Coexistence of calc-alkaline and ultrapotassic alkaline magmas at Mounts Cimini: evidence for transition from the Tuscan to the Roman Magmatic Provinces (Central Italy)

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ABSTRACT

The volcanic complex of Mts. Cimini (~0.90-1.30Ma) represents the geographical and chronological transition between the Tuscan Magmatic Province (TMP) and the Roman Magmatic Province (RMP), in central Italy. Major and trace elements, and Sr, Nd and Pb isotopes of whole-rock, as well as mineral chemistry analyses, were carried out on samples representative of the different petrographic and chronological units of Mts. Cimini. In particular, we focused on the olivine-bearing latites of Mts. Cimini that are the most mafic magmas, belong to the last phase of this volcanic activity, and are heterogeneous in highly incompatible element ratios and Sr-isotope compositions. We suggest that such heterogeneity reflects the occurrence of a heterogeneous upper mantle beneath central Italy, in which different portions, e.g., the sources of both the TMP and RMP, are characterized by distinct geochemical and petrographic features. In this scenario, about 900ka ago, the olivine-bearing latites mark the progressive decline of the TMP magma production in favour of partial melting of the RMP mantle region, thus recording the coexistence of both ultrapotassic alkaline and calc-alkaline magmas in the same volcanic region.

INTRODUCTION

The Tuscan Magmatic Province (TMP) and the Roman Magmatic Province (RMP) in central Italy have been proposed as a key magmatic region for the investigation of mantle and crust processes responsible for the broadly coeval coexistence of silica-oversaturated HK calc-alkaline and lamproite products (TMP) and ultrapotassic silica-undersaturated alkaline magmas (RMP) (e.g., Peccerillo et al., 1987; Pecceirillo, 1999; Perini et al., 2000; Conticelli et al., 2002; Frezzotti et al., 2007). Silica-oversaturated rocks, abundant in the TMP, are characterized by a geochemical signature that is distinctive of magmas occurring in orogenic environments (Peccerillo et al., 1987; Serri et al., 1993, and references therein).

Ultrapotassic lavas are typical of the RMP and have been commonly related to metasomatism of the mantle by migration of selectively enriched fluids from recycled subducted material (e.g., Beccaluva et al., 1991; Conticelli and Pecceirillo, 1992; Conticelli et al., 2002; Gasperini et al., 2002; Pecceirillo, 2005).

The volcanic rocks of the TMP and RMP partly overlap with regard to their geochemical and isotopic compositions, and rocks with different K-enrichment coexist in the same volcanic center. Moreover, several studies suggest intimate relationships and interactions between the mantle sources of the TMP and RMP, due to mixing and/or mingling processes occurred at different depth in the local lithosphere (Serri et al., 1993; Pecceirillo, 1999; Perini et al., 2000; Gasperini et al., 2002; Perini, 2003). In this view, a distinction between the TMP and RMP may be questionable, except for the geographical location of the volcanic activity.

Mounts Cimini volcanic center, while belonging to the TMP, was built up close to Vico volcano (RMP), and has been active up to about 0.52Ma before the debut of Vico volcanism (Nicoletti, 1969; Barberi et al., 1994; La Berge et al., 2004). Because of such geographical location and age, and for the coexistence of magmas with diverse alkali-affinity, this paper aims to evaluate if Mts. Cimini and Savelli, 1999; Meletti et al., 2000; Tamburelli et al., 2000; Pecceirillo, 2005). At about 13 Ma, the Apennine collision terminated the westward subduction of the Adriatic plate under the European margin and rotated the direction of convergence to the northwest (Meletti et al., 2000). In the model of Wortel and Spakman (2000), a major discontinuity in the subducted slab is envisaged as “scissor type” faulting between the Ionian and Adriatic lithosphere. Due to gravitational forces, this tear migrated northwestward along the hinge of the subducted slab, ultimately resulting in a large slab window beneath the central-southern Apennines (see also Gasperini et al., 2002). Through such a tear, sub-lithospheric mantle material could have been channeled to the surface, contributing to the source of Italian mafic volcanism (Gasperini et al., 2002; Bianchini et al., 2008).

Geochemistry

The small lamproitic outcrop at Sisco, North Corsica (about 14Ma; Bellon, 1981) is considered by most authors as the first magmatic event in this area (Civetta et al., 1978; Serri et al., 1993). After a large spatial and temporal gap, the oldest potassic magmatic activity in the Tuscan region occurred some 10My later (Orciatico and Montecatini Val di Cecina lamproites dated at 4.1Ma; Ferrara et al., 1989). Felsic intrusive and extrusive magmatism took place in southern Tuscany and in the Tuscan archipelago between 7.7 and 2.2Ma (Ferrara et al., 1988; Lombardi et al., 1974; Serri et al., 1993; Gasparon et al., 2009). Magmatism later migrated from west to east, with the sequential emplacement of Radiofani (1.3Ma; Innocenti et al., 1992), Cimini, and Torre Alfina (1.3–0.8Ma; Nicoletti, 1969; Fornaseri, 1985; Conticelli, 1998; La Berge et al., 2004) in the TMP. Potassic and ultrapotassic volcanism of the RMP began mainly in the upper Pleistocene (Barberi et al., 1991) and was characterized by the products of Vulcini (0.44–0.59 Ma; Cioni et al., 1993), Vico (0.42–0.09Ma; Laurennzi and Villa, 1987), Sabatini (0.60–0.43Ma; Cioni et al., 1993), Albani (0.6–0.02Ma; Scrocca et al., 2003), Ernici (0.25–0.15Ma; Scrocca et al., 2003) and Roccamonfina (0.63–0.13Ma; Scrocca et al., 2003). Notably, the magmatic activity of the RMP began at the end of Cimini and Torre Alfina (TMP) eruptive cycle.

