

## Long-term Change in Southern Etruria: San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project

In this paper the results of the first three seasons of archaeological research (summer, 2016, 2017, and 2018) at San Giuliano, a multi-component site spanning the Iron Age through the medieval period located in the Italian province of Lazio, are detailed. Reconstruction of the long-term changes in human occupation is the primary goal of the San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP), a collaborative initiative between a U.S. university and Italian partners from the Municipality of Barbarano Romano, Virgil Academy, the Province of Viterbo, and the Italian Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per l'Area Metropolitana di Roma, la Provincia di Viterbo e l'Etruria Meridionale, in conjunction with a number of specialists from the United States. San Giuliano is famous for its many rock-cut Etruscan tombs (late 8<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries), but the associated urban settlement is as-yet undiscovered and the later Roman and medieval periods have not been the subject of sustained and systematic investigation. We have focused our attention on the Etruscan and medieval periods, which saw the most intensive use and fortification of the San Giuliano plateau. We seek to understand both the rise and fall of the Etruscan urban center and the medieval *incastellamento* (castle-building with relocation of populations to defensible hilltops) process that reshaped the Italian landscape in the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. We here present the framework of our new project and the preliminary results of the survey and excavation of Etruscan rock-cut tombs and our mapping and excavations of the medieval component atop the San Giuliano plateau. We present data from our on-going project's first three seasons, collected through mapping, surface survey, ground penetrating radar, and excavation of the habitation zone on the plateau and the surrounding Etruscan necropolis. We have documented over 500 previously unmapped tombs with a

standardized system of GPS, photography, and registration forms. Salvage excavations of three looted chamber tombs show significant promise for recovery of artifacts and human bone that will allow reconstruction of social and economic relationships maintained by the inhabitants of San Giuliano. Although looting is extensive inside the tombs, we recovered a surprising dataset of bucchero and imported red-figure and black-figure pottery from inside the looted tombs, while intact deposits including a complete cremation urn were found in the plaza areas outside of the tombs. Particular focus of the presentation will be devoted to the discovery and excavation of an intact early Etruscan tomb dating to c. 700 BC. This tomb and the cemetery zone, which contains further unlooted tombs, shows great promise in furthering our understanding of the transitional period between the Villanovan Iron Age and the emergence of the characteristic Etruscan culture. This shift at San Giuliano involved the transition from trench tombs with single burials to chamber tombs for family groups.