



Research by faculty and students of Florida State University has been conducted at Cetamura del Chianti since the opening of the site in 1973.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CETAMURA

In 1973, FSU students began excavation and research at Cetamura del Chianti as part of an archaeology course in the FSU Florence Program administered through the Department of Classics.

“The students would go out for a long weekend and live in very rough conditions in tents, and then would come back to Florence from Monday to Thursday for their regular classes in Italian, Art History, Music, etc.,” said Nancy de Grummond, director of FSU Excavations, M. Lynette Thompson research professor of classics and distinguished research professor at FSU.

This model continued until 1978 when — at de Grummond’s recommendation — the FSU Cetamura Field School began, providing a work model in which the students would be majors in archaeology committed to digging in the field. The excavations and research continue today as a unit in FSU International Programs in collaboration with the Florence program. This year,

FSU Excavations celebrates the 50th anniversary of Cetamura and the opening of its accompanying museum in Chianti, Italy.

Cetamura Del Chianti is a hands-on program that puts students in the midst of an archaeological dig on a hilltop in rural Tuscany. The program allows the interactive opportunity to excavate artifacts, study stratigraphy and learn how to process their finds.

“Hundreds of students have had the opportunity to work in the field, the lab and to tour sites and museums in Italy,” said de Grummond. “Many have also been given research assignments and have created significant studies of the material excavated, often contributing entries to exhibition catalogs for the numerous shows on Cetamura.”

Among the facilities at the new Florence Study Center is a hands-on lab for students to learn about archaeological conservation. Last fall, Nora Marosi, professor for archaeology and conservation at FSU, taught the first course in

archaeological conservation at the study center. “Marosi has been the conservator for Cetamura for over 20 years, but she was at another university until now,” said de Grummond. “This initiative represents yet another way in which the bond between FSU Florence and the Cetamura program remains strong.”

In 2018, FSU partnered with the Municipality of Gaiole in Chianti to open the Origins of Chianti Museum to house and display artifacts from Cetamura. Students will examine artifacts that are destined for the museum and take part in planning the new exhibits. The museum, which is located approximately 9 kilometers from the site, is projected to open during the 50th anniversary.

To kick off the anniversary, the program held a Cetamura Excavations 50th Anniversary Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the FSU Alumni Center last fall. Additional 50th anniversary celebrations include lectures, exhibitions and a VIP trip to Italy to experience the site in person.

“We plan to have a VIP week from June 4-10 in which enthusiastic supporters of Cetamura will be invited to tour the FSU Florence Study Center, which will include a visit to its Fine Arts Gallery to see a show on the history of FSU’s archaeological work,” said de Grummond. The visitors will also hear a lecture from Patrick Rowe (M.A. ’79, Ph.D. ’89) on his recollections of life as a student at FSU and in Florence and Cetamura in the 1970s.

For more information on the 50th anniversary events, visit gonol.es/Cetamura50.

