

The Roman Villa Project

Archaeology, Paleobotany, and Sustainable Agriculture
in Italy's Sabine Hills

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Department of Classics
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Agriturismo Le Mole sul Farfa, Mompeo, Italy

www.lemolesulfarfa.com



Stefano Fassone, Elisabeth DeCoster, Marit & Theo



PRIMORDIA RERUM



Works & Days Farm

Shoreham, Vermont



















REALIA IN SITU















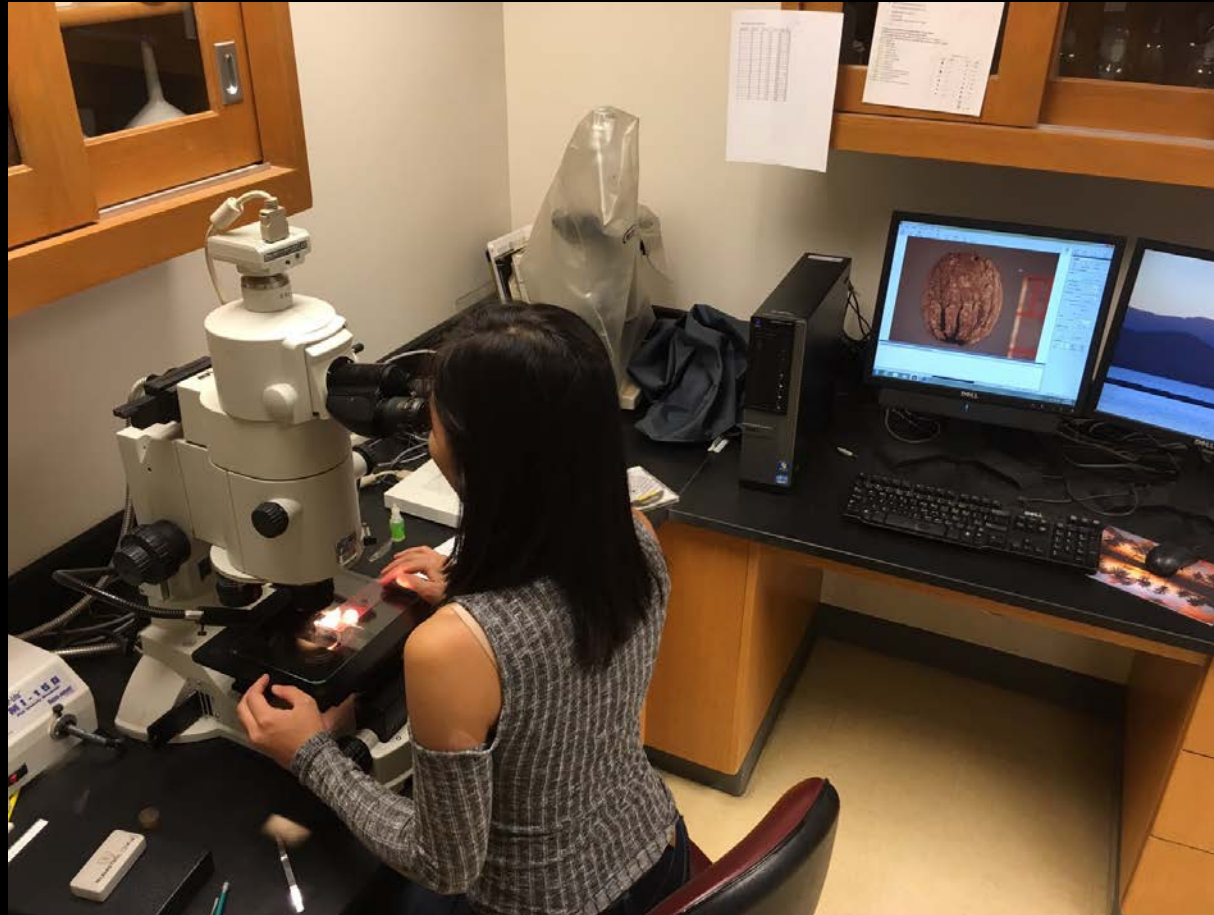


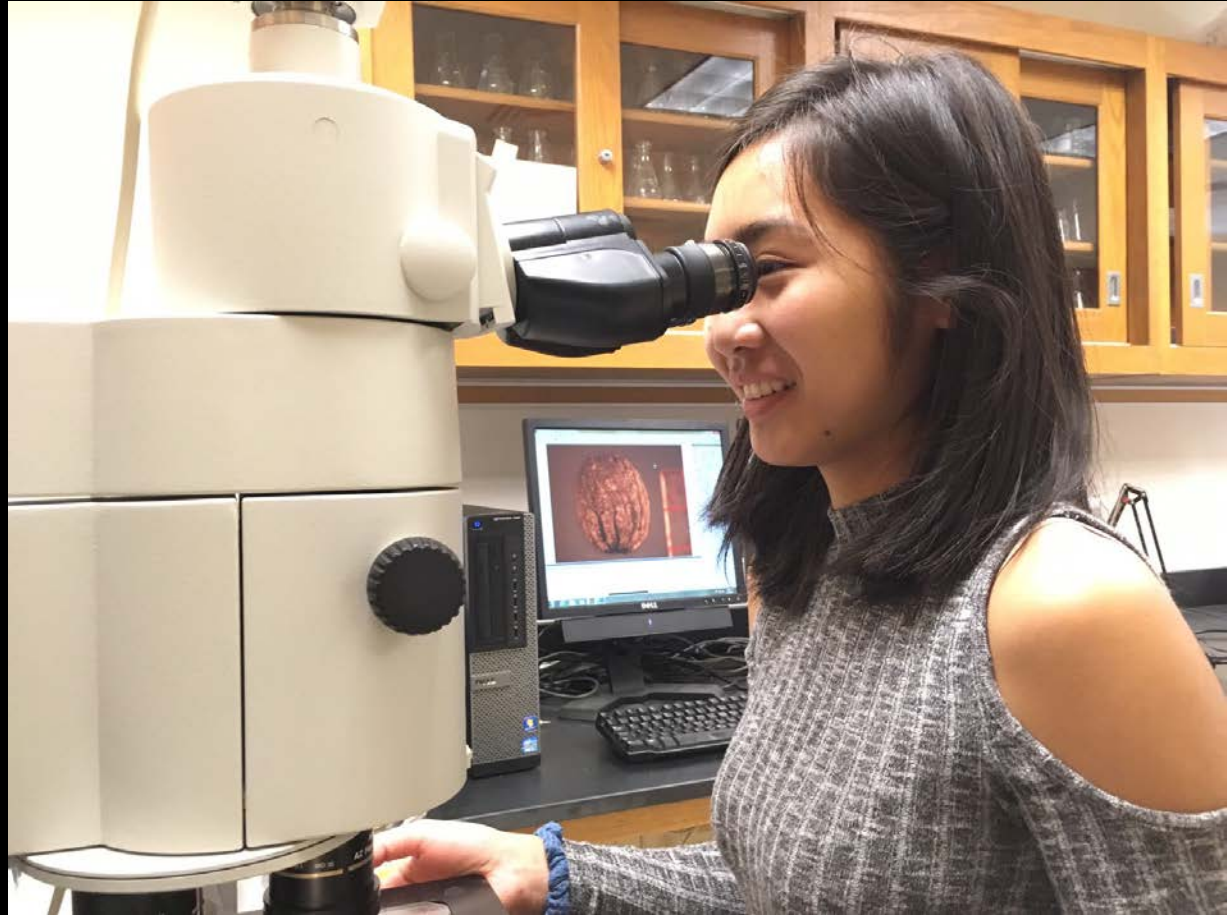
SCIENTIA















Range-data systems are currently able to register a lot of data describing accurately the world around us.

In order to study and analyze the cryptoprticus preserved near Mompeo, the research group decided to use a phase difference laser scanner FARO 120. More than 50 scans were carried out to have a complete numerical model of the monument.

By setting the acquisition in reflectance mode, the resolution of the data is very high and allows to analyze the whole surfaces of the inner walls.

In the processing step some algorithms were applied for reducing the noises of the laser beam and to enhance the information for the meshing reconstruction.

This part of the process was realized with different software able to make interpolations without altering the position of the points in space.

The mesh process was necessary to reduce the weight of data and to complete shadow parts not covered with the laser.

The preliminary results show important information about the distribution of the corridors and their lying.

