



An exciting three-week program uncovering ancient Etruscan, Roman, and Lombard civilization!

In winter archaeological work doesn't stop! There's plenty of catalog, analysis, survey, and study activity to do. Not to mention a little bit of digging, weather permitting!

The "la Biagiola" program is open to any archaeology or anthropology students, or simply to students interested in learning more about the subject. We provide an exciting opportunity for a first-hand experience in archaeological fieldwork. You'll take part in the study of an ancient site in Tuscany, working alongside expert archaeologists and others foreign students.

The school will provide a complete formation in findings classifying, drawing and studying, standing building archaeology, survey, and medieval castles studies.

This program is offered in collaboration with the cultural heritage office of Tuscany, the regional authority that manages archaeological sites and monuments.

In addition to the archaeological experience, you will be able to enjoy a wide range of cultural sites, historical monuments, natural sites, and to experience the enchanting atmosphere of the winter holidays in Tuscany.

Featured disciplines

Anthropology, Archaeology and Museology.

Coursework

You will experience all archaeological activities: survey, architectural archaeology, burial archaeology, scientific analysis, physical anthropology, artifact conservation, and cutting-edge open source digital archaeology. Moreover, coursework will explore the major features of ancient Etruscan, Roman and Early-Medieval cultures.

The activity will focus on three branches:

1. **the "Stone Crown" project**, survey and study of the many unknown castles in the nearby of Sorano and Pitigliano;
2. **catalog campaign**, study of the findings of summer campaign (pottery, anthropological remains, coins);
3. **fieldwork**, unearthing the late antiquity facilities of the villa and a part of the cemetery.

ACT "LA BIAGIOLA" WINTER SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY ACT



BACKGROUND

The evolution of an Etruscan villa through centuries: from the Roman period, to the Lombard occupation, up to a Modern era rural settlement.

"La Biagiola" archaeological site, near Sovana di Sorano (GR), Tuscany, was discovered by the volunteers of *Gruppo Archeologico Torinese* in 2004, during a survey project led by the *Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana*.

After a few sample digs, held from 2008 to 2011, again by volunteers, the Association "*Cultura e Territorio*" (ACT) has been entrusted with the archaeological research of the entire site.

At present, the history of the site is quite clear in outlines: beginning with an Etruscan villa, at least three phases of a Roman villa, a Late Antiquity settlement, a Lombard graveyard and a modern farm follow each other.

The excavations are carried on thanks to *Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana*, "*la Biagiola vitivinicola*", Kaustic Plastik and the municipality of Sorano.

Now we are ready to expand our excavations of the medieval cemetery and to explore new facilities of the Roman villa.



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THE WINTER SCHOOL

In 2018, after five successful campaigns, we intend to open the Winter School to foreign students of archaeology and anthropology, who wish to experience archaeological excavations in Italy.



The Winter School is taking place from 30/December/2017 to 20/January/2018.

And from 3 to 24/February 2018.

The Winter School will start with the typical New Year Eve Festivals of Sorano and Pitigliano; however, if you have other plans for the New Year celebration, you can join us on January, 4, 2018.

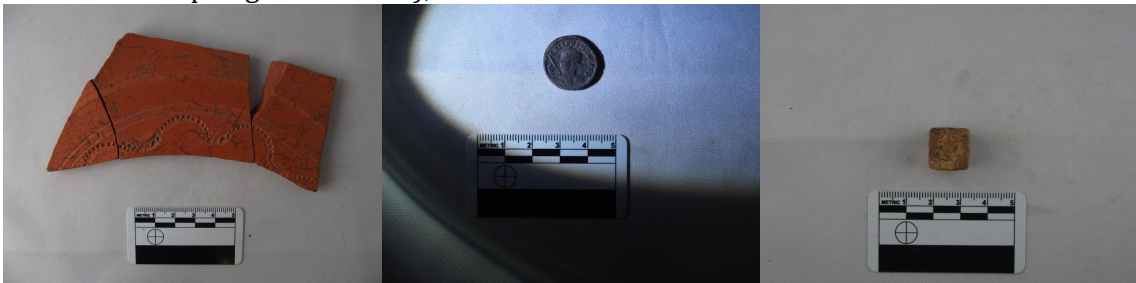


The aims of the Winter Campaign are:

- find, survey, study, and catalog the medieval castles still unknown near Sorano and Pitigliano, the program will include photogrammetry and stratigraphic wall analysis;



- classify, draw and study the summer campaign findings (roman and medieval pottery, coins and anthropological remains);



- dig the medieval tomb found near the Late Antiquity structures during the last campaign.