Petrology and petrogenetic hypotheses

The TMP is characterized by the coexistence of both plutonic and volcanic rocks of sub-alkaline (acidic and high-K calc-alkaline or HKCA) to potassic alkaline (intermediate and acidic), and ultrapotassic (lamproites) affinities (Serri et al., 1993, and references therein). In contrast, the rocks from the RMP are exclusively volcanic and mostly comprise potassic alkaline compositions, even if significant amount of high-K calc-alkaline rocks
are buried under the potassic rocks in the Volturno plain (Campania; Beccaluva et al., 1991, 1994, 2005; Bianchini et al., 2008). The RMP rocks have been divided into the potassic (KS) and the highly potassic (HKS) series, on the basis of their K₂O/SiO₂ ratio (Marinelli, 1975; Foley et al., 1987; Serri et al., 1993; Beccaluva et al., 1994; Peccerillo, 1998; Gasperini et al., 2002; Perini et al., 2003; Frezzotti et al., 2007).

Calc-alkaline, shoshonitic and potassic rocks of the TMP and RMP are probably derived from anomalous mantle sources which were enriched in incompatible elements by subduction-related processes (e.g., Peccerillo and Manetti, 1985; Rogers et al., 1985; Ellam et al., 1989). The crust-derived component would result from melting of silicate metasedimentary rocks or sediments from a subducted slab. Gasperini et al. (2002) proposed that the crustal component is dominated by pelagic sediments, whereas CO₂-rich fluids released more recently by the incipient subduction of carbonate sedimentary rocks were identified by Conticelli et al. (2002) in the source of Italian potassic rocks. Alternatively, Avanzinelli et al. (2009) suggest that subduction of marly sediments with a variable carbonate fraction is a key component in the petrogenesis of the RMP rocks.

The age of mantle enrichment has implications for understanding the geodynamic evolution of the Tyrrhenian Sea and surrounding areas is ascribed to the Cenozoic orogenic cycle that ultimately led to the Apennine formation (Beccaluva et al., 1991, 1994, 2005; Bianchini et al., 2004; Peccerillo, 1999, 2002).

There is still no generals consensus about when it occurred, some 1-2Ga ago (e.g., Castorina et al., 2000) or during the Tertiary evolution of the Alpine-Apennine chains (Peccerillo, 1999, 2002).

**Study area**

**Mounts Cimini**

The Mts. Cimini complex is located in Latium (central Italy; Fig. 1), close to the Tyrrhenian margin, in a region affected by extensional dynamics related to the rifting of the Tyrrhenian Basin, which lead to the generation of a main NW-oriented graben and a series of NE-trending transversal grabens (Barberi et al., 1994; Cimarelli and De Rita, 2006). The volcanic complex is placed inside the Radicofani–Cimino graben (Fig. 1) and overlies Messinian-Quaternary sediments, Cretaceous–Eocene flysch and Meso-Cenozoic marly-carbonate rocks, which are superimposed on a low-grade metamorphic sedimentary basement (Sollevanti, 1983; Barberi et al., 1994; Perini et al., 2000).

Mts. Cimini are mainly characterized by highly silicic rocks of calc-alkaline nature, consisting of four main petrographic and chronological units, i.e., i) lava domes and ii) ignimbrites of trachyte-rhyodacite up to the limit of rhyolite composition, and minor low-silica iii) latitic and iv) olivine-bearing latite lavas (olivinlatites; Sollevanti, 1983; Innocenti et al., 1992; Aulinas et al., 2004).

Explosive activity followed shallow emplacement of lava domes and led to few ignimbrite deposits over an extension of ca. 300 km² (Puxeddu, 1971). This was followed by a final effusive activity, with the emplacement of latitic and olivinlatitic lavas (more than 8 km² and 6 km², respectively; Puxeddu, 1971).

⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar data on sanidine crystals from lava domes gave an age of 1.330±0.013Ma, whereas ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar data on sanidine from two ignimbrites gave a value of 1.30±0.01Ma (La Berge et al., 2004). These results are supported by new structural and stratigraphic data (Cimarelli and De Rita, 2006) which clearly indicate that the explosive activity (e.g., ignimbrite eruptions) at Mts. Cimini postdates the lava domes emplacement, as previously suggested by Sabatini (1912), Mittempergher and Tedesco (1963) and Lardini and Nappi (1987). The K-Ar age of olivinlatites
is 0.95Ma (Nicoletti, 1969). Mts. Cimini magmas were subsequently covered by pyroclastic deposits belonging to the early Vico volcano activity.

