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This heavily illustrated volume, like the exhibition it accompanies, documents the lavish lifestyle of ancient Rome's wealthiest citizens along the Bay of Naples until AD 79, when the eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried many surrounding towns and villas. The book presents a collection of essays by an international group of scholars who highlight and interpret the archaeological discoveries of both the Italian excavations at Villa A and Oplontis ("Villa") B from 1964 to 1991 and the ongoing Oplontis Project, a collaboration between the Archaeological Superintendency of Pompeii and the University of Texas at Austin since 2006. Many of the authors are members of the Oplontis Project team. The volume also contains a full catalogue of the objects in the exhibition.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Elaine K. Gazda is Professor of Roman Art and Archaeology in the Department of the History of Art and Curator of Hellenistic and Roman Antiquities in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She has curated more than 25 exhibitions and has published edited collections, exhibition catalogues and articles on a wide range of topics in Roman art and archaeology. John R. Clarke is Annie Laurie Howard Regents Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Since 2005 he has been co-director of the Oplontis Project in the Department of Art and Art History. He co-edits the Oplontis publications and has authored eight books on Roman art and culture.

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