DIDACTICS

The program will be beneficial for both Classical and Medieval archaeologists.

Tutorial activities will focus on the following topics (*a complete dossier will be given to participants*):

Archaeology

1. Roman pottery
2. Roman rural facilities
3. Medieval pottery
4. Early Medieval metallurgy
5. Modern pottery

Methodology

1. Archaeology of standing buildings
2. Burial archaeology
3. Total station and archaeological drawing
4. Open source documentation software
5. G.I.S.
6. Preservation of archaeological finds
7. Analyzing, drawing and cataloging archaeological finds.

History

1. Roman settlement in the Sovana territory
2. Sovana in the Early Middle Ages: a contended territory between Langobards and Byzantines
3. The Aldobrandeschi medieval dominion
4. Archeology of the Modern era: rural settlement archaeology.



The trainees will be guided through all aspects of archaeological work by a team of skillful archaeologists who will be able to explain clearly every aspect of the research process. Since the site is located in the middle of a rich archaeological area, several cultural excursions in the surroundings are planned, such as the Etruscan necropolis of Sovana, the impressive *vie cave*, Sorano and Pitigliano museums and castles.



Not to forget the various leisure activities that are also included: Saturnia baths, Sorano special New Year Eve, Pitigliano New Year Festival, and Befana Festival will make the experience enjoyable and unforgettable.

CONTEXT

The territory of Sovana has been inhabited since Prehistory. Today the area is well known for its Etruscan necropolis, medieval castles and churches.

Archaeological research however, continues revealing new artifacts and new interesting aspects of human civilization through centuries.

For example, it is well known that the Romanization phenomena in the area took place between the 3rd and the 2nd century BC, but little is yet known about the Roman settlement in the countryside. Undoubtedly during the 6th and 7th c. AD here was the awkward boundary between the Byzantine and Lombard lands, but archaeological evidence from this period are very scarce.



Indeed, the peculiarity of the site lies in its multilayer stratification: a Roman villa grew over a late Etruscan settlement; afterwards, the Roman facilities were re-used by a Lombard group during the early middle ages, when the site was turned into a cemetery. Those graves that have already been excavated contained an abundance of precious and interesting goods. Finally, the villa was largely abandoned up to the present time: only one building survived over the centuries, which was transformed into a shed.

Though the walls and the tombs are only partially preserved, they can still undoubtedly supply a lot of archaeological information. When the research is completed the site will be converted into an archaeological park, and "la Biagiola" will become one more attraction in the already rich cultural landscape of Sovana.

Since 2012 the site has represented the core of research and promotional activities carried out by professional archaeologists, coordinated by the association "Cultura e Territorio" under the supervision of the Superintendence for Archaeological Heritage of Tuscany (SBAT).

The project is supported by the Municipality of Sorano and it is funded exclusively by private donations. In addition, individual donors and companies, sensitive to the local cultural development, have decided to invest in the 2013 campaign of archaeological investigation and maintenance; they are well aware that popularization and promotion must be based on a rigorous scientific research and must ensure the protection of the Cultural Heritage.



The project has started in 2012 thanks to the financial support of the winery "la Biagiola", leading to the discovery of the surviving structures of the Roman villa. In the meantime, archaeologists also continued the excavation of the graveyard previously started by GAT's volunteers.

To know more, take a look at these videos (subtitled): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHCioAuDfI0>;
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVdK-ACc-uE&list=PLK1_iz-oV1WjmG7mcRd-elTCMiRH1J--g

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SCHEDULE 2018

General schedule

Activity	3 week shift, hours
Excavation and survey (field activities)	48,0
Lab activities	64,0
Classes, cultural trips	20,0
Total work hours	132

