The Neapolitan Yellow Tuff caldera offshore the Campi Flegrei: Stratal architecture and kinematic reconstruction during the last 15 ky

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A B S T R A C T

In this study we integrate high-resolution swath bathymetry, single channel reflection seismic data and gravity core data, to provide new insights into the shallow structure and latest Quaternary to Holocene evolution of the submerged sector of the Neapolitan Yellow Tuff (NYT) caldera (Campi Flegrei) in the Pozzuoli Bay. The new data allow for a reconstruction of the offshore geometry of the NYT caldera collapse–ring fault system, along with the style and timing of deformation of the inner caldera resurgence. Our interpretation shows that the NYT eruption (~15 ka BP) was associated with a caldera collapse bounded by an inward-dipping ring fault system. The ring fault system consists in a ~1–2 km wide fault zone that encircles an inner caldera region ~5 km in diameter and is often marked by the occurrence of pore fluids ascending through the fault zone, up to the seafloor, particularly in the western sector of the bay. A shallow magmatic intrusion along the ring fault zone was also detected offshore Bagnoli in the eastern part of the Pozzuoli Bay. Following the NYT eruption, the inner caldera region underwent significant deformation and resurgence with a maximum cumulative uplift of the offshore structure in the order of 180 m. The net uplift rate of the caldera resurgent dome was ~9–12 mm/year during the period 15.0–6.6 ka BP. The style of deformation of the resurgent structure can be described in terms of a broad doming, accompanied by subordinate brittle deformation, mostly concentrated in a small apical graben at the summit of the resurgent dome. Chronostratigraphic calibration of seismic profiles obtained by three tephra layers cored in the Pozzuoli Bay indicates 5 to 25 m of post-Roman differential subsidence and tilting towards ESE of the inner caldera resurgence, as recorded by the drowning of the infralittoral prograding wedge below the present-day storm wave base.

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1. Introduction

Resurgent calderas are among the largest and most dynamic volcanic structures on earth. They are typically associated with major eruptions with huge volumes of pyroclastic deposits accompanied by large collapse structures and late stage deformation and uplift of the intra caldera floor region (Smith and Bailey, 1968; Henry and Price, 1984; Lipman, 1984, 1997; Komuro, 1987; Newhall and Dzurisin, 1988; Cole et al., 2005; Acocella, 2008; Kennedy et al., 2012).

Traditionally, the understanding of collapse calderas has been based on field studies, borehole data, remote sensing, gravity and seismic data (e.g. Smith and Bailey, 1968; Lipman, 1984, 1997, 2000; Walker, 1984; Cole et al., 2005) which allow identification of the caldera-forming products and the resulting caldera structure. A significant advance in the understanding of caldera formation has been made in the last decades by the application of mathematical, finite element and scaled analogue models (Druitt and Sparks, 1984; Burov and Guillou-Frottier, 1999; Acocella et al., 2000, 2001; Roche et al., 2000).

At deeply eroded ancient calderas (e.g. Kokelaar, 1992; Brannen and Kokelaar, 1994; Moore and Kokelaar, 1998), intracaldera deposits and structures are generally well exposed in the outcrop. On the contrary, it is often difficult to map young (i.e. <2 Ma) and restless calderas, as the internal structure of the caldera and the ring fault system are commonly buried beneath significant accumulations of intracaldera ignimbrite and postcaldera deposits (Kennedy and Stix, 2003; Martí et al., 2009).

Although often modified by resurgence, the caldera structure is largely dominated by its collapse history. As a consequence, a clear comprehension of the subsurface structure and associated ring fault geometry is of great importance to understand the mechanisms responsible for resurgence and unrest in active calderas. One of the unsolved problems, for instance, is the understanding of the specific role and the interplay of the deep caldera structure and shallow structures in controlling the caldera unrest (Martí et al., 2009).
The Campi Flegrei is an active volcanic area located on the coastal zone of the Campania region of SW Italy, a large part of which develops off the Naples (Pozzuoli) Bay. The area has been active since at least ~80 ka BP (Pappalardo et al., 1999; Scarpati et al., 2013), and is structurally dominated by a caldera collapse, ~8 km in diameter, associated with the eruption of the Neapolitan Yellow Tuff (NYT), a 30–50 km³ Dense Rock Equivalent ignimbrite dated ~15 ka BP (Deino et al., 2004).

In the past decades the shallow crustal structure of the NYT caldera has been mostly reconstructed using gravimetric and magnetic data (e.g. Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Barberi et al., 1991; Florio et al., 1999; Capuano et al., 2013). In the Pozzuoli Bay, the structural elements of the caldera collapse have been largely inferred, on the basis of seabed morphology and associated deposits (Pescatore et al., 1984; Fusi et al., 1991; Fovola et al., 1993; Orsi et al., 1996; Di Vito et al., 1999). More recently, Capuano and Achauer (2003), Judenherc and Zollo (2004) and Dello Iacono et al. (2009) have documented the southern border of the NYT caldera down to a depth of 0.25–0.5 km beneath the seafloor, using low-resolution active seismic tomography images. Acocella et al. (2004) and Accocella (2010) describe the occurrence of the caldera collapse and resurgence dome in the Campi Flegrei district on the basis of modelling (analogue) experiments.

Despite the conspicuous research work conducted offshore the Campi Flegrei area during the last decades, the stratigraphic architecture of the NYT caldera collapse structure and resurgence, are still poorly understood. This is mostly because of the intrinsic limitations associated with the poor resolution and of published seismic datasets, as well as to the lack of reliable geologic calibration of the offshore geophysical data (e.g. Pescatore et al., 1984; Milia, 1998; Milia and Torrente, 2000; Bruno, 2004).

In this study we present a detailed stratigraphic reconstruction of the submerged part of the NYT caldera obtained by integration of swath bathymetry, high-resolution single channel reflection seismics and gravity core data recently acquired from the Pozzuoli Bay. The high-resolution reflection seismic data offer unprecedented detailed insights into the stratigraphy and shallow structure of the NYT caldera collapse–ring fault zone–inner resurgence system.

The results of this research may provide significant contribution to the understanding of the structural style and timing of deformation of restless resurgent calderas in the geodynamic context of active continental margins.

2. Geological framework

The Campi Flegrei district is an active volcanic area located between the western flank of Southern Apennines and the eastern Tyrrhenian margin (Fig. 1). This area is the result of large-scale lithospheric extension that developed in the Eastern Tyrrhenian back-arc region since the Late Neogene and represents a zone of transition within the upper continental margins. This area is the result of large-scale lithospheric extension that developed in the Eastern Tyrrhenian back-arc region since the Late Neogene and represents a zone of transition within the upper continental margins.

