#). He also led them to victory in the inaugural [UEFA Nations League](#) in 2019, receiving the [top scorer award](#) in [the finals](#), and later received the [Golden Boot](#) as top scorer of [Euro 2020](#).

One of the world's most marketable and famous athletes, Ronaldo was ranked the [world's highest-paid athlete](#) by [Forbes](#) in 2016, 2017, and 2023, and the world's most famous athlete by [ESPN](#) from 2016 to 2019. [Time](#) included him on their list of the [100 most influential people in the world](#) in 2014. He is the first footballer and the third sportsman to earn US\$1 billion in his career.

Early life

Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro was born on 5 February 1985 in the [São Pedro](#) parish of [Funchal](#), the capital of the Portuguese island of [Madeira](#), and grew up in the nearby parish of [Santo António](#).^{[11][12]} He is the fourth and youngest child of Maria Dolores dos Santos Viveiros da Aveiro, who worked as a cook in the [hospitality industry](#) and a [cleaning woman](#),^{[13][14]} and José Dinis Aveiro, a municipal gardener at the [Junta de Freguesia](#) of Santo António and part-time [kit man](#) for football club [Andorinha](#).^{[15][16][17]} His great-grandmother on his father's side, Isabel da Piedade, an African woman, was born in the island of [São Vicente](#), in what was then [Portuguese Cape Verde](#), and moved to Madeira Island at 16.^{[18][19]} He has one older brother, Hugo, and two older sisters, Elma and [Liliana Cátia "Katia"](#).^[20] He was named after actor and U.S. President [Ronald Reagan](#), whom his father was a fan of.^[21] His mother revealed that she wanted to [abort](#) him due to poverty, his father's [alcoholism](#), and having too many children already, but her doctor refused to perform the procedure.^{[22][23]} Ronaldo grew up in an impoverished [Roman Catholic](#) home, sharing a room with all his siblings.^[24]

As a child, Ronaldo played for Andorinha from 1992 to 1995,^[25] where his father was the kit man,^[15] and later spent two years with [Nacional](#). In 1997, aged 12, he went on a three-day trial with [Sporting CP](#), who signed him for a fee of £1,500.^[26] He

subsequently moved from Madeira to [Lisbon](#) to join [Sporting CP's youth system](#).^[26] By age 14, while struggling with his school duties and responsibilities in Escola EB2 de Telheiras, his school in the [Telheiras](#) area of Lisbon, Ronaldo believed he had the ability to play semi-professionally and agreed with his mother and his [tutor](#) at Sporting CP, [Leonel Pontes](#),^[27] to cease his education to focus entirely on football.^{[28][29]} With a troubled life as a student^[30] and although living in Lisbon area away from his Madeiran family,^{[31][32]} he did not complete schooling beyond the 6th grade.^{[33][34]} While popular with other students at school, he had been expelled after throwing a chair at his teacher, who he said had "disrespected" him.^[28] One year later, he was diagnosed with [tachycardia](#), a condition that could have forced him to give up playing football.^[35] Ronaldo underwent heart surgery where a laser was used to [cauterise](#) multiple [cardiac pathways](#) into one, altering his resting [heart rate](#).^[36] He was discharged from the hospital hours after the procedure and resumed training a few days later.^[37] In 2021, Cristiano Ronaldo's mother, Dolores Aveiro, stated in an interview for Sporting CP's official television channel ([Sporting TV](#)) that her son would be a [bricklayer](#) if he hadn't become a professional football player.^[38]

Growing up, Ronaldo idolised the Brazilian footballers [Ronaldinho](#) and [Ronaldo Nazário](#), and has described them as leaving "a beautiful history in football".^[39]

Career

Main article: [Career of Cristiano Ronaldo](#)

Club career

Sporting CP

Ronaldo made [Sporting CP's](#) first team at age 16. He made his senior debut in August 2002 in a Champions League qualifying match against [Inter Milan](#),^[40] and scored his first senior goals one month later.^[41]