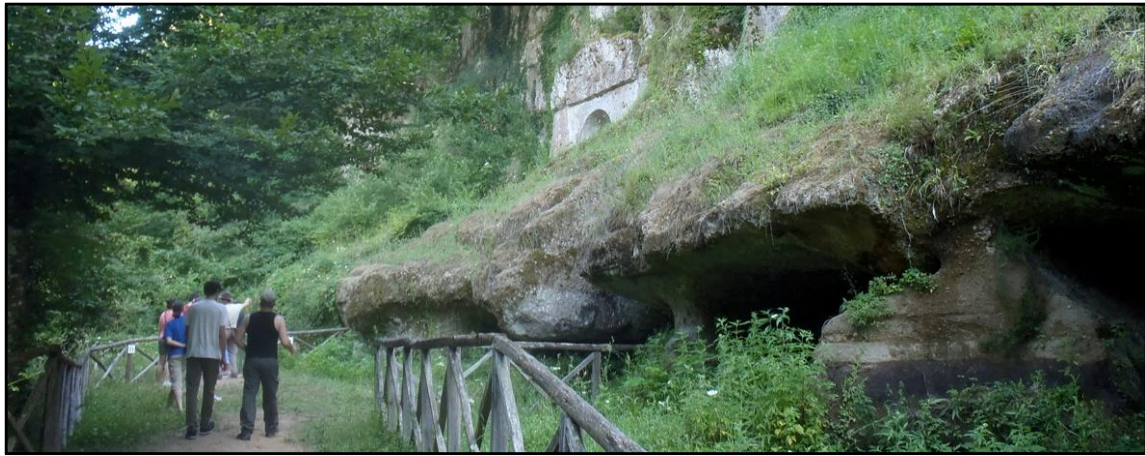
Daily schedule

Week day schedule		
Time	Activity	Location
7.30 am	Breakfast	At home
8.30 am	Arrive on site/start lab activity at home	At home/on site
8.30-9.00 am	Daily briefing	At home/on site
9.00-11.00 am	field/lab activities	At home/on site
11.00-11.30 am	Break	At home/on site
11.30 am-1.00 pm	field/lab activities	At home/on site
1.00-2.00 pm	Lunch	At home
2.00-4.00 pm	field/lab activities/classes	At home/on site/nearby
4.00-5.00 pm	lab activities/classes	At home/nearby
6.00-8.00 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
8.00-9.00 pm	Dinner	At home
9.00 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby
Saturday schedule		
8.00	Breakfast	At home
9.00-12.30 am	Didactics/cultural trip	At home/on site
1.00-2.00 pm	Lunch	At home
2.00-7.00 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
7.00-8.30 pm	Free time. <u>Dinner not provided by staff.</u>	At home
8.30 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby
Sunday schedule		
8.00 am	Breakfast	At home
9.00 am-8.00 pm	Free time. <u>Lunch not provided by staff.</u>	At home/nearby
8.00-9.30 pm	Dinner	At home
9.30 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby

Classes, labs and field activities will take place daily, from Monday to Friday. Drawing, G.I.S., and pottery laboratories will be held regularly in parallel with excavation and survey. Such activities will be held at staff's discretion and will involve only small groups of students (2-5) at a time.

Saturday's schedule will be a half day of work and Sunday is totally free, in order to give students the chance to enjoy their stay in Italy. Students are encouraged to take sightseeing trips to nearby cities and the staff will be glad to help organize and guide them, if their destination is in the surroundings.

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ACTIVITIES

Field activities

2018 Campaign will include both survey and excavation. Students will practice in each sector, led by one or two archaeologists of the staff. Survey will also include G.I.S., total station, photogrammetry, masonry stratigraphic analysis practice. Excavation of the medieval burial will also involve students in every aspect of archaeological record.



Lab activities

Laboratories will run parallel to field activities, involving small groups of students at a time under the supervision of a staff instructor.

Training in drawing, pottery, total station, G.I.S. and open source archaeological record labs will be provided. In addition, depending on the needs of the field research, the laboratories will also focus on other topics, such as metal find preservation and anthropological analysis.



Lectures

Lectures will be focused on local history and on the archaeological method and theory. They will take place in the afternoon, interposed to cultural trips.



The staff

All activities will be led by a staff of qualified archeologists, skilled in both archaeological research and teaching methods.

The staff has been entrusted by the *Soprintendenza Archeologica della Toscana* of researching and preserving the “la Biagiola” site, since 2012.

The scientific supervisor is Dr. Luca Mario Nejrotti, *Chercheur Associé* at the LA3M – Université d’Aix-Marseille – CNRS, Ph.D. in Medieval Archaeology.

univ-amu.academia.edu/LucaMarioNejrotti

Each member of the staff has been chosen for their specific technical knowledge in archaeological methods and in the recording activities linked with our field work; they have also been chosen for their experience in managing archaeological field campaigns with volunteers and students.

We are well aware that archaeological research is a fascinating study but very hard work and we will do our best to make the experience formative and pleasant at the same time.



Safety first!

All students will be equipped with appropriate safety devices. The activities and cultural trips will be conducted in compliance with the higher safety standards.

All ACT’s activities follow the rules prescribed by the Legislative Decree no. 81 of 9 April 2008, also known as “*Testo unico in materia di salute e sicurezza sul lavoro*”, and the related corrective measures, according with the Cultural heritage office of Tuscany’s dispositions.





ADMISSION PROCEDURES

The Winter School of “la Biagiola” focuses on archaeological method, applied on a multilayered site: from the Etruscan age to the Modern era.

