The San Bartolo Lava Flow Field Along the Northeast Flank of Stromboli Volcano: A Preliminary Study for Field Survey

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Abstract

This file pertains the analysis of photos collected during a drone survey carried out in July 2022 in order to map the San Bartolo (SB) lava flow field, cropping out on the NE flank of Stromboli volcano. The SB is the most recent lava flow field emplaced outside the Sciara del Fuoco and affecting the populated area, and has an age of ~ 2 ka (Arrighi et al., 2004; Speranza et al., 2008). The lower part of the lava flow field forms a lava delta along the coast between the Sirenetta wharf and Piscità (Figure 1), where we have recognised 16 lava flow units.

Here below, using Google Maps as reference to locate the flow units and then analysing all photos collected during the drone survey, we identify the 16 lava flow units comprising the SB lava fan, and display in detail the features of each flow unit as observed from the photos collected during the drone survey observed from the coast (frontal view) and from above (vertical view). This work is preliminary and necessary in order to have a basis for the field survey that will analyze and sample each flow unit in detail, trying to connect the features observed along the coast with those detected on the surface of the lava flow field.

The survey of the San Bartolo lava flow field, and the reconstruction of the events and timing occurred during this recent flank eruption, is part of a research project (FIRST-ForecastIng eRuptive activity at Stromboli volcano: Timing, eruptive style, size, intensity, and duration) funded by the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) Progetto Strategico Dipartimento Vulcani 2019 (Delibera n. 144/2020; Scientific Responsibility: S.C.).

Results

This file comprises 120 slides where we display the San Bartolo lava fan cropping out along the NE coast of the Stromboli island between the Sirenetta wharf to the east and the beach of Piscità to the west, for an extension in plan view of ~ 1 km. The lava fan is made of 16 lava flow units, most of which expand below sea level, as it is possible to observe from several photos taken from above. Given the number of private houses, gardens and roads covering the 16 lava flow units, it is very difficult to identify each lava unit and its boundary directly from the field, and this is the reason for this preliminary study carried out from the air.

In the following slides we show at first the distribution of the 16 lava flow units and of their boundaries as seen from above and recognised on a Google Earth map. We start from the easternmost (SBI 16, located at the Sirenetta wharf) moving westward to Piscità (SBI 12). We show the details of the surface features of each lava flow unit observed from the photos collected during the drone survey, and recognize a few morphology features, such as lava channels, levées, tumuli and possible lava tubes (both drained and undrained, or flow plugs) that will be useful for the field survey and for reconstructing the emplacement history of this compound lava flow field.

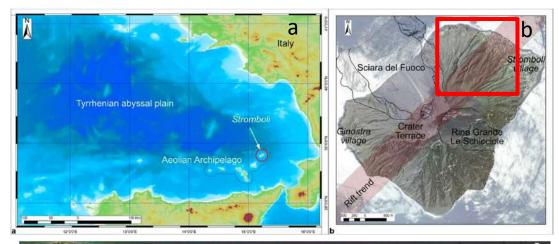
The analysis of the drone photos revealed an unconformity within the San Bartolo lava flow field between an a'a lava flow front above (SBI 1) and a pahoehoe lava flow lobe below (SBI 13). This contact, as well as the nature of the unconformity, need to be verified in the field. SBI 1 appears to be made by an a'a flow to the east and by two pahoehoe flows to the west, apparently erupted from lateral breakouts of the a'a flow front.

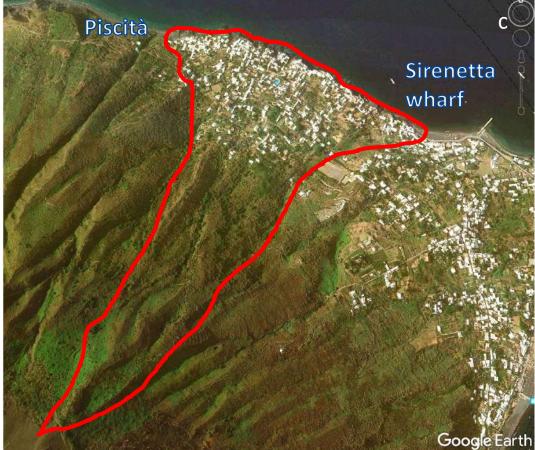
Two possible cavities (lava tubes?) have been observed along the coast in correspondence of two lava flow units: SBI 2 and SBI 7. If the field survey will confirm that these features are lava tubes caused by roofing over lava channels and not by the erosion of the flow bottom, then their spatial relationships with the surface master channels and their inner features might help reconstructing a long-lasting eruption displaying several stages of emplacement of the lava flow field, with possibly initial a'a lava flows emplaced at high flow rate, and final pahoehoe flow lobes erupted from the exit of the lava tubes and from the draining margins of the former a'a lava flows.

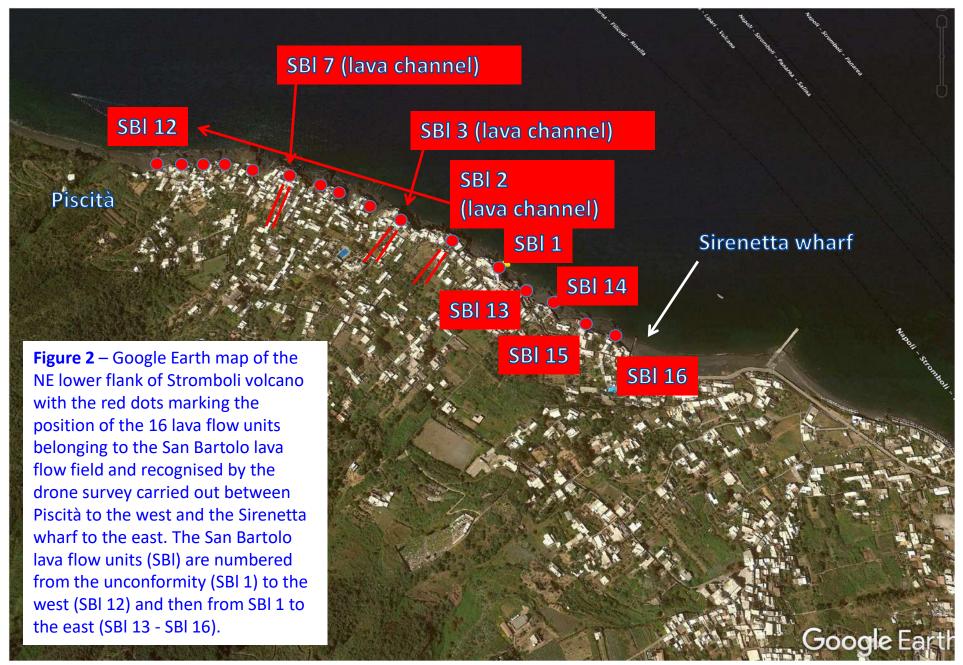
Should the lava tubes along the coast display several inner coatings, this might reveal the rheology state of the lava flowing within them as well as the duration of activity of these structures, with several thin inner lining suggesting a long-lived tube fed by fluid lava, and a few thick lining indicating a lava tube active for a short time and fed by viscous lava (Calvari and Pinkerton 1998, 1999).

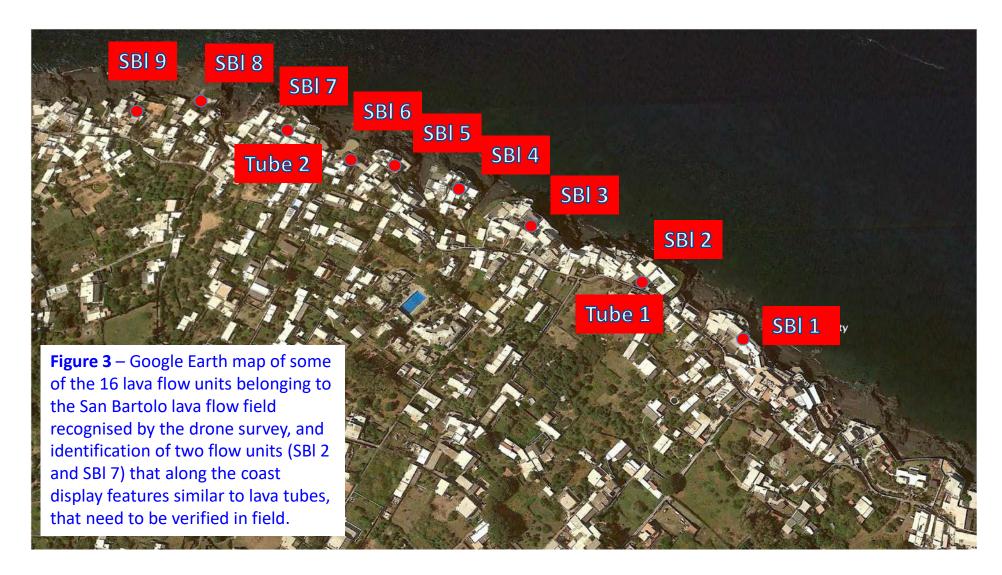
The slide at page 118 displays a preliminary DEM (digital elevation model) of the whole San Bartolo lava flow field. On this DEM, the master lava channels recognised by Lucchi et al. (2013) are well visible, and their extensions seaward well connect to the two lava tubes detected by the analysis of the photos on the frontal view of the two lava flow units SBI 2 and SBI 7. The final slide at page 119 shows an initial interpretation of the lava flow field, where the lava flow units located in the central part show mainly a'a lava flow surfaces with lava channels, levées, flow plugs and possibly lava tubes (SBI 1 to SBI 8), whereas the lateral lava flow units located along the coast to the east and west margins of the lava flow field display mainly pahoehoe surfaces (SBI 13-16 and SBI 9-12).

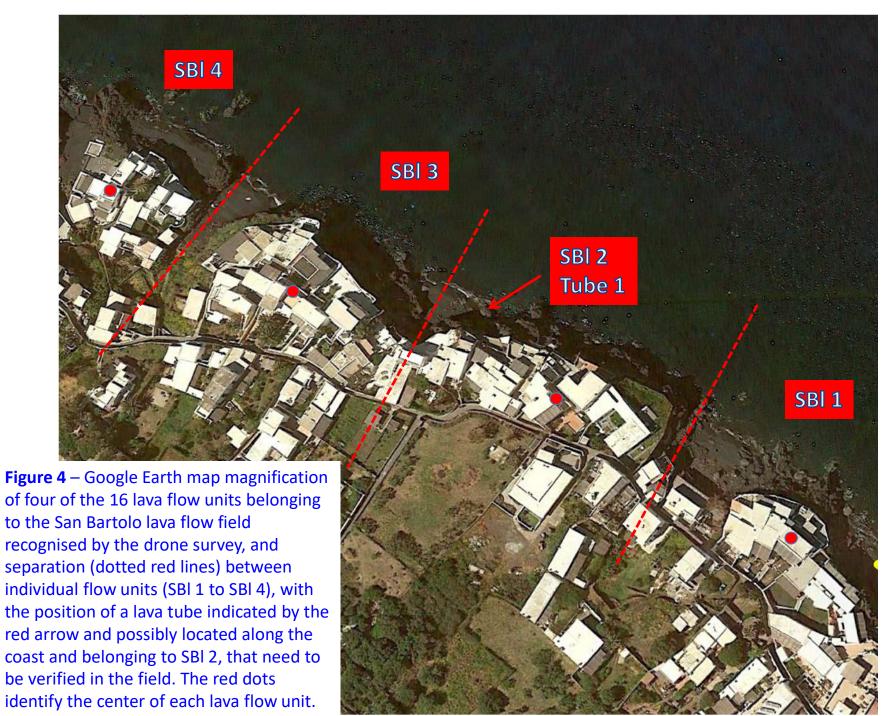
Figure 1 – (a) The southern
Tyrrhenian sea and the position of
the Aeolian Archipelago and of
Stromboli volcano (red circle) at its
NE end. (b) The island of Stromboli
with the red square marking the area
magnified in c. (c) Google Earth map
of the NE flank of Stromboli volcano
with in red the outline of the area
covered by the San Bartolo lava flow
field (Calvari et al., 2011; Lucchi et
al., 2013) and the coastal area
interested by the drone survey
between Piscità and the Sirenetta
wharf.