**Vico volcano**

Vico volcano (0.42-0.09Ma; Laurenzi and Villa, 1985; Barberi et al., 1994) began its activity with plinian eruptions (Mattias and Ventriglia, 1970), accompanied by lava flows and trachyte domes. This was followed by several lava flows from the main crater, up to the building of the Vico stratovolcano. In this phase, early silica-saturated products (KS) were followed by larger volumes of more alkaline magmas (HKS), up to collapse of the stratovolcano. Post-caldera effusive and explosive activity occurred from different intra- and peri-caldera vents as well as from caldera fractures (Perini et al., 1997). During the last periods of activity, K-rich, mainly evolved, mildly to strongly silica undersaturated magmas were erupted (ignimbrites), leading to destruction of the volcanic edifice. Post caldera phreato-magmatic products are characterized by trachybasalts and latites (Bertagnini and Sbrana, 1986; Gasperini, 2003).

**PETROGRAPHY AND MINERAL CHEMISTRY**

The samples show variable textures from hypocrystalline pumices to hypohaline and holocrystalline lavas, with phenocryst contents ranging from 10-15% in the most basic lavas (olivinlatitic unit) to 20-25% in lava domes and ignimbrites.

The glomeroporphyric texture is common in dome and latitic lavas, whereas vesicular texture is found in olivinlatites. Microliths are frequent in the more recent units (latitic and olivinlatitic lavas) and perlitic texture is restricted to domes (Table 1). In the case of pyroclastics, welding is widespread and an eutaxitic texture is observed with a glassy groundmass describing a pseudofluidal texture.

In the most evolved samples (ignimbrites and lava dome units) the mineral assemblage includes sanidine, plagioclase, biotite, and orthopyroxene, with apatite and opaque minerals as accessory phases. Clinopyroxene and olivine are more frequent in the latitic lavas, whereas sanidine, biotite and orthopyroxene and plagioclase are very rare. The mineral associations for the different chronostratigraphic units are reported in Table 1. Some of the studied lavas (independently of their chronostratigraphical unit) contain mafic xenoliths, the paragenesis of which mainly consists of plagioclase and orthopyroxene.

The mineral assemblage in a few lavas from Vico volcano shows textures similar to those of Mts. Cimini. One sample (V1) is characterized by abundant clinopyroxene, with minor plagioclase and scarce corroded sanidine and altered biotite. Conversely, samples MP33 and MP11 show centimetric subbedal sanidine crystals as the main mineral, with minor plagioclase and altered biotite, and rare clinopyroxene crystals.

**Sanidine**

Sanidine occurs within lava domes and ignimbrites, though it is also present in the latitic and especially in the olivinlatitic lavas. In the last two cases, the sanidine phenocrysts show clear evidence of disequilibrium, with rounded shape and corroded rims. All K-feldspar crystals are fairly homogeneous in composition (Or86-Or83), with the more potassic compositions found in olivinlatite lavas (Or86-Or83) (Table 2; Fig. 2). Analyses of sanidine from samples of the first period of magmatic activity at Vico volcano (RMP) show a wider compositional range (Or80-Or64) which is comparable to published data (Perini et al., 2000). Sanidine from Mts. Cimini show low BaO content (from 0.13 to 0.90 wt%) compared to those from the first erupted lavas of Vico (up to 3.40 wt% in our analyses; these finding are consistent with Perini et al., 2000).

**Plagioclase**

Plagioclase is present as pheno- and microcrysts. In lava domes and ignimbrites, they are euhedral to subhedral with normal An zoning. In contrast, the plagioclase phenocrysts of latite and olivinlatite lavas range from idiomorphic to corroded and rounded shapes, and with variable degrees of kaolinization. A significant compositional variation is observed, i.e., An75 – An85 in phenocrystals and An70 – An72 in microcrysts of the groundmass (Table 2; Fig. 2). The more calcic compositions were mainly found in phenocrysts of olivinlatite lavas and in some xenoliths hosted in the latite and olivinlatite lavas. Plagioclase phenocrysts of lavas from the first period of magmatic activity at Vico volcano show higher An content (An95 to An90).

**Orthopyroxene**

It occurs as euhedral phenocrysts in the ignimbrites and lava domes. It is rare in the youngest lavas, especially in the olivinlatites, where it is not abundant and commonly shows clinopyroxene exsolution lamellae. Orthopyroxene is also common in xenoliths mainly occurring in latite and olivinlatite lavas. All phenocrysts are very homogeneous and their composition lies at the boundary between enstatite and ferrosilite (Wo1-3, En44-48, Fs50-54) (Table 3) with Mg# \[Mg/(Mg + Fe^{2+})\] ranging from 0.47 to 0.50. Orthopyroxenes from the xenoliths are identical in composition to the lava’s phenocrysts.
Clinopyroxene

Clinopyroxene (Cpx) phenocrysts are very rare in the most evolved samples (dome and ignimbrite units) being more frequent in the final lavas (latites and olivinlatites units). Two types of Cpxes have been distinguished. A first type consists of euhedral to subhedral colorless-pale beige Cpxs, with homogeneous augite composition (Wo41-44, En31-42, Fs13-20; Morimoto, 1989) and have Mg# varying from 0.73 to 0.82. Rims show narrower compositions (Wo44-46, En47-50, Fs5-7), being classified as diopsides (Table 3; Fig. 3) and with Mg# similar to colorless to pale beige phenocrysts.