The volcanic activity of the Campi Flegrei spans throughout the latest Quaternary (Di Girolamo et al., 1984; Lirer et al., 1987; Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Di Vito et al., 1999; Pappalardo et al., 1999; Rolandi et al., 2003; Scarpati et al., 2013) and is characterized by at least one large caldera collapse structure, produced during the eruption of the NYT, a 30–50 km³ Dense Rock Equivalent (DRE) ignimbrite dated at ~15 ka BP (Deino et al., 2004). The caldera is represented by a quasi-circular area of ~8 km in diameter, that developed in the central sector of the Campi Flegrei, including the inland area and part the Pozzuoli Bay (Fig. 1) (Lirer et al., 1987; Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Barberi et al., 1991; Scandone et al., 1991; Scarpati et al., 1993; Wohletz et al., 1995; Orsi et al., 1996; Florio et al., 1999; Judenherc and Zollo, 2004; De Natale et al., 2006; Dello Iacono et al., 2009; Sacchi et al., 2009).

Following the NYT eruption, the evolution of the Campi Flegrei was dominated by hydromagmatic activity with occasional plinian phases and minor effusive activity forming lava domes (Di Vito et al., 1999). Several tens of monogenic phreato-magmatic vents including tuff rings, tuff cones, cinder and spatter cones, have been active in the last 15 kyr mostly inside the NYT caldera collapse (de Vita et al., 1999; Di Vito et al., 1999; Insinga et al., 2006; Di Renzo et al., 2011; Fedele et al., 2011). The last event was the Monte Nuovo eruption in 1538 A.D., which occurred after some 100 years of caldera uplift (Parascandola, 1946; Di Vito et al., 1987; Morhange et al., 1999; D’Oriano et al., 2005; Piochi et al., 2005; Bellucci et al., 2006; De Natale et al., 2006).

The compositional spectrum of the volcanic rocks of the Campi Flegrei ranges from shoshonitic basalts to predominantly trachytes and phonolites (Di Girolamo et al., 1984; Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; D’Antonio et al., 1999). Acocella et al. (2004) and Accocella (2010) describe the occurrence of the caldera collapse and resurgence dome in the Campi Flegrei district on the basis of modelling (analogue) experiments.

2.1. Ground deformation in the Pozzuoli area

Evidences of a significant ground deformation of the central part of the NYT caldera occurred before 4 ka BP have been long documented in the area of Pozzuoli (Cinque et al., 1985; Amore et al., 1988; Orsi et al., 1996; Di Vito et al., 1999; Isaia et al., 2009). An uplifted coastal sector of the Pozzuoli Bay is exposed onland at the marine terrace called “La Starza”, at 30 to 55 m above sea level (a.s.l.) (Fig. 1). The youngest marine deposits nowadays exposed at La Starza display a maximum elevation of ~30 m a.s.l. and were originally deposited in water depth of 30 to 50 m b.s.l. (Amore et al., 1988). Accordingly, the total uplift at La Starza, onland, can be estimated in the order of 60–80 m.

Archaeological remains of Roman age, nowadays found at a water depth of ~10 m along the western coast of the Pozzuoli Bay (Dvorak and Mastrolorenzo, 1991; Orsi et al., 1996; Passaro et al., 2012) indicate that the entire area underwent subsidence since Roman time. The relatively long post-Roman subsidence phase was interrupted at least once in the Middle Ages, and then followed by uplift that started at least 40 years before the 1538 Monte Nuovo eruption.

Recent ground deformation documented in the Pozzuoli area was accompanied by two bradyseismic crises occurred in 1970–71 and 1982–84, with a cumulative ground uplift of 3.5 m in 15 years and maximum uplift rates of 100 cm/year in the period 1983–1984 (Berrino et al., 1984; Dvorak and Berrino, 1991; De Natale et al., 2001; Battaglia et al., 2006). After 1984, the ground slowly subsided until 2004–2005, when a new of deformation phase and enhanced hydrothermalism started (Troise et al., 2007), with ~0.1 m of uplift at the end of 2013.

2.2. The Pozzuoli Bay

The Pozzuoli Bay is a minor inlet of the Gulf of Naples (Fig. 1), characterized by a central depression with maximum water depth reaching ~110 m b.s.l. and bounded seaward by submerged volcanic banks (De Pippo et al., 1984; Pescatore et al., 1984). The oldest stratigraphic units are relics of volcanic edifices associated with explosive activity older than 40 kyr, overlain by products of the Campania ignimbrite (39 ka BP, De Vivo et al., 2001; Rolandi et al., 2003; Deino et al., 2004) and NYT eruptions. The sedimentary succession of the last 15 kyr is represented by marine epiclastic deposits interbedded with volcanlastic layers (Milia, 1998, 1999, 2010; Milia and Torrente, 2000; Insinga et al., 2002; Milia and Giordano, 2002; Sacchi et al., 2009; Budillon et al., 2011), mostly deposited inside the NYT caldera collapse.

There is a general consensus regarding the location of major morpho-structural lineaments, mostly described in terms of NE–SW, EW and NW–SE trends (Fig. 1) (Pescatore et al., 1984; Di Vito et al., 1999; Milia and Torrente, 2000; Milia and Giordano, 2002; Milia et al., 2003; Bruno, 2004). Acocella et al. (2004) and Accocella (2010) have suggested that NE–SW transfer faults likely played an important role in controlling the evolution of volcanic activity at Campi Flegrei. On
the basis of high-resolution multichannel seismic data acquired in the Pozzuoli Bay, Sacchi et al. (2009) have described the basic elements of the shallow structure of the NYT caldera.

3. Materials and methods

This study is based on integration of a) multibeam bathymetry, b) gravity core data and c) high-resolution single channel reflection seismics acquired by the IAMC-CNR in the Pozzuoli Bay between 2000 and 1010. Swath bathymetry data provided support in the interpretation of the morphologic expression of the shallow structures and depositional environments. Seismic interpretation, calibrated with gravity core stratigraphy, was used to describe the main seismic stratigraphic units and understand the offshore stratal geometries and structures.

Tephra layers interbedded within the cored sequence have been characterized on the basis of lithological and chemical analyses and correlated to age-dated source events onland. The absolute ages obtained from tephrochronological analysis and AMS $^{14}$C dating have been adopted, in turn, to construct an age–depth model for the cored succession and calibrate the seismic stratigraphic interpretation.

3.1. Multibeam bathymetry

The Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of the Pozzuoli Bay results from the integration of several datasets, mostly acquired by using Reson Seabat (455 kHz) equipment in the range of 5 to 80 m below sea level (b.s.l.), and Reson Seabat 8111 (100 kHz) for sectors deeper than −80 m b.s.l. The acquisition system included a Gyro and a motion sensor for the real-time correction of vessel movements. A Differential
Global Positioning System (DGPS) was used to track vessel position during the survey. Sound velocity profiles were recorded and applied in real-time during the acquisition every 8 h.

Bathymetric data were processed by using the PDS2000 swath model editor tool for spike removal and merged with the PDS2000 grid editor model tool. Post-processed data from various sources were extracted as a regular grid with 10 m cell size. The hill-shaded GeoTIFF images of the combined datasets were created within Global Mapper software. The colour ramp for the GeoTIFF of the marine area was scaled between the sea level and the maximum measured water depth. Ambient lighting is from NNE (30°) at 50° above the horizon, and vertical exaggeration is 4.8× (Fig. 2).