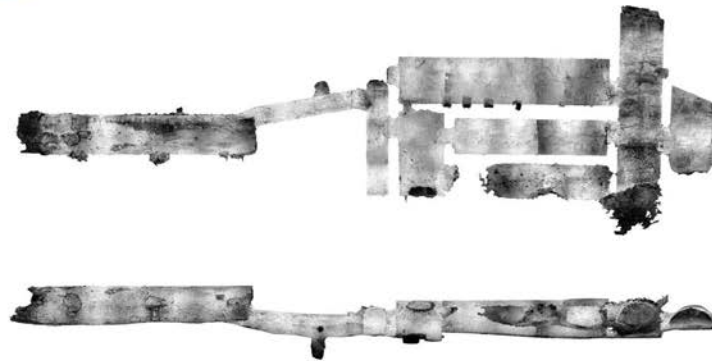


Fig.1/ The image shows the main plan surveyed and a section of the cryptoprticus. The representation suggests different phases in the life of the monument and further areas that must be excavated.



Fig.2/ Cross section from a perspective view of the main area of the cryptoprticus. The point cloud was transformed in a surface model through the meshing process.



Fig.3/ Different view of the monument. The numerical model was composed by 80 million of points. During the elaboration phase the noises were reduced and different algorithms were applied to enhance the information of the raw files.

The Cryptoprticus of Mompeo



Survey Project & Data Processing: Andrea Angelini

ARCHAEOLOGIA

























HISTORIA



Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (106-48 BCE)



Fundus/mons Pompeianus, Pompega & Mompeo

Gregory of Catino (1060-1130), *Regesto di Farfa*, Documenti 224 (817 CE), 282 (840 CE) and 300 (857? – 859? CE):

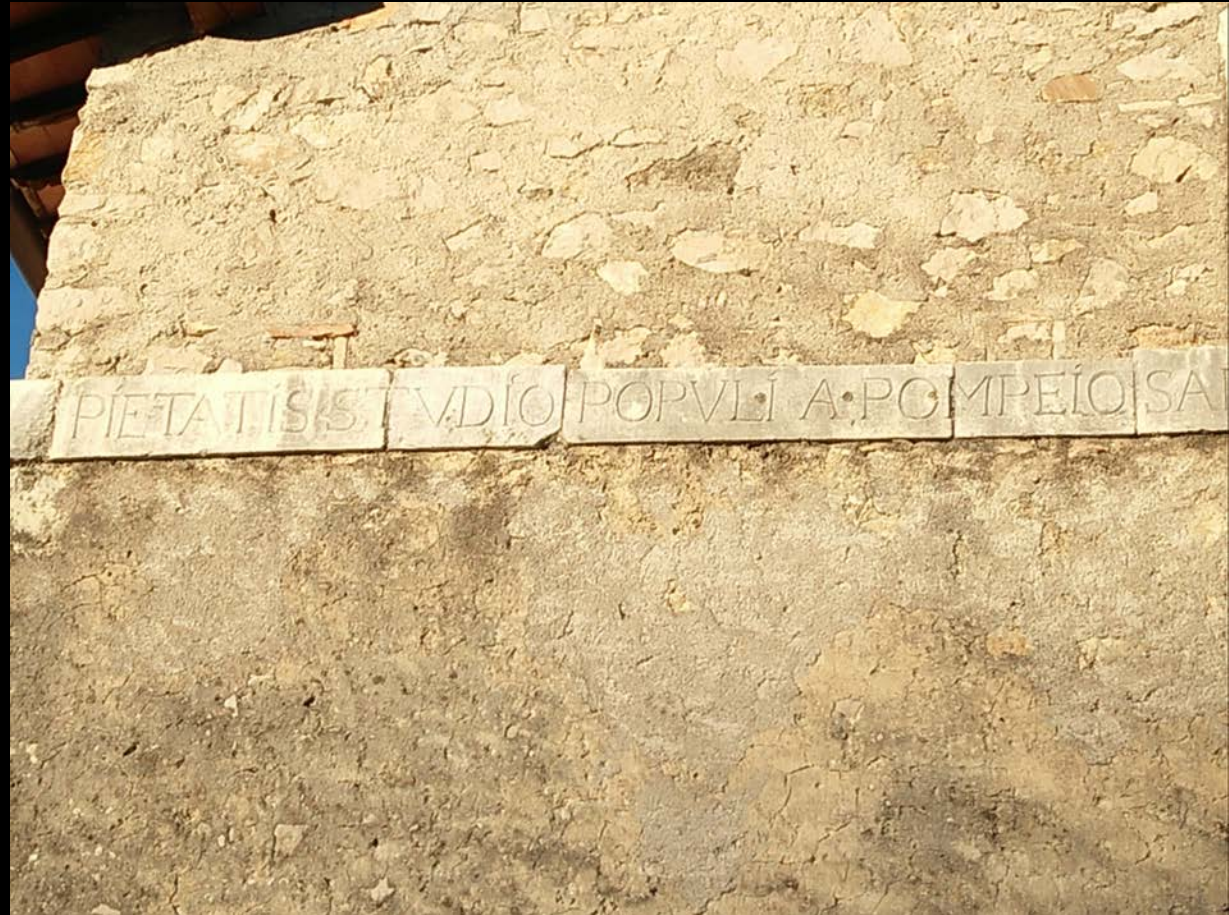
“...Fundum acutianum, ubi ipsum venerabile monasterium constructum est, cum finibus et appendicibus suis in integrum. Fundum calistrinum, in quo est aeclesia sancti laurentii. **Fundum pompeianum**...”

