



# La Biagiola International School of Archaeology

7<sup>th</sup> Campaign

July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 23<sup>rd</sup>

2020

Sovana di Sorano, Grosseto, Tuscany, Italy



Info & contact: [info at culturaterritorio dot org](mailto:info@culturaterritorio.org)

## In short

**WHO?** Archaeology, History, Art History, Anthropology, and Museology students.

**WHAT?** An International Summer School of Archaeology.

**WHEN?** From July 20<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

**WHERE?** Sovana di Sorano, Tuscany, Italy.

**WHY?** In order to learn the archaeological method in a difficult multi-layered site, being part of a stimulating international environment.

**HOW?** Read more in this dossier, then send us your CV, a cover letter, and the form that you can download from our website [www.culturaterritorio.org](http://www.culturaterritorio.org).

For more information, you can contact us

*info at culturaterritorio dot org*

**What are you waiting for? Pack your bags and join us!**



## Fancy an archaeological campaign in Tuscany?

We provide an exciting opportunity for a first-hand experience in archaeological fieldwork, on a multilayered site that spans from prehistory to contemporary times.

You'll take part in the study of an ancient site in Tuscany, working alongside expert archaeologists and foreign fellow students.

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, historic monuments, and natural sites of Tuscany.

“La Biagiola” program is open to all students of archaeology, anthropology, and related disciplines.

#archeology, #classical studies, #medieval studies, #standing building archaeology, #public archaeology, #anthropology, #prehistory, #protohistory, #Etruscans, #Romans, #Middle ages, #ceramics, #metallurgy, #standing building archaeology, #architectural survey, #topographical survey, #reconnaissance, #archaeometry, #laboratory.



## The 2020 campaign

Students will experience all aspects of an archaeological career: fieldwork, architectural archaeology, burial archaeology, laboratory analysis, physical anthropology, artifact conservation, and cutting-edge open source digital archaeology.

Moreover, coursework will explore and focus on the major features of ancient Etruscan, Roman and Early-Medieval cultures.

The aims of the 2020 Campaign are to:

- complete the excavations of the Roman bath ruins in order to uncover this sector of the ancient villa plan;
- run out the study of the new field, opened in 2018, where the impressive Etruscan and Roman structures are best preserved;
- find the early medieval church supposed to be near the cemetery.

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



## Field activities

The fieldwork excavations will be a major portion of the training focus for the participants.

The trainees will be guided through this new adventure by a team of skillful archaeologists who will explain clearly every aspect of the research process.

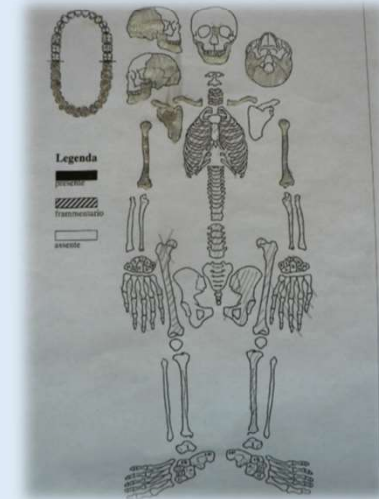


# Lab activities

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 Archaeology of standing buildings, metal find preservation, and anthropological analysis.



# Didactics

Lectures will be focused on archaeological method and theory applied to the case study of “la Biagiola”.

They will take place on Saturdays, interposed to cultural trips.

## Topics:

- Public archeology;
- survey and other non-invasive techniques;
- the archaeological context of “la Biagiola”;
- pits, trenches, squares, extensive excavation: different sites, different methods;
- stratigraphy and site phases;
- findings treatment and analysis;
- archaeology of death;
- standing building archaeology;
- ancient building techniques at “la Biagiola”;
- oil and wine in Roman period;
- archaeometry;
- digital archaeology.



# Timetable

Activity	5-week shift, hours
Excavation and survey (field activities)	120
Lab activities	55
Lectures, cultural trips	40
<b>Total work hours</b>	<b>215</b>



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. 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 devoted to lectures and Sundays will be totally free, in order to give our students the chance to enjoy their stay in Italy.

