



Discovery of Cult Temple in Italy

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Recently, archaeologists discovered a **2,700-year-old Etruscan cult temple (or Oikos)** related to the **ancient Etruscan civilisation at the Sasso Pinzuto** necropolis in Tuscany, Italy.

- They discovered more than 120 chamber tombs from the 7th century BCE to the [Hellenistic period \(323-31 BC\)](#).

Etruscan Civilisation:

- It flourished in **central Italy** (8th-3rd century BCE) between the **Tiber** and **Arno rivers** and west and south of the **Apennine mountains**.
- It was a **federation of city-states** with a **shared language and culture**, significantly **influencing the Romans** who later succeeded them.

Etruscan Temple:

- Etruscan temples, typically rectangular, were built on **tuffaceous opus quadratum foundations** (solid bases made from square-cut tuff, a soft volcanic rock).
- They were often positioned **at elevation from ground** for significant visibility and symbolic reasons, these temples were **commonly near burial sites**, linking them to funerary practices.
- **Polychrome clay slabs with reliefs depicting religious and festive scenes** were a common decorative feature.



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