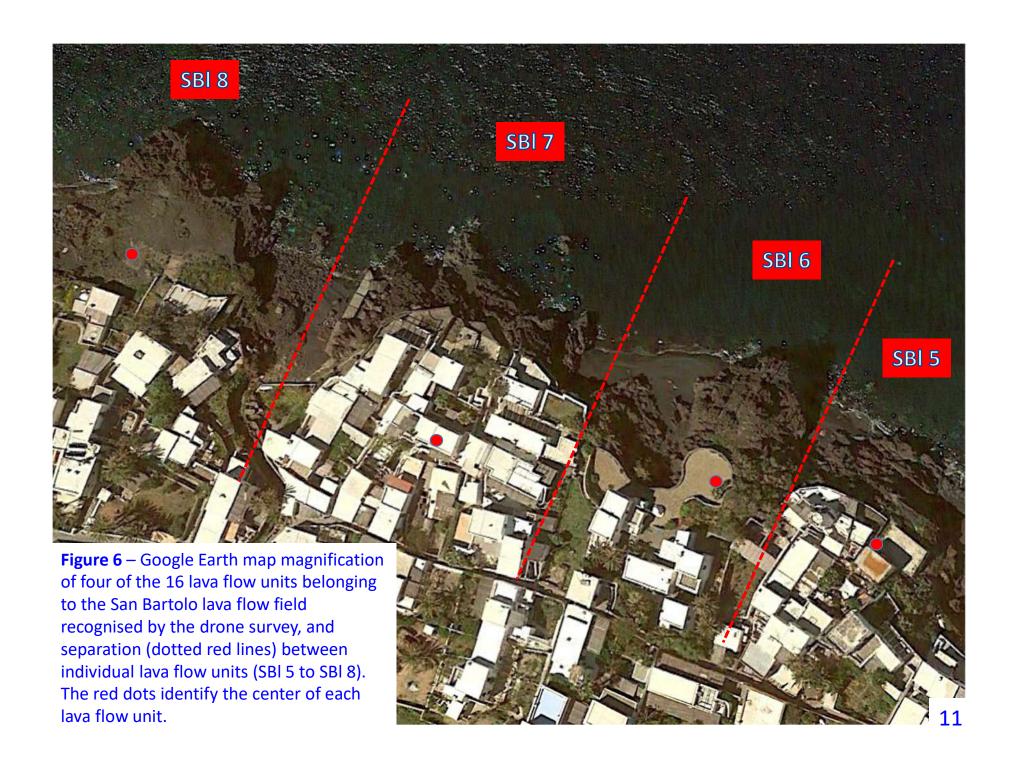


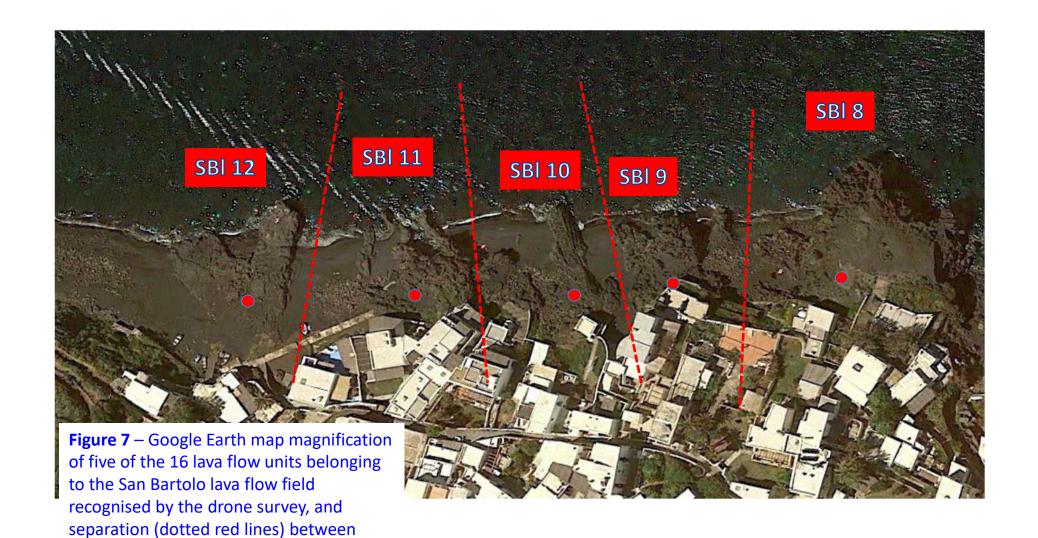








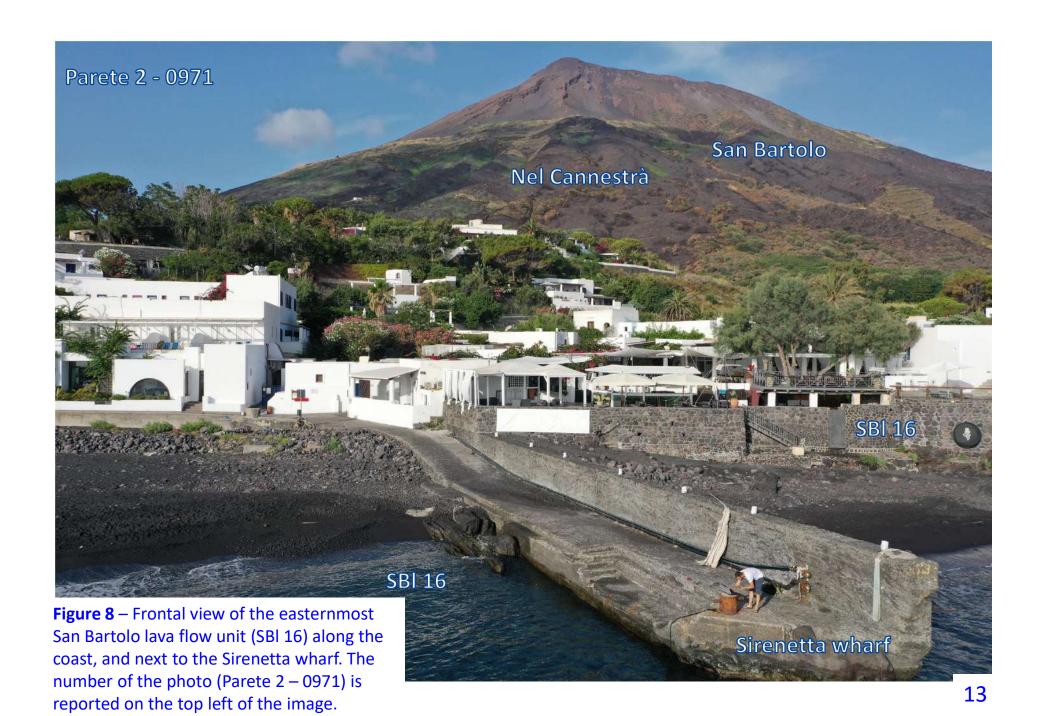


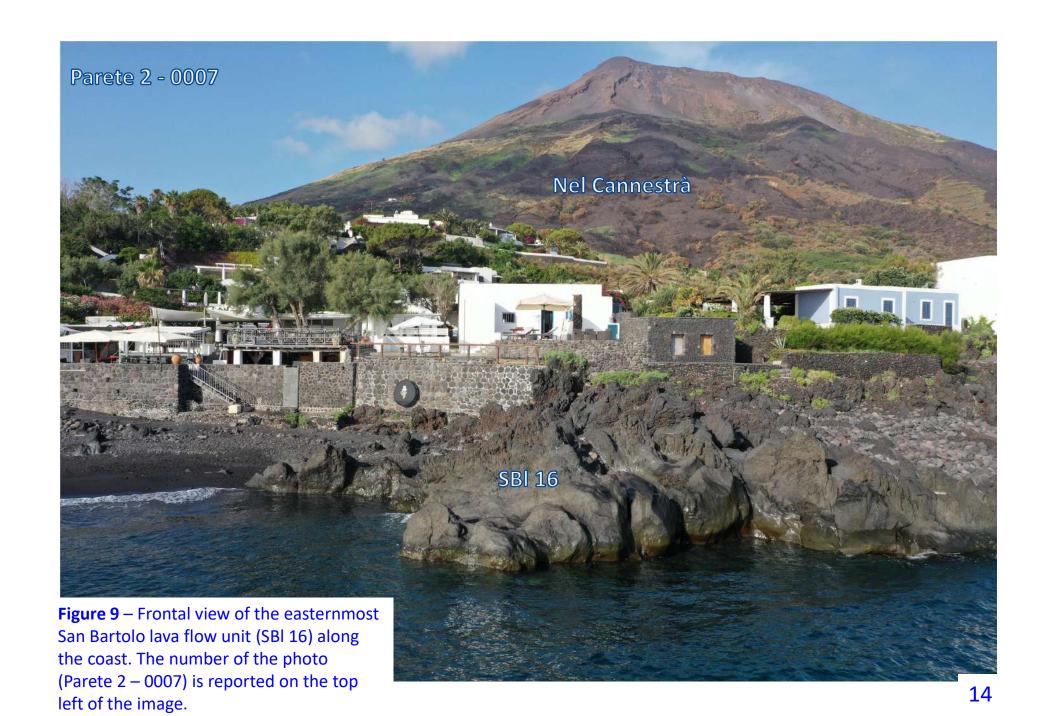


individual lava flow units (SBI 8 to SBI 12). The red dots identify the center of each

lava flow unit.

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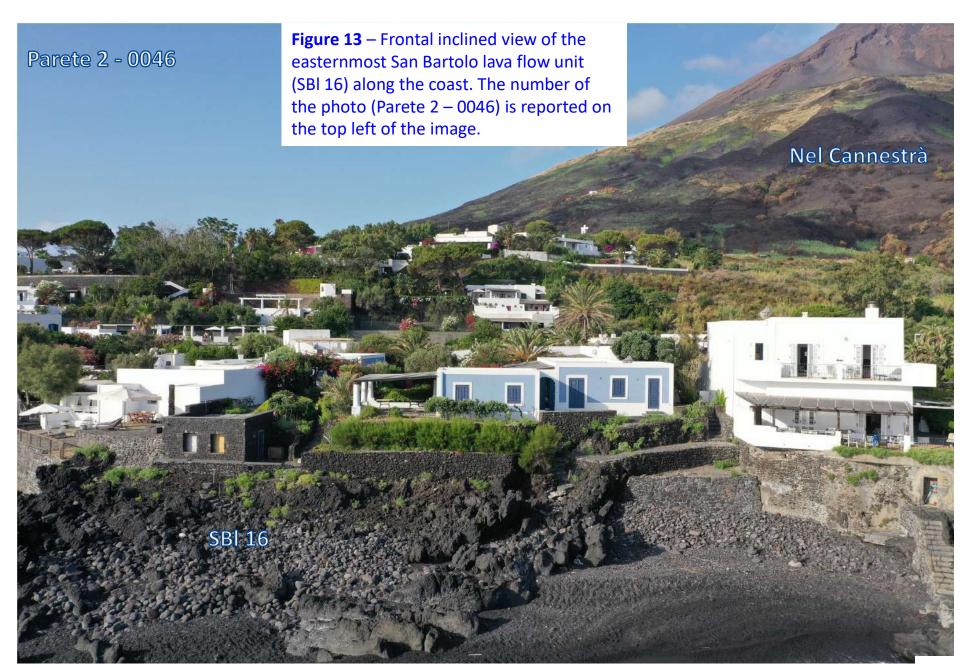


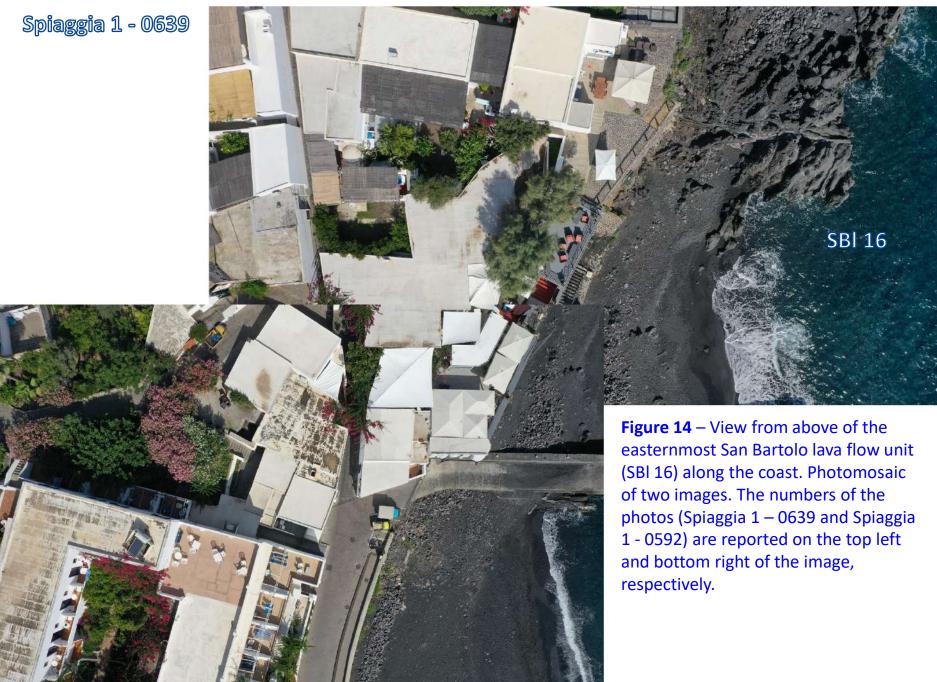














encountered the sea.