3.2. Gravity cores

Stratigraphic calibration of seismic records was provided by the detailed analysis of three gravity cores, (C1062, C23 and C32), collected in the Pozzuoli Bay at water depth of ~90 to 103 m (Figs. 1–2). The length of recovered stratigraphic sections ranges from a total of 490 cm in core C23 to 265 cm in core C1062 and 390 cm in core C32 (Table 1).

Core samples were half-split, photographed and described at cm-scale using a 10× lens. Microscope observation was conducted on selected samples of sieved wet sediment (63-μm and 30-μm sieves). Sedimentological analysis included the recognition of major lithofacies associations, sedimentary structures, and grain-size analysis of the fraction <63-μ by laser diffractometry (Sympatec). Grain-size statistical parameters have been calculated according to the classic graphical equations of Folk and Ward (1957).

Paleontological analysis was conducted on 3 cm thick samples spaced every 10 cm. Identification and ecological analysis of foraminifers and shell mollusks were made following Péres and Picard (1964), Loeblich and Tappan (1968), and Sgarrella and Moncharmont Zei (1993).

3.2.1. Chemical analysis of tephra samples

Chemical analysis of tephra samples was performed both on glass concentrates (pumice and glass shards) and single glasses (pumice and shadrs). Glass concentrates were obtained by hand-picking under a microscope, avoiding grains with vesicles, crystalline intergrowth, and alteration. They were then rinsed in distilled water and cleaned with an ultrasonic probe.

Chemical composition in terms of major and trace element content on bulk sample (pumices) was obtained on pressed powder pellets by X-ray Fluorescence (XRF). Data were reduced following the method described by Melluso et al. (2005). Precision was higher than 3% for major elements, 5% for Zn, Sr, Zr and Ba and better than 10% for the remaining trace elements. Weight loss on ignition (LOI) was determined by standard gravimetric procedures, after heating rock powders (previously dried at ~150 °C in order to remove non-structural moisture H2O) at ~900 °C for 4 h.

Fig. 2. Digital elevation model (DTM) of the Campi Flegrei. The image was obtained by the merging of the colour-scale marine DTM of the Pozzuoli Bay produced in this study with a shaded relief of the coastal area.
Single glasses were mounted on epoxy resin, polished, and analysed in terms of major elements content with Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (EDS), utilizing an Oxford Instruments Microanalysis Unit, equipped with an INCA X-ray detector and a JEOLSM-5310. Operating conditions were: 15 kV primary beam voltage, 45–55 μA load current, 20 mm of work distance, spot size of 15–20 μm, and 50 s net acquisition time. Measurements were taken with an INCA X-stream pulse processor. Instrument calibration was based on international glass and mineral standards. Individual analyses of glass shards with total oxide sums lower than 95 wt.% were excluded. The data selected were recalculated to 100 wt.%.

3.2.2. Radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon (14C AMS) dating was performed using a system based on a 9SDH-2-Pelletron accelerator with a maximum terminal voltage of 3 MV (Terrasi et al., 2007). The concentration of δ13C in each sample was measured using an elemental analyser (ThermoFinnigan EA 1112) coupled with an Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer (ThermoFinnigan Delta Plus). Samples were pre-treated in accordance with the procedures reported by Hoefs (1987), Vogel et al. (1984) and Passariello et al. (2007).

3.3. High-resolution reflection seismics

Seismic data include over 600 km of high-resolution (Geo-Source Spark) and very high-resolution (Sub-bottom Chirp) single channel reflection seismic profiles acquired in the Pozzuoli Bay between 2007 and 2013. Profiles are mostly oriented in the NNW–SSE to NNE–SSW directions, with site by lines acquired in a WNW–ESE direction (Figs. 1–2).

The Sub-Bottom Chirp profiler operated with a 16 transducer Benthos Chirp II system in a wide frequency band (2–7 kHz), with a long pulse (20–30 ms). Signal penetration was exceeding 50 ms, two-way time (twt) in the deeper sector of the bay.

Spark data were acquired using a 1 kJ power supply with a multi-tip spark array, a ringing-free system operating with a shot rate of 1.5 s, and a base frequency of ~800 Hz. Data were recorded using a single channel streamer with an active section of 2.8 m, containing seven high-resolution hydrophones, for 1.3 s twt at a 10 kHz (0.1 ms) sampling rate. Navigation was controlled by a DGPS system.

The processing of spark data was performed using the Geo-Suite AllWorks software package, and running a routine of the following mathematical operators: a) spherical divergence correction, b) band-pass (300–2000 Hz) filter, c) swell filter, d) traces mixing, e) predictive deconvolution, f) time varying gain and g) muting of water column. Signal penetration was found to exceed 500 ms (twt). Vertical resolution reached up to 0.5 m near the seafloor.

Processing of seismic data included conversion from time to depth of the vertical scale of seismic sections. Correlation between stratigraphic units and seismic velocities was based on analysis of seismic facies and lithostratigraphic data (Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Di Vito et al., 1999). Depth-converted sections were plotted with vertical exaggeration of 6×, to better display the internal architecture of stratigraphic units.

4. Data and results

4.1. Morpho-bathymetry of the Pozzuoli Bay

The surveyed area extends approximately 30 km². Bathymetric profiles, drawn perpendicular to the coastline and down to a water depth of ~110 m, show the main characteristics of the inner shelf/slope/basin morphology (Fig. 3). The width of the inner continental shelf (ICS) (0–40 m b.s.l.) of the Pozzuoli Bay varies significantly, from 1.8 km west of Pozzuoli (Profile 1, in Fig. 3) and 1.6 km between Bagnoli and Nisida to less than a few hundred metres at its western side (Baia). The inner sector of the continental shelf is also characterized by a series of stepped terraced surfaces located at water depth of 10 m, 25 m and 35 m over a distance of ~4 km (Profiles 2 and 3 in Fig. 3). Terraced areas correspond either to erosional features or toplap/offlap surfaces of local prograding wedges and are likely the result of the dynamic equilibrium between seafloor erosion at the base of the storm waves and the sediment supply from the coastline during the Holocene rise of sea level.

A remarkable morphological feature is represented by a pronounced break in the ICS profile (Figs. 2 and 4), elongated in a WNW–ESE direction, ranging water depths from ~25 to ~45 m b.s.l. towards ESE. A slightly convex-upward area, with average slope of less than 3°, connects the ICS break (ICSB) to the deeper part of the bay (Profiles 4 and 5 Fig. 3), where water depth reaches ~115 m (Profile 6, Fig. 3). At the foot of the ICS slope, the transition between these domains occurs along a semi-circular depression extending in NNW–SSE (Epitaffio Valley) and NE–SW (Bagnoli Valley) directions (T in Fig. 3). Evidence of linear erosion, locally associated with seafloor instability, can be found both along the thalweg of Epitaffio and Bagnoli Valleys and on the southern slope of the ICS (Profile 4, Fig. 3). The average slope of sea floor increases to 8.5° towards the eastern sector of the bay, close to Nisida Island, and up to 12° in the western sector, close to Baia (Profile 4, Fig. 3).