Manchester United

After attracting interest from major clubs, including [Arsenal](#),^[42] [Manchester United's](#) [Alex Ferguson](#) signed Ronaldo for £12 million on 12 August 2003,^[43] an England record

for a teenager.^[44] He scored his first United goal in November 2003 and won the [FA Cup](#) in his first season. On 29 October 2004, Ronaldo scored United's 1,000th [Premier League](#) goal in a 4–1 loss to [Middlesbrough](#).^[45] Ronaldo won the [2005–06 Football League Cup](#) after scoring in United's 4–0 [final](#) win over [Wigan Athletic](#).^[46] By 2006–07, he was a key player, helping United win the Premier League and earning [Premier League Player of the Month](#) awards in November and December 2006.^[47] 2007–08 saw Ronaldo score 42 goals, his most in a season during his time with United, leading the club to [Premier League](#) and [Champions League](#) titles. He won the [Ballon d'Or](#) and [FIFA World Player of the Year](#) in 2008. In 2008–09, he helped United to a third consecutive league title and a [Champions League final](#) again, scoring 26 goals.^[48] His last goal for United was a free kick in the [Manchester Derby](#) at [Old Trafford](#) on 10 May 2009.^[49]

Real Madrid

In 2009, Ronaldo transferred to [Real Madrid](#) for a then world record £80 million.^[50] Despite scoring 33 goals in all competitions and contributing to Real Madrid's 96 points in [La Liga](#), his first season with Madrid ended trophyless.^[51] Following [Raúl](#)'s departure, Ronaldo was given No. 7 for the 2010–11 season and scored 53 goals, helping Madrid win the [Copa del Rey](#), his first trophy with Madrid.^[52] The 2011–12 season saw Ronaldo score 60 goals across all competitions,^[53] leading Madrid to their first league title in four years and his runner-up finish to Lionel Messi in the [2011 FIFA Ballon d'Or](#).^[54] He continued prolific scoring, with 69 goals in 2013, winning the [2013 FIFA Ballon d'Or](#),^[55] the [European Golden Shoe](#) along with [Liverpool](#)'s [Luis Suárez](#),^[56] and helping Madrid win the Champions League in 2013–14 with a record 17 goals in the competition.^[57] On 4 May 2014, Ronaldo scored a back-heeled volley in the closing moments of the match against [Valencia](#), voted goal of the season by the [Liga Nacional de Fútbol Profesional](#) (LFP),^[58] giving him the [Best Player in La Liga](#) award.^[59] Ronaldo won his second consecutive [Ballon d'Or](#) in 2014 after winning the [Club World Cup](#).^[60]

Cristiano Ronaldo became Real Madrid's all-time top goalscorer on 12 September 2015 against [Espanyol](#), netting 230 goals in 203 matches, surpassing the previous record holder, Raúl.^[61] He reached 500 career goals for club and country after scoring both goals against [Malmö FF](#) in a 2–0 away win on 30 September 2015 in the Champions League.^[62] Ronaldo became the first player to net 100 goals in UEFA club competition, as he scored two goals in the [2016–17 UEFA Champions League](#) quarter-finals against

[Bayern Munich](#) in the away leg.^[63] Ronaldo scored a goal in a 2–0 win over [Malaga](#) on 21 May 2017 to secure Madrid's first La Liga title in five years.^[64] He won his fourth [Champions League title](#) after scoring a brace in the final.^[65] Ronaldo's performances throughout 2017 saw him win the [Ballon d'Or](#).^[66]

Juventus

Ronaldo joined [Juventus](#) in 2018 for €100 million, the highest for an Italian club.^[67] On 19 September 2018, in his first [Champions League](#) match for Juve, he was sent off against Valencia, his first red card in 154 Champions League appearances.^[68] In the reverse (home) leg against Valencia, Cristiano won 100 Champions League matches, becoming the first ever player to do so.^[69] With 21 goals and eight assists, Ronaldo won the [league award](#) for most valuable player.^[70] His first Italian trophy was the [2018 Supercoppa Italiana](#), won on 16 January 2019.^[71] When Juventus won the [2021 Coppa Italia final](#) Ronaldo became the first player ever to win every major domestic trophy in England, Spain and Italy.^[72] He ended the season with 29 league goals, winning the [Capocannoniere](#), awarded to the highest goalscorer. Ronaldo also became the first footballer to claim top goalscorer in the English, Spanish and Italian leagues.^[73]

Return to Manchester United

Ronaldo returned to Manchester United in 2021, reaching 800 career goals after netting two in a 3–2 home league win against Arsenal on 2 December 2021.^[74] Struggles ensued, continuing for two months,^[75] until he scored in United's 2–0 win at home versus [Brighton & Hove Albion](#) on 15 February 2022, his first in the new year.^[76]

After becoming unsatisfied with United and manager [Erik ten Hag](#), United terminated his contract on 22 November 2022.^[77]

Al Nassr

On 30 December 2022, Saudi club [Al Nassr](#) reached an agreement for Ronaldo to join the club, signing a contract until 2025.^[78] Ronaldo received [the highest football salary ever](#), at €200 million per year,^{[79][80]} including a guaranteed football salary of €90

million, with commercial and sponsorship deals bringing his total annual salary to €200 million.

