

7pm, 2 November 2023

**Professor Maureen Carroll**  
Keynote Speaker

## **“Dolia should be bought at Rome”: Exploring heavy ceramics elemental to producing, storing, and distributing wine in Roman Italy**

Dolia were costly specialist vessels essential for fermentation and storage, and sometimes shipping, of wine in the Roman world. In this paper, I explore the archaeological and archaeometric evidence for their manufacture, use, and marketing as wine-making equipment in Roman Italy. The quality of dolia also determined the quality and quantity of wine produced, and the evidence suggests that some areas and workshops on the Tyrrhenian coast dominated the market and exported their containers to wine producers widely and occasionally over long distances. The business activities of even the emperor himself included the manufacture of this category of heavy ceramics, as recent excavations at Vagnari in southeast Italy indicate.

The paper also explores how this iconic Roman wine container represented a link to the past and took on new meaning for the nobility of the 17th century whose villa gardens in Rome, often built on the remains of suburban estates of ancient Roman elites and emperors, were landscaped with ancient dolia as focal points. Finally, it highlights the linking of modern wine production in southeast Italy to the Roman production sites in the region.

## **Consuming the Past: Modern Vines & Ancient Wines**

2-5 November 2023,  
Netherlands Institute at Athens

Organised by Emily Hanscam (Linnaeus University), Vladimir Stissi (University of Amsterdam), and Robert Witcher (Durham University)



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