4.2. Gravity core stratigraphy

Sedimentological analysis of cores C1062, C23 and C32 indicates that the stratigraphic succession sampled in the Pozzuoli Bay is represented by a homogeneous grey mud, made of bioturbated sandy clayey silt with interbedded layers/lenses rich in bioclasts and/or volcanioclasts and three tephra layers (Fig. 4). The sandy fraction is generally fine to very fine grained and consists of volcanioclasts (pumices and scoriae, loose crystals of feldspar, biotite, pyroxene) and bioclasts (benthonic and planktonic forams, mollusc shells, pteropods and ostracods).

Differences in macro and microfossil contents permit distinguishing (a) an infralittoral assemblage characterized by specimens of Cardium edule Linnaeus, Natica hebraea (Marty), Crisia eburnea (Linnaeus) and Elphidium punctatum (Terquem), Ammonia beccarii (Linneo), grading towards the upper part to b) a calciturbidite assemblage characterized by Nucula nucleus (Linneo), Turritella communis Risso, Tellina nitida Poli, Corbula gibba (Olivi), Spiratella bulimoides d’Orbigny and Uvigerina mediterranea Hofker, Melonis barleanum (Williamson), Bolivina alata (Seguenza), Amphoricula scalaris (Batsch) (Pérès and Picard, 1964; Amore et al., 1988; Sgarrella and Moncharmont Zei, 1993).

Three tephra layers were detected within the cored succession and labelled from top to bottom as PB1, PB2 and PB3 (Table 1 and Fig. 4). Tephra PB1 is a 1–3 cm thick, primary fall deposit occurring at 56, 86 and 50 cm below sea floor (b.s.f.) in cores C32, C23, and C1062, respectively. It displays a sharp base and is made of medium-grained, subangular pumice lapilli with rare fragments of Posidonia oceanica (L.) Delile. Pumice fragments are well vesiculated and completely aphyric.

PB2 is a 2–3 cm thick cryptotephra, found at 190, 180 and 118 cm b.s.f. in cores C32, C23 and C1062, respectively. The deposit is represented by normally graded, medium to fine-grained ash, mostly composed of lithics, some of them leucite-bearing, loose crystals of feldspars, biotite and clinopyroxenes, very rare scoriae and honey coloured glass shards with thin-walled bubble junction morphology. Carbonate xenoliths and bioclasts also occur. The layer displays a sharp lower boundary and parallel lamination at its base and a gradual transition to marine episcopal deposits towards the top. The deposit is interpreted as a result of partial in-situ reworking (e.g. bioturbation) of the primary pyroclastic fall.

Tephra PB3 forms a decimetre thick layer at the base of the cored succession. It displays a thickness of 60 cm in cores C32 and C1062 and 50 cm in core C23. The deposit is characterized by consolidated, medium to fine ash mostly made of feldspars (sandine), rare scoriae, pumices and glass shards overlaid by a 2 cm thick pumice lapilli layer.
The upper part of the layer includes sparse bioclasts that suggest the occurrence of in-situ reworking.

4.2.1. Classification of tephra layers

The results of chemical analyses conducted on tephras are reported in Tables 2 and 3. According to the Total Alkali/Silica (TAS) classification diagram (Fig. 5), tephras PB1 and PB3 show a phonolitic composition, very close to the boundary with the trachyte field. Although the bulk-rock analysis generally reflects a composition of glass and crystal mixture, in the case of tephra PB1, the aphyric texture of the separated pumices was expected to yield reliable results on the composition of the source magma (Table 3). Cryptotephra PB2 shows a dominant phonolitic population with silica values ranging from 55.22 wt.% to 55.63 wt.% and alkali values from 10.82 wt.% to 14.75 wt.% (Table 2). A minor distinctive trachytic fraction also occurs within the deposit.

The compositions of the analysed tephras are typical of the slightly undersaturated potassic products (PB1 and PB3) erupted at Campi Flegrei during the last 15 kyr (D’Antonio et al., 1999; Melluso et al., 2012 and references therein) and the highly undersaturated potassic products (PB2) erupted at Somma–Vesuvius during the last 3 kyr (Santacroce et al., 2008 and references therein), (Fig. 5).

4.2.2. Results of radiocarbon dating

An AMS 14C age determination was performed on a mollusc shell (Cardium sp) sampled within the upper part of tephra PB3, in core C32 at 348 cm b.s.f. The obtained conventional radiocarbon age was of 3994 ± 39 years BP which is consistent with the stratigraphic position of the analysed sample. This result was converted into a calendar age of 3904 ± 60 years BP (1σ) using OxCal 4.2 software (Bronk Ramsey, 2009) and INTCAL013 dataset (Reimer et al., 2013), with a marine reservoir correction of ca.400 years (Siani et al., 2000).

4.3. Definition of seismic units

Seven seismic units labelled from bottom to top as NYT, RC, U3, T1, EM1, T2, and EM2 were identified on seismic lines on the basis of seismic characters, such as amplitude, reflection continuity, geometry, and frequency and shape of reflections (Fig. 6).

Unit NYT is characterized by discontinuous reflections with varying amplitude and frequency and it represents the acoustic basement for the sparker source in the study area (Figs. 6b and 7c). The upper boundary of this unit is marked by a high-amplitude and well-defined continuous reflector, and it is conformably overlain by deposits of unit EM1. Unit RC can be subdivided into two subunits on the basis of seismic facies, namely RC.1 and RC.2 (Fig. 7b). The lower boundary of subunit RC.1 and the geometry of its internal reflections are partially obscured by the occurrence of pore fluids that locally modify reflection amplitudes. Subunit RC.2 typically displays parallel, continuous and moderate to locally low-amplitude, high-frequency reflections. It can be defined above the flanks of an antiformal structure, (Figs. 6, 7b and c).

The uppermost part of the sequence is represented by units T1, EM1, T2, and EM2 (Fig. 6). Unit T1 is characterized by very high-amplitude and well-defined continuous reflectors (Figs. 6 and 7d). Unit T1 is overlain by well-stratified deposits (unit EM1), characterized by parallel, medium to low-amplitude, locally continuous reflections (Fig. 6). Unit T2 is characterized by moderate to high-amplitude, locally discontinuous reflections, often associated with disrupted or chaotic, high-amplitude reflectors.
Gravity core C23

(Figs. 6 and 7d). Its lower boundary is represented by a high-amplitude and well-defined continuous reflector. The unit is bounded at the top by continuous, high-amplitude, hummocky reflectors. Landward, onlap reflectors overlay the top of unit EM1.