Petrography and composition of clinopyroxenes allow to separate olivinlatite lavas in two groups: the first characterized by the presence of pale beige augite (samples C3-C7, here after called the “O1” group; Fig. 4a) and the second by the presence of reversely zoned Cpxes (samples C8-C11, after called the “O2” group; Fig. 4b). of the olivinlatite unit. These Cpxs are reversely zoned phenocrysts, showing green cores and colorless rims. Cores are at the boundary between augite and diopside (Wo41-49, En31-42, Fs13-20; Morimoto, 1989) and have Mg# varying from 0.73 to 0.82. Rims show narrower compositions (Wo44-46, En47-50, Fs5-7), being classified as diopsides (Table 3; Fig. 3) and with Mg# similar to colorless to pale beige phenocrystals.
Clinopyroxene occurs as euhedral to subhedral pale green phenocrysts on samples from Vico. They are very homogeneous diopside (WO₄,849, En₃8,39, and Fs₈,14,6) and Mg# in the range 0.76 – 0.84. These results are similar to the values obtained for cores of the reverse zoned Cpxs of the O2 olivinolite lavas of Ms. Cimini. Moreover, they overlap data of Perini et al. (2000) and Perini and Conticelli (2002) for the Vico volcanic products (see also Cellai et al., 1994).

Titanium and aluminum contents were used by Conticelli (1998) to discriminate among Cpxs crystallized from potassic magmas with different petrological activity (n. d. not determined)

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Titanium and aluminum contents were used by Conticelli (1998) to discriminate among Cpxs crystallized from potassic magmas with different petrological affinity. On this basis, Cpxs are classified as Lamproite, Transitional or Roman-Type clinopyroxenes (Fig. 5). Ms. Cimini Cpxs show a widespread distribution, occurring in all fields (Fig. 5). Cpxs which plot in the Roman-type field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse zoned clinopyroxenes of O2 olivinolites, and plot in the same field mainly correspond to the cores of the reverse 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Olivine

It only presents in the latite and olivinolite lavas. It is subhedral with a maximum sizes of 1 mm. Some olivines show rims altered to iddingsite. Moreover, in some olivinolite lavas (especially those belonging to the
O2 group), the largest olivine phenocrysts commonly show skeletal morphologies. The chemical composition of olivines is very homogeneous with Fo89-93 (Table 4). No significant compositional variations were detected between phenocrysts and microphenocrysts.

**Biotite**

Biotite phenocrysts are frequent in domes and ignimbrite, and very rare in the final lavas (especially in the olivinlatite lavas). They occur as euhedral phenocrysts with Mg# within the range 0.50 – 0.75 (Table 5). These compositions are similar to those observed in biotites from Vico volcano (e.g., Perini et al., 2000; Perini and Conticelli, 2002).

### WHOLE-ROCK GEOCHEMISTRY

#### Major and trace element data

Similarly to most of subduction-related volcanic suites (Keller, 1983; Thorpe et al., 1984; Hickey et al., 1986), Mts. Cimini magmas are characterized by highly variable Al2O3 and CaO, low TiO2, Na2O, and MgO with respect to their silica content (~55 - 75 wt.%; Table 6 and Fig. 6). These rocks are classified as latites, trachyandesites, and trachytes, according to the T.A.S. diagram (Le Maitre et al., 2002; Fig. 6h), and are characterized by relatively high K2O/Na2O values (> 1.7 for MgO > 3 wt.%). Silica content progressively decreases with the age of Mts. Cimini magmatic products.

MgO, CaO, P2O5, and partially TiO2, progressively decrease with the increase of SiO2, as has been found for the Vico volcano. This can be interpreted as olivine + clinopyroxene + apatite removal during magma fractionation (Fig. 6a, f). Clinopyroxene segregation is also indicated by the negative correlation of CaO/Al2O3 ratios with SiO2 (Fig. 6g).

Mts. Cimini rocks do not display significant variation in K2O with increasing SiO2 content, whereas those from Vico record a significant K-enrichment (Fig. 6d). Buffering of K2O content with increasing silica, coupled with Na2O enrichment, could imply significant K-rich mineral fractionation (e.g., sanidine and biotite). Magmas with MgO > 5% wt (mostly olivinlatites) are heterogeneous in TiO2 and P2O5, with two different enrichment levels at comparable SiO2 content (Fig. 6a-f). The P-Ti-rich olivinlatites belong to the O1 group and appear as the most primitive products (highest MgO content) on a trend of magma differentiation involving the whole Mts. Cimini magmas. In contrast, the Ti-P-poor olivinlatites (belonging to the O2 group) show similarities with the nearby Vico volcano trachybasalts, thus plotting on a different trend of magma evolution identified by the Mts. Cimini magmas (Fig. 6a, f).

Ni (Fig. 7a) and Co (not shown) display positive trends with MgO, supporting significant fractionation of olivine during the evolution of these lavas. In contrast, a slope change in the liquid line evolution path from olivinlatites to latites suggests the beginning of clinopyroxene crystallization. The Mg-Ni rich samples are also enriched in Zr and partly Nb (High Field Strength Elements or HFSE), but not Y, which shows slightly homogeneous compositions with respect to MgO variation (Fig. 7b-d). Low Field Strength Elements (LFSE) composition is about constant for the whole data collection. The olivinlatitic samples are characterized by a...
### Table 3: Selected analyses of pyroxenes from rocks of Mt. Cimini activity

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Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺ were calculated using the XMAS V.8.2 software from SAMX (France) and following the indications of Droop (1987).
larger range of trace element contents, both in the HFSE and
LFSE, grouping into O1 and O2 olivinlatites, with distinct
composition (Fig. 7).