On 9 February 2023, Ronaldo scored his 500th career league goal in a 4–0 win over [Al Wehda](#).^[81]

In the final of the [Arab Club Champions Cup](#) on 12 August 2023, Ronaldo scored both goals as they defeated rivals [Al-Hilal](#) 2–1 after extra time. Ronaldo scored six goals in the competition.^[82] On 27 May 2024, against [Al-Ittihad](#), Ronaldo scored his 34th and 35th league goals of the season, setting a record most goals scored in a single Saudi Pro League campaign. He also became the first footballer to finish as top scorer in four different leagues.^[83]

International career

At the age of 18, Ronaldo made his debut for Portugal as a substitute against [Kazakhstan](#) on 20 August 2003.^[84] At [UEFA Euro 2004](#), he scored his first international goal in a 2–1 loss to [Greece](#) in his eighth international appearance.^{[85][86]} Despite Portugal losing to Greece in the final, Ronaldo made the [team of the tournament](#), with two assists and two goals.^[87] On 6 February 2007, Cristiano [captained](#) Portugal for the first time in a friendly against [Brazil](#).^[88] He wore the number 7 shirt ahead of [UEFA Euro 2008](#).^[89] Despite scoring eight goals in [qualifications](#),^[90] the second-highest tally, he scored just one goal in the finals, netting the second goal of Portugal's 3–1 win in the group stage game against the [Czech Republic](#). Portugal were eliminated in the quarter-finals after a 3–2 loss to [Germany](#).^[91]

Ronaldo failed to score in [2010 World Cup qualifying](#).^[92] He scored only one goal in the [2010 World Cup finals](#); despite this, he was named man of the match in all three group stage matches, against [Ivory Coast](#), [North Korea](#) and [Brazil](#).^{[93][94][95]} His only goal of the tournament came in their 7–0 demolishing of North Korea, which was his first international goal in 16 months.^[96] Two years later, in [UEFA Euro 2012](#), Ronaldo was joint top scorer with three goals, enough for him to be included in the team of the tournament.^[9] During [qualification](#) for the [2014 FIFA World Cup](#), Ronaldo scored eight goals. Despite this, Portugal did not qualify directly; Ronaldo scored all four goals against [Sweden](#) in the play-off to qualify.^[97] Despite an injury, he took part in the World

Cup, assisting a last-minute 2–2 equaliser against the [United States](#),^[98] and scored an 80th-minute winner in a 2–1 win over [Ghana](#).^[99]

In 2016, Ronaldo led Portugal to their only major title at the [UEFA European Championship](#), although he was subbed off in the 25th minute in the [final](#).^[100] He received the [Silver Boot](#) as the second-highest goalscorer, which gave him his [fourth Ballon d'Or](#) later that year. In the [2018 World Cup](#), Ronaldo became the oldest player to score a [hat-trick](#) in a World Cup match, in a 3–3 draw against [Spain](#).^[101]

Ronaldo led Portugal to victory in the inaugural [UEFA Nations League](#) in 2019, receiving the [top scorer award](#) in [the finals](#),^[102] and received the [Golden Boot](#) as top scorer of [Euro 2020](#). Ronaldo also became the first player to score at five European Championships.^[103] On 1 September 2021, Ronaldo scored two goals in a [2022 World Cup qualifier](#) against the [Republic of Ireland](#), breaking the men's goalscoring record previously held by [Ali Daei](#).^[104] In the [2022 World Cup](#), on 24 November, Ronaldo became the first player to score at five World Cups, netting a penalty against [Ghana](#).^[105] On 23 March 2023, Ronaldo scored a brace against [Liechtenstein](#) as he earned his 197th overall cap to become the most capped male footballer of all time.^[106]

Player profile

Style of play

A versatile [attacker](#), Ronaldo is capable of playing on either wing as well as through the centre of the pitch,^[107] and, while ostensibly right-footed, is very strong with both feet.^[108] Tactically, Ronaldo has undergone several evolutions throughout his career. While at Sporting and during his first season at Manchester United, he was typically deployed as a traditional [winger](#) on the right side of midfield, where he regularly looked to deliver [crosses](#) into the penalty area. In this position, he was able to use his pace and acceleration, agility and technical skills to take on opponents in one-on-one situations. Ronaldo became noted for his [dribbling](#) and flair, often displaying an array of [tricks](#) and [feints](#),^{[109][110]} such as the [step overs](#) and so-called 'chops' that became his trademark,^[111] he has also been known to use the [flip-flap](#).^[112]