Subunit EM2.C displays a wedge shape and well-defined lower boundary. It is internally characterized by low-amplitude and obliquely tangential, prograding reflectors with medium lateral continuity. The base of the unit corresponds to a downlap surface, while its upper boundary is characterized by toplap/offlap stratal terminations. Subunit EM2.H exhibits a wedge-shaped geometry, with laterally continuous reflectors characterized by a low-angle prograding of sedimentary layers. Towards the upper part of the continental shelf, the reflectors of subunit EM2.H downlap over an erosional surface that truncates the underlying units (Fig. 7e).

5. Interpretation

5.1. Integrated stratigraphy of the cored succession

Facies interpretation supported by analysis of grain-size statistical parameters indicates that gravity cores C1062, C32 and C23 have sampled a relatively monotonous succession of bioturbated mud, with occasional intercalations of coarser layers, mostly represented by sandy silt rich in bioclasts and/or volcaniclasts, along with three tephra layers (PB1 to PB3) (Fig. 8). The lithofacies associations can be readily correlated among the stratigraphic succession of the three cores and suggest a deepening-upward trend within the sequence (Fig. 8). The fossil assemblages, coupled with facies analysis, indicate a transition from infralittoral to circalittoral environment occurring between tephra PB3 and PB2 at depth of 140 cm b.s.f. (C1062) to 340 cm b.s.f. (C23) (Fig. 8).

5.1.1. Correlation of tephra layers with source events

Once the source area for the tephra deposits was recognized, along with the integrated information on their chemical composition, stratigraphic position and lithology, a correlation with age-dated events on land was attempted (Figs. 5 and 8). Tephra PB1 is characterized by a K2O/Na2O~1 with SiO2 concentration at ~ 60 wt.% and a high content of incompatible elements, such as Zr (~897 ppm) and Nb (~141 ppm) (Table 3). This distinctive composition indicates an affinity of tephra PB1 to the very last phase of Campi Flegrei activity that was characterized by more evolved products (D’Antonio et al., 1999). The chemistry and stratigraphic position of the deposit suggest a correlation of tephra PB1 with the Monte Nuovo eruption that represents the last event occurred at Campi Flegrei (1538 A.D.).

The phonolitic composition, along with its lithofacies (e.g. the occurrence of carbonate and leucite-bearing lithics) and the stratigraphic position, allows a correlation of cryptotephra PB2 with the 79 A.D. products of Somma–Vesuvius (Lirer et al., 1973). The occurrence of parallel lamination at the base of the deposit suggest possible syn-eruptive reworking as already described for this marker tephra in the Naples Bay (Sacchi et al., 2005; Milia et al., 2008). The minor trachytic population of cryptotephra PB2 may also indicate reworking and partial amalgamation with coeval products of Ischia island activity such as the Cretaio event (~60 A.D.; Orsi et al., 1992), found elsewhere off the Campania margin (de Alteriis et al., 2010).

Glasses from tephra PB3 are characterized by SiO2 concentrations ranging from ~58% to ~60% and an alkali ratio from 2.44 to 1.50 with

<table>
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<th>Latitude N deg(°)</th>
<th>Longitude E deg(°)</th>
<th>Water depth (m)</th>
<th>Core length (cm)</th>
<th>Tephra PB1</th>
<th>Tephra PB2</th>
<th>Tephra PB3</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bottom</td>
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<tr>
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<td>404</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Major element composition (wt.%) of glasses from cryptotephra PB2 and tephraPB3. All analyses recalculated water-free to 100. The original total is reported. alk: Na2O + K2O.</td>
<td></td>
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### Tephra PB2

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### Tephra PB3

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CaO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>99.90</td>
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<td>Alk</td>
<td>14.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:

- All analyses recalculated water-free to 100. The original total is reported. alk: Na₂O + K₂O.
an average of ~2. CaO content is from ~2% to ~3% whereas FeO ranges from ~3% to ~4%. This composition characterizes most of the products erupted at Campi Flegrei during the late Holocene. However, according to the lithofacies, stratigraphic position and the proximal character of the deposit (i.e. ash overlaid by pumice lapilli), we suggest a correlation of tephra PB3 with the products of Capo Miseno tuff cone. This monogenic vent has been dated with 40Ar/39Ar at 5090 ± 140 years BP by using incremental-heating procedure (Insinga et al., 2006) or alternatively at 3700 ± 500 years BP through laser heating procedure (Di Renzo et al., 2011).

5.1.2. Age–depth model of the cored succession

An age model for the cored sequence was constructed using absolute ages (years BP) derived from the correlation of tephras PB1, PB2 and PB3 with eruptive event documented in the literature (namely Monte Nuovo, Pompei and Capo Miseno) (Fig. 9).

Table 3

Water-free major (wt.%) and trace (ppm) element composition of bulk glasses from tephra PB1 and average major element composition of single glasses from cryptotephra PB2 and tephra PB3. The average compositions of glasses from their subaerial correlatives, Monte Nuovo, Pompei and Capo Miseno respectively, are reported for comparison. For data sources see Fig. 6; A.I.: molar (Na2O + K2O)/Al2O3; n: number of analyses; σ: standard deviation (values in italics); p: pumice; gs: glass shard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tephra</th>
<th>Core/sample</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>σ</th>
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<td>11</td>
<td>α</td>
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<tr>
<td>PB2</td>
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<td>SEM-EDS</td>
<td>55.36</td>
<td>0.58</td>
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<td>PB3</td>
<td>C23/461-462b</td>
<td>SEM-EDS</td>
<td>59.61</td>
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<td>0.62</td>
<td>59.61</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>SEM-EDS</td>
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</table>

Fig. 5. Classification of samples representative of tephras PB1 and PB3 and cryptotephra PB2 according to the total alkali/silica (TAS) diagram (Le Bas et al., 1986). The average compositional fields of the last 3 kyr Somma–Vesuvius products (Santacroce et al., 2008, EDS) and the Late-Holocene Campi Flegrei products (Smith et al., 2011, WDS; Melluso, pers. comm., EDS) are reported for comparison.
The age–depth plot includes the radiocarbon calibrated age of 3904 ± 60 years BP we obtained from a mollusc shell sampled within the upper part of tephra PB3 (Capo Miseno). This datum is close to the age of 3700 ± 500 years BP reported for Capo Miseno eruption by Di Renzo et al. (2011).

5.2. Seismic stratigraphic interpretation

Seismic stratigraphic interpretation of the NYT caldera collapse structure and its sedimentary fill has been conducted on a series of depth-converted seismic sections that cross the Pozzuoli Bay along WNW–ESE and N–S directions.

Seismic profiles (Figs. 7 and 10–12) indicate that unit NYT represents the structural floor of the stratigraphic succession and is bounded at the top by a major unconformity (Figs. 6b and 7c). On the basis of its acoustic facies and stratigraphic position, this unit can be correlated to the Neapolitan Yellow Tuff deposits of the Campi Flegrei that are widely exposed along the cliffed coast of Posilippo (Sacchi et al., 2009; Di Vito et al., 1999).

