

**NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE SUPPLY OF WINE AND
OLIVE OIL TOWARDS ROME: EVIDENCE FROM THE
ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME CHATEAU D'EAU
PROJECT AT OSTIA ANTICA**

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Two seasons of excavation (2004-2005) by the École Française de Rome and partners at Ostia Antica resulted in the recovery of about 2300 kg of Roman pottery dating primarily from the mid first to the mid second centuries AD. The ceramics derived from stratigraphically excavated deposits with a low percentage of residual material. In fact the majority of the deposits represent largely undisturbed refuse heaps which are allowing the current writer to investigate supply trends towards Ostia and Rome.

The study of supply trends of amphora-borne commodities and domestic pottery in Rome and Ostia is not entirely new and the most important studied emerged in the 1980s with large scale excavations at the Terme del Nuotatore in Ostia and at the Temple of Magna Mater in Rome. In recent years more refined studies have emerged based upon materials from the Palatine Hill, the Arch of Constantine and the DAI/AAR excavations at Ostia.

Current research on the materials from the EFR Chateau d'eau Project will help to refine our knowledge of the supply of wine and olive oil toward Ostia and Rome in a number of ways. First, we have a more nuanced understanding of fabrics and are better able to distinguish regional varieties of amphora (e.g. Umbrian or Emilian amphorae as opposed to the generic Italian amphora). Second, a number of recent authors are considering the volume of liquid contained in amphora rather than simply the number of sherds, weight or vessel counts. Finally, recent work by this author assesses local wine and olive production in Rome's hinterland despite the absence of amphorae from this region. Since the overland transportation of these commodities was likely in wooden barrels or skins which are not detectable archaeologically, the author has worked out a formula to assess local wine and oil production that can be integrated with ceramic data, providing a more accurate vision of supply trends.