Ronaldo controlling the ball on his chest during a [2010–11 La Liga](#) game against [Almería](#). At his peak, he was known for his exceptional speed and athleticism.^[113]

His strength and jumping ability, combined with his elevation, heading accuracy and height of 1.87 m (6 ft 1

+

$\frac{1}{2}$ in), give him an edge in winning aerial duels. These attributes allow him to function as a target-man and make him an aerial goal threat in the penalty area; consequently, many of his goals have been headers.^{[114][115][116]} Ronaldo holds the record for the highest recorded jump in football history, measuring 2.93 meters, which he achieved during a match against Manchester United while playing for Real Madrid in the round-of-16 of the UEFA Champions League in 2013.^[117] Allied with his increased stamina and work-rate, his goalscoring ability improved drastically on the left wing where he was given the positional freedom to move into the centre to finish attacks. He has also increasingly played a [creative role](#) for his team, often dropping deep to pick up the ball, participate in the build-up of plays and create chances for his teammates, courtesy of his vision and passing ability.^{[109][114]}

In his final seasons at United, Ronaldo played an even more attacking and central role, functioning both as a [striker](#) and as a [supporting forward](#), or even as an [attacking midfielder](#) on occasion.^[114] He developed into a prolific goalscorer, capable of finishing well both inside the penalty area and from distance with an accurate and powerful shot, courtesy of his striking ability.^[114] An accurate [penalty kick](#) taker,^[118] he also became a set piece specialist, renowned for his powerful, [bending free kicks](#).^[119] When taking free kicks, Ronaldo is known for using the [knuckleball](#) technique, which was developed by [Juninho Pernambucano](#).^[120] He also adopts a trademark stance before striking the ball, which involves him standing with his legs far apart.^[121] Regarding Ronaldo's unique

style of taking free kicks, former United assistant manager [Mike Phelan](#) commented: "People used to put the ball down, walk away, run up and hit it. He brought in a more dynamic showmanship. He places the ball down, the concentration level is high, he takes his certain amount of steps back so that his standing foot is in the perfect place to hit the ball in the sweet spot. He is the ultimate showman. He has that slight arrogance. When he pulls those shorts up and shows his thighs, he is saying 'All eyes on me' and this is going in. He understands the marketing side of it. The way he struts up and places it; the world is watching him."^[122]



As Ronaldo entered his thirties he began to [dribble](#) less.^[123]

At Real Madrid, Ronaldo continued to play a more offensive role, while his creative and defensive duties became more limited, although not entirely diminished.^[124] Initially deployed as a [centre forward](#) by managers [Manuel Pellegrini](#) and [José Mourinho](#), he was later moved back onto the left wing, though in a free tactical role; this position allowed him to drift into the centre at will to get onto the end of crosses and score, or draw out defenders with his movement off the ball and leave space for teammates to exploit.^{[124][125][126]} Madrid's counter-attacking style of play also allowed him to become a more efficient and consistent player, as evidenced by his record-breaking goalscoring feats. While he mainly drew praise in the media for his prolific goalscoring, Ronaldo also demonstrated his ability as an effective creator in this role.^{[127][128][129]} This unique role has been described by pundits as that of a "false", "attacking", or "goalscoring winger", as Ronaldo effectively almost functioned as a striker at times with his central runs into the penalty area, despite actually playing on the left flank.^{[125][130]} From 2013 onwards, under manager [Carlo Ancelotti](#), he effectively adapted his style to the physical effects of ageing with increasingly reduced off-the-ball movement and general involvement, completing fewer dribbles and passes per game, and instead focusing on short-distance creating and goalscoring.^{[124][131][132]} Since 2017, Ronaldo adapted his style of play yet again to become more of a free-roaming centre forward under manager [Zinedine](#)

[Zidane](#), a role in which he continued to excel and maintain a prolific goalscoring record; in this position, he earned praise in the media for his intelligent movement both on and off the ball, positional sense, link-up play and finishing, as well as his ability to lose or anticipate his markers, find space in the box and score from few touches or opportunities.^{[133][134][135]}