Weekday schedule		
Time	Activity	Location
6.15-7.00 am	Breakfast	At home
7.30 am	Arrive on site/start lab activity at home	At home/on site
7.30-8.00 am	Daily briefing	At home/on site
8.00-10.30 am	Excavation/lab activities	At home/on site
10.30-11.00 am	Break	At home/on site
11.00 am-1.00 pm	Excavation/lab activities	At home/on site
1.00-2.00 pm	Lunch	At home
2.00-4.00 pm	Classes/lab activities	At home/nearby
4.00-7.00 pm	Free time	At home/nearby
7.00-8.00 pm	Dinner	At home
8.00 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby
Saturday schedule		
7.15-8.00 am	Breakfast	At home
8.00-12.30 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	Dinner. <u>DINNER NOT PROVIDED BY STAFF.</u>	At home
8.30 pm-...	Free time	At home/nearby
Sunday schedule		
8.15-9.00 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



## Leisure

In addition to the archaeological experience, participants will be able to enjoy a wide range of cultural sites, historic monuments, and natural sites of Tuscany.

Since the site is 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 via cave, Sorano and the Pitigliano museums and castles.

Not to mention the various leisure activities that are also included: Bolsena Lake, Saturnia baths, and the numerous festivals will make the experience enjoyable and unforgettable.



## Accommodation

One of the perks of working in Tuscany is that our students and staff will be lodged in the typical country house near the archaeological site, in dormitories for 6-8 places each, with communal bathrooms and facilities.

The schoolhouse address is:

Catabbiaccio, 58055 Semproniano GR



# Rules and tips - 1

## Arrival and departure

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

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

On Monday, July 20, a meeting point will be arranged at GROSSETO Railway Station in the late morning for the applicants. Students will be driven to the Summer School accommodation by the staff. A second meeting point will be arranged at GROSSETO Railway Station in the first afternoon.

On Sunday, July 23, the staff will drive the students, in the morning, to GROSSETO Railway Station, where they could take trains to their departure place or any further destination.

**If students arrive in any other town or leave from any other place, they will have to provide themselves a ride to or from Pitigliano (where they will be picked up by our staff) as well as they don't respect the arrival and departure dates.**

## Visas

No Euro zone citizens are required to carry a passport valid 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 their government Foreign Office site (e.g. US Department of State's website).

## Meals

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

On Saturdays no dinner will be provided by staff.

On Sunday no lunch will be provided by staff.

Lunch and dinner, consisting of typical Italian dishes, will be held at the accommodation (International School fee only 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 (e.g. vegetarianism) too: student must inform the staff of any special request upon application, **no special dietary request after application will be taken in consideration.**

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).

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 (e.g. vegetarianism) too: student must inform the staff of any special request upon application, **no special dietary request after application will be taken in consideration.**

## Internet access

Internet access will be available at the accommodation, using staff devices upon request, at no additional cost.

There is WI-FI connection JUST in the refectory.

Personal computers and internet connections will be allowed.

**For normal internet connections, students are encouraged to purchase a data plan with an Italian mobile operator upon arrival at the airport.**

## Laundry

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

## Currency and personal shopping

Every cash purchase must 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 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.



# Rules and tips - 2

## 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.

## Health and medical information

The participation in the Summer School implies intense physical activity and probably high temperatures (**up to 104 °F - 40 °C**) 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.

## Local Transports

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 summertime, providing the following items specifically for the field work:

- comfortable, lightweight pants (no shorts allowed on the site) and shirts to be worn during excavation (shirts with shoulders and sleeves are preferable to tank tops);
- closed-toe work shoes with reinforced soles (no trainers, sandals or flip flops are allowed on the site);
- comfortable work gloves;
- a hat to protect the head during the hottest hours of the day;
- backpack;
- sunscreen and insect repellent;
- a flask or water bottle.

The following items are required for the accommodations:

- sheet set (top and bottom sheet, standard pillow slip) 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.



# Join us!

## Admission procedures

The “la Biagiola” International School of Archaeology (BISA) focuses on archaeological method, applied on a multilayered site: from the Etruscan age to the Modern era. The 2020 Campaign is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Admission is limited to 25 students per session.

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

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

You can find the application form at [www.culturaterritorio.org](http://www.culturaterritorio.org).

Minimum stay: **the whole 5-week campaign.**

## Application deadlines:

10/06/2020. 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.

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 Summer 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: 20/06/2020). Balance should be paid upon arrival at the Summer 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 Summer School.