Mts. Cimini magmas show variable highly incompatible
element ratios, which are positively correlated with MgO
and TiO$_2$ (e.g., Fig. 8). Such variability is similar to that
of Vico (Fig. 8) and most of the RMP magmas. At Mts.
Cimini the largest scatter in highly incompatible element
ratios is recorded among olivinlatite samples.

Most of the Mts. Cimini samples show similar, slightly
concave REE patterns, with variable enrichment in LREE
[(Ce/Yb)$_n$-normalized to CI chondrite value- between 16
and 72] and ubiquitous Eu-negative anomaly (Fig. 9a).
Fractionation is stronger for MREE and HREE, especially
for the O2 olivinlatites (insert in Fig. 9b), suggesting
residual amphibole and/or titanite in their mantle source.

Primordial mantle-normalized bulk rock trace element
abundances of the Mts. Cimini volcanics show comparable
patterns, with notable enrichment of the most incompatible
elements (from P to Rb, with some exceptions) from ten
to one thousand times the primordial mantle abundances
(Fig. 9b). Multi-element spiderdiagram are characterized
by negative anomalies of Ba, Nb, P and Ti, and peaks of
Rb, Th (U), and Pb, thus resembling those of subduction-
related volcanic rocks (Thorpe et al., 1984; Hickey et al.,
1986).

Sr, Nd and Pb isotope data

As a whole, Mts. Cimini volcanics have Sr, Nd and
Pb isotope compositions that are typical of crust-derived
material (e.g., Hofmann, 1997). They show the most
radioenic $^{87}$Sr/$^{86}$Sr and the lowest 143Nd/144Nd ratios among
both the RMP and TMP, overlapping the field of circum-
Mediterranean granites (Juteau et al., 1986). Their Pb
isotope compositions plot above the Northern Hemisphere
Reference Line (NHRL), within the field of pelagic sediments (Ben Othman et al., 1989). Mts. Cimini samples
display narrow ranges in $^{143}$Nd/$^{144}$Nd (0.51205-0.51214),
$^{206}$Pb/$^{204}$Pb (18.705-18.726), $^{207}$Pb/$^{204}$Pb (15.665-15.687),
and $^{208}$Pb/$^{204}$Pb (38.937-39.019) ratios (Table 7, Fig. 10). In
contrast, they show a wider range in $^{87}$Sr/$^{86}$Sr ratios (0.71218-
0.71568), with the maximum variability recorded by the
olivinlatites. O1 type is characterized by the highest $^{87}$Sr/$^{86}$Sr
ratios (>0.71523), whereas O2 type shows the lowest values
of Sr-isotopes (<0.71348). The increase of $^{87}$Sr/$^{86}$Sr ratios
correlates negatively to Sr variation (Fig. 10e).
DISCUSSION

Geochemical data on Mts. Cimini volcanism show negative correlations of most major elements with SiO₂, thus suggesting that magmatic history was dominated by processes occurred at shallow level, e.g., in crustal magmatic reservoirs. Magma evolution through fractional crystallization (plagioclase ± sanidine, pyroxene, biotite, olivine and oxide separation), in some cases associated with assimilation of local continental crust (Conticelli et al., 1992, 2002), mostly characterized the progression of latites, dome lavas and ignimbrites (Figs. 6 and 7). As supported by simple mass balance calculation (Stormer and Nicholls, 1978), evolution by fractional crystallization of the above mentioned mineral phases could fit the major element composition of latites and dome lavas from O1 olivinlatites.

### TABLE 4  Selected analyses of olivines from rocks of Mts. Cimini activity

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<th>C8</th>
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* Selected analyses of olivines from rocks of Mts. Cimini activity

### TABLE 5  Selected analyses of mica from rocks of Mts. Cimini activity

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* H₂O was calculated using the program Formula 1 from the XMAS V.8.2 software (SAMX, France) and following the indications of Deer et al. (1992). 4 OH in the hydrous mineral formula were considered for 22 oxygen atoms.
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Cal-alkaline and alkaline volcanism at Mounts Cimini and Vico.
Calc-alkaline and alkaline volcanism at Mounts Cimini

FIGURE 6 | $\text{SiO}_2$ against major element (wt.%; A-F), CaO vs. $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (wt.%; G) variations and T.A.S. classification (H; Le Maitre et al., 2002) of Mts. Cimini volcanic rocks compared to Vico magmas (this work and D. Gasperini's unpublished data as grey fields).

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As recorded in several volcanic centers of the RMP, the most evolved samples are the oldest magmatic products, whereas most primitive magmas are erupted at the end of the volcanic history, usually after pyroclastic activity and caldera collapse (Conticelli et al., 2008). Several hypotheses can be put forward to explain such a typical eruptive sequence, such as stagnation of magma batches in shallow magmatic chambers and their consequent chemical and petrographic zoning (e.g., Blake 1981; Sparks et al. 1984; Perini et al. 2000; Kuritani 2001; Troll and Schmincke, 2002; Bryan, 2006). Upwelling of mafic magmas, decompression, and crustal faulting, may have followed reservoir emptying (due to ignimbrite phase) and collapse of the volcanic apparatus (e.g., Roche and Druitt, 2001; Gasperini, 2003; Holohan et al. 2005; Kennedy and Stix, 2007).

