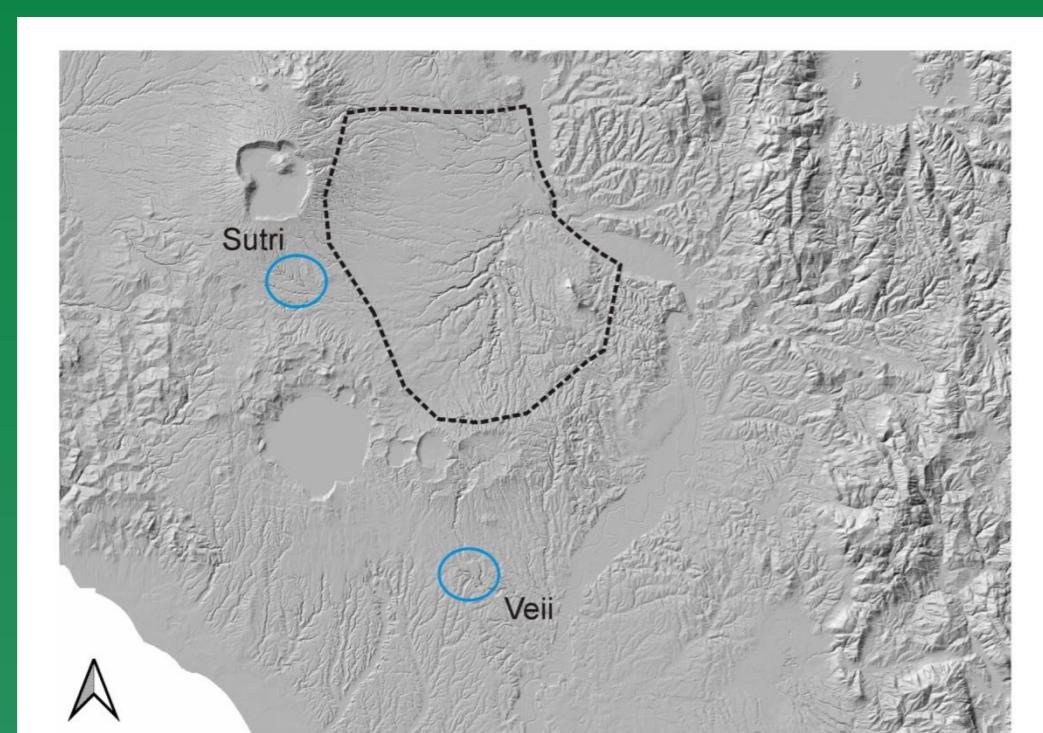


Locus horridus? Nature and liminal places in the Faliscan area

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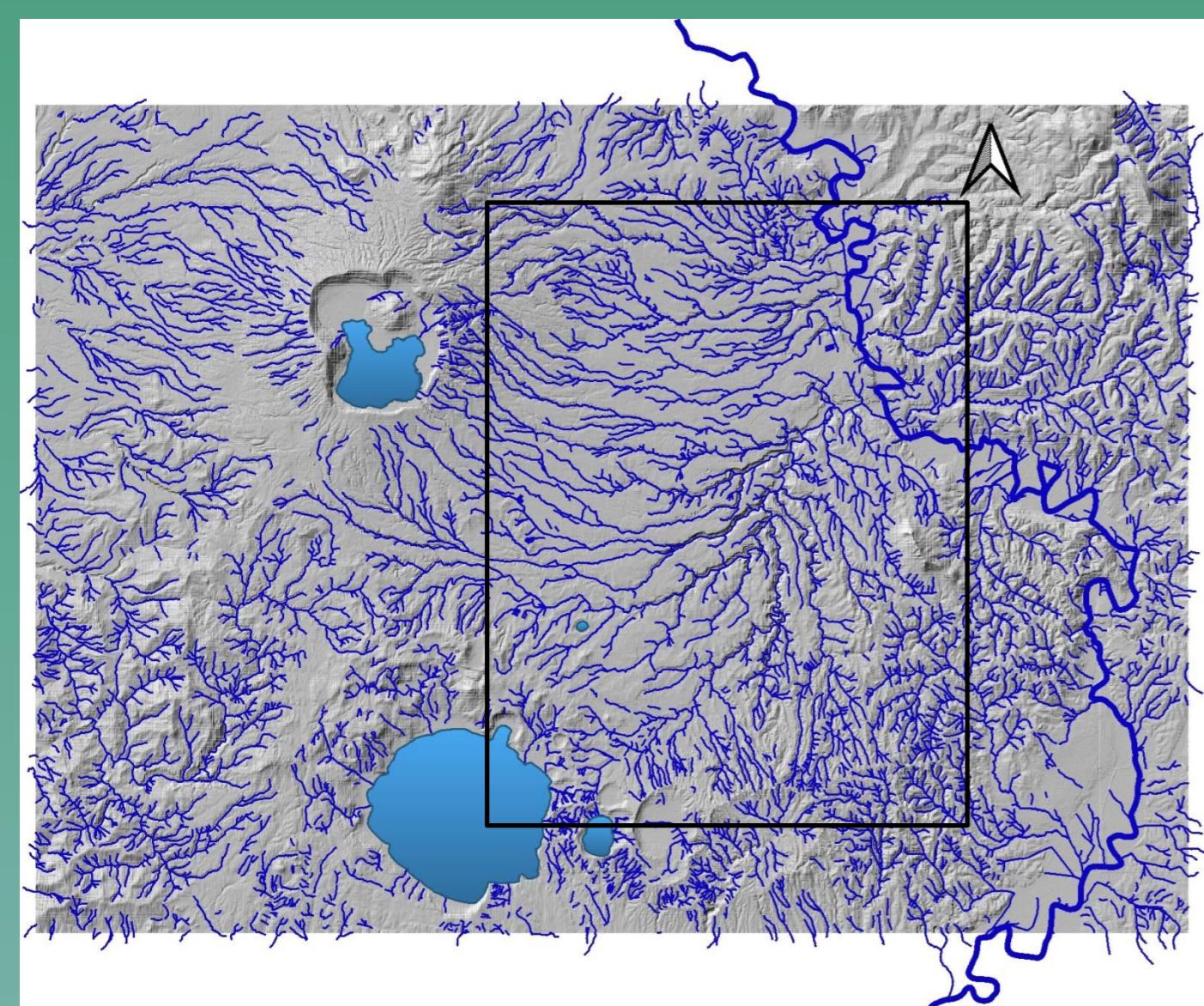


LIMINARITY

- In between state or threshold
- Latin *limes* = boundary
- Liminal places: borders and frontiers, no man's lands and/or disputed territories
- In general springs, caves, shores, rivers, volcanic calderas, fords, passes, crossroads, bridges, and marshes are all liminal
- In architecture, liminal spaces are defined as "the physical spaces between one destination and the next"
- Landscapes can be perceived through spatial, temporal, cultural and mythological liminality

*hi Fescenninas acies Aequosque Faliscos,
hi Soractis habent arces Flaviniaque arva
et Cimini cum monte lacum lucosque Capenos*