For any further question, please e-mail our director Dr Luca Mario Nejrotti at [presidente@culturaterritorio.org](mailto:presidente@culturaterritorio.org). Or look for further information at [www.culturaterritorio.org](http://www.culturaterritorio.org).



# Fees and academic credits

Special rates will be applied to students of affiliated universities.

Whole campaign fee: € 2800.

AIA Member: € 2700.

Participant bringing 3 or more paying appliers: € 1400.

Veterans: € 2200.

AIA Members will get a € 100 reduction.

We do encourage the participation of small groups of friends or classmates. If a participant brings three or more friends, he/she 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.

Travel to and from Sorano, where the Summer School is held, is not included.

In case of withdrawal up to three weeks before the start of the International School, the fee will be refunded minus a non-refundable deposit of **€ 800**.

After this term, fees will not be refunded.

## Payment method

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 pay just the first 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.

AS A FRIEND, you can also send money by Paypal to our account ([presidente@culturaterritorio.org](mailto:presidente@culturaterritorio.org)).

## Credits

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



## More about

TO KNOW MORE, LOOK AT THESE VIDEOS (SUBTITLED):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHCioAuDfI0;>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVdK-ACcuE&list=PLK1\\_iz-oV1WjmG7mcRd-elTCMiRH1J--g;](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVdK-ACcuE&list=PLK1_iz-oV1WjmG7mcRd-elTCMiRH1J--g;)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEPgmL-mkXE;>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX0eS\\_YS\\_Iw.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX0eS_YS_Iw)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

BARBIERI G., BUCCI I., DICIOTTI F., FERRARESE LUPI A., 2011, Sorano (GR) Località La Biagiola: saggio di scavo, in Notizie del “Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana”, 6.

FERRARESE LUPI A., 2011, Località La Biagiola: relazione preliminare di scavo (campagne 2009-2010), in BARBIERI G., Il territorio di Sovana. Un decennio di ricognizioni e indagini archeologiche, pp. 83-92.

TURCHETTI M. A., DICIOTTI F., CORSI J., NEJROTTI L., FERRARESE LUPI A., 2012, Sorano (GR). Indagini archeologiche nel sito della Biagiola: campagna di scavo 2011, in “Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana”, 7.

FERRARESE LUPI A., NEJROTTI L. M., TURCHETTI M. A., 2013, Indagini archeologiche nel sito della Biagiola campagna 2012, in Notizie del “Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana”, 8, 2012, pp. 618-621.

NEJROTTI L. M., TURCHETTI M. A., 2014, Indagini archeologiche nel sito della Biagiola campagna 2013, in Notizie del “Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana”, 9, 2013, pp. 518-519.

NEJROTTI L. M., TURCHETTI M. A., 2015, Indagini archeologiche nel sito della Biagiola campagna 2014, in Notizie del “Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana”, 10, 2014, pp. 528-530.

[http://www.fastionline.org/excavation/micro\\_view.php?fst\\_cd=AIAC\\_4355&curcol=sea\\_cd-AIAC\\_8781.](http://www.fastionline.org/excavation/micro_view.php?fst_cd=AIAC_4355&curcol=sea_cd-AIAC_8781)



# Join our international community!!!

We know how much important it is to compare different scientific methods and to connect with people from different backgrounds. Over the years we have been able to create relationships that go beyond the simple duration of the campaign and still last today.