In his first season at Juventus, Ronaldo continued to play in a variety of different attacking roles under manager [Massimiliano Allegri](#), depending on whom he was partnered with. While he had occupied an increasingly offensive role in his final years at Real Madrid, at times he functioned in a free role at Juventus, either as a lone striker or in his trademark role on the left wing, in a 4–2–3–1 or 4–3–3 formation, in which he often switched positions with [Mario Mandžukić](#). In this role, he was also given licence to drop deep or even out wide onto the right flank to receive the ball, and be more involved in the build-up of plays; as such, aside from scoring goals himself, he began to take on opponents and create chances for other players with greater frequency than he had in his final seasons with Real Madrid. Off the ball, he was also capable of creating space for teammates with his movement and attacking runs into the box, or finishing off chances with his head or feet by getting onto the end of his teammates' crosses.^{[136][137]} On occasion he also played in an attacking partnership alongside Mandžukić in a 4–3–1–2, 4–4–2, or 3–5–2 formation.^{[138][139][140]} He continued to play a similar role in his second season with the club under manager [Maurizio Sarri](#).^[137]

Image

"In the six years we had him, you just saw his game grow all the time, and he was a fantastic player. Now you see the complete player. His decision-making, his maturity, his experience, plus all the great skills he has got, they all make him the complete player."

—Former manager [Alex Ferguson](#), January 2013^[141]

Ronaldo is widely regarded as one of the two best players of his generation, alongside Lionel Messi.^[142] Winning his first [Ballon d'Or](#) in 2008 by a record-high vote count at age 23, over the next decade Ronaldo has often featured in debates concerning who is the greatest player in history.^[143] Acclaimed for his prolific and consistent goal-scoring,^[144] he is considered a decisive player who is also a game changer,^[145] especially in important and high-pressured situations.^[146]



Fans of [Real Madrid](#) (left; Ronaldo's then current club) and [Manchester United](#) (right; Ronaldo's then former club as he joined United again in 2021) wearing Ronaldo's 7 shirt at the [2017 UEFA Super Cup](#)

Ronaldo is noted for his work ethic, elite body conditioning and dedication to improvement on the training pitch, as well being regarded as a natural leader.^{[147][148]} On his longevity and "extraordinary commitment to physical preparation", Adam Bate of [Sky Sports](#) said: "Dedication is a huge part of staying at the top and Ronaldo's focus is perhaps unparalleled within the game."^[123] While stating they were stylistically different players who shared an equal desire to score goals, former Brazil international [Ronaldo](#) praised Cristiano's approach to training, arguing that "there are so few players who take care of their body like he does. I trained because I had to, he does it because he loves it."^[149] His drive and determination to succeed are fuelled by a desire to be talked about alongside other greats such as [Pelé](#) and [Diego Maradona](#) once retiring.^[150] He is credited, along with his compatriot, coach [José Mourinho](#), with inspiring changing fortunes of Portuguese football in 2010s and 2020s.^[151] At times, he has been criticised for [simulating](#) when tackled.^[152] He was also occasionally criticised early in his career by manager Alex Ferguson, teammates and the media for being a selfish or overly flamboyant player.^[153] [Jonathan Wilson](#) of [The Guardian](#) opined that Ronaldo had made Juventus, who he joined aged 33 in 2018, weaker, due to "his relative immobility" in his mid-30s, even if his personal goal-scoring output remained high.^[154]

During his career, Ronaldo has also been described as having an "arrogant image" on the pitch,^[155] with Ronaldo stating that he had become a "victim" because of how he was portrayed in the media.^[156] He is often seen moaning, gesticulating and scowling while trying to inspire his team to victory,^[155] with Ronaldo insisting that his competitive nature should not be mistaken for arrogance.^[156] His managers, teammates and various journalists have said that this reputation has caused an unfair image of him.^{[157][158][159]}

Goal celebrations

Ronaldo has adopted several [goal celebrations](#) throughout his career, including one particular celebration which gained widespread coverage in the media, when he squatted and stared directly into a camera on the sidelines of the pitch with his hand on his chin.^{[160][161][162]} After scoring a goal, he usually celebrates with a "storming jump" and "turn", before "landing in spread-eagled fashion"^[161] into his "signature power stance",^[162] while usually simultaneously exclaiming "Sí" (Spanish and Italian for "yes").^{[160][163]} This trademark celebration has been dubbed the "Siu" or **siuuu** in the media.^{[160][161][164]} It has also been known as "**suiii**", "**siuuuu**", "**siii**" or "**Right Here Right Now**", formally the **Cristiano Ronaldo celebration**. Since Ronaldo first performed the gesture in 2013,^[165] it has been widely imitated by athletes and personalities both in and outside of football when celebrating scoring in respective sports or a significant achievement, and is widely regarded as the most iconic association football [celebration](#) of all time.^[166]