***Regesto di Farfa*, Vol. III (pp. 128 – 129), Documento 419 (1003 CE):**

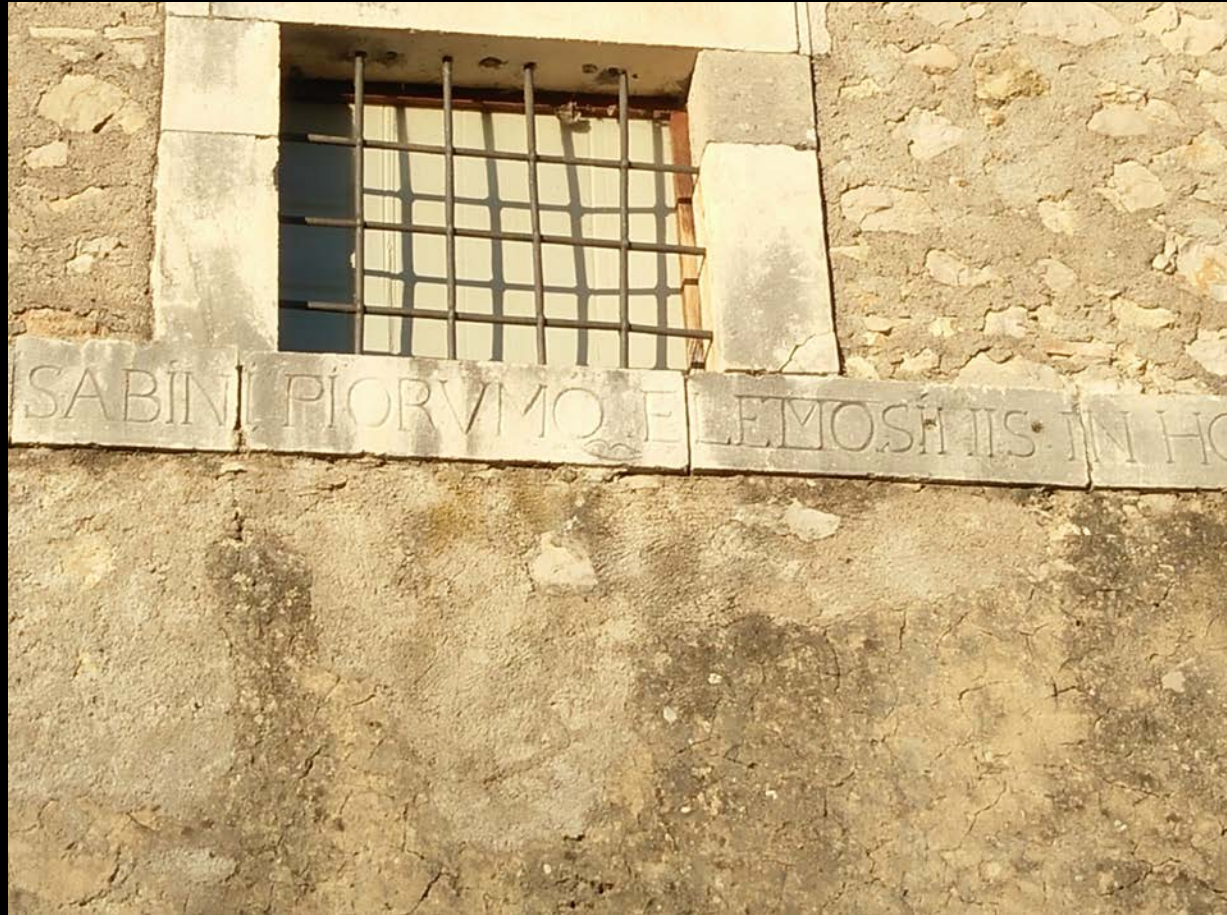
“...et refutavit per ipsum concambium ipsum castellum qui dicitur rocca, et foris ipsa rocca campum qui dicitur cabianus, quod est ipsa rocca inter hos fines: A duobus lateribus rivi, A iijo latere ipsi rivi coniuncti, A iijjo latere petrae fictae et terra de suprascripto monasterio, et ipsum suprascriptum campum inter hos fines: A primo latere uia, A duobus partibus rivi, A iijo latere rivi coniuncti. De isto campo infra suprascriptos fines medietatem ipsius. Et insuper refutavit in alio loco in conflenti in uocabulo quod vocatur **pompege iuxta fluvium pharpham**, per mensuram modiola sex adunita, cum ipsis aquimolis qui ibi aedificare potuerunt, et cum ipsa aeclesia quae modo ipsi destructa est.”

