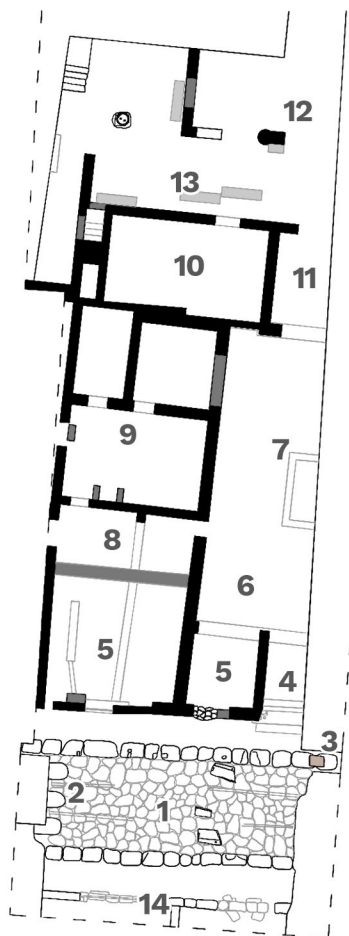


MAP OF THE SITE



LEGEND

Lower Decumano

1. basolato axis road
2. pedestrian crossing

Domus romana

3. honorary altar
4. fauces (entrance)
5. tabernae (workshops)
6. atrium (atrium)
7. impluvium (storage tanks)
8. alae (lateral corridors)
9. cubiculum (rooms)
10. triclinium (dining room)
11. tablinum (main room)
12. hortus (garden)
13. Late ancient tombs
14. specular domus

Ara with inscription
"TERTULLII"

Tombe from the Late
Antiquity, VI century



OPENING HOURS

The archaeological site of the Domus on the Decumano is open on the following days and times:

SATURDAY ore 9:00/12:00 **SUNDAY** ore 9:00/12:00

Entrance is free and available up to 20 minutes before closing time. Reservation is required to visit the site outside opening hours.

DOMUS DEL DECUMANO



Via Luigi Petrosino, 7
84015 Nocera Superiore (SA)



IT +39 375 6187961 (Gruppo Archeologico Nuceria)



ambientesabenebeniculturali.it/BAP/



sabap-sa@cultura.gov.it

The archaeological site is managed in collaboration with the sociocultural association Valle del Sarno - "Vivere Insieme".

Important Note: for information and reservations for accompanied visits, contact the **Gruppo Archeologico Nuceria** at the following addresses:

Contact of Gruppo Archeologico Nuceria APS | Nocera Superiore

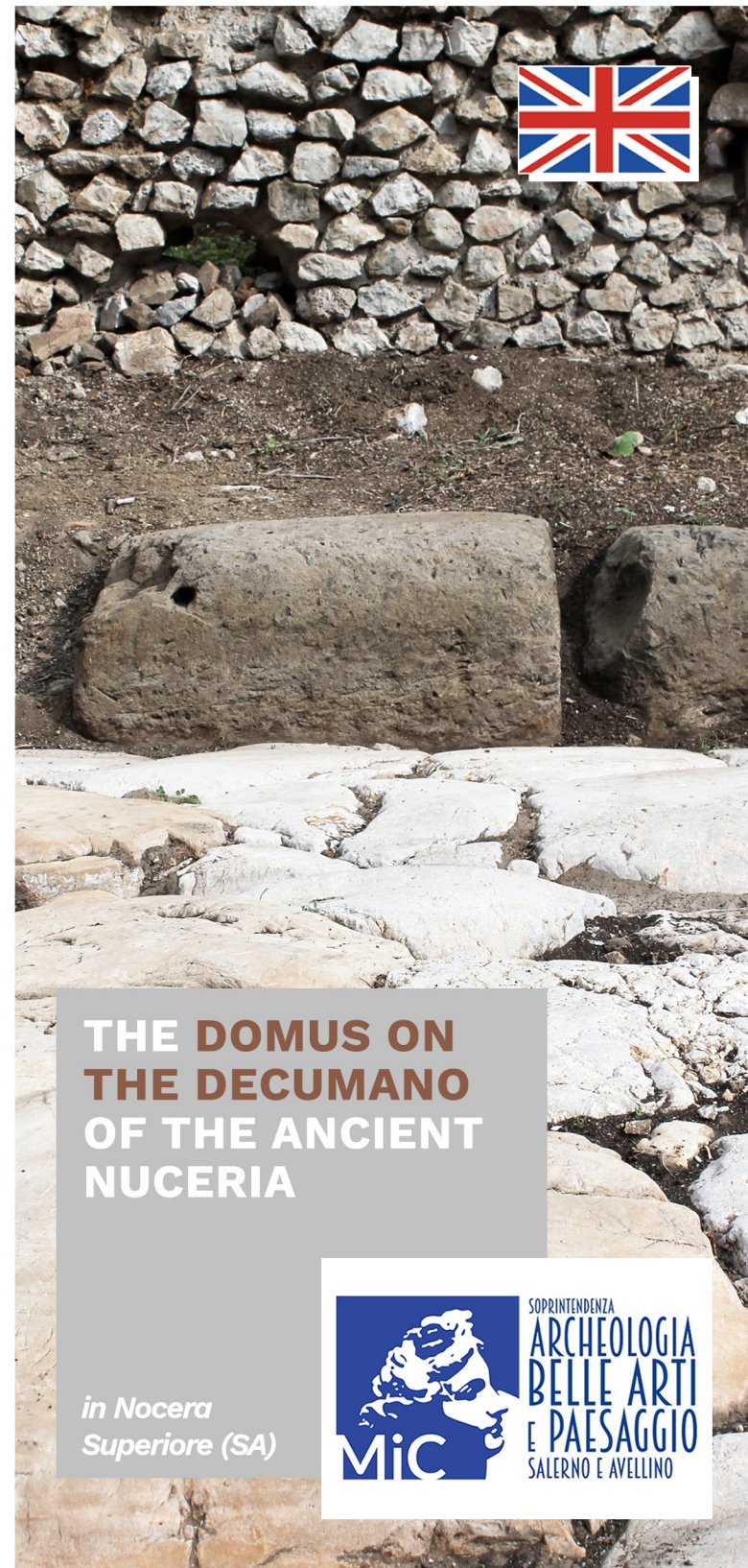
- [gruppoarcho_nuceria](https://www.instagram.com/gruppoarcho_nuceria)
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Gruppo
Archeologico
Nuceria