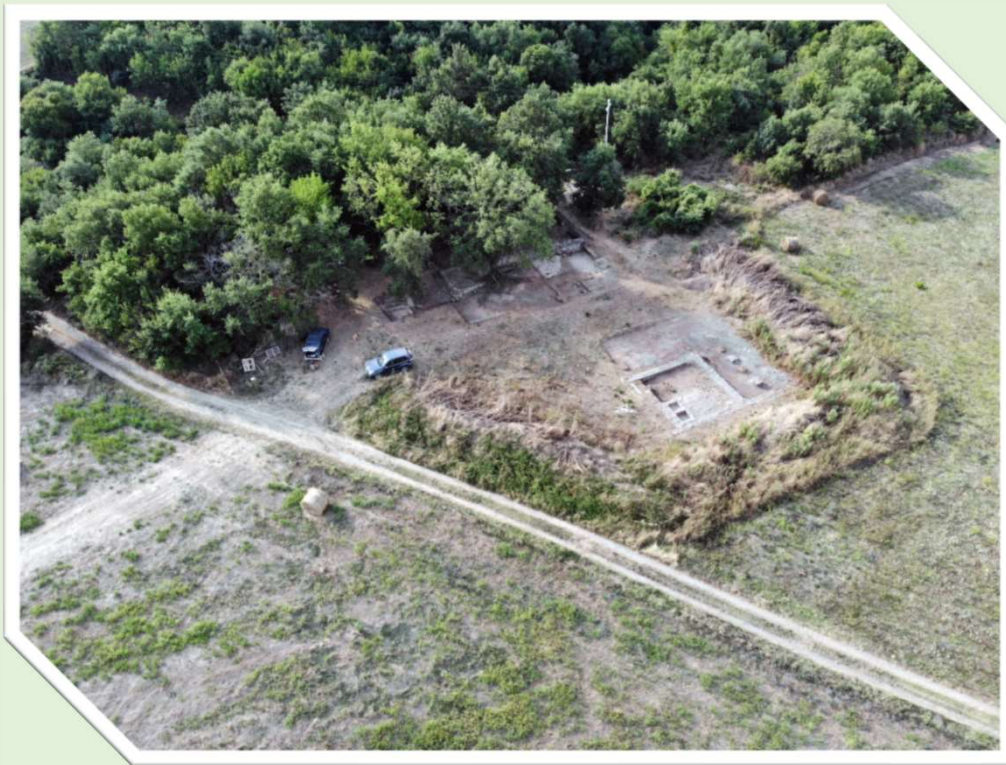
Please note that BISA mascot is a very good big dog: people allergic or particularly afraid of dogs should choose another school.





# La Biagiola archaeological site

The evolution of a countryside settlement from Etruscan time, through the Roman period, to the early Middle Ages, and up to a Modern era farmhouse.



Info & contact: [info at culturaterritorio dot org](mailto:info@culturaterritorio.org)





## The archaeological site

At "la Biagiola", we study the evolution of an ancient settlement through the centuries: starting from the earliest protohistoric traces, through Etruscan time, Roman Republic and Empire, Middle Ages, up to the modern rural building.

"La Biagiola" archaeological site 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, the Association "Cultura e Territorio" (ACT) has been entrusted with the archaeological research.

At present, the history of the site is quite clear in outlines: an Etruscan rural settlement, at least two phases of a Roman villa, a Late Antiquity settlement, a Lombard graveyard, and a Modern farm follow each other, sometime destroying previous layers, mostly just overlapping them.

The excavations are carried on thanks to the *Soprintendenza Archeologia Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le province di Siena, Grosseto e Arezzo*, "la Biagiola vitivinicola", Kaustic Plastik, the municipality of Sorano, and many private donors and stakeholders.

## What is ACT?

ACT is an association of archaeologists, engaged since 2007 in the research, protection, valorization and promotion of cultural heritage.

Cooperating with professionals of different disciplines, over the years our activities range from archaeological campaigns to educational courses, from conferences and conventions to exhibitions, not to mention emergency archaeological salvage interventions.

We now form a cohesive and highly professional team, focused on promoting synergy with the public, the institutions, and the stakeholders of the territory.



## The Etruscan time, and before

The oldest phases of the site's history are the most elusive: our stratigraphy is a palimpsest in which the earlier layers have been largely canceled.

However, there are clues and findings of an important Etruscan place and, possibly, of an even earlier settlement.



Bronze figurines, *tufobloc* foundations, pottery and trenches carved in the bedrock testify to the presence of a pre-Roman settlement, yet to be studied.



## The Roman Villa

The very first findings at “la Biagiola” were Roman pottery and 1<sup>st</sup> century walls.

