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Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS -- LIST OF TABLES -- LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS -- PREFACE -- ABBREVIATIONS -- 1. General Observations -- 2. The Physical Environment -- A. Location and General Regional Character -- B. Regional and Local Climates -- C. Site and Situation -- D. Topographic and Hydrographic Characteristics -- E. Regional and Site Geology -- F. Geomorphology -- 1. Morphology of the valley of the Fiumara di Avigliano -- 2. Morphology and soils of the San Giovanni site -- G. Forest Vegetation Cover in the San Giovanni Region -- 3. The Field Survey ""A. The Period Immediately Preceding the Foundation of the Villa""""B. Period 1, The First Part (ca. AD 1a€?70)""; ""C. Period 1, The Second Part (ca. AD 70a€?220)""; ""D. The Period of Abandonment (ca. AD 220a€?350)""; ""E. Period 2 (ca. AD 350a€?400)""; ""F. Period 3 (ca. AD 400a€?550)""; ""4. The Historical Background""; ""A. Political Background""; ""1. Early Lucania""; ""2. The administration of Lucania under the Roman

Empire"; "3. The end of Roman Lucania"; "B. Settlement around San Giovanni in Pre-Roman and Roman Times"; "C. Landowners in Roman Lucania"; "D. Rural Economy"

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## Sommario/riassunto

This volume reports the findings of a Canadian archaeological team under the direction of the authors at San Giovanni di Ruoti in the highlands of southern Italy. The excavations, which took place over a seven-year period, have revealed a series of three Roman villas which span the period from the beginning of the first century AD to the middle of the sixth century. Of these villas, the third is particularly important since it provides the best evidence to date for the development of a villa in the transitional period between the end of the Roman Empire in the West and the beginning of the Middle Ages. The core of this volume is an architectural study of the building in its stratigraphic context, with artifacts selected to establish the chronology of the building sequence. Preliminary chapters deal with the geographical and historical background, and with the relation of this villa to other Roman villas in Lucania and to other settlements in the vicinity. The development of the building in each period is illustrated with architectural plans and reconstructions. The building materials are described and analysed, and the mosaics found in the villa of the latest period are fully illustrated. The stratigraphic evidence is presented in a final chapter with thirty-four section drawings. Further volumes are planned with detailed analyses of the artifacts and of the faunal and botanical remains, and a final summing up of the significance of the site.

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