***Chronicon farfense*, Vol. II, p. 64, line 4**

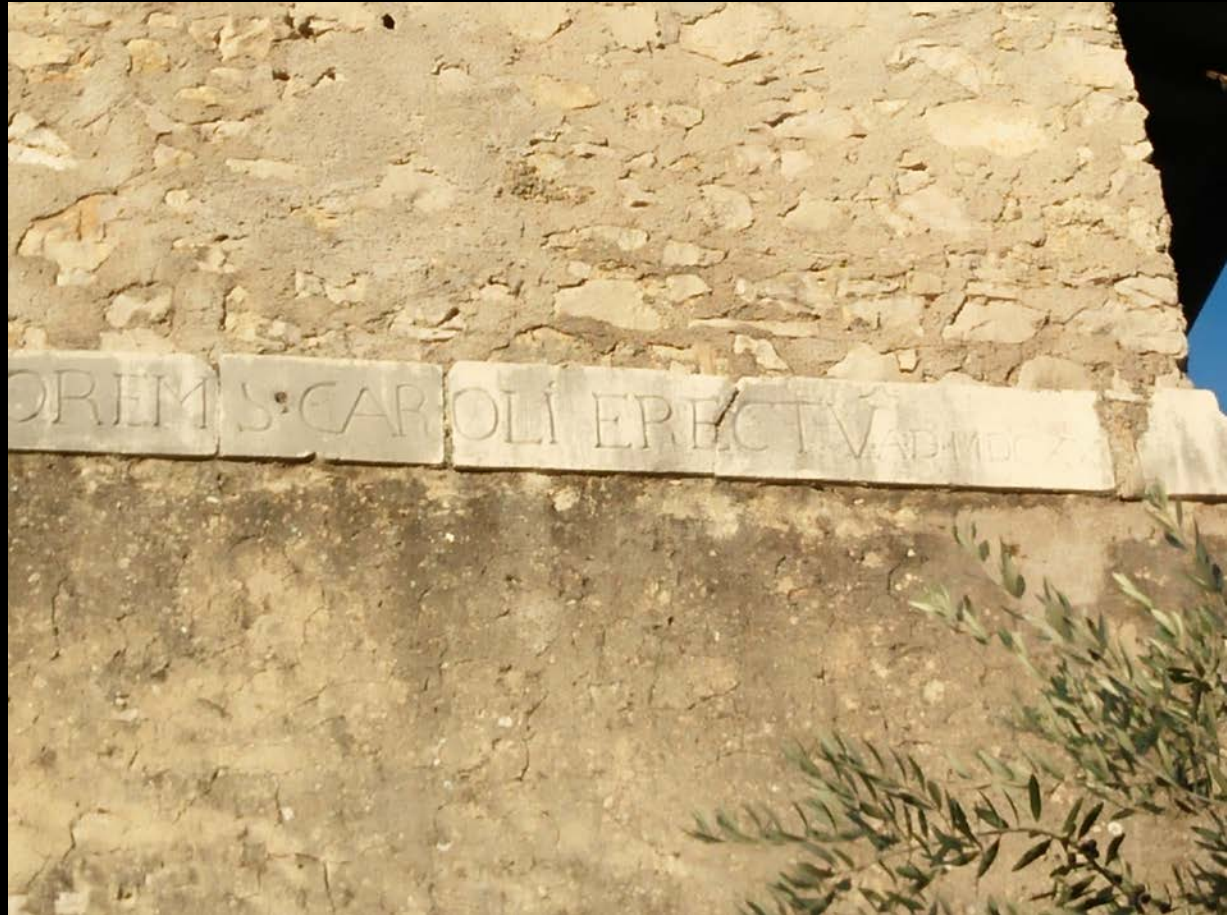
Pro solidis quatuorcentis concessit roccam in Salisano: ab uno latere petre fixe et pes montis Salisani, a secundo latere fossata coniuncta, a tertio latere rigus et fossatus qui decurrit iuxta **montem Pompeie**, a quarto latere fossatus.