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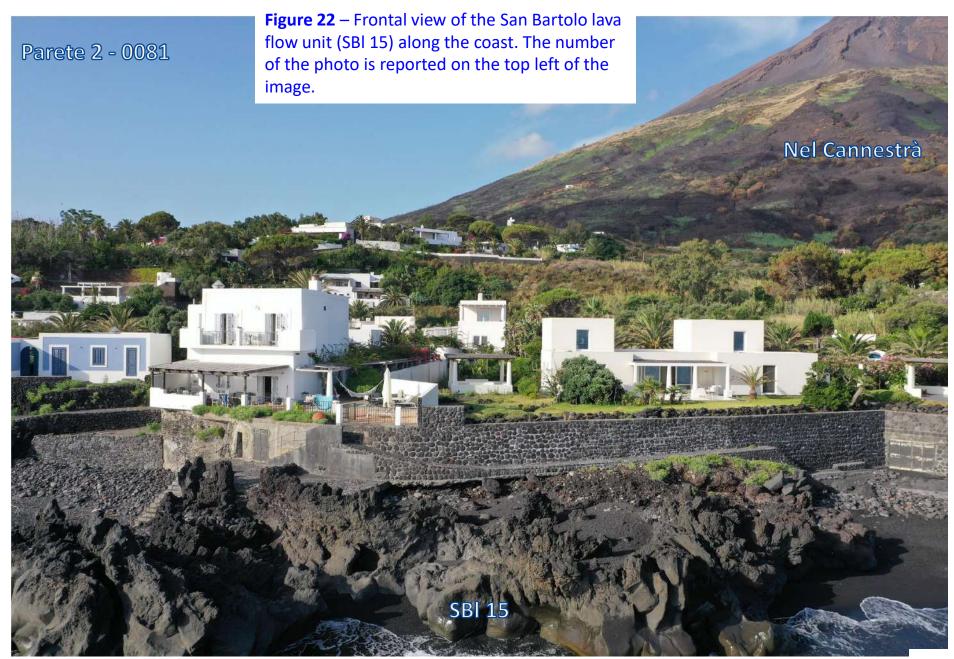


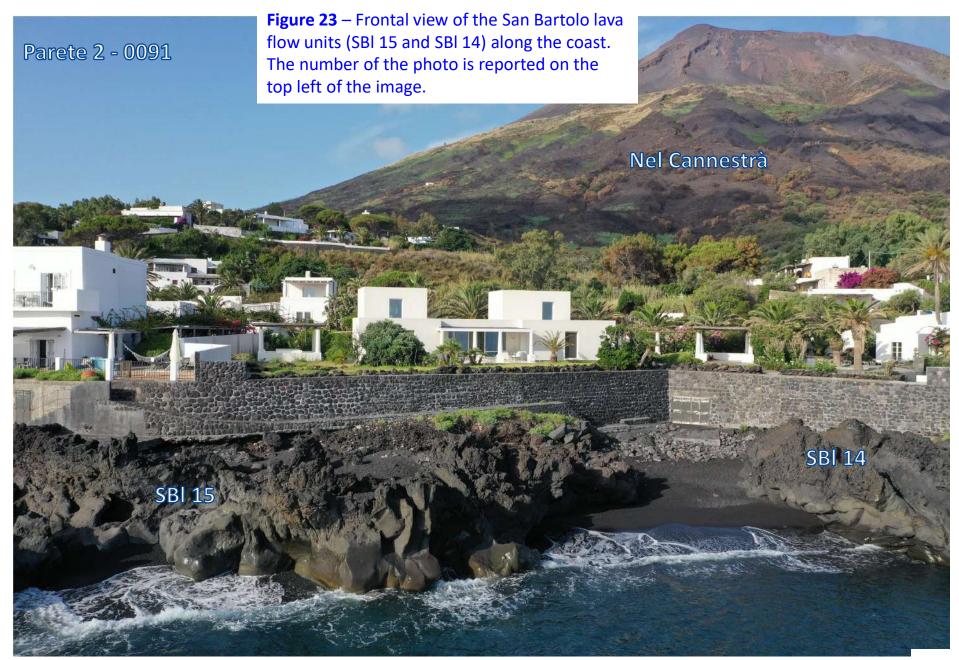




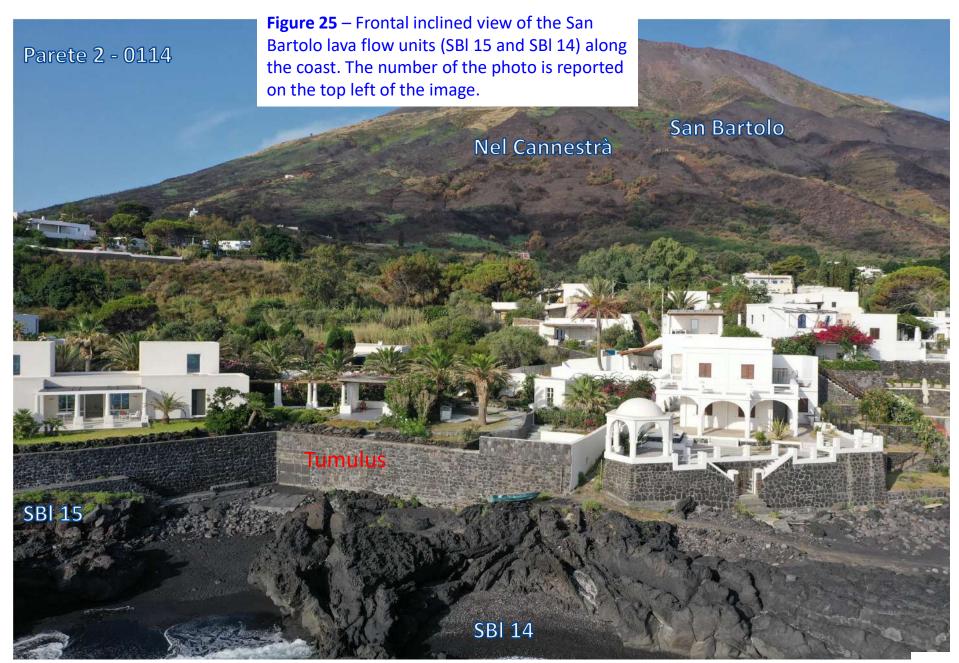


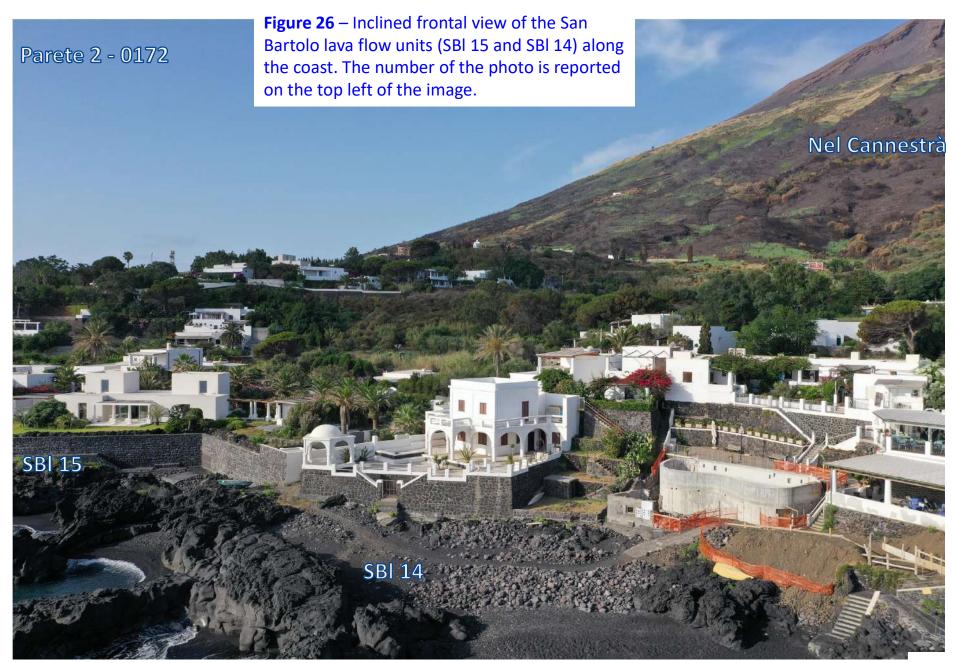
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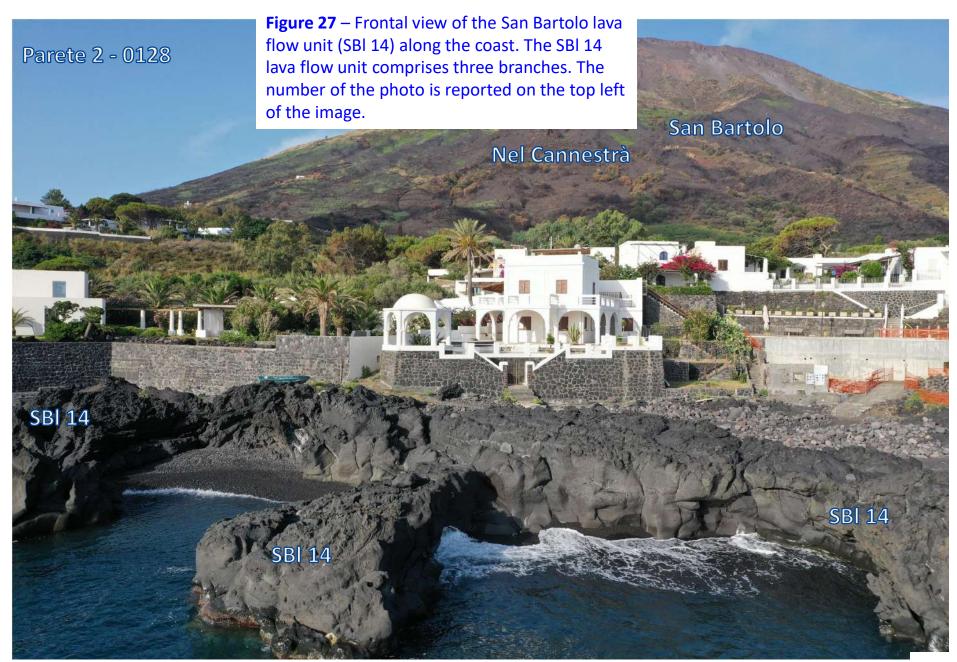