On section Msk_113, the top of NYT occurs at depths shallower than ~150 m from the line termination up to shot 1000 (Fig. 7a). Between shots 1000 and 1500, the top of the unit abruptly changes in depth from ~150 m to ~200 m, across a ~2 km wide normal fault zone (Fig. 7c). The fault system can be traced on all seismic profiles throughout the area (Figs. 7 and 10–12). This structure accommodates a generalized downthrow of the inner caldera region corresponding to the central part of the Pozzuoli Bay. The projection of the fault zone in plan view defines a curvilinear pattern from the western part of the bay (Punta Pennata–Capo Miseno) to its eastern side (Bagnoli–Fuorigrotta) and can be interpreted as the ring fault system (RFS) associated with the development of the NYT caldera collapse (Fig. 13) (e.g. Lipman, 2000 and references therein).

Moving in the NNE direction from the periphery of the bay towards its central–northern part, the top of NYT gently decreases from ~200 m to ~100 m b.s.l. This area is characterized by the occurrence of a broad (~5 km wide) antiformal structure (Figs. 7 and 10–12) where the top of unit NYT cannot be continuously traced due to the sea floor multiples that obscure primary reflections.

Unit RC represents the first marine deposits unconformably overlying the NYT (Figs. 7 and 10–12) and it can be subdivided into two sub-units (RC1 and RC2) (Fig. 7b). The unit fills up most of the caldera collapse structure. It reaches a maximum thicknesses of 80–90 m in the median sector of the bay (Fig. 11a) and is practically absent in the distal sectors of the bay outside the ring fault zone (Figs. 7, and 11–12).

Unit RC, particularly subunit RC1, is cross-cut by the ring fault zone and is locally characterized by obliteration of the seismic signal, associated with the occurrence of pore fluids at depth. The lowermost strata of subunit RC2 are also offset by normal faulting, along with the NYT unit. Accordingly we infer that seismic units RC1 and RC2 have formed during and immediately after the major faulting that accompanied the caldera collapse. A shallow magmatic intrusion ~300 m long and 26 m thick is observed along the ring fault zone, in the eastern part of the bay, at about the NYT–RC1 interface (Fig. 10, shots 430 and 600).

Well-stratified deposits of unit U3 conformably overlie unit RC throughout the bay (Figs. 7 and 10–12). The unit locally displays a divergent pattern of internal reflections (Figs. 10–11). It reaches the maximum thickness of ~30 m close to the outer limit of the ring fault zone (Figs. 7 and 12a), while it pinches out, down to less than 9 m, towards the top of the antiformal structure (Figs. 7, and 10–11). Low-amplitude reflectors locally occur within unit U3 above normal faults, suggesting the presence of trapped fluids that ascend through the fault zone (Fig. 7a and c). The geometry and internal pattern of reflections suggest that deposition of U3 was coeval with flank deformation and uplift of the antiformal structure recognized in the central–northern part of the Pozzuoli Bay.

The uppersmost part of the sequence is represented by units T1, EM1, T2 and EM2 (Fig. 6–7 and 10–12). Units T1 and T2 reach their maximum thickness (~7 m and 16 m, respectively) at the periphery of the bay and pinch-out towards the flanks of the antiformal structure. Unit T1 is missing in the eastern sector of the bay. On the basis of their external and internal geometries, both units T1 and T2 have been interpreted as formed by gravity flow deposits (Fig. 7a and d).

Units EM1 and EM2 are conversely characterized by parallel internal reflections and remarkably constant thickness. Landwards, reflection terminations are truncated by a sharp erosional surface (Fig. 12e). The external geometry and the internal configuration of reflectors suggest that these units mostly represent inner shelf epiclastic deposits. In the distal part of the Pozzuoli Bay, unit EM2 was cored down to its base, which is represented by tephra PB3 (Capo Miseno) and dated at ~3.9 ka BP.

Towards the inner shelf, Unit EM2 may be subdivided into two sub-units, namely EM2.C and EM2.H (Fig. 7e). Subunit EM2.C corresponds to a ~270 m long prograding wedge that developed on the inner shelf slope (Fig. 7c). EM2-H (Fig. 7d) develops landwards of the inner shelf break (ICSB) and exhibits a low-angle prograding, wedge-shaped geometry. The base of this subunit correlates with tephra PB2 (Pompeii eruption, Vesuvius) and can be consequently dated at 79 A.D. The remarkable backstepping of the prograding sequence suggests that sub-unit EM2-H was likely associated with a higher base level with respect to subunit EM2.C.

In the apical sector of the antiformal structure detected in the central–northern part of the Pozzuoli Bay (profile Msk_112), the stratigraphic
sequence is affected by a series of high-angle normal faults, dipping ~60°–70° that form a small “graben-like” structure. Faults generally have offsets up to ~10 m and most of them deform the seafloor (Fig. 10, shots 1300–2050).

6. Discussion

During the last decades it has become clear that the understanding of geodynamic processes occurring at collapse calderas require effective integration of various methodological approaches and datasets (Martí et al., 2008). Geophysical sounding has proven to provide invaluable insights into the interior of calderas and thus represents an important contribution to the understanding of subsurface dynamics. One limitation of conventional geophysical imaging (e.g. seismic tomography) of the shallow structure of buried calderas, however, may derive from limitation in spatial resolution of geophysical images, which inherently depends on the spacing between deployed instruments as well as on the inversion models.

The shallow marine setting of the NYT caldera in the Pozzuoli Bay represents a unique opportunity to obtain a high-resolution imaging of sub-seafloor stratigraphy and structures. In particular, the integration of the marine geophysical data with morpho-structural analysis and the geological calibration of the seismic record may provide a new perspective in the study of ring fault systems and resurgent structures associated with restless calderas on active continental margins, such as Rabaul (e.g. Saunders, 2001) and Satsuma Iwo-Jima (e.g. Ukawa et al., 2006).

6.1. The caldera collapse structure and ring fault system

Seismic interpretation showed that the NYT caldera collapse structure displays an ellipsoidal shape in plan view, with axes of ~8 km and ~7 km, elongated in WNW–ESE direction (Fig. 13). The structural boundary of the caldera can be traced for a total length of ~6 km from the western to the eastern sector of the Pozzuoli Bay and is represented by a complex ring fault zone that encircles the collapsed structure (Figs. 7 and 10–12). The width of the fault zone varies from 1 to 2 km. The fault system is represented by a major series of inward-dipping faults (e.g. Figs. 10–12) and subordinate outward-dipping (antithetic) faults (e.g. Fig. 7c).

The ring fault zone produces a generalized downthrow of the NYT caldera floor that may locally exceed 80 m. In the western sector of the Pozzuoli Bay, the ring fault system is characterized by the diffuse occurrence of pore fluids that likely ascend through the fault zone and locally permeate unit RC.1 and the lower part of unit U3 (e.g. Figs. 7 and 11). Evidence of active fluids vents over discrete seafloor sectors of the bay has been recently documented by Carmisciano et al. (2013).