The gesture was first performed by Ronaldo on 7 August, during the [2013 International Champions Cup Final](#) between Real Madrid and [Chelsea](#). Ronaldo gave Madrid a 2–1 lead with a [free kick](#) when he headed in a cross from [Isco](#), helping Madrid beat Chelsea 3–1 to claim the [International Champions Cup](#) and celebrating with his first "Siuuu". During an interview after the match against Chelsea when he first performed the gesture, Ronaldo explained he scored the goal and "it just felt natural" and "didn't know where it came from". He started doing it more often and when the supporters see it they are reminded of him.^[167]

The phrase "siu" is derived from Portuguese *sim*, meaning "yes". This was confirmed by Ronaldo in an interview in 2023, almost a decade since he first performed it. Ronaldo explained that the phrase "Siuuu" simply means yes, but "meaning it very strongly".^[168]

Rivalry with Lionel Messi

Main article: [Messi–Ronaldo rivalry](#)



Ronaldo with [Lionel Messi](#) before an [international friendly](#) between [Portugal](#) and [Argentina](#) in 2011

Both Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have scored in multiple [UEFA Champions League](#) finals and have regularly broken the 50-goal barrier in a single season. Sports journalists and pundits regularly weigh the individual merits of both players in an attempt to argue who they believe is the best player in modern football or in the history of the game.^[169] It has been compared to several [sports rivalries](#), among them the [Muhammad Ali–Joe Frazier](#) rivalry in boxing, the [Borg–McEnroe rivalry](#) in tennis and the [Senna–Prost rivalry](#) from [Formula One](#) motor racing.^{[170][171]} Some commentators choose to analyse the differing physiques and playing styles of the two.^[172] Part of the debate revolves around the contrasting personalities of the two players, as Ronaldo is sometimes depicted as an arrogant and theatrical showoff, while Messi is portrayed as a shy, humble character.^{[173][174][175]}

"It's part of my life now. People are bound to compare us. He tries to do his best for his club and for his national team, as I do, and there is a degree of rivalry with both of us trying to do the best for the teams we represent."

—Ronaldo commenting on his rivalry with Messi.^[176]

In a 2012 interview, Ronaldo commented on the rivalry, saying: "I think we push each other sometimes in the competition, this is why the competition is so high."^[177] [Alex Ferguson](#), Ronaldo's manager during his time at Manchester United, opined: "I don't think the rivalry against each other bothers them. I think they have their own personal pride in terms of wanting to be the best."^[178] Messi himself denied any rivalry, saying that it was "only the media, the press, who wants us to be at loggerheads but I've never

fought with Cristiano."^[179] Responding to the claims that he and Messi do not get on well on a personal level, Ronaldo commented: "We don't have a relationship outside the world of football, just as we don't with a lot of other players." Ronaldo added that in years to come he hopes they can laugh about it together, stating: "We have to look on this rivalry with a positive spirit, because it's a good thing."^[176] Representing archrivals Barcelona and Real Madrid, the two players faced each other at least twice every season in the world's biggest club game, *El Clásico*, which is among the world's most viewed annual sporting events.^[180]

In a debate at [Oxford Union](#) in October 2013, when asked whether FIFA president [Sepp Blatter](#) preferred Messi or Ronaldo, Blatter paid tribute to the work ethic of the Argentine before taking a swipe at Ronaldo, claiming "one of them has more expenses for the hairdresser than the other." Real Madrid demanded and promptly received a full apology. In response to Blatter's "commander" on the pitch comment, Ronaldo issued his own riposte with a mock-salute celebration after scoring a penalty against Sevilla.^[181] In August 2019, Ronaldo and Messi were interviewed while sat next to each other prior to the announcement of the [UEFA Men's Player of the Year](#), with Ronaldo stating: "I pushed him and he pushed me as well. So it's good to be part of the history of football."^[182]

In September 2023, Ronaldo declared that his rivalry with Messi was over and "gone", after 36 official fixtures and 15 years of "sharing the stage".^[183] After Messi led [Argentina](#) to victory in the [2022 FIFA World Cup](#), a number of football critics, commentators and players have opined that Messi has settled the debate between the two players.^{[184][185][186]}