Vergil, Aeneas, 7,695-697

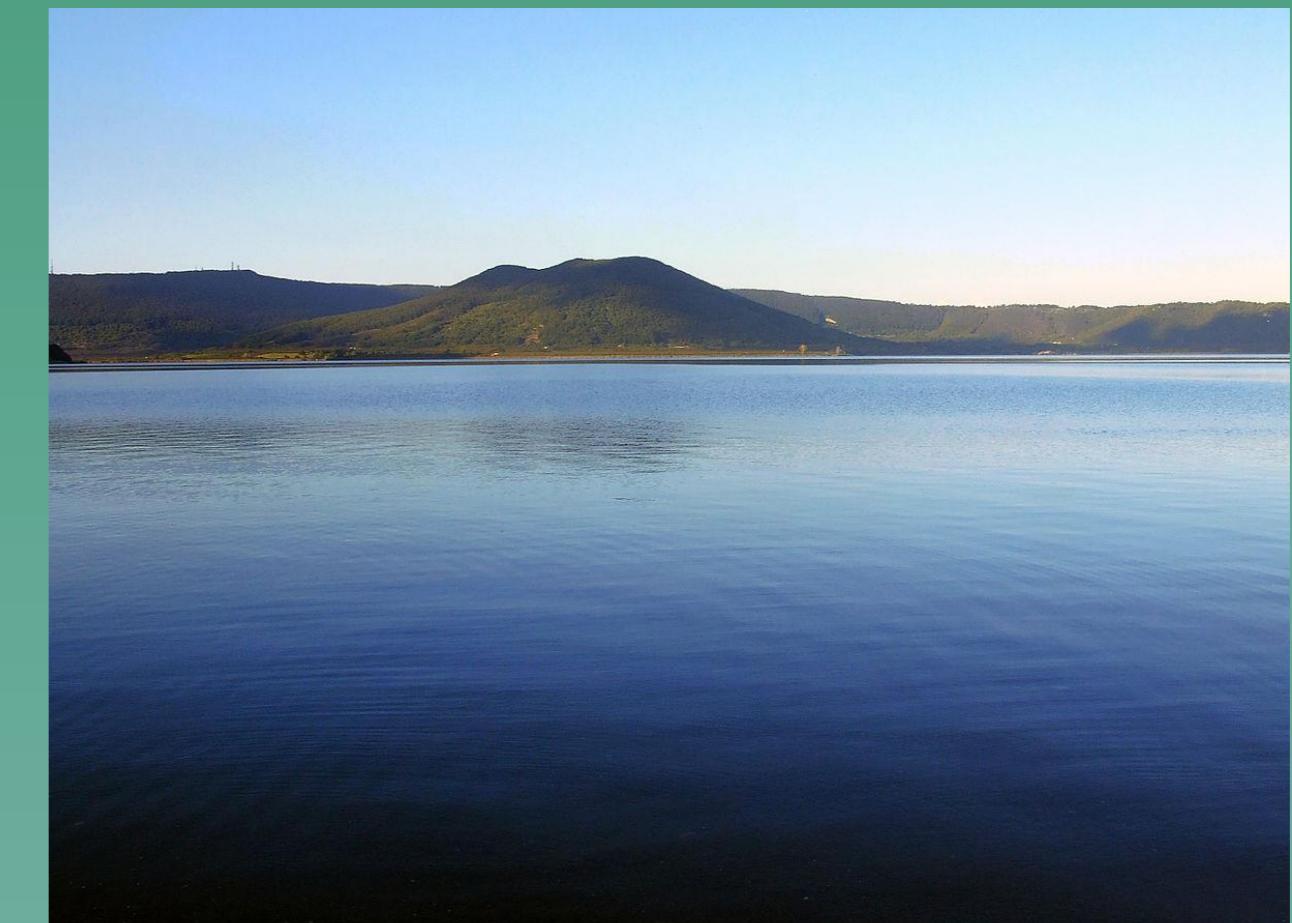


FALISCAN RIVERS

- The rivers fed by perennial springs
- Several areas in central Italy, e.g. near Gabii
- The major rivers in canyon-like ravines
- Faliscan shrines, e.g. Temple of Juno at Falerii Veteres and Le Rote at Narce in the valleys