Graphic project and texts created
by Gruppo Archeologico Nuceria (GAN)



THE DOMUS ON THE DECUMANO OF THE ANCIENT NUCERIA

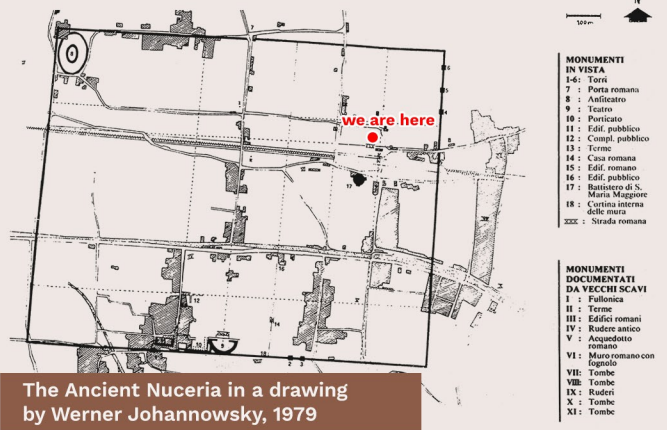
in Nocera
Superiore (SA)





The Ancient Nuceria

The birth of **Nuceria**, of Oscan origin, whose name means new fortress, is dated around the second half of the Sixth Century BC. Since the very beginning, Nuceria had a multi-ethnic character, as indigenous Sarrasti lived together with Etruscans and Greeks, as we can deduce from the rich grave goods and some inscriptions written in all the three languages. Around 450 BC the Samnite domination began, and the city takes the name of Nuceria Alfaterna, from the homonymous Samnite tribe *Alafaternum*. During the Samnite period the city of Nuceria experienced a moment of great magnificence, as attested by the equipments of its necropolis, which continued during the Roman age, to the point that the city was nicknamed *Urbula*, the little Rome. In this period the city was rebuilt according to the urban plan discovered during the excavations: surrounded by majestic walls, of which some sections are still visible, enclosing an area of rectangular shape with a system of orthogonal streets that contained public and private areas. A strategic hub along the roads of Campania, the city was connected directly to the nearby Pompeii through the consular road *Nuceria-Pompeios* and to *Stabiae* through the via Stabiana. In the third century AD Nuceria began declining, as shown by the narrowing of the urban core and a more modest use of the several domus present in the city. By the 5th century, with the fall of the Roman Empire, the valley was abandoned, but the city still remained alive, as testified by the construction of the Paleochristian Baptistery in Santa Maria Maggiore, one of the most important monuments of Byzantine and early-medieval archaeology.



The Ancient Nuceria in a drawing by Werner Johannowsky, 1979



The Lower Decumano, the Domus and its frescoes, the tombs

The archaeological Nuceria's site Domus on the Decumano

In the north-east of the city, not far from the Paleochristian Baptistery of Santa Maria Maggiore, in the neighbourhood of San Clemente, you can find the so-called **Domus on the Decumano**, one of the most important and relevant places for understanding the ancient city of Nuceria. The site, delimited to the south by the railway line built in the sixties to connect Nocera and Salerno, was discovered in 1979 and investigated until 1984. The excavations revealed part of an *insula* of the Roman city with the remains of a *domus* and a stretch of one of the city's decumans.

The **Domus**, which can be dated back to the first or second century AD, follows the typical scheme of a Roman house with a vestibule (*fauces*) which leads into a large space (*atrium*) with a pool in the center (*impluvium*) for the collection of water, and a series of rooms arranged on the sides (*cubicula*). To this day you can only see half of the marble pool of the *impluvium* and the rooms located on the western side of the *domus*. The rest lies



Details within the archaeological site



The recent cleaning of the archaeological site in 2022

about five meters below layers of alluvial and eruptive ground. The floors are made of *cocciopesto*, decorated with polychrome or black and white geometrical mosaics, while the emerging walls highlight different phases of construction; in some parts you can still see painted frescos (of IV style) that used to decorate them. The rooms overlooking the street are *tabernae*, ancient workshops: in one of these, the archaeologists found two *dolia*, large containers used for the preservation of food.

The majestic road is part of the **Lower Decumano**, one of the three most important roads of the Roman city together with the Upper Decumano and the *Cardo Maximum* (today's Via San Pietro). It's formed by large stone basoli that still retain traces of the passage of the carts, while on the western side you can see large ovoid-shaped blocks used for pedestrian crossing. Both sides of the road are flanked by very wide raised sidewalks. On the northern side, an altar was found with the inscription *TERTULLII*, perhaps reused as a base for an honorary statue. The site has also returned a Christian burial site, identified in the garden (*hortus*) of the *domus*, whose presence inside the walls testifies to a crisis of the urban fabric during the Late Antiquity.



Images after the 1979-84 excavation of A. Pecoraro