The interpretation of the relative age of faults activity along the ring fracture system suggests a rejuvenation trend of faulting from the inner part towards the outer part of the ring fault zone (Figs. 7 and 10–12).
We infer that this trend may reflect the tendency of the initial inner caldera collapsed area (i.e. at 15 ka BP) to increase its width through time.

Seismic interpretation of profile Msk_112 has illustrated the occurrence of a magmatic intrusion along the ring fault zone, offshore Bagnoli, in the eastern part of the Pozzuoli Bay (Fig. 10). The magmatic body has the shape of a small laccolith that intrudes the lower part of unit RC and deforms the above strata, up to the base of unit EM2 (3.9 ka BP). The inferred age of this intrusion is likely coeval with similar structures (e.g. M. Olibano lava dome) already described onland (e.g. Isaia et al., 2009; Melluso et al., 2012).

The reconstructed pattern of the ring fault zone in the Pozzuoli Bay shows a good correlation with the structural border of the NYT caldera inferred by previous studies from other geophysical data, including low-resolution active seismic tomography images (Dello Iacono et al., 2009) and the pattern of horizontal derivative of gravity anomalies (Florio et al., 1999).

6.2. The caldera resurgence

A striking feature of the central–northern part of the Pozzuoli Bay is represented by the antiformal structure recognized on seismic profiles that is also evident in the morpho-bathymetry of the seafloor (Figs. 2–3, 7 and 10–11). The structure is surrounded by the inner boundary of the ring fault system and can be interpreted as the resurgent dome of the NYT caldera. The resurgence is associated with significant deformation and uplift of the inner caldera region, as indicated by the growth of strata of unit U3 offshore, and by the marine deposits nowadays exposed onshore with an elevation of ~30 m a.s.l., at La Starza (Cinque et al., 1985; Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Di Vito et al., 1999; Orsi et al., 1999).

On the basis of our interpretation, we estimate that a maximum cumulative uplift of ~180 m has been reached at the top of the resurgent dome, over a distance of ~4.5 km from the base of the structure. As a consequence, we infer that the ~60–80 m uplift of the caldera resurgence documented at La Starza onland (Cinque et al., 1985; Amore et al., 1988) represents less than the half of the uplift history of the entire structure in the last 15 ky.

Fig. 8. Stratigraphic correlation of gravity cores C23, C32 and C1062 within the Pozzuoli Bay. Lithology, textures, sedimentary structures and bathymetric zones of lithofacies associations are indicated. Sorting and grain mean size are plotted against depth. Tephra layers PB1 and PB3 and cryptotephra PB2 have been correlated throughout the cored sections.

Fig. 9. Age–depth plot of gravity cores C23, C32 and C1062 based on the interpreted ages of the tephra layers PB1 and PB3 and cryptotephra PB2 (see also Table 1).
Offshore, the resurgent dome displays limited internal brittle deformation, with the notable exception of its central summit area where a set of normal faults forms a small graben-like structure (Figs. 11 and 13). According to classic models of resurgent calderas (e.g. Komuro et al., 1984; Lipman, 1997; Cole et al., 2005), this structure, often referred to as “apical graben” can be explained as the consequence of extension of the resurgent structure in the area of maximum convex curvature.

Multibeam bathymetry coupled with seismic data has shown that the median sector of the Pozzuoli Bay is characterized by a morphostructural depression surrounding the resurgent dome and approximately corresponding to the thalweg of the Epitaffio valley in the western sector of the Pozzuoli Bay and the Bagnoli valley to the east (Fig. 3). According to the conventional terminology of piston collapse calderas, these depressions may be described as segments of the caldera collar (e.g. Lipman, 1997, Cole et al., 2005).

An interesting feature revealed by seismic interpretation is the Punta Pennata structure (see also Milia and Torrente, 2000; Milia et al., 2003), a minor antiformal lineament that deforms the seafloor along the south-western border of the caldera (Fig. 11). Our data suggest that the Punta Pennata structure may be regarded as the result of a broad bending of strata that accommodate local compression within the fault zone between the base of the resurgent structure and the footwall of the ring fault system (e.g. Borgia et al., 2000).

### 6.3. Uplift of La Starza marine terrace and post-Roman subsidence

Previous studies have documented that the marine stratigraphic succession cropping out along the coastal cliff of La Starza (10.5–4.0 ka PB) has been brought to subaerial exposure as a consequence of ~30 m uplift that occurred during a ~200 years period of unrest between ~4.1 and ~3.9 ka BP (Isaia et al., 2009), with an average uplift rate in the order of 150 mm/year (Fig. 14). As the oldest marine layers of La Starza succession were deposited at a water depth of 30–50 m b.s.l. (Amore et al., 1988), it can be concluded that total net uplift documented at La Starza is in the order of 60–80 m, over a period of ~6.5 ka, with an average uplift rate of 9–12 mm/year.

The interpretation of seismic profiles also suggest that the maximum uplift measured over the entire resurgent structure, from the top of the NYT caldera resurgence to its base offshore, was in the order of ~180 m, with an average uplift rate in the order of 12 mm/year, over the last 15 ky. We also infer that a significant part of the early uplift history of the NYT caldera resurgence (15.0–10.5 ka BP) occurred in underwater marine setting and was practically coeval with the eustatic sea-level rise following the last glacial maximum.

Submerged archaeological remains of Roman age, i.e. buildings, roads and port facilities, originally built at, or slightly above the sea level along the western coast of the Pozzuoli Bay (Dvorak and Mastrolorenzo, 1991; Orsi et al., 1996; Passaro et al., 2012), provide indication that the long term uplift of the caldera resurgence was interrupted at ~20 ka BP and the coastal area between Pozzuoli and Capo Miseno underwent ~10 m of subsidence during post-Roman times (Fig. 14).

Our data showed that the present-day water depth of the morphologic break that marks the edge of the prograding unit EM2-C (ICSB in Figs. 2–3, 7, 16) varies from ~25 m b.s.l. in the north western part of the Pozzuoli Bay (offshore Baia) to ~45 m b.s.l. in the south eastern part (offshore Bagnoli). This indicates a remarkable tilting of the inner caldera resurgence towards ESE during the post-Roman subsidence phase.

The accommodation space created during the last ~2 kyr resulted in a significant backstepping of the present-day coastal prograding wedge...
(unit EM2-H, in Fig. 7e) and was accompanied seaward by the deposition of a deepening-upward sequence, with transition from infralittoral to circalittoral environment (Fig. 8).

6.4. Kinematic reconstruction of the NYT caldera during the last 15 ky

To provide a semi-quantitative kinematic analysis of vertical movements (uplift/subsidence) following the NYT eruption, we have restored the NNE-trending depth-converted Msk_113 profile (Fig. 7a). The evolution is summarized in four stages (A to D, from older to younger) namely corresponding to: a) age of the top of unit RC; b) age of the top of unit U3; c) 2.0 ka BP and d) present day (Figs. 15 and 16).