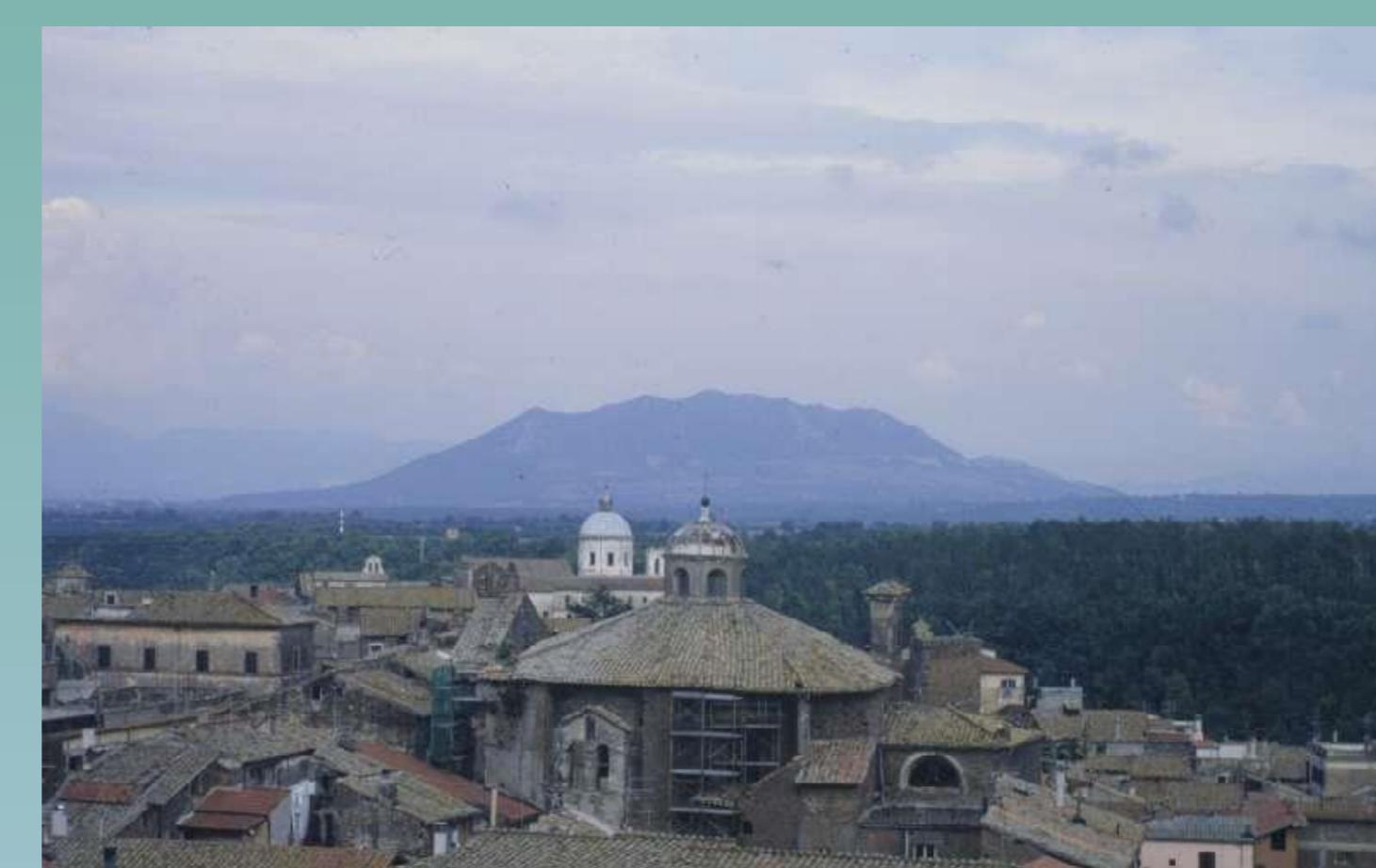
FALISCAN SPRINGS

- Both normal and sulphureous springs
- SOLFARATE
 - ✓ A large sulphureous spring on a plain SW from Nepi
 - ✓ Prehistoric settlement
 - ✓ Chalcolithic/BA1-2
 - ✓ Recent Bronze Age
- Edlund (1987): Etruria, spring sanctuaries, perhaps Grotta dell'Acqua



FALISCAN LAKES

- Lake Monterosi
- Lake Vico in a volcanic caldera with Monte Venere hill (BM1-2)
- Edlund-Berry & Turfa (2019): Lake Bolsena nearest with votives



FALISCAN CAVES

- The prehistoric caves were often located near later Archaic centres:
 - Grotta Vannaro was at Ponte del Ponte
 - S. Edigio near Corchiano (cf. Di Gennaro 1995b, fig. 59)
 - The Fabbrece caves near Civita Castellana (Rellini 1920, 86-105)
- The finds in the caves included Stone Age, Middle Bronze Age and Recent Bronze Age material, also votive terracottas and Roman finds (see Calapà 2019, 125)
- Ninfeo Rosa had caves in the Archaic/Roman sanctuary (Cignini 2015)

FALISCAN CAVES

- Corchiano
 - Grotta Vannaro (Neolithic)
 - Grotta Alta (BM 1-2, BR)
 - Cavernetta di Terra Rossa (BM 1-2)
 - Caverna Terza di Piazza Castello (BR)
 - Cavernetta di Sant'Edigio (BM 1-2, BM3)
 - Grotte di Piluccio (BM 1-2)
- Gallese
 - Grotta dell'Acqua (BM 1-2, votives)
 - Riparo della Fontana (BM 1-2)
 - Caverna della Stipe (BM 1-2, votives)
 - Riparo dell'Ortaccio (prehistoric)

MONTE SORATTE

- Segre 1952: A Neolithic jar, probably an offering, was found from a cave on the eastern side of the mountain
- Rellini (1920, 111): A Chalcolithic arrowhead was found from the slopes
- Apennine pottery was found north from the church Madonna delle Grazie in the summit.
- di Gennaro (1995b, 97) suggested that the place was sacred already during the Bronze Age



CIMINIAN FOREST

Profectio Q. Fabi trans Ciminiam silvam quantum Romae terrorem fecerat, tam laetam famam in Samnium ad hostes tulerat interclusum Romanum exercitum obsideri; cladisque imaginem Furculas Caudinas memorabant: eadem temeritate avidam ulteriorum semper gentem in saltus invios deductam, saeptam non hostium magis armis quam locorum iniquitatibus esse.

Livy 9.38

- Could this passage be interpreted to mean that more than the Ciminian forest the Romans were afraid of a defeat?

CONCLUSIONS

- The Faliscan area is one of unusual areas in central Italy: perennial rivers
- Also volcanic calderas and the Ciminian forest on the boundaries, springs, mountains and caves
- Liminal places: Early Bronze Age, but also in the Archaic/ Roman times and to the modern age
- Could it have been considered liminal by default?



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