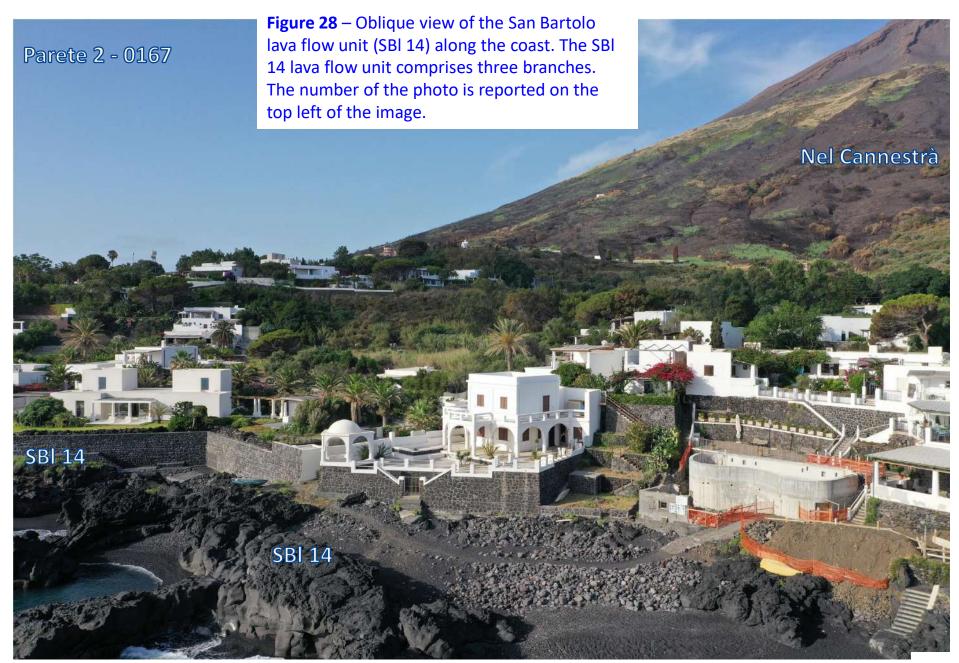


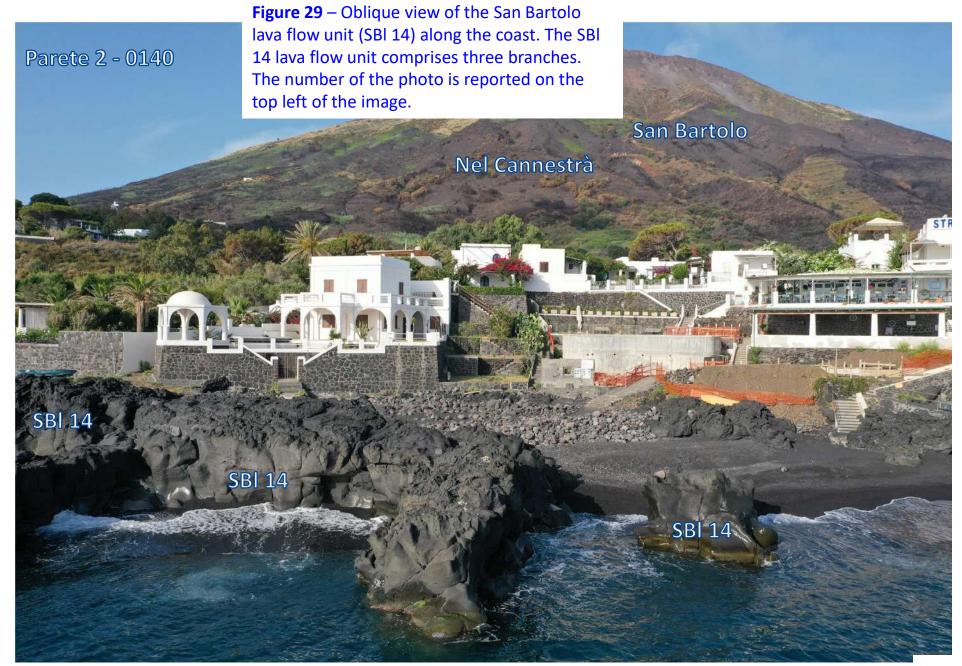


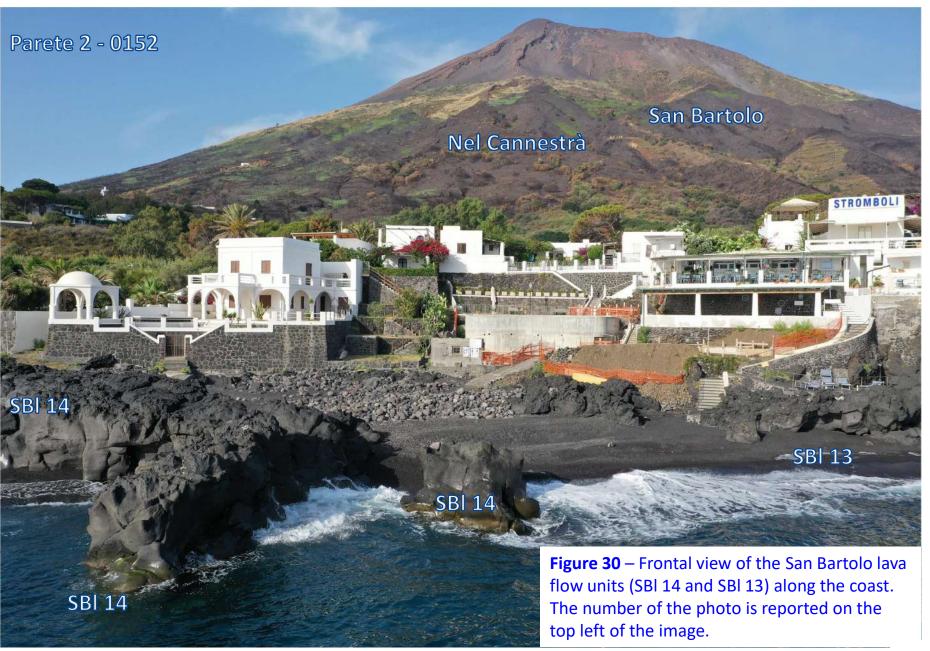


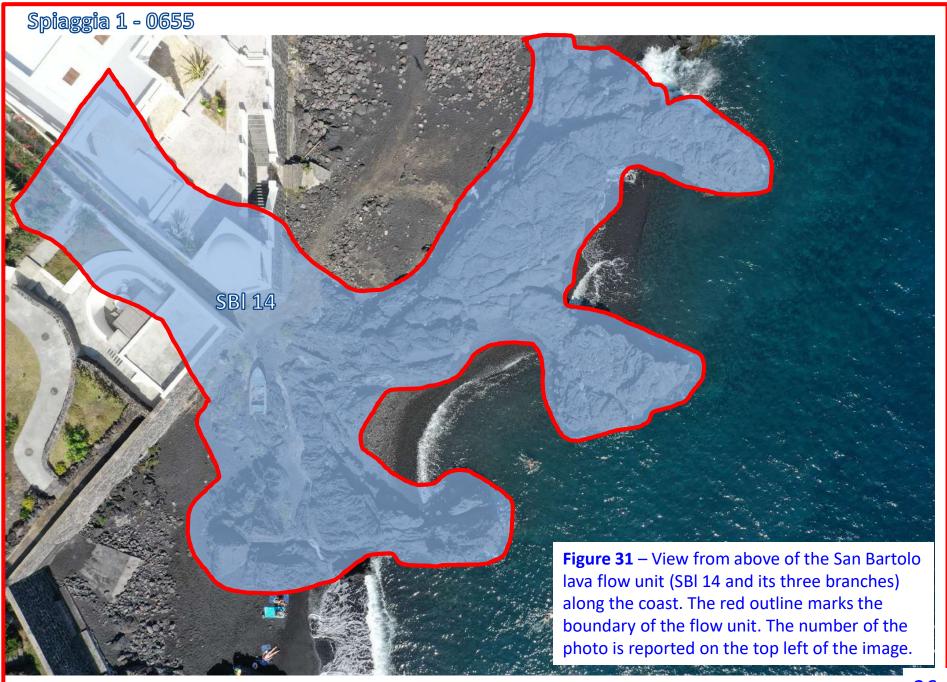




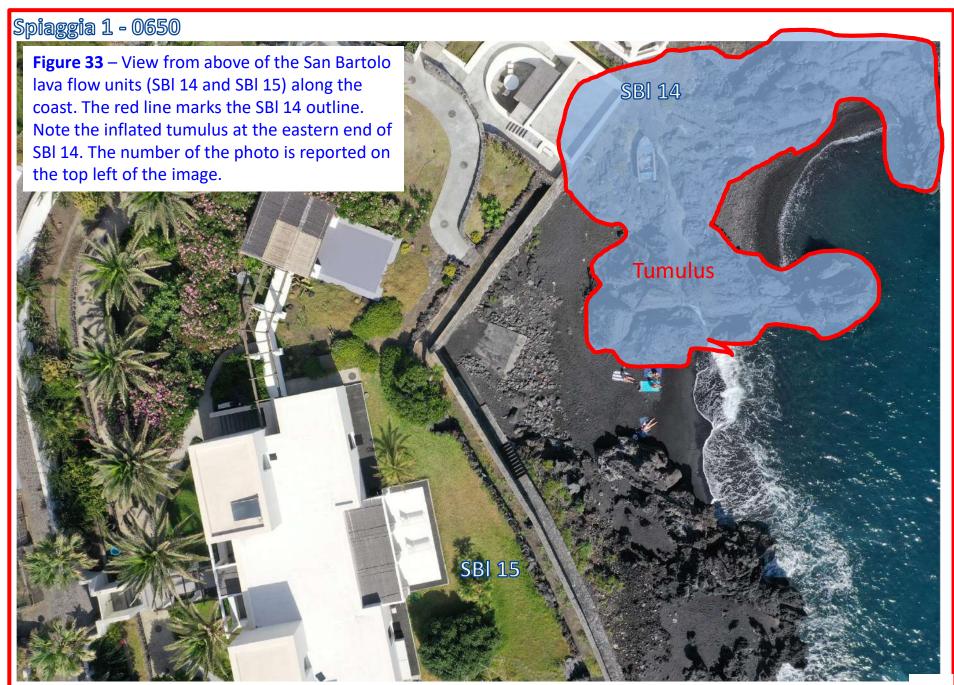




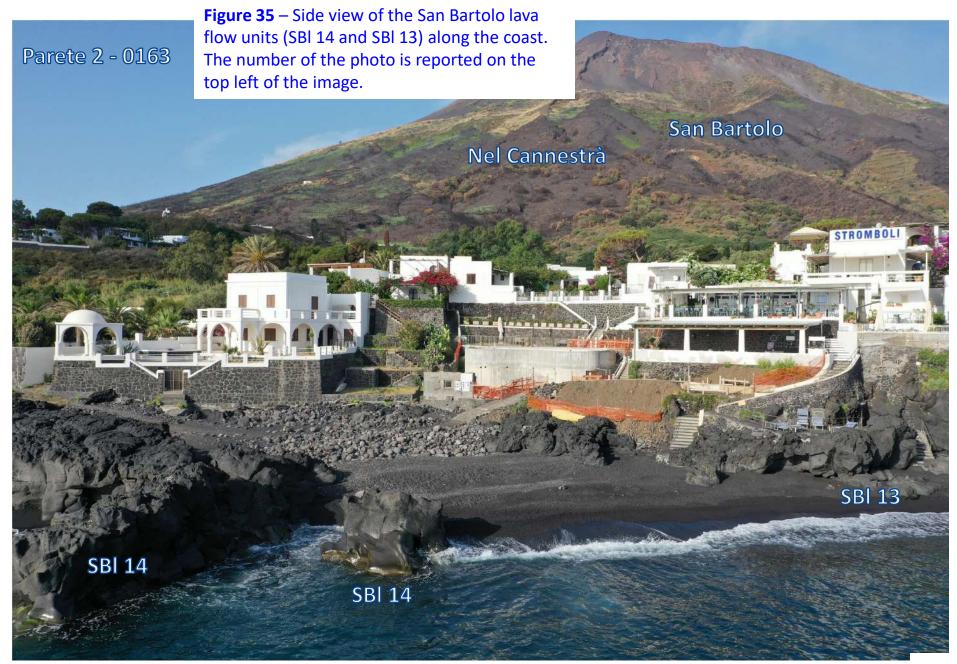




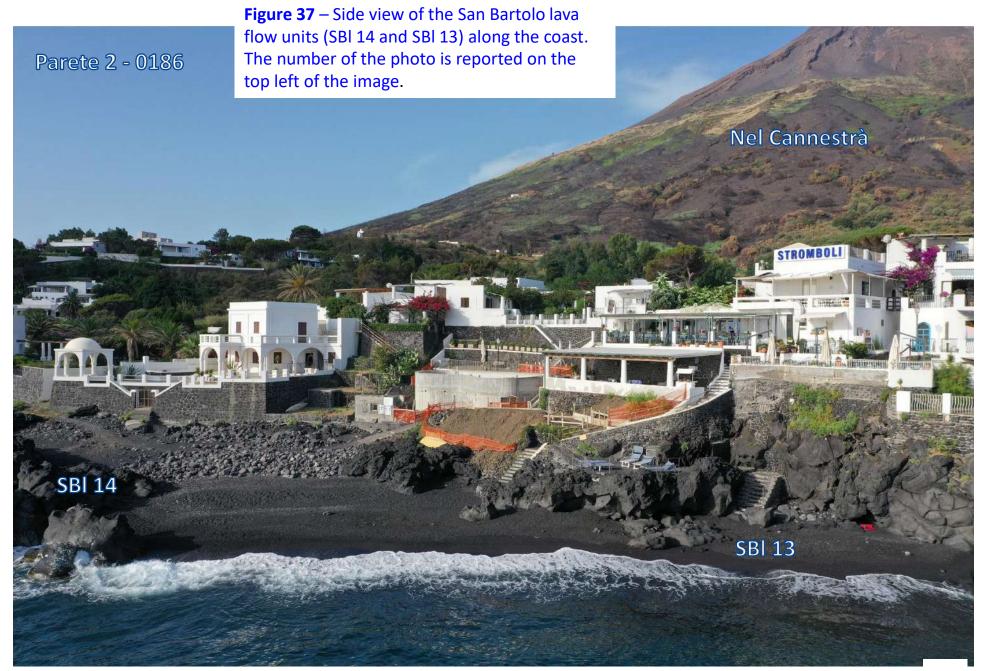


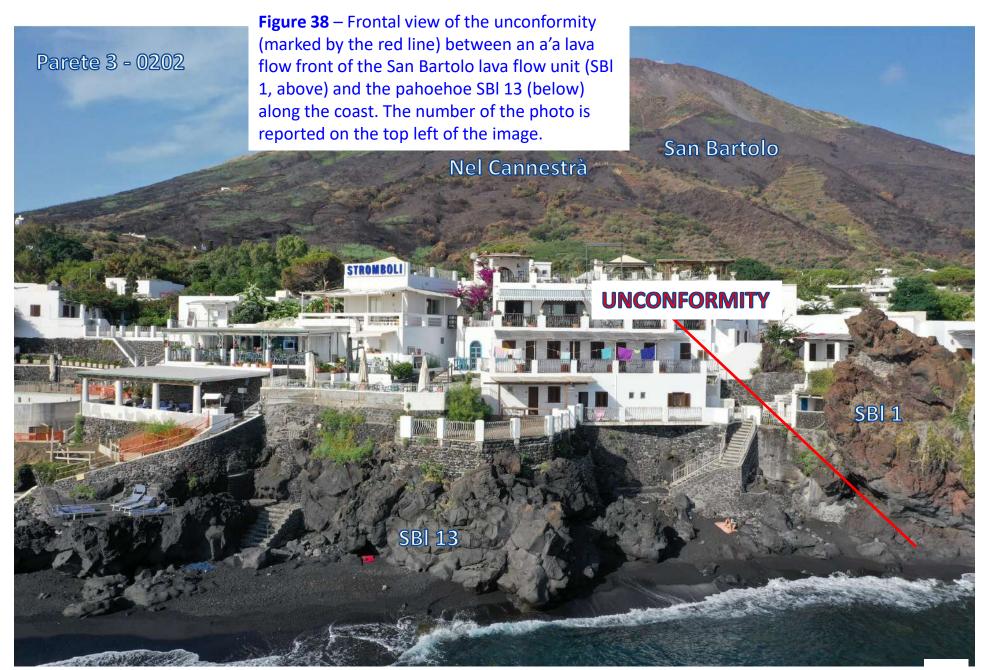






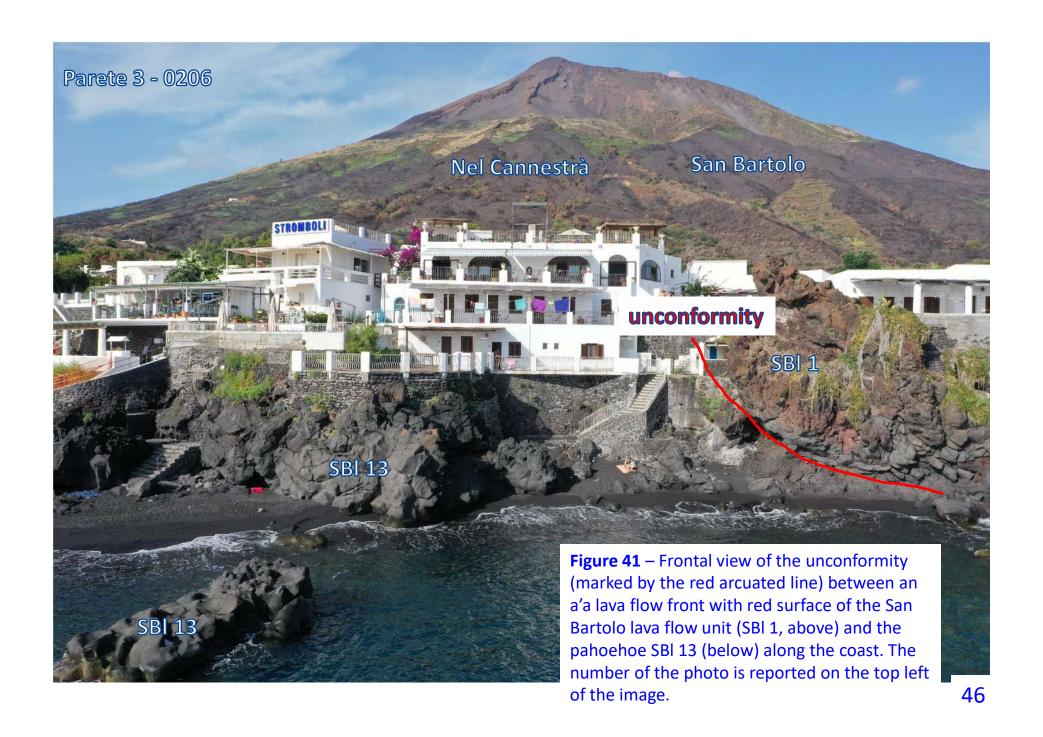


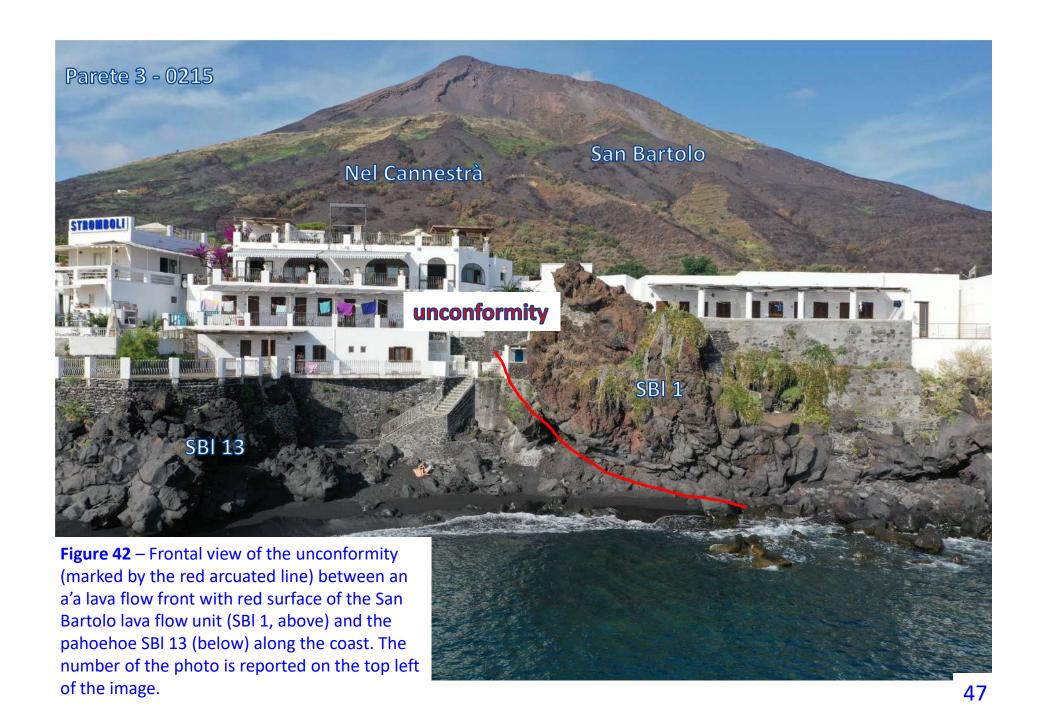