If early volcanic compositions at Mts. Cimini can be interpreted as the result of shallow magma differentiation, the origin of the heterogeneity of late olivinlatitic products is still a matter of debate. They show relatively

![Figure 7](image_url)

**Figure 7** MgO content (wt.%) vs. trace element abundances (µg/g) for Mts. Cimini and Vico volcanic rocks (fields as in Fig. 6).
Calc-alkaline and alkaline volcanism at Mounts Cimini

homogeneous SiO₂, CaO and MgO (and Mg#) contents, but differ for incompatible element contents and Sr-isotope compositions. This geochemical signature in mafic magmas reflects a primary characteristic of their mantle source, and is probably related to heterogeneity and/or the effect of mixing/mingling events.

In summary, two groups of olivinlatites can be identified on the basis of their composition:

O1-type is characterized by high MgO, HFSE, HREE, Ti and P content, high incompatible element (Zr/Nb, Zr/Th, etc.) and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr values. These samples seem to represent the primitive magmas of most of Mts. Cimini products.

O2-type is characterized by lower MgO, HFSE, HREE, Ti and P content, and lower incompatible element (e.g., Zr/Nb, Zr/Th) and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr values. These samples are similar to those of the RMP (e.g., Vico and Vulsini; Gasperini et al., 2002; Gasperini, 2003).

O1 and O2 olivinlatites are also different in mineral chemistry and petrographic features. O2 is characterized by the presence of reversely zoned clinopyroxenes, with green cores showing compositional similarity to Vico and, more generally, to the Roman-type clinopyroxenes (Figs. 3-5). In contrast, clinopyroxenes of the O1 olivinlatites are similar to those occurring in Tuscan lamproites (Figs. 3-5).

Green clinopyroxene cores could be interpreted as cognate phases (e.g., Borley et al., 1971; Wilkinson, 1975) or cognate crystals (Brooks and Printzlau, 1978). Experimental studies have shown that a decrease in water pressure (P_H₂O) affects clinopyroxene composition, thus resulting in a decrease of Fe³⁺ and Al in the tetrahedral site and a correspondent increase in Mg and Si content (Dolfi and Trigila, 1983, and references therein). Perini and Conticelli (2002) suggested that variations in P_H₂O are related to a rapid degassing during magma eruption, and used this interpretation to explain the reversely zoned clinopyroxenes of the first period of the Vico volcanic activity. In the case of Mts. Cimini, the coexistence of homogeneous and reversely zoned clinopyroxenes,
Table 7: Sr, Nd and Pb isotope compositions for the volcanic rocks of Mts. Cimini and Vico

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Lava domes</th>
<th>2σ</th>
<th>Lava domes</th>
<th>2σ</th>
<th>ignimbrite</th>
<th>2σ</th>
<th>Lattic lavas</th>
<th>2σ</th>
<th>Lattic lavas</th>
<th>2σ</th>
<th>Lattic lavas</th>
<th>2σ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>MP10</td>
<td>CH5</td>
<td>MP6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MC6</td>
<td></td>
<td>MC7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr</td>
<td>0.7139974*</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.713944</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.7136908*</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.713507*</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.713450</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.710778*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¹⁴⁶Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd</td>
<td>0.5121216*</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.512120</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5121339*</td>
<td></td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.512107</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.512106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁴Pb</td>
<td>18.705</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>18.762</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>15.687</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>39.019</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁶Pb</td>
<td>15.665</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>15.679</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>38.937</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sr and Nd isotope ratios were analyzed at C.A.I. (Spain) with exception of those with * which were analyzed at SOCFAC-UK.

**Together with the lack of correlation between Mg, Si and Fe²⁺ and IVAl in most of the analyzed samples, requires the occurrence of additional processes other than PH₂O variation during magma ascent. Changes in the oxidation state in the melt system can also be invoked to explain the Fe depletion in the rims of O₂ clinopyroxenes. In fact, small changes in oxygen fugacity can bring about major changes in mineralogy (i.e., oxides crystallization), which in turn can change the path of magmatic fractionation.**

**However, the similar composition between green clinopyroxene cores and clinopyroxenes from Vico (Roman-type) cannot exclude a xenocrystic origin for the O₂ reverse zoned clinopyroxenes.**

**Melting of heterogeneous mantle sources (Conticelli et al., 1992, 2002, 2008) or simple mixing between mantle and crustal-derived magmas (Innocenti et al., 1992; Poli et al., 1984) were invoked to interpret geochemical variation in Mts. Cimini olivinlatites. An alternative hypothesis was proposed by Perini et al. (2003) who proposed that the geochemical variations within the olivinlatites cannot be generated by simple binary mixing between high Sr-radiogenic lamproite and trachyte end-members. The olivinlatites are K-rich and point to a high Sr-radiogenic lamproite-like magmas from the TMP, and their geochemical variability might have been induced by incorporation of K-feldspar megacrystals, previously crystallized in a Mts. Cimini trachytic magma. This mixing/mingling lowers the ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr values and the incompatible trace element contents of the lamproitic ultrapotassic magma, which generated the isotopic and geochemical variations of the olivinlatites at Mts. Cimini. Perini et al. (2003) noted that among olivinlatites, modal content of K-feldspar megacrystals and Sr-isotope values are inversely correlated, and that all these xenocrysts are in isotopic disequilibrium with the bulk-rock composition. In addition, the Sr-Ba enrichment observed in olivinlatites (that is a tracer of the presence of K-feldspars in magmatic products) is negatively correlated with Sr-isotope ratios, thus supporting this hypothesis. In this case, the primitive magma of Mts. Cimini should correspond to the most Sr-radiogenic olivinlatites (here defined as O₁-type group), not modified by mixing/mingling processes, as O₂-type group instead were. By contrast, significant differences in ratios of highly incompatible trace elements which do not characterize K-feldspar composition, require an alternative or additional explanation to the hypothesis of K-feldspar incorporation.**