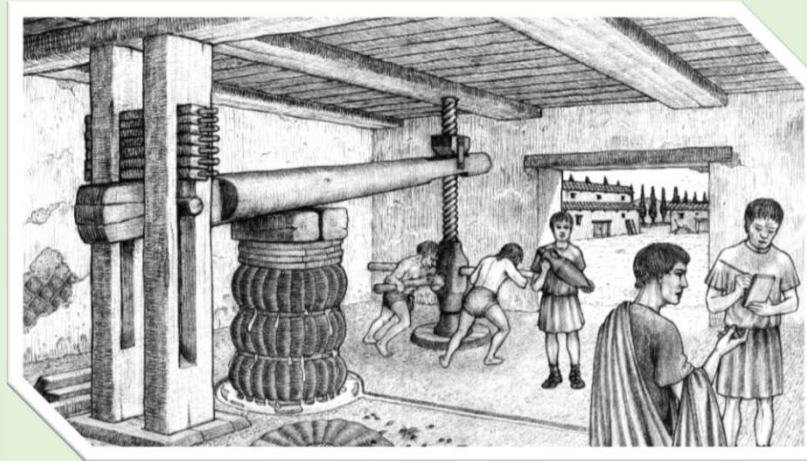
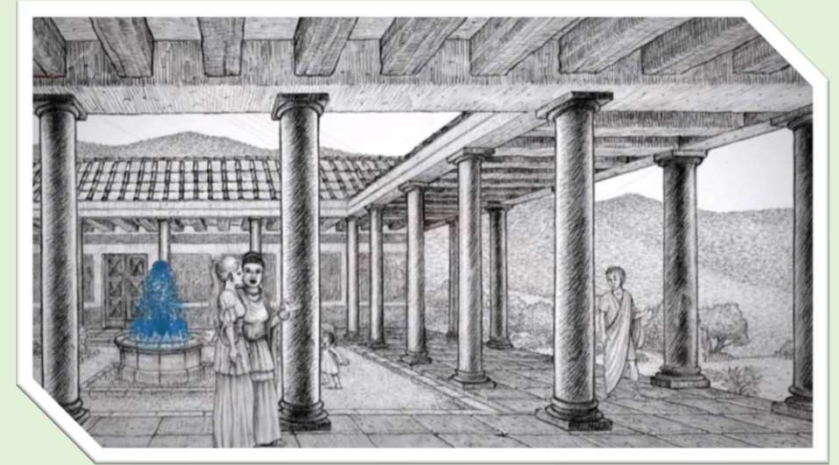
To date, the extensive excavation of the area has revealed a large *villa* frequented from the republican age until the late Roman empire.



It is the site long lasting frequentation that corroborates the hypothesis of its importance, preserved through the centuries.

## Farming and Leisure

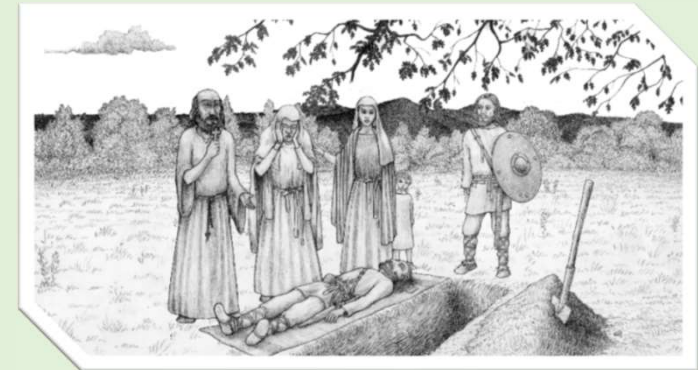
The peculiarity of the *villa* of "la Biagiola" is the coexistence of both productive facilities and spaces for leisure. Not far from each other, the remains of a building used to produce wine and oil, and bathhouses with monumental columns have been identified.



## Middle ages: the study of the graveyard

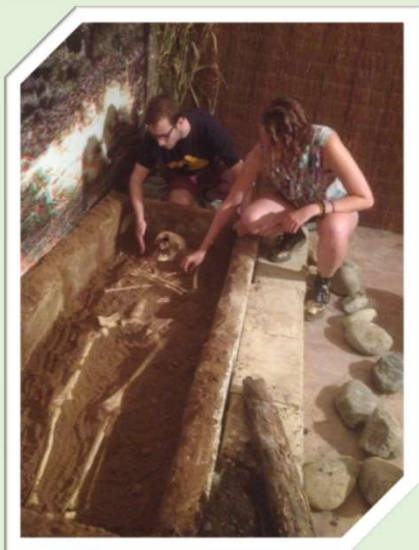
The excavations uncovered an impressive graveyard in which Langobard objects have been found. Those typical findings allowed us to date the graves to the first half of 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

Many other burials have been found, without any grave goods. Even so, from the bones we are able to outline a peasant community, poor, and worn out by the difficulties of life in medieval countryside.