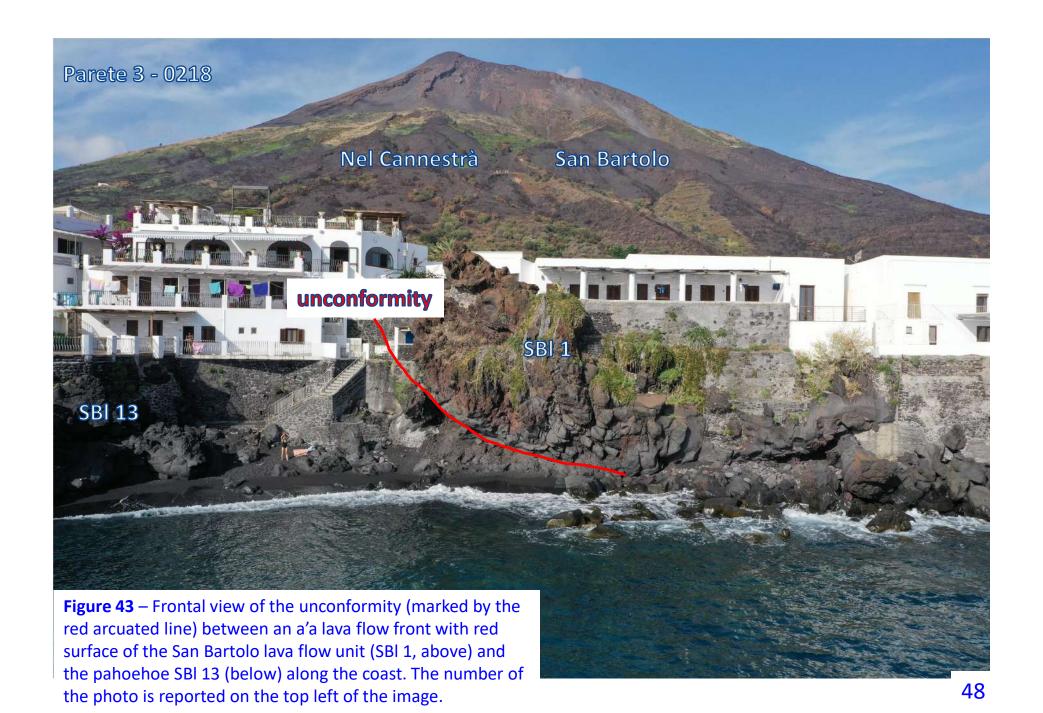




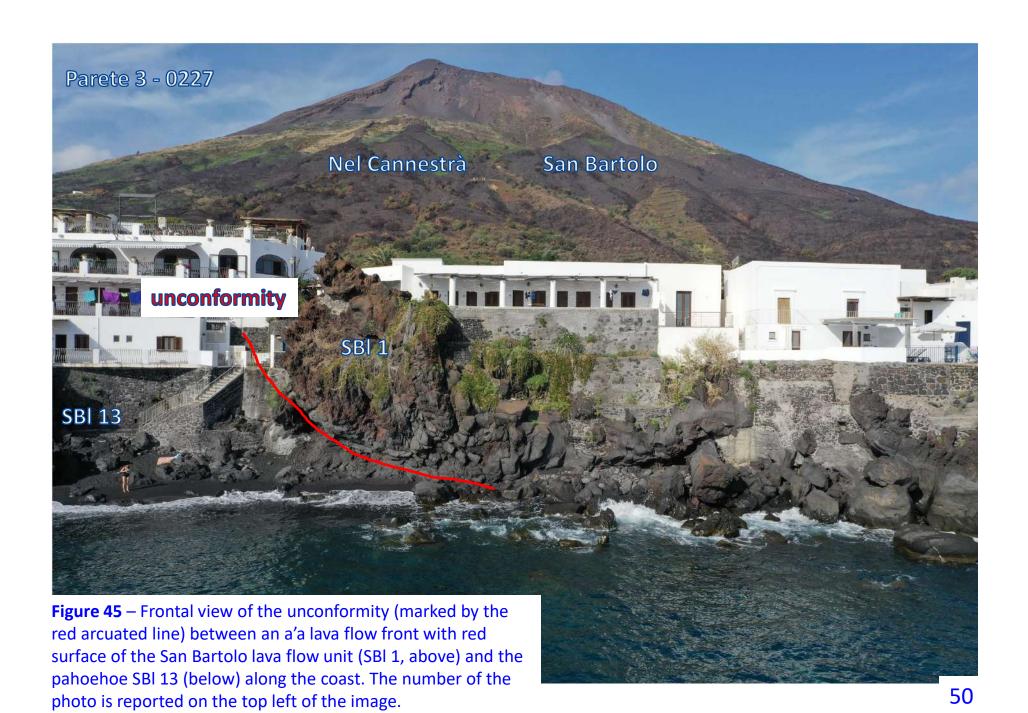




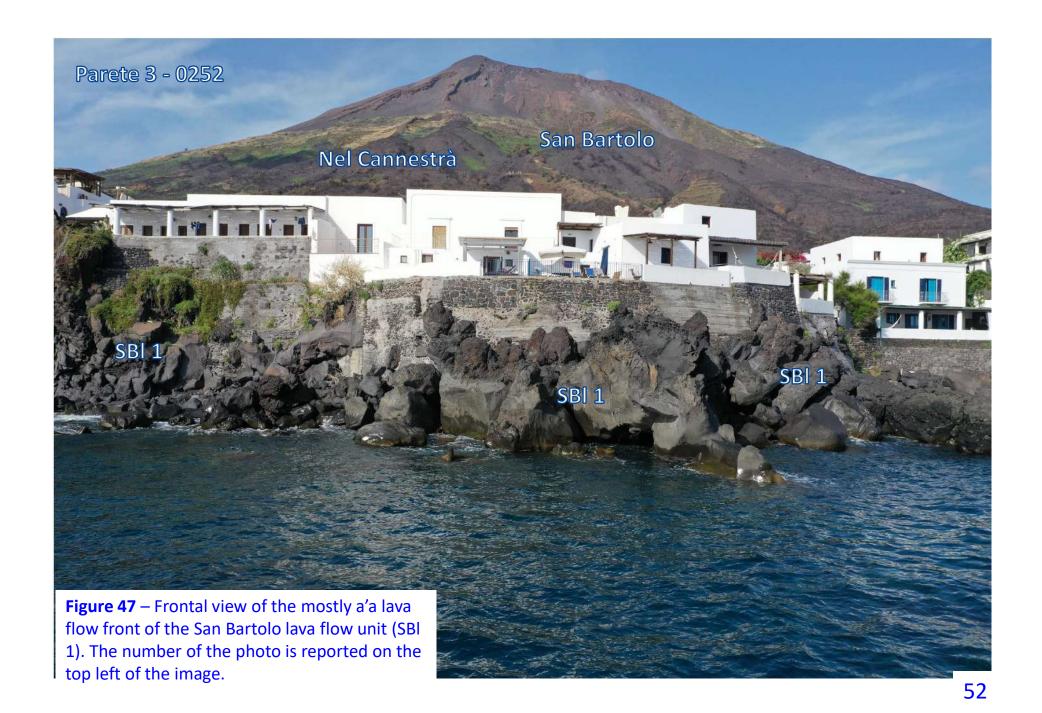










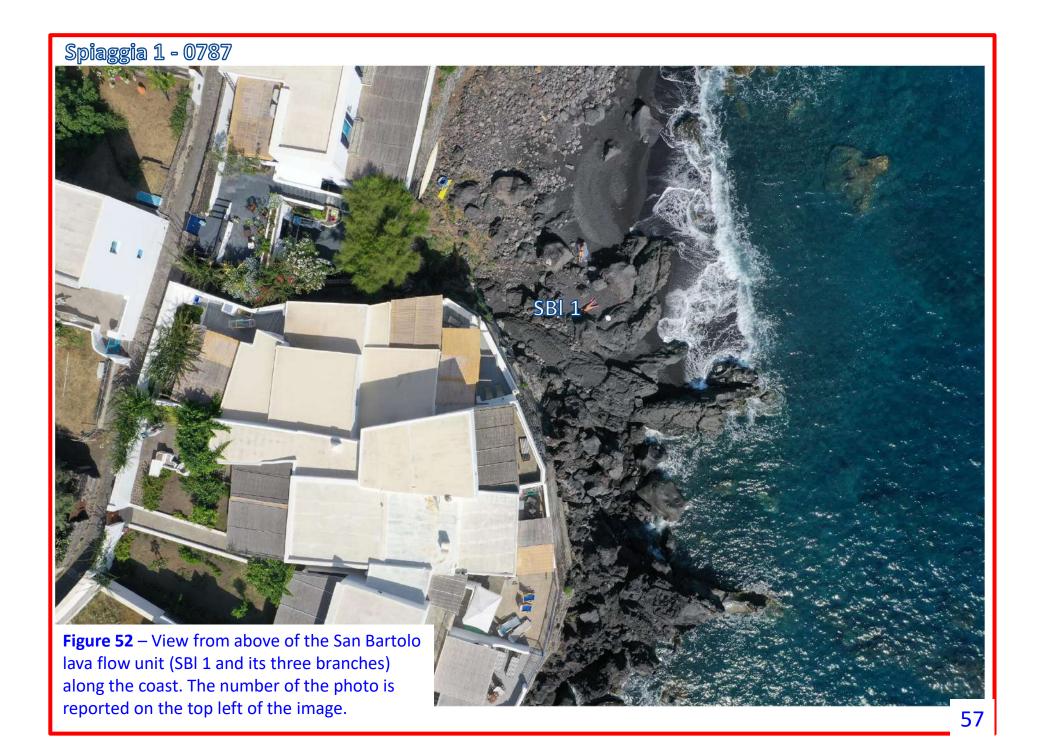




Spiaggia 1 - 0784 SBI 1 Figure 49 – View from above of the San Bartolo lava flow unit (SBI 1) along the coast. The red line marks the boundary of the lobe. The number of the photo is reported on the top left of the image.