Absolute ages for the top of RC and U3 units are unknown. An estimate of the age for the top of U3 was attempted by extrapolating the age–depth curve derived for core C32 (Figs. 9 and 14) to the underlying unit EM1. Also, we have assumed that the time interval for the deposition
of units T1 and T2 is negligible as these units are the result of gravity flow processes that commonly produce relatively thick deposits in a relatively short time. Consequently, we have considered the age for the top of unit U3 as corresponding to the estimated age of the lower boundary of unit EM1, (~6.6 kyr) (Fig. 15).

In order to construct the restored sections we have: a) removed sediments younger than the reference time slice; b) included paleobathymetry derived by unit EM2 C and the reconstructed the eustatic sea-level curve for the Napoli Bay since the last glacial maximum (Lambeck et al., 2011); c) added the (uncompacted) thickness of the stratigraphic sequence at depth starting from the paleobathymetric datum.

6.4.1. Stage A (15.0 ka BP)

The NYT eruption was followed by a caldera collapse along the ring fault system (Fig. 16a). The collapsed structure hosted ~60 m of volcaniclastic and epiclastic sediments (unit RC) that accumulated at high depositional rates during a relatively short time period. Sea level was approximately 93 m lower than the present-day level (Lambeck et al., 2011). The lack of deposits coeval with unit RC outside the caldera suggests that palaeo water depth was less than 20 m in the periphery of the collapsed area. Consequently we infer that the initial palaeo water depth inside the caldera collapse was in the order of 60–80 m.

6.4.2. Stage B (15.0 – 6.6 ka BP)

An inner caldera resurgent dome started to form in the northern sector of the future Pozzuoli Bay (Fig. 16b). At the end of this stage, the top of the NYT was uplifted from ~200 m b.s.l. in the southern part of the bay up to ~100 m b.s.l. towards the summit of the resurgent dome. During this time interval, we may estimate an average net uplift rate of ~12 mm/year for the offshore resurgent structure. This is practically the same uplift rate that can be derived by geomorphic data reported in the literature for the La Starza area (Cinque et al., 1985; Amore et al., 1988). At ~6.6 ka BP, the sea level reached ~7 m below the present-day level thus creating accommodation space for the deposition of unit U3 above the flanks of the uplifting resurgent structure and outside the inner caldera region.

6.4.3. Stage C (6.6 – 2.0 ka BP)

This stage is characterized by the deposition of gravity flow units interbedded with circalittoral deposits in the deepest sector of the bay (Fig. 16c). An infralittoral prograding wedge (unit EM2-C) started to form towards the inner continental shelf of the Pozzuoli Bay, at a water depth of ~20 m b.s.l. The varying thickness of the upper part of the sedimentary succession, suggests that vertical movements (uplift/subsidence) with different magnitudes possibly occurred in the area during this time interval.
6.4.4. Stage D (2.0 ka BP – Present)

At ~2 ka BP the sea level was ~1 m lower than the present day. The infralittoral prograding wedge (unit EM2-C) that, still during Roman times, was forming at a water depth of ~20 m b.s.l, in substantial equilibrium with the hydrodynamic regime (Pepe et al., 2013) has now subsided to ~40 m b.s.l (Fig. 16d). The subsidence phase detected offshore is in agreement with documented archaeological evidences of ground subsidence between the Roman period and the Middle Ages in the area of Pozzuoli. The accommodation space created during the last ~2 kyr was partly filled with sediments of unit EM-H. Seaward, subsidence was documented by a deepening-upward sequence, with a transition from infralittoral to circalittoral conditions, throughout the cored succession.

7. Conclusion

The integrated analysis of geophysical and geological data acquired off the Campi Flegrei in the Pozzuoli Bay, has provided new insights into the shallow structure and evolution of the NYT collapse caldera over the last 15 kyr. The main results of this study can be summarized as follows:

1) The offshore collapse structure of the NYT caldera displays an ellipsoidal shape in plan view, with axes of ~8 km and ~7 km, elongated in WNW–ESE direction. The thickness of the caldera fill is in the order of 60 m within the Pozzuoli Bay.

2) The inner caldera region is characterized by a resurgent dome, ~5 km in diameter, bounded by a 1–2 km wide ring fault system. The style of deformation of the resurgent structure can be described in terms of a broad antiformal folding, accompanied by subordinate brittle deformation, mostly concentrated in a small apical graben at the summit of the resurgent dome. The average net uplift rate of the resurgent structure has been in the order of 9–12 mm/year between 10.5 ka PB and 4.0 ka PB.

3) The ring fault zone of the NYT caldera is represented by a system of inward-dipping normal faults and minor outward-dipping (antithetic) individual faults. The kinematics of faulting suggests a widening of the initial inner caldera collapse through time.

Fig. 14. Cartoon section across the NYT caldera from the Pozzuoli Bay to the northern Campi Flegrei (after Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Orsi et al., 1996); b) location map; c) sketch section of the Pozzuoli coastal zone at La Starza (after Cinque et al., 1985).

Fig. 15. Sediments accumulation rate plot for gravity core C32. Tephra PB1: Monte Nuovo eruption (1538 A.D.); cryptotephra PB2: Somma-Vesuvius eruption (Pompei, 79 A.D.); tephra PB3: Capo Miseno eruption (3.9 ka BP, this study). Inferred ages of seismic units T1 to EM2 are also reported (see text for discussion).
4) In the western sector of the Pozzuoli Bay, the ring fault system is characterized by the diffuse occurrence of pore fluids that ascend at shallow depths through the fault zone and may locally result in active fluid vents at the seafloor.

5) A shallow magmatic intrusion has been detected along the ring fault zone, in the eastern part of the Pozzuoli Bay, offshore Bagnoli. The magmatic body has the shape of a small (~300 m long and 26 m) thick laccolith. The inferred age of the intrusion is 3.9 ka BP.

6) Soon after the NYT eruption (~15 kyr BP), marine conditions prevailed over the collapsed caldera structure in the Pozzuoli Bay. Uplift rates of the resurgent structure were initially lower than the post glacial sea-level rise. The mid-Holocene decrease in the rate of sea-level rise marked the onset of the uplift to subaerial exposure of the Pozzuoli coastal sector at La Starza.

7) The present-day water depth of the infralittoral prograding wedge of the Pozzuoli Bay (25–45 m b.s.l.) indicates 5 to 25 m of post-Roman subsidence differential and tilting of the inner caldera resurgence towards SSE.

Acknowledgments

Gravity cores and swath bathymetry data used in this study were acquired by the IAMC-CNR, Naples, on board of the R/V URANIA during a series of oceanographic cruises between 1997 and 2004 for the geological mapping of the Italian coastal zone (CARg project). Sub-bottom Chirp and high-resolution single channel (sparker) reflection seismic data were mostly acquired by the IAMC-CNR, Naples on board of the R/V URANIA in 2010 during Oceanographic cruise Marisk-10 in cooperation with the University of Palermo.

XRF and SEM-EDS data were acquired at the Centro Interdipartimentale di Servizi per Analisi Geomineralogiche (CISAG), University of Naples Federico II. The 

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