

## Forme dell'abitare nel territorio riminese nella tarda antichità. I casi di San Pietro in Cotto, San Lorenzo in Strada e Tomba Bianca.

*Housing in the territory surrounding Rimini in Late Antiquity.*

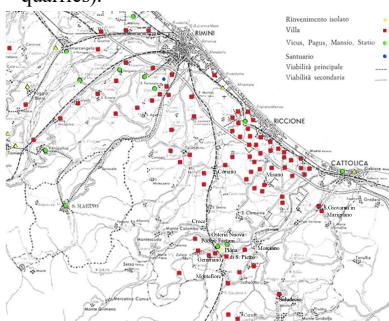
*The case studies of San Pietro in Cotto, San Lorenzo in Strada e Tomba Bianca.*



### The research project

In 2021 a new research project linked to scholars of different Italian institutes has started last year to study some rural key-contexts carried out in various Adriatic regions. In this contribution we will try to compare various forms of open settlements identified in the territory of Ariminum, through surveys and archaeological excavations. We will analyse their Late Antique phases and the main transformations since Republican Age, trying to define which are the successful model in the new agrarian landscape between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> Century.

The main cases took in consideration will be the settlement identified at San Lorenzo in Strada (Riccione) and San Pietro in Cotto (Gemmano), along the via Flaminia, connected to several different types of farms, *villae* and other rural settlements, with baths, productive zones and various residential complex. Evidence of great transformations have been highlighted overall at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, with the birth of central places, moving smaller farms towards a first form of large estate or moving onto the hilltops to create open villages, around religious complex or strategic sites for the control of economic resources (wine, olive oil, metals, salt, stone quarries).



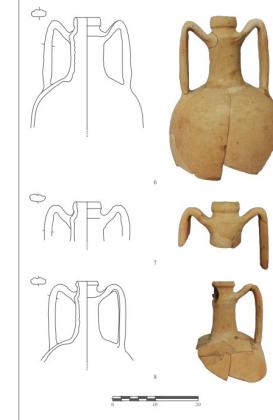
Settlements map

### San Lorenzo in Strada (Riccione)

The rural site of San Lorenzo in Strada, in Riccione, has seen several preventive archeological excavations in the 20th century, especially during the latest decades. The area results to have been inhabited at least from the Iron Age; the site has later seen the settlement of a Roman village in the 3rd Century BCE, later known with the name *vicus Popilius*. It has recently been possible to study the ceramic findings resulted from the archaeological operations.

A good number of flat-bottomed amphorae has been registered, produced for the most part in the surrounding territor between the second half of the 1st Century and the end of the 3rd Century CE. The identification of amphorae dated to the early Middle Ages, such as the LRA 1, LRA 2, Keay LIII, Keay LXI, Keay LXII and *spatheia* indicates that the site was still active throughout the 7th Century. This result has extended by a century the chronological range previously accepted for the settlement, which wasn't thought to have been inhabited after the 6th Century.

Some fragments of coarse ware dated from the 12th to the 15th Century attests the life of the settlement gathered around the church of San Lorenzo in Strada, which is mentioned in written records that date back at least to the 11th Century CE.



Flat bottomed amphorae produced in Santarcangelo di Romagna (Rimini) found in San Lorenzo in Strada (Riccione).

### San Pietro in Cotto (Gemmano)

Two archaeological excavation campaigns were carried out in 2008 and in 2009 in the podere Faetani north and south of a roman age building, identified thanks to the remains of a wall 60 cm high and of *sospensurae* found in the cellar of the farmhouse. Two trenches (10 x 10 metres) investigated the stages of the site from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE to the 5<sup>th</sup> Century CE, when the roman villa was abandoned, and the results of the surveys have extended the human activity in this context to the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. The area north of the farmhouse has revealed the remains of the *pars urbana* of a villa, specifically two spaces which have been interpreted as a *frigidarium* and a *tepidarium*. This sector becomes open and marginal by the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, whereas in the area south of the farmhouse the excavations have brought to light a road made of pebbles (*glareata*) that has been preserved and used up to the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. This last stage of human activity on the site is attested also by an atelier used for metal manufacturing, identified through the finding of slags, instruments, carbon and ash.

### Colle della Tomba Bianca (Riccione)

In the summer of 2022, the Tomba Bianca hilltop in Riccione has been the object of a new archeological excavation project. The operations have brought to light the remains of a rural settlement, which according to the ceramic finding was active from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century CE. At the same time, excavations were carried out in the area of the near Agolanti castle. Thanks to the early medieval coarse pottery found on the site, the dating of the first evidence of human activity in the context has been moved back to the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE.

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