

What's beyond the Etruscan bridge?

Analysis and dating of the Vignale plateau

San Giovenale. Results of excavations
conducted by the Swedish Institute
of Classical Studies at Rome and
the Soprintendenza alle Antichità
dell'Etruria Meridionale
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Yvonne Backe Forsberg
& Richard Holmgren

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Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies
Stockholm University
SE-106 91 Stockholm
secretary@ecsi.se | editor@ecsi.se

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Back cover: Bridge (illustration by R. Holmgren).

Dust jacket: The enigmatic Stone Platform excavated on Vignale in 1959, looking north-west (photograph by C.W. Welin, courtesy of SIR). See p. 183, *Fig. 155*.

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ABSTRACT

Yvonne Backe Forsberg & Richard Holmgren, *San Giovenale VI:2–3. What's beyond the Etruscan bridge? Analysis and dating of the Vignale plateau* (Skrifter utgivna av Svenska Institutet i Rom 4°, 26:6:2–3), Stockholm 2024.

The Etruscan site of San Giovenale has been excavated periodically since 1956. From the beginning the main focus has been the question of settlement remains. However, a fundamental area within the site had still not undergone the inquiry necessary for a complete understanding of the site as a whole. The Vignale plateau, connected to the main site by an Etruscan bridge, was surveyed and partly excavated in 1959–1960, but not published. The Vignale Archaeological Project (VAP) began new investigations in 2006 that aimed to answer the question of “What's beyond the Etruscan bridge?” This publication focuses on the initial investigations of 1959–1960, augmented by new ground- and aerial remote sensing surveys.

The current volume is divided in six chapters. Through an introduction, and geological/topographic and historical/archaeological settings (*Chapters 1–3*), the reader achieves a general understanding of Vignale within a larger framework. The main archaeological studies of various features on the plateau, their function and dating are covered in *Chapter 4*, where Vignale from the Final Bronze Age to medieval times is approached with an emphasis on the Etruscan periods. The study of the latter investigates the connection to Vignale's sister plateau (the Acropolis area), and the plateaus' connection to the surrounding landscape. An intrinsic aspect of Vignale is the association with wine over time. *Chapter 5* therefore elaborates on wild and domesticated vines with emphasis on production, ritual, and material remains, concluding with a summary and synthesis in *Chapter 6*. Two extensive appendices follow, one detailing the material remains and data connected to the southern Bridge Complex, and the other a treatise on the Etruscan awareness of their local mineral salt, alunite.

Keywords: San Giovenale, Vignale, Etruscan, viniculture, viticulture, cisterns, infrastructure, necropolis, remote sensing, LiDAR, aerial, bridge, ram's head, settlement, photography, defence structures, platform, quarry, wine press, alun, alunite

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AUTHORS

Dr Yvonne Backe Forsberg
Salabacksgatan 5 C
SE-754 32 Uppsala
forsberg.yvonne@gmail.com

Richard Holmgren
ARCDoc Archaeological
Documentation
Follingegatan 29
SE-596 33 Skänninge
arcdoc@icloud.com

List of abbreviations

The abbreviations are used in the bibliography, catalogues, footnotes, tables, and photographs.

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| ASL | Above sea level |
| BB | Börje Blomé |
| BRS | Bridge South |
| Cat. no./nos. | Catalogue number/s |
| CEÖ | Carl Erik Östenberg |
| cm | centimetre/s |
| CT | Cultivation Trench |
| CWW | Carl Wilhelm Welin |
| D | depth |
| diam. | diameter |
| EB | Erik Berggren |
| est. | estimated/estimation |
| FB | Frank Brown |
| g | gram/s |
| GR | Göran Rundquist |
| H | height |
| inv. no./nos. | inventory number/s |
| IRT | infrared thermography |
| KB | Kirsten Blomé |

| | |
|----------|--|
| L | length |
| LiDAR | light detection and ranging |
| m | metre/s |
| MdC | Mario del Chiaro |
| NIR | near-infrared |
| n./nn. | note/s |
| no./nos. | number/s |
| p./pp. | page/s |
| pl./pls. | plate/s |
| SF | Stig Forsberg |
| SGBRN | San Giovenale Bridge North |
| SGBRNS | San Giovenale Bridge North–South |
| SGBRS | San Giovenale Bridge South |
| SIR | Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome |
| str. | stratum/strata |
| th. | thickness |
| TS | Test site |
| VAP | Vignale Archaeological Project |
| W | width |
| WI | Water installation |
| WP | Wine press |