Spiaggia 1 - 0784 **Figure 50** – View from above of the San Bartolo lava flow unit (SBI 1) along the coast. The number of the photo is reported on the top left of the image.















Spiaggia 1 - 0795

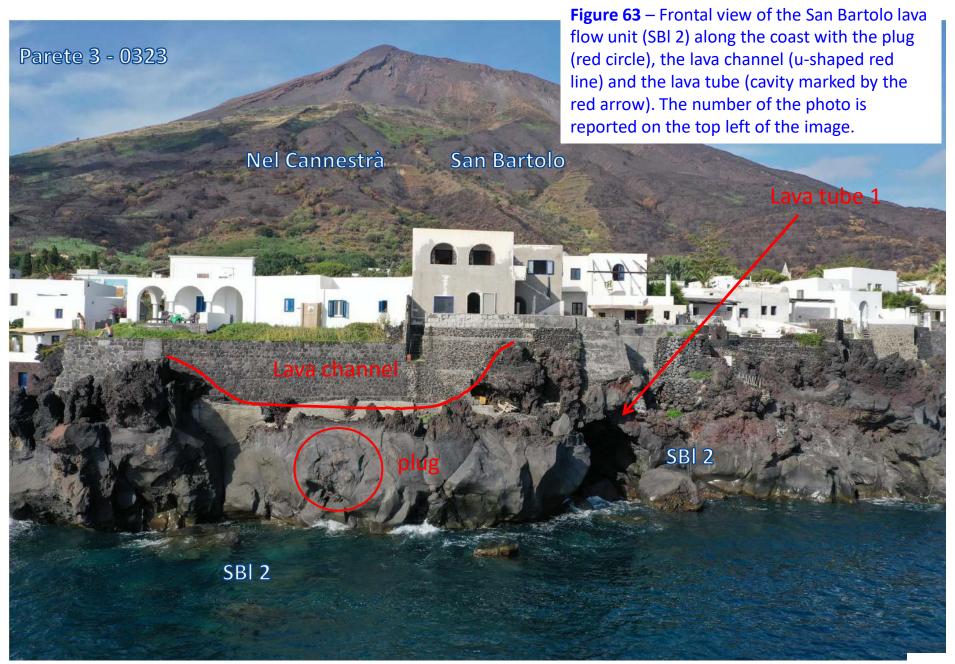












Parete 3 - 0361

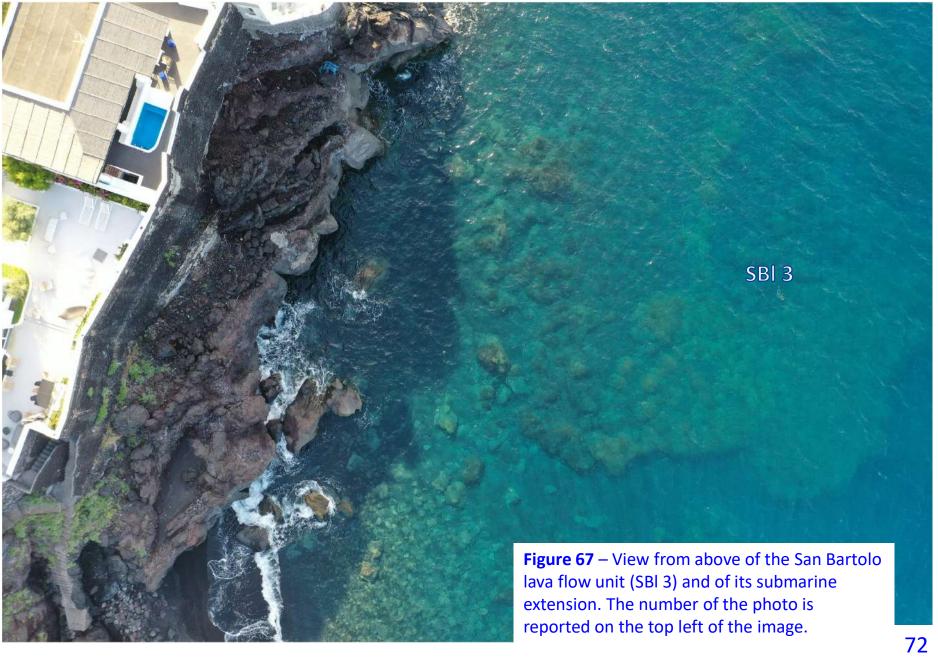


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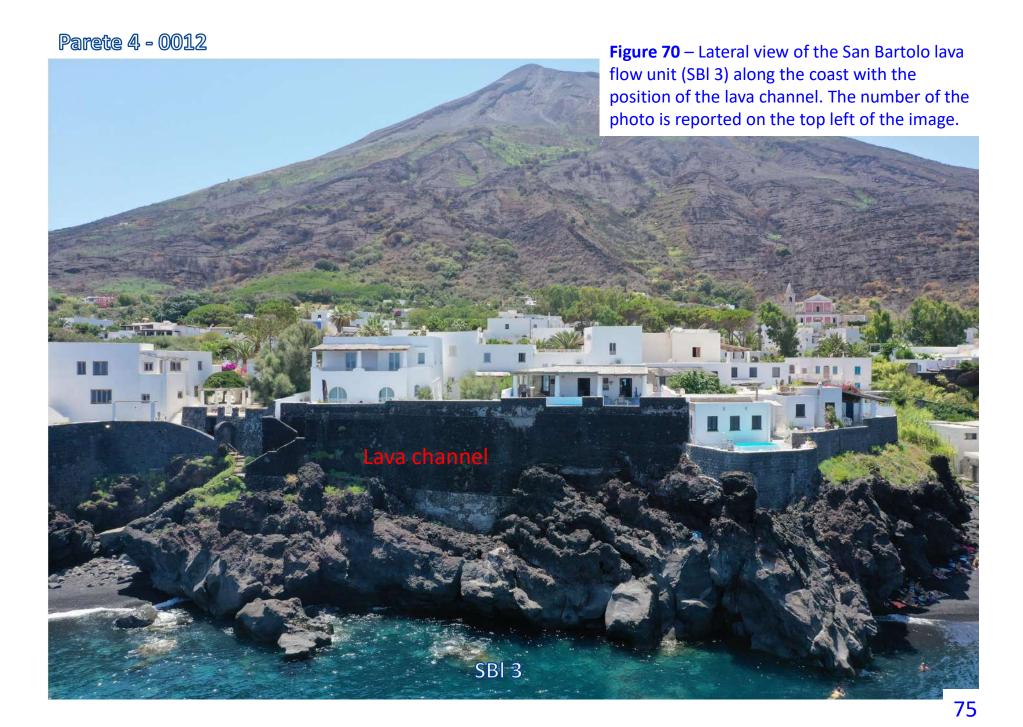
Spiaggia 2 - 0637