**Geochemical and isotopic variability have been found in most of the mafic rocks of volcanic centers of the RMP and interpreted as the result of mantle heterogeneity beneath Latium and Tuscany (Conticelli et al., 1992, 2002; Gasperini et al., 2002; Innocenti et al., 1992). Mts. Cimini are located in the proximity of Vico, which is believed to have reactivated the Mts. Cimini magmatic system (Perini et al., 2000). The occurrence of a common but heterogeneous mantle source for the two petrologically distinct volcanoes can not be ruled out. In accord with mass-balance calculations, we consider O₁ olivinlatites as the most primitive magmas at Mts. Cimini, derived from a TMP-like mantle source, in which lamproitic geochemical features appear as predominant with respect to HKCA components (e.g., Conticelli et al., 2002; Perini et al., 2003). This is supported by the chemical composition of O₁ clinopyroxenes, which are similar to lamproitic ones. In contrast, derivation of evolved Mts. Cimini products (lavas and ignimbrites) from O₂ olivinlatites cannot be properly modeled. Fractional crystallization of O₂ type
could generate geochemical compositions compatible to those of relatively evolved rocks from Vico volcano (trachyandesites).

The Mts. Cimini olivinlatites as a whole show a range of chemical variation that overlaps with that of the most mafic volcanics of the RMP (Fig. 11a), suggesting partial melting of similarly heterogeneous mantle sources for the two volcanic suites. O2 olivinlatites show Sr-isotope compositions which are intermediate between those of O1 (as TMP-like source) and the RMP primitive magmas (Fig. 11b). In the plot of K₂O content versus Zr/Nb, O2 type falls at the convergence

![Graphs showing Sr, Nd and Pb isotope correlations for Mts. Cimini and Vico rocks, compared to the range of variations of the whole Italian magmatism (South Italy: Aeolian Islands, Etna, Iblean Basin; RMP: Roman Magmatic Province; TMP: Tuscan Magmatic Province; Gasperini et al. 2002). The mantle array is from literature data (Lehnert et al., 2000); C) SiO₂ content (wt.%) and d) Sr (µg/g) vs. Sr isotope ratios for the study volcanics. Fields as in Fig. 6.](image.png)
of both the field of variation of the RMP and Mts. Cimini (Fig. 11c).

When compared to the most primitive magmas of the RMP, the O2 olivinlatites show multi-element patterns and enrichment levels which are similar to the nearby volcanic centers from the RMP (namely Vulsini and Vico), although they are characterized by larger Pb-enrichment and HREE depletion. Finally, different fractionation of HREE in the two olivinlatitic suites suggest partial melting involving different mineral association and/or the occurrence of distinct or heterogeneous mantle sources.

We propose that both O1 and O2 olivinlatite magmas represent Mts. Cimini source compositions. The coexistence of these different magma types in the same volcanic center is ascribed to mantle heterogeneity which manifests itself in Tuscany and Latium, thus reflecting differently enriched portions of the same mantle region. Such geochemical heterogeneity could have been induced by deep mantle contribution, channeled into the Roman and Tuscan Provinces through a plate window in the subducted Adria plate, and interacting with the local mantle wedge since at least 8Ma (Lucente et al., 1999; Meletti et al., 2000; Gasperini et al., 2002; Bell et al., 2004). Deep mantle material and lithospheric components (metasomatized mantle wedge, recycled continental crust, etc.) may not have been homogenized in the source, so that individual basic magmas inherited a geochemical signature reflecting the original heterogeneity of the source mantle, following the model of a “veined mantle” (Beccaluva et al., 2004) or a “marble cake mantle” (Meibom and Anderson, 2003; Armienti and Gasperini, 2007).

The presence of material with geochemical features similar to OIB (Ocean Island Basalts) beneath central Italy and, more generally, Europe and central Mediterranean, has been recently related to a late Cretaceous contamination of
the Euro-Mediterranean mantle. This was triggered by the rise of the Central Atlantic Plume head, at the time in which the Euro-Mediterranean region was located in proximity of such hot spot location (about 100Ma ago; Piromallo et al., 2008).

Geochemical and petrographic variation in the mantle source of Mts. Cimini olivinlatites could record a transition from a “typical” TMP- (O1) to a RMP-like (O2) mantle source. In this view, the last phase of activity of Mts. Cimini might mark a fundamental change of the heterogeneous mantle portion undergoing partial melting, thus shifting towards a mantle region with geochemical and petrographic features which are typical of the following magmatic activity in central Italy. The early Roman-type magma batches could have also mixed/mingled with the Tuscan-type primitive magmas, before becoming predominant. In this scenario, the TMP and RMP could keep their different identity, although fading to one another in terms of chemical and petrographic composition during the evolution of Mts. Cimini volcanism, and in its last phase of activity in particular. The transition from the TMP to the RMP magmatism likely started about 0.9Ma ago, during the emplacement of the olivinlatites (Nicoletti, 1969). The presence of leucite-free silicic rocks also in the first period of Vico activity (Perini et al., 2000) would suggest a transition for about 500ka, before the disappearance of the Tuscan-type magma contribution. Local scale compositional heterogeneity of the mantle source of both the TMP and RMP could imply that parental magmas are derived either from the same mantle depth or reflect the arrival of melts from further down.