From the study of the graves, we can reconstruct small flashes of personal life: diseases, passions, misfortunes, and family history.

## 2015: the first exhibit about “la Biagiola” site”



We do know that research without communication is just idle: for this reason, already in 2015, we collaborated in the creation of an exhibition about “la Biagiola” Lombard finds, hosted in the Castle of Sorano museum.



With the support of the municipality, of the cultural heritage office of Tuscany, and of many private donors, we were able to show to the public the original finds, reconstructions, and videos; the exhibit was also complemented by guided tours and educational moments.

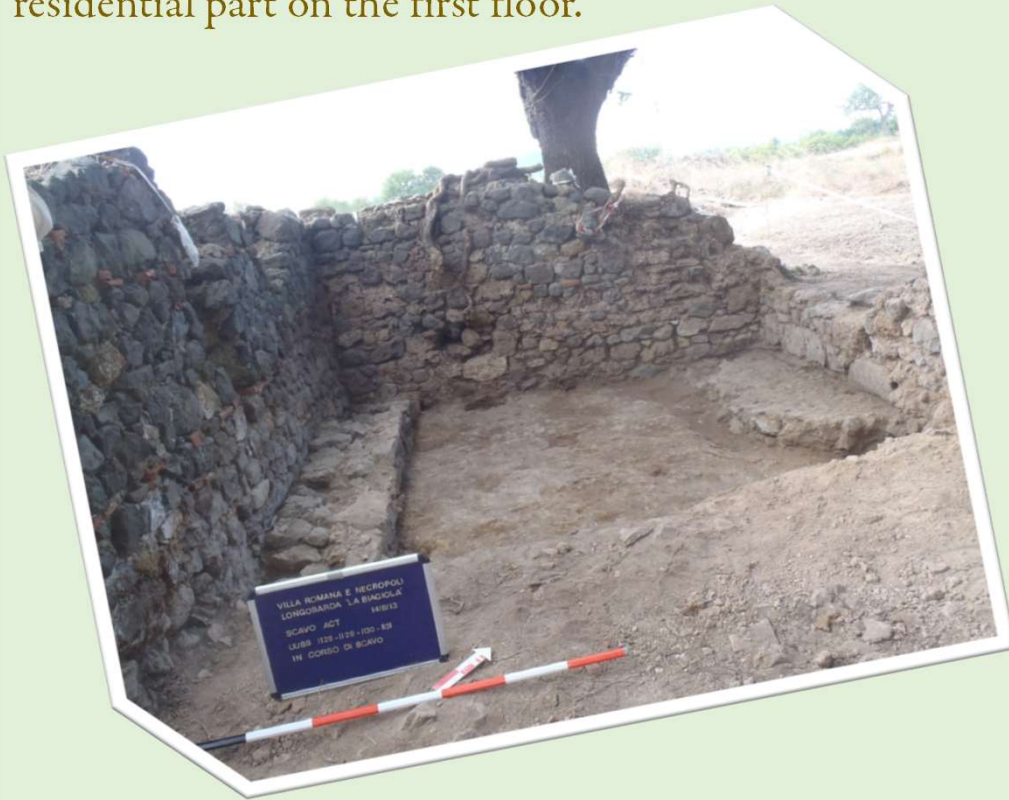




## Modern era: farming again

After XI<sup>th</sup> century A.D., for now, we have no more finding at “la Biagiola”, until XVI<sup>th</sup>.

We have identified pottery and clues dating back to this period, which testify to a small farm, built right on top of the Roman ruins. The building had two levels: stable and storage on the ground floor and, probably, the residential part on the first floor.



To understand the more recent layers of the site is not only important for the history of Sovana countryside in Modern era but is also capital for interpreting their impact on previous stratigraphy.

# The history of the research

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 know that popularization and promotion must be based on a rigorous scientific research and must ensure the protection of the Cultural Heritage.

The start of the project in 2012 was thanks to the financial support of the "la Biagiola winery", 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.

## 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 *SABAP per le Province di Siena Grosseto e Arezzo* 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](http://univ-amu.academia.edu/LucaMarioNejrotti)

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

We understand 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.