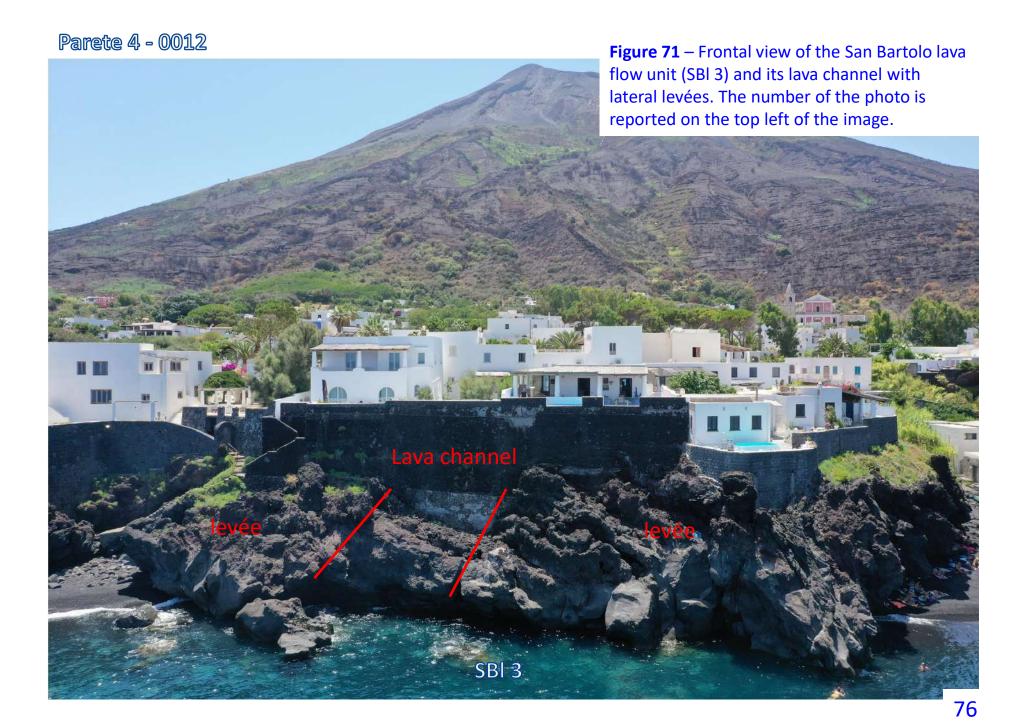


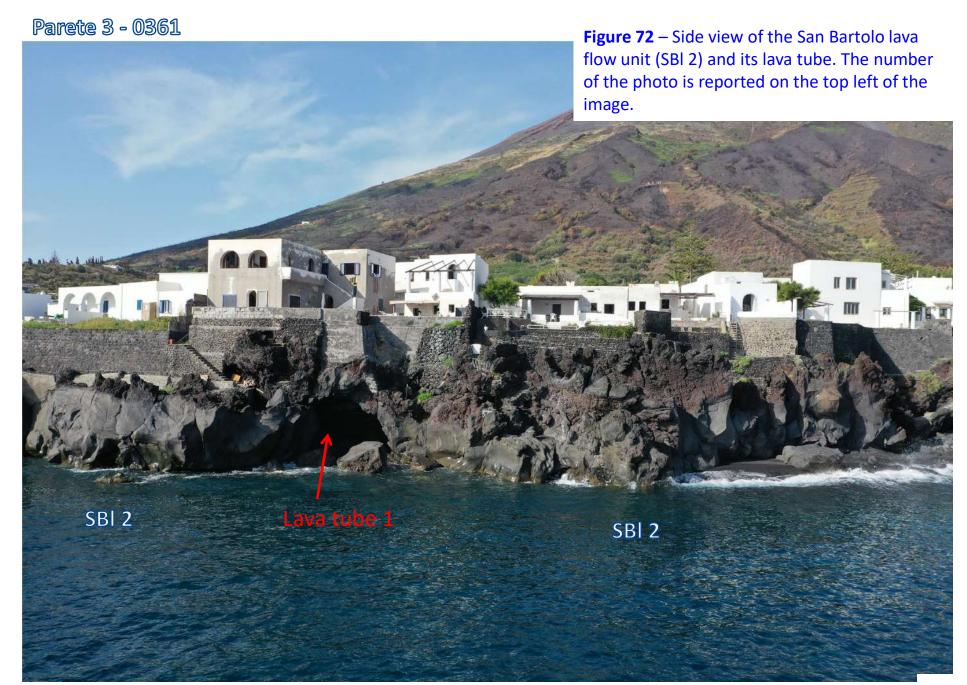


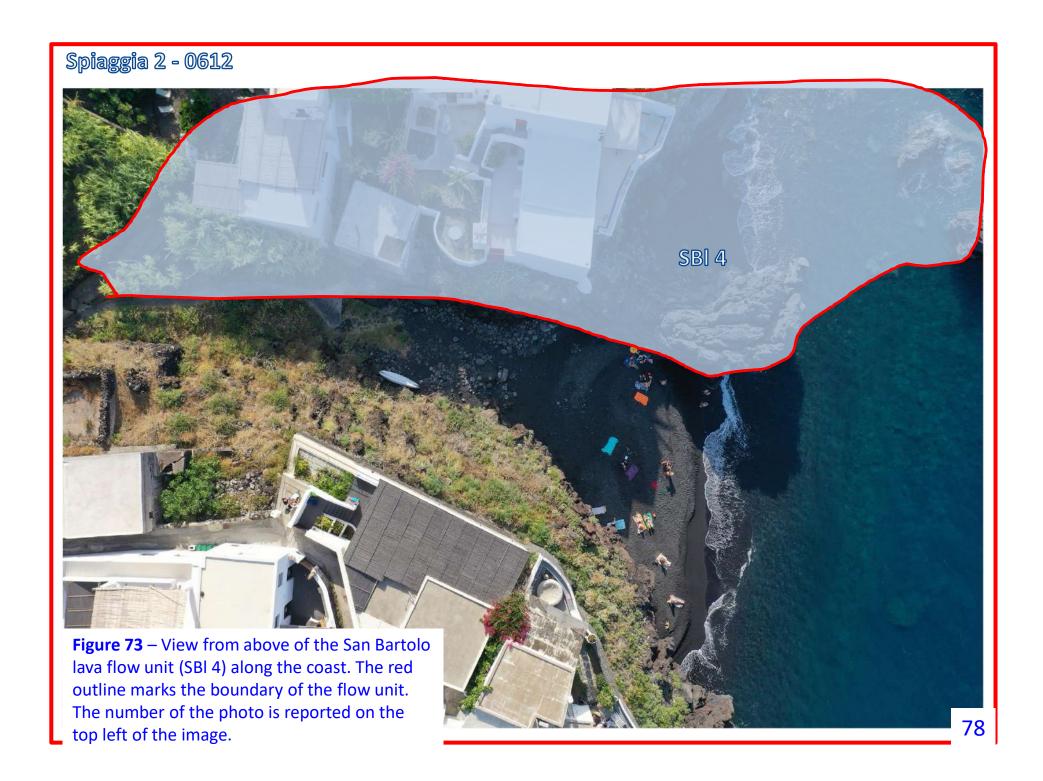
Spiaggia 2 - 0638











Spiaggia 2 - 0612







Parete 4 - 0950







Spiaggia 2 - 0651 SBI 5 Figure 80 – View from above of the San Bartolo lava flow unit (SBI 5) along the coast. The number of the photo is reported on the top left of the image. 85

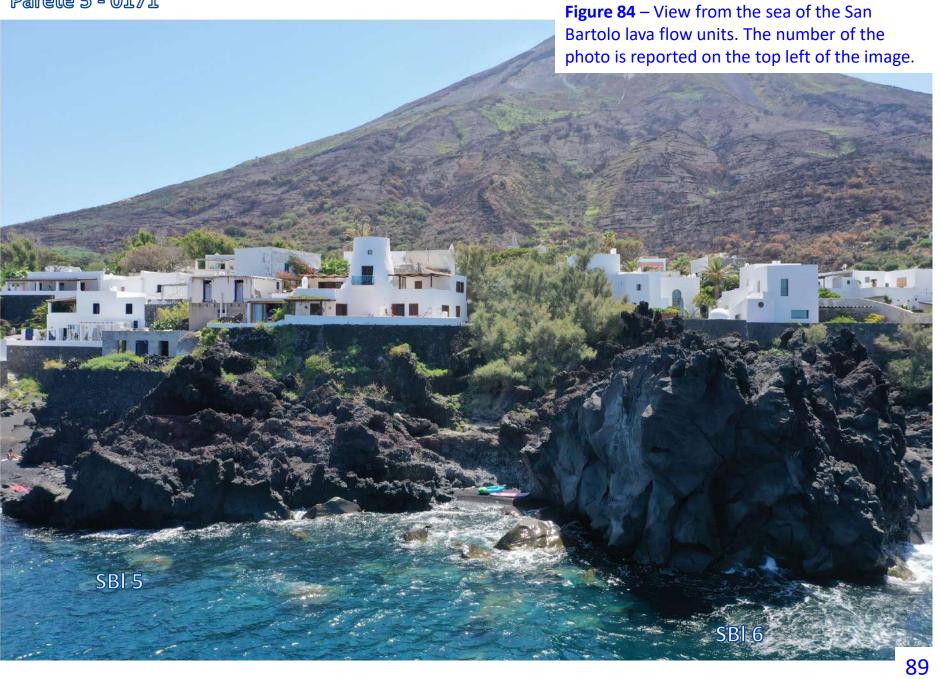


Spiaggia 2 - 0600 SBI 6

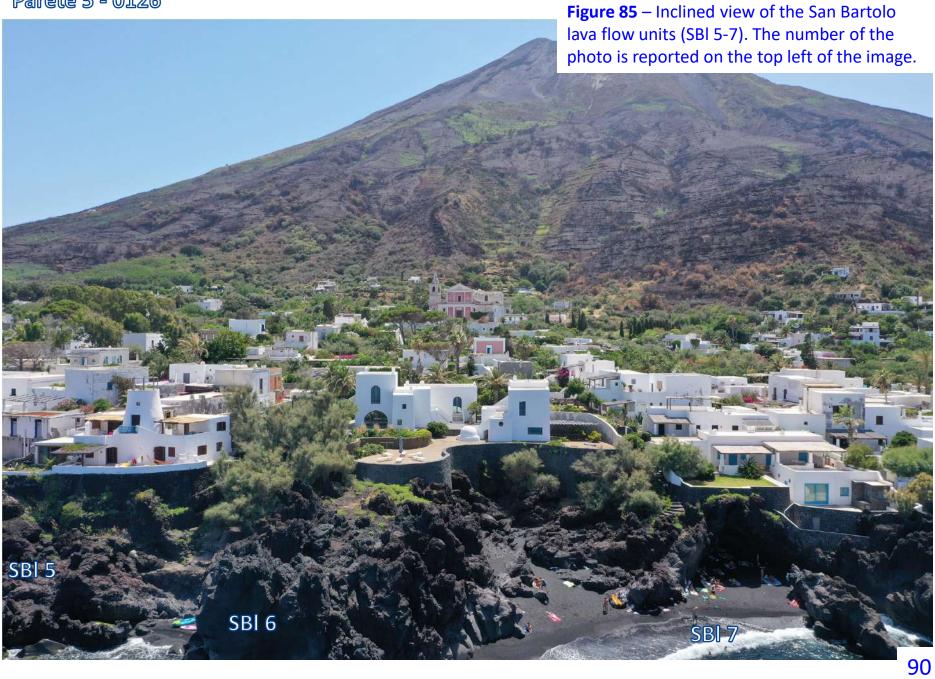
Figure 82 – View from above of the San Bartolo lava flow unit (SBI 6) along the coast. The number of the photo is reported on the top left of the image.