CONCLUSIONS

Olivinlatites of Mts. Cimini erupted over the last phase of activity of this volcanic complex and show characteristic petrographic and geochemical features. In particular, two different main types of olivinlatites characterize the primitive magmas at Mts. Cimini. This heterogeneity may be related to a lithospheric mantle that was cross-cut by metasomatic veins or showed a “marble-cake” structure, located beneath Tuscany and Latium, and caused by the complex tectonic history of central Apennine since Oligocene (Meletti et al., 2000). In this scenario, partial melting took place in different places and times of the same heterogeneous mantle, i.e., the TMP and the RMP mantle sources. According to our data, the final activity at Mts. Cimini (about 900ka ago) records a transition from a TMP-like to an RMP-like mantle-derived magmas, allowing to recognize and explain the coexistence of both the geochemical signatures, e.g., calc-alkaline/lamproites and silica-undersaturated ultrapotassic affinities, in close spatial and temporal association.

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206Pb-208Pb spike for Pb isotopic analysis. Terra Cognita, 4, 209.


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Appendix: Analytical techniques

Major and trace elements, and Sr, Nd and Pb isotopes of whole-rock, as well as mineral chemistry analyses were carried out on samples representative of the different petrographic and chronological units of Mts. Cimini. The location of the selected samples is indicated in Table 1. Three samples from Vico were also analyzed for comparison.

Major element compositions of the phenocrysts were determined by Electron MicroProbe Analysis (EPMA) at the SCT-UB, using a Cameca SX 50 instrument. An acceleration voltage of 20kV and a current beam of 15 – 20nA were used in all the analyses with the exception of sodium. This element was analysed first in the sequence using a current of 6nA and an incident electron beam of 5 – 10μm diameter. The analysed elements were Si, Al, Ti, Mg, Ca, Na, K, P, Mn, Cr, Ni, Sr and Ba. Calibration of the instrument was done with reference materials consisting of natural and synthetic silicates and oxides with certified composition.

Prior to their elemental and isotopic analysis, samples were pulverized in an agate mills. Analysis of ignimbrite samples only include pumice clasts, which were separated from the rest of pyroclastic material previous to their processing.

Whole-rock XRF (X-ray fluorescence) major and trace elements analyses (except for REE, Hf and U) were performed using a sequential X-ray spectrometer Philips PW2400 at Serveis Cientificotècnics of the University of Barcelona (SCT-UB). Sample preparation for major elements consisted on producing duplicated pearls (with lithium borate 1:20) and pressed powder pellets, respectively. REE, Hf and U were analyzed by ICP-MS (inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry) at the SCT-UB. In this case, samples were attacked with an acid mixture of HNO₃-HF-HClO₄ (2.5:5:2.5ml). The precision and accuracy of XRF and ICP-MS measurements were monitored using reference materials of the Geological Survey of Japan (JA-3 for major elements and JB-3 for REE, Hf and U; Imai et al., 1995) and by an XRF internal reference material (GSS-8) for XRF trace elements. For major elements, the precision (2σ RSD, n=4) is better than 3.0% with exception of SiO₂ (6.5%) and MnO and P₂O₅ (up to 10%), whereas accuracy is better than 2% for all major elements with exception of P₂O₅ (up to 5%). XRF trace element precision (2σ RSD, n=10) is better than 8% for all elements. ICP-MS trace elements (REE, Hf and U) precision (2σ RSD, n=4) is better than 9%, and accuracy is better than 5% for all elements. Loss on ignition (LOI) was determined by heating samples at 95°C during four hours. Several LOI values are negative because of Fe oxidation and low H₂O content.

Sr and Nd isotope ratios were measured on eleven samples using a Micromass VG-Sector 54 TIMS in two different institutions, the Centro de Geocronología y Geoquímica Isotópica, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain (CAI) and the SOCFAC, Southampton University, UK. Lead isotope ratios were determined using a Triton Thermal Ion Mass Spectrometer (TIMS) at the Carleton University, Canada. The whole-rock samples were analysed in two sessions at CAI, during which NBS 987 was 0.710237 ± 0.00004 and 0.710248 ± 0.00002 (2σ; n=15 and 10, respectively). In the case of SOCFAC analyses, samples were analysed in one session during which the average 87Sr/86Sr value for NBS 987 was 0.710250 ± 0.00001 (2σ; n=4). For each session, the average 143Nd/144Nd value for La Jolla standard was 0.511824 ± 0.00003 (2σ; n=8) and 0.511862 ± 0.00003 (2σ; n=10) at the CAI. 143Nd/144Nd value for JindM standard was 0.512099 ± 0.00001 (2σ; n=4) at SOCFAC. Lead isotope ratios were measured in one session on six whole-rock samples. All mass spectrometer runs were corrected for mass fractionation using reference material. Reproducibility for 206Pb/204Pb, 207Pb/204Pb, and 208Pb/204Pb for standard NBS 981 was 16.892 ± 0.010, 15.431 ± 0.013, and 36.512 ± 0.010 (2σ; n=20), respectively. The fractionation correction, based on the values of Todt et al. (1984), was +0.13% / amu. The Sr, Nd and Pb blank values were negligible for the analyzed samples during the period of measurements.