The 2018 Campaign is open to both undergraduate and graduate students in Archaeology.

Admission is limited to 10 students per shift (30/12/17-20/01/18; 3/02/18-24/02/18).

No prerequisites are requested for the Winter School; students will be adequately trained during the campaign.

Students interested in the Winter School must submit their application with a cover letter (1000 characters maximum) and a CV to info@culturaterritorio.org.

Application deadline: **5/12/2017**. Nevertheless, the applications will be examined as soon as they are received and every applicant considered suitable will be admitted immediately.

The staff reserves the right to verify any information reported in the CV and to request additional documentation (e.g.: advising reports; references) at its discretion, before coming to a decision on the enrollment.

An e-mail of confirmation or refusal will be sent to each applicant no later than **December 10, 2017**.

Upon acceptance, students will receive detailed information on the following enrollment requirements:

1. Medical certificate of good mental and physical health and medical history – if students have medical conditions, the certificate should be filled out and signed by a treating specialist.
2. Proof of Insurance – students must have a valid international health and injury insurance and must provide the insurance provider’s contact information as well as the policy number.
3. Release form – the participant must read and accept the terms of the field school; a signed release form must be submitted before the starting date of the Winter School.
4. Travel itineraries – all students must provide their detailed travel itinerary as soon as possible. This information will allow the staff to arrange airport/train station pick-ups and drop-offs in advance.
5. Payment, to be made through credit transfer. 50% of the payment will be requested within 1 week after acceptance (last deadline: **5/12/2017**). Balance should be paid upon arrival at the Winter School.

Students will be required to provide all documentation and the 50% deposit within one week from acceptance. The failure to provide all above mentioned documents and payment within the terms means an automatic forfeiture of the student’s place in the Winter School.

For any further question, please e-mail our director Dr Luca Mario Nejrotti at

presidente@culturaterritorio.org.

Or look for further information at www.culturaterritorio.org.

Fees

Type	30/12/17-20/01/18	4-20/01/18; 3-24/02/18
Normal price	1700	1500
AIA Member	1600	1400
<u>Participant bringing three or more paying appliers</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>750</u>
Veteran	1500	1300

NO USD PAYMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED, AS FOR MONEY TRANSFER, ALL BANK FEES AND CHANGES ARE TO BE CONSIDERED UPON APPLIERS.

AIA Members will get a **€ 100** reduction.

We do encourage the participation of small groups of friends or class mates. If a participant brings **three or more paying friends** he/she (and he/she only) will get a **50%** reduction.

Fees will cover local transports, housing, meals, excavation, laboratory equipment, and staff costs; anything not specified is not included.

There are no application fees; however, students are required to pay half support fees within 1 week after admission.

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In case of withdrawal within **December 5 2017**, the fee will be refunded minus a non-refundable deposit of **€ 500**.

After December 6, 2017 fees will not be refunded.

Payement metod: money transfer to our bank account.

Associazione "Cultura e Territorio"

Via Ormea, 122 - 10126 Torino

C.F. 97687910014

IBAN: IT23R0321101001052848844830

Bank name: Banca Patrimoni Sella and C. S.p.A.

BIC: SELBIT22

SWIFT: SENVITT1XXX

Town: Torino, Piemonte, Italia

You can to pay just 50% of the amount or the whole amount plus any costs for the money transfer.

In case you choose to pay just half fee you should be able to pay the balance upon arrival, in cash.

Credits

In order to enable students to gain credits from their University, a signed certificate will be issued, testifying all the activities of the Winter School in details.



GENERAL INFO AND TIPS

Arrival and departure

Students are responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Italy. The Winter School is taking place in the municipality of Sorano (GR), in the south of Tuscany.

The closest airport is located in Rome. We suggest the students to reach Rome by flight and take a train to **Orvieto**.

Travel to and from Sorano, where the Winter School is held, is not included in the inscription fee, however:

on Saturday, December 30, a meeting point will be arranged at **Orvieto Railway Station** in the late morning. Students will be driven for free to the Winter School accommodation by the staff;

on Thursday, January 4, a meeting point will be arranged at **Orvieto Railway Station** in the late morning. Students will be driven for free to the Winter School accommodation by the staff;

on Saturday, January 20, the staff will drive for free the students to **Orvieto Railway Station** in the morning, where they could take trains to their departure place or any further destination;

on Saturday, February 3, a meeting point will be arranged at **Orvieto Railway Station** in the late morning. Students will be driven for free to the Winter School accommodation by the staff;

on Saturday, February 24, the staff will drive for free the students to **Orvieto Railway Station** in the morning, where they could take trains to their departure place or any further destination.