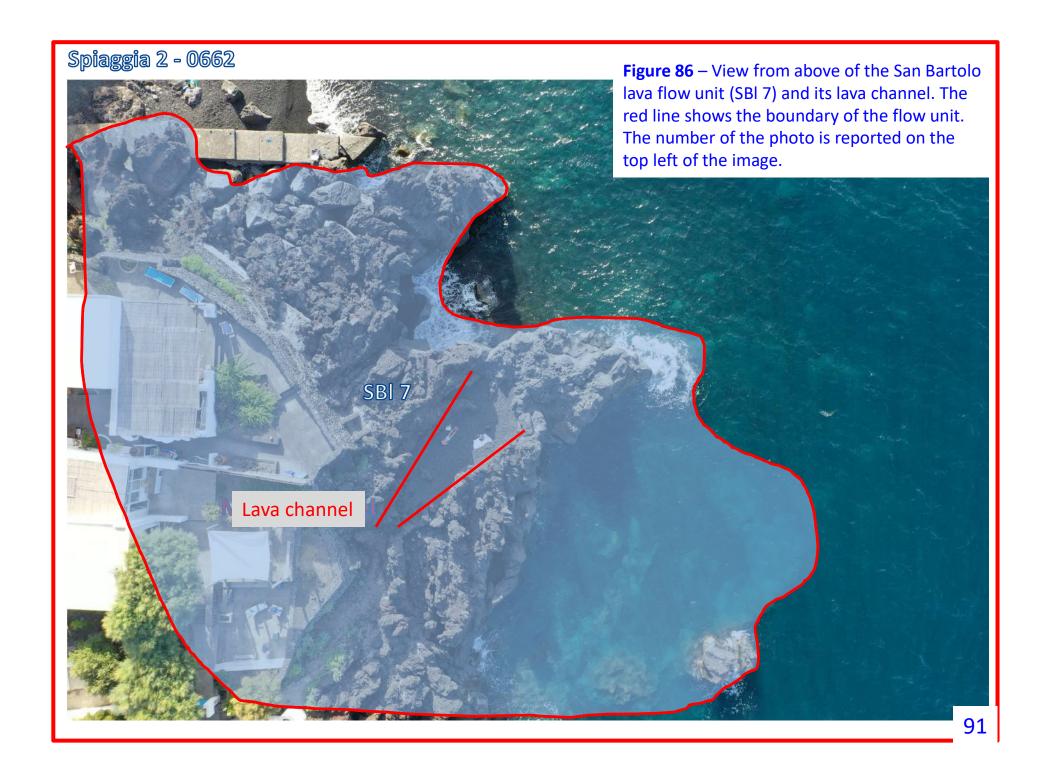


Parete 5 - 0171



Parete 5 - 0126









Parete 5 - 0196







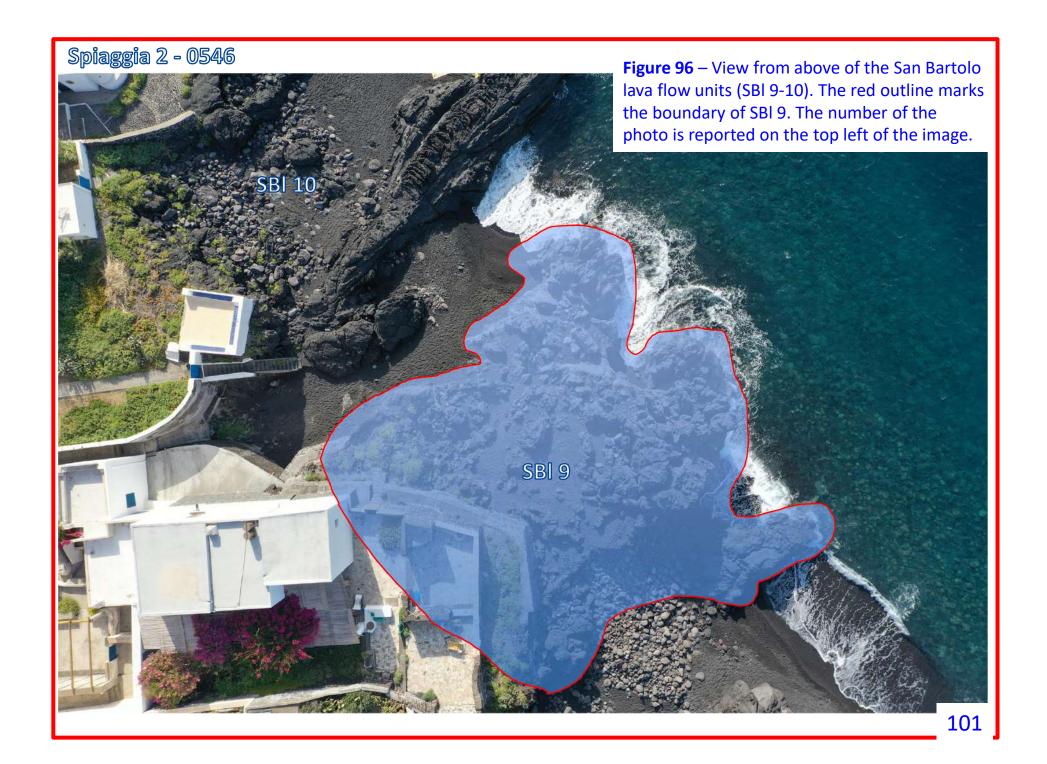




Parete 6 - 0091

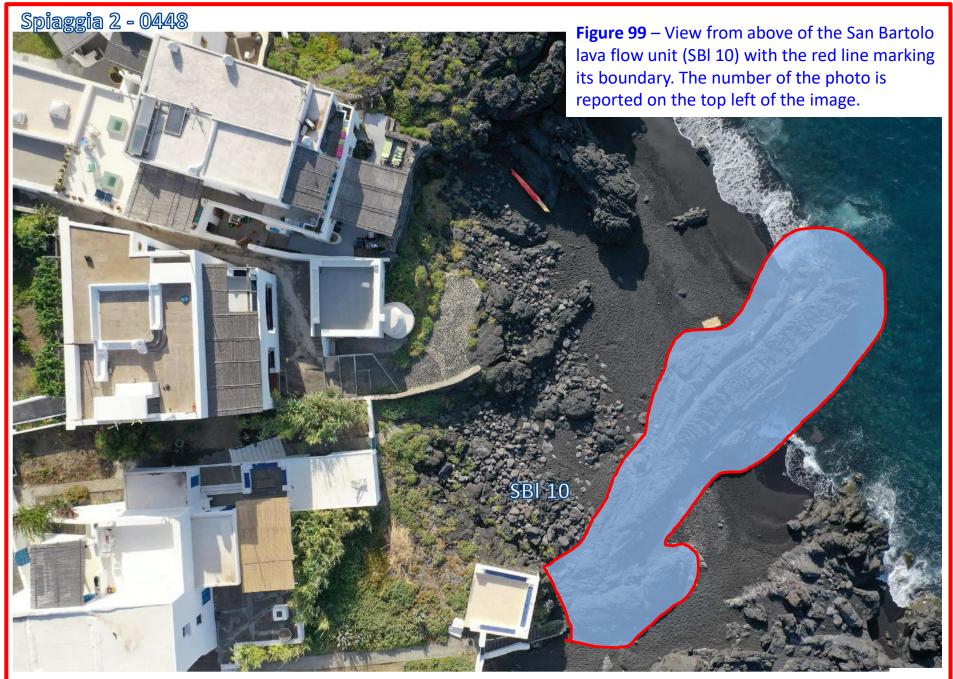










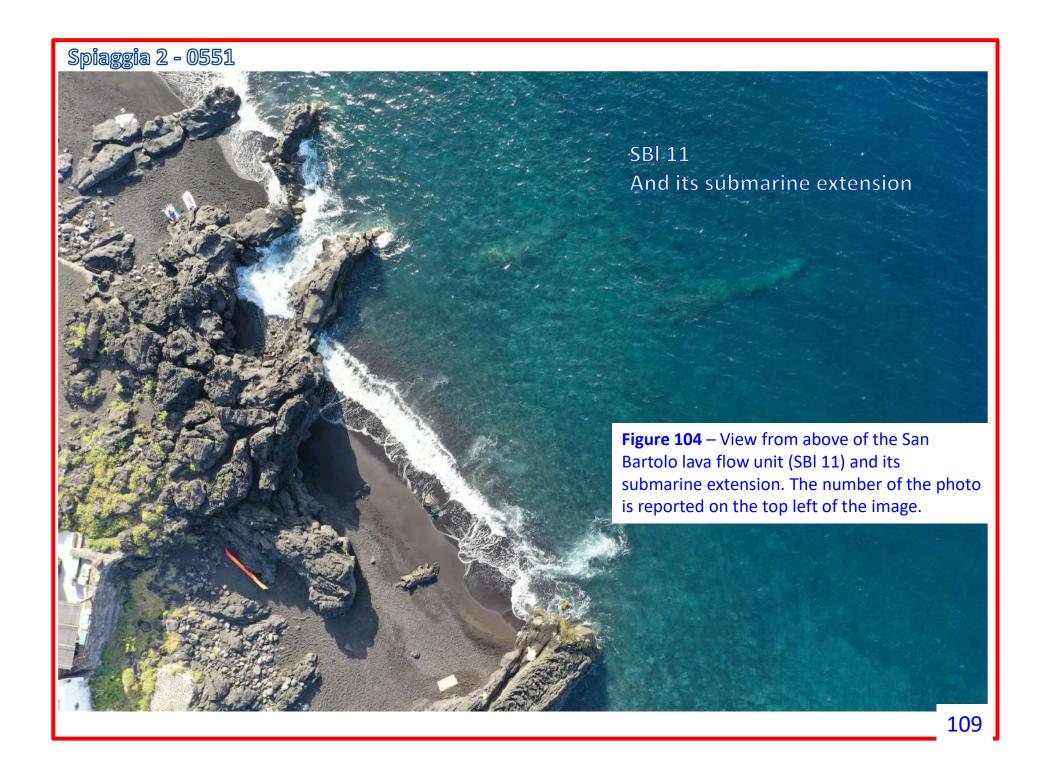


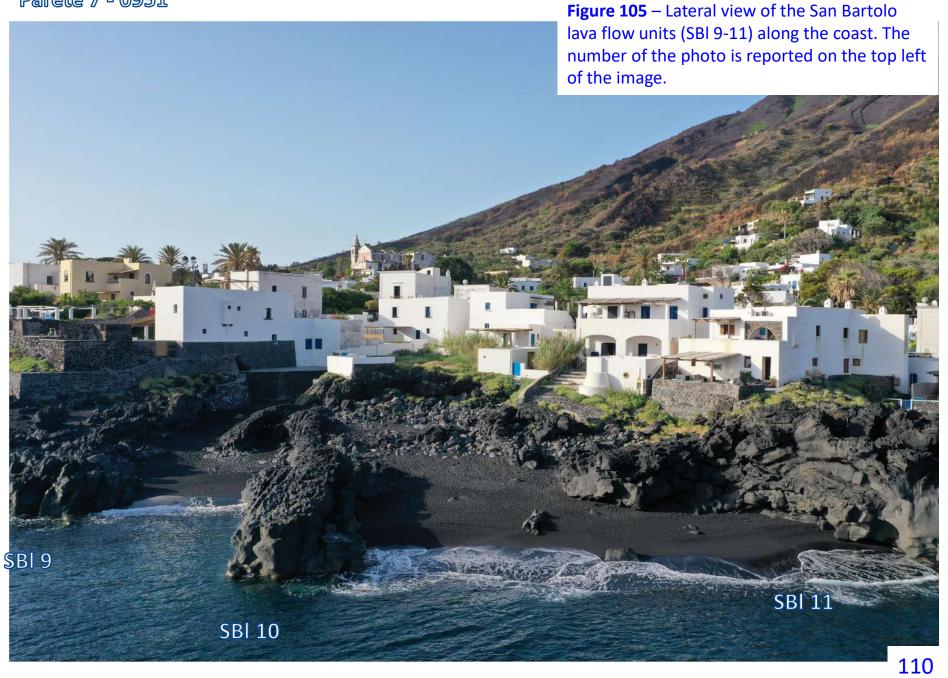




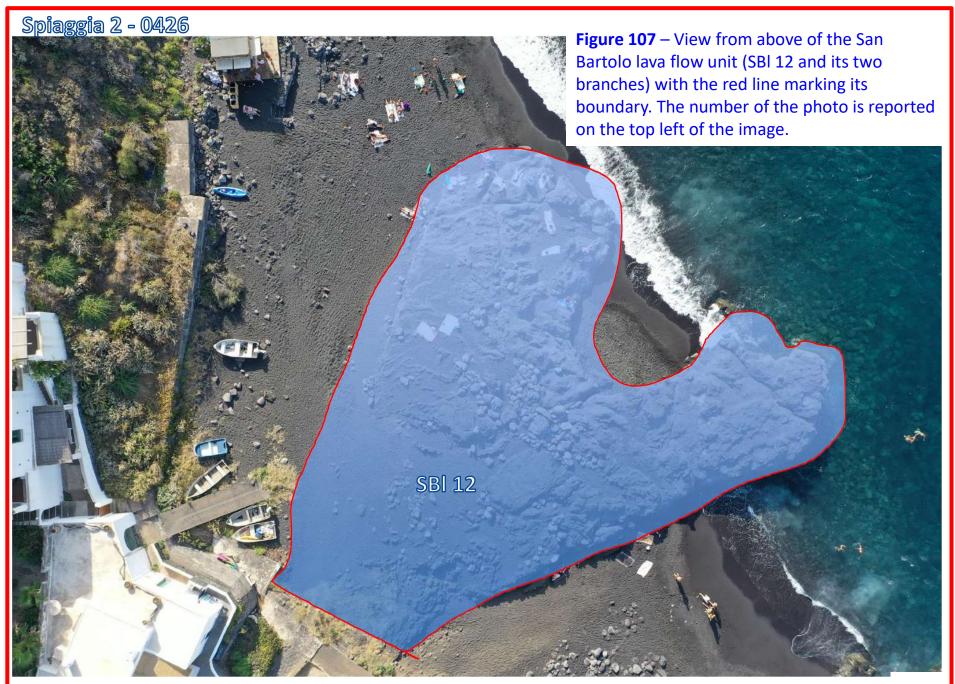




