

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BOX OF THE DOMUS AVENTINO INAUGURATED IN ROME



### PRESS RELEASE

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Almost twenty years after the opening of the Mitreo di Santa Prisca, a new archaeological area opens at the Aventine: eight centuries of ancient Roman history, four years of excavations, two years of planning, one multimedia exhibition.

This is *The archaeological box of the Domus Aventino*, a project by the Special Superintendency of Rome and BNP Paribas Real Estate, one that is unique in many ways, and where archeology, architecture and technology come together to form the first site within a private residential complex that will be open regularly to visitors.

'The archaeological box of the Domus Aventino is innovative and virtuous' – explains Daniela Porro, Special Superintendent for Rome-. 'It presents an excavation just as the archaeologists investigated it, thanks to a complex architectural project by the Special Superintendency of Rome in which Piero Angela and Paco Lanciano have collaborated wonderfully for the multimedia part of it. Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with BNP Paribas Real Estate, which embraced the initiative by financing the entire operation, today we are able to not only present it, but to also open this archaeological gem to visitors'.

'In recent years we have worked as a team with the Superintendency to complete a unique archaeological project for the city of Rome: a museum inside an apartment building. A challenge that we have all overcome by managing to combine business interests with the desire to restore a hidden treasure chest to the world, a thousand-year witness of our past. It was a perfect example of virtuosity between the public and private sector that we are honoured to be able to present. This secret corner of Rome will be restored to the community and carefully safeguarded by the Domus Aventino apartment buildings', declared Piero Cocco-Ordini, CEO of BNP Paribas Real Estate Property Development in Italy.

Directed by Roberto Narducci, archaeologist of the Superintendency, and carried out by Land, the investigations that led to the very important findings originated in the anti-seismic consolidation started in 2014 by BNP Paribas Real Estate, which purchased an office building from BNL in order to build a residential complex of 18,000 square metres at the foot of the Aventine.

From the excavation, incomparable mosaics, structures and materials emerged, which range from the eighth century BC to the third century AD. From the first terraces of the tufa bank of the Aventine to a luxurious residence, which underwent continuous transformations from the late Republican period to the Middle Imperial Age.

The public-private collaboration has made this historical treasure accessible, thanks to the 'Archaeological Box'. Launched by BNP Paribas Real Estate, the archaeological and architectural project curated by the Special Superintendency of Rome, aims to bring the visitor inside an excavation, where the finds are presented as they were found, all within an extraordinary context.

The multimedia exhibition curated by Piero Angela and Paco Lanciano, which uses video mapping and projections, tells the story of this precious corner of Rome.

The fruitful collaboration between the Superintendency and BNP Paribas Real Estate was not limited to protection and conservation only: from next November the site will be open to the public with guided tours originally scheduled twice a month and two volumes on the excavations are being published.