If you arrive in any other town or leave from any other place, you will have to provide yourself a ride.

Accommodations

Students and staff will be hosted in a typical country house in Sorano, in dormitories of 3-4 places each, with communal bathrooms and facilities.



Meals

The meals will be cooked by an Italian cook.

The breakfast (consisting of coffee, milk, tea and pastries) will be consumed at the accommodation.

On Saturdays, no dinner will be provided by the staff.

On Sundays, no lunch will be provided by the staff.

Lunch and dinner, consisting of typical Italian dishes, will be held at the accommodation (Winter School fee includes water: all other drinks are not included).

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with food allergies (nuts, shellfish, etc.); students with food allergies are required to inform the staff of their specific dietary restrictions upon



application. We also will try to accommodate individual lifestyles and dietary choices (vegetarianism, veganism, etc.) too: student must inform the staff of any special request upon application. On request, it will be possible to go shopping every 3/4 days; students may ask staff members for any personal shopping request (not included in the fee).

Health and medical information

The participation in the Winter School implies intense physical activity and probably low temperatures during the workday. It is mandatory that all students consult their family doctor to confirm that they will be able to endure the demands of working outdoors for several hours.

All students accepted in the program will be required to provide a doctor's note stating that they are in good health and able to participate in the field school safely. In case of students with medical conditions and/or special needs, a specialist's note will be required. In order to guarantee safety and proper intervention in case of emergency, medical history information must be included in the physician's note. Such information will be treated with absolute confidentiality and will not be disclosed to any third party, unless required to safeguard the student's health.

All the students enrolled in the field school must have a valid international medical insurance for the entire duration of their stay in Italy. Students are required to provide policy information prior to their arrival in Italy.

Given the potential exposure to pathogens in the soil, students must have had a tetanus vaccination or booster within the past ten years; no other vaccinations are required to travel in Italy.

A DOG WILL BE AT THE WINTER SCHOOL ALL THE TIME, SO WE DISCOURAGE INSCRIPTION OF PEOPLE WITH ALLERGIC DISEASES TO ANIMAL FUR.

Local Transportation

The staff will drive the students, materials, and supplies to and from the site on every workday, during cultural trips, and in case of emergency as well. Staff will try to grant students' wish of special trips, when free from activities.

Clothing and Equipment

Students should plan to bring appropriate clothing for wintertime, providing cold-weather outing gear.

The following items are suggested specifically for the field work:

- comfortable, winter hiking pants and shirts to be worn during excavation and survey (layered clothing serves to keep you warm when at rest and to keep you warm but not overheated when you're working;
- closed-toe work shoes with reinforced soles (no trainers are allowed on the site);
- warm socks;
- comfortable work gloves;
- a hat to protect head and ears during the coldest hours of the day;
- backpack;
- sunscreen;
- a flask or water bottle;
- waterproof, windproof and breathable hard-shell jacket;

The following items are required for the accommodations:

- sheet set (top and bottom sheet, standard pillow slip), blanket OR a sleeping bag;
- shower and hand towels;
- personal toiletries;
- any personal medicine;
- swimsuit and beach towel;
- basic school supplies.

Language

The official language of the field school is English and no knowledge of Italian is required. However, Italian or French knowledge will be taken as an advantage.

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Visas

US citizens are required to carry a valid passport for at least six months following the date of their arrival in Italy. No visa is required to enter the country for a stay shorter than 90 days. All students are highly encouraged to read and review information relevant to traveling to Italy posted on the [US Department of State's website](#).

Internet access

Internet access will be available at the accommodation, connecting to staff devices on demand, at no additional cost. Personal computers and internet connections will be allowed.

Laundry

Laundry service is not included. Students should do their own washing (detergents will be supplied by the staff). They can also find some laundrettes in the near town of Pitigliano.

Currency and personal shopping

Every cash purchase has to be in Euros.

Up-to-date data about Euro-US dollar exchange can be easily found online. Students will not incur in any additional fee for the duration of the field school, but they may want to purchase souvenirs, gifts and other personal items. Although major credit cards are widely accepted, a modest sum in cash may be useful. Money may be exchanged at local banks and exchange agencies, or simply withdrawn at local ATMs.

Mobile devices

We strongly recommend you to buy an Italian or International SIM card before your arrival at Sorano. Good phone or data offers are harder to find in the countryside than in the airports, where salespeople are more accustomed to helping foreign customers.



WE ARE LOOKING TO MEET YOU IN TUSCANY!!!