PIETATIS STUDIO POPVLĪ A·POMPEIO SA



SABINI PIORVMO ELEMOSIIS IN HO



“Farmer’s” Church of San Carlo inscription in Mompeo

PIETATIS STUDIO **POPVLI A POMPEIO SABINI** PIORUMQ[UE]
ELEMOSINIS IN HONOREM S CAROLI ERECTV AD MDCXX

“Built with the pious zeal of the Sabine people from Pompeio and of persons noted for piety in almsgiving in honor of San Carlo, Anno Domini 1620.”

Nihil est agri cultura melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius, nihil homine libero dignius.

“Nothing is better than agriculture, nothing richer, nothing sweeter, nothing more fitting for a free person.”

—Cicero, *de Officiis* 1.151

“The ancients thought that to observe moderation in the size of a farm was of primary importance inasmuch as they determined that it was more satisfactory to sow less land and plough it better, an opinion I note Vergil held as well [= *Georgics* 2.412]. Indeed, to tell the truth, **large estates have ruined Italy**, and are now ruining the provinces, too: Half of Africa was owned by six landlords when the Emperor Nero put them to death. Thus, **let us not defraud Pompey of this additional mark of his Greatness, namely that he at least never bought land belonging to a contiguous estate.**”

—Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* 18.7

“A man not satisfied with seven *iugera* is a dangerous citizen (*perniciosum civem*).”

—Manius Curius Dentatus, Roman consul and general of the 3rd century BCE (as quoted by Pliny the Elder)

The Gracchi (Tribunes of the Plebs, 133-121)



“Nowadays agricultural operations are performed by slaves with fettered ankles and by the hands of malefactors with branded faces! And yet the Earth, who is addressed as our mother and whose cultivation is spoken of as worship, is not so dull that when we obtain even our farm-work from these persons one can hardly believe but that this is done against her will and to her indignation. Are we really so surprised that we do not get the same profits (*fructus*) from the labor of slave-gangs as used to be obtained from that of generals?”

—Pliny the Elder, *Natural History* 18.7

FIVE ACRES

and Independence

M. G. KAINS *

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE SELECTION
AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SMALL FARM



M P CAESAR DIVI F
AVGVSTVS COS XI
TRIBVN POTEST M
EX SC
XXXV



CAESAR DIVI
AVGVSTVS COS
TRIBVN POTEST
EX SC
XXXV

The Augustus milestone reads:

IMP(erator) CAESAR DIVI F(ilius) AUGUSTUS COS (= consul)
XI TRIBUN(iciae) POTEST(atis) VI EX S(enatus) C(onsulto) XXV:

“Emperor Caesar Augustus, son of the Divine [Julius Caesar],
Year XI of the Consulate Year VI of Tribunician Power, by
Decree of the Senate, 35 (i.e., miles from Rome).”

Invasions of Italy that might have destroyed the villa:

Visigoths under Alaric twice invaded Italy between 401-409 CE

Vandals sacked Rome in 455 CE

Lombards conquered Italy and set up a Kingdom that lasted from 568-774 CE



RES GESTAE ET AGENDAE











**escluso mezzi
agricoli**

150 m

GRATIAS VOBIS AGO

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