

## New Ancient Bathhouse Discovered in Somma Vesuviana



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In these hours, in Somma Vesuviana, a new bathhouse dating back to before **79 AD** has been unearthed. Last year, a deposit of amphorae from the Augustan era was discovered, and beneath it, hypogeal environments were found, a bathhouse that served to heat important areas. Clues suggested the existence of a thermal district from the Augustan era. **The discovery of a second bathhouse**, dating back to these last hours, would confirm this hypothesis.

«A new bathhouse dating back to a period before 79 AD has come to light, and it is a discovery that would confirm the initial hypothesis and strengthen the results of the **2023** excavation. All indications point in the same direction. Hypogeal environments from the Augustan era were found. In all likelihood, these baths served to supply energy to a thermal district that was certainly not public but definitely private, and so it is clear that the dream of Emperor **Augustus's** Villa reappears,» announces **Rosalinda Perna**, the cultural advisor of the Municipality of **Somma Vesuviana**.



Salvatore Di Sarno, mayor of Somma Vesuviana, makes an appeal to the new minister Giuli: «I personally thank the archaeological mission, I thank the Superintendency which is constantly present. Today, the G7 of Culture begins in Pompeii. Pompeii is just **20 km from Somma Vesuviana**. The hope is that the new Minister

of **Culture**, **Alessandro Giuli**, perhaps even on the sidelines of the **G7**, can visit the archaeological site of the Villa **Augustea**. We are witnessing important results. We are talking about a reality that began more than 20 years ago and that today is achieving extraordinary results even more rapidly.»

«The archaeological site of the Villa Augustea, brought to light thanks to the international archaeological mission - continues **Salvatore Di Sarno**, mayor of Somma Vesuviana, in the Naples area - led by the **University of Tokyo**, is already of great importance. There are two geological stratifications dating back to two different volcanic eruptions, one in **472 AD** and even one in 79 AD, and there are wine cellars, rooms, frescoes, extremely important areas on which studies will continue. We are talking about a site on the surface that is already 3000 meters and, in all likelihood, there are another **30,000 meters** to be excavated. This archaeological site represents a cultural heritage but also a historical memory that will be the basic elements for the tourist and economic development of the entire Vesuvian piedmont area, at the foot of Mount Somma and in the heart of the **Vesuvius National Park**.»