

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910967450803321
Autore	Squatrini Paolo <1963->
Titolo	Landscape and change in early medieval Italy : chestnuts, economy, and culture / / Paolo Squatrini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-24172-3 1-139-89155-3 1-316-63320-9 1-107-24874-4 1-107-25040-4 1-107-25123-0 1-107-24791-8 1-139-54075-0 1-107-24957-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 236 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	712.0937
Soggetti	Chestnut - Italy - History - To 1500 Chestnut - Social aspects - Italy - History - To 1500 Chestnut - Economic aspects - Italy - History - To 1500 Landscapes - Italy - History - To 1500 Landscape changes - Italy - History - To 1500 Land use - Italy - History - To 1500 Italy History 476-1268 Italy Economic conditions Italy Environmental conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Trees, Woods, and Chestnuts in Early Medieval Italy -- A Natural History of the Chestnut -- The Triumph of a Tree -- The Poetics of the Chestnut in the Early Middle Ages -- Chestnuts in Early Medieval Campania -- Chestnuts in the Po Valley -- Conclusion: Giovanni Pascoli and the Old Chestnut -- Glossary.

## Sommario/riassunto

This innovative environmental history of the long-lived European chestnut tree and its woods offers valuable new perspectives on the human transition from the Roman to the medieval world in Italy. Integrating evidence from botanical and literary sources, individual charters and case studies of specific communities, the book traces fluctuations in the size and location of Italian chestnut woods to expose how early medieval societies changed their land use between the fourth and eleventh centuries, and in the process changed themselves. As the chestnut tree gained popularity in late antiquity and became a valuable commodity by the end of the first millennium, this study brings to life the economic and cultural transition from a Roman Italy of cities, agricultural surpluses and markets to a medieval Italy of villages and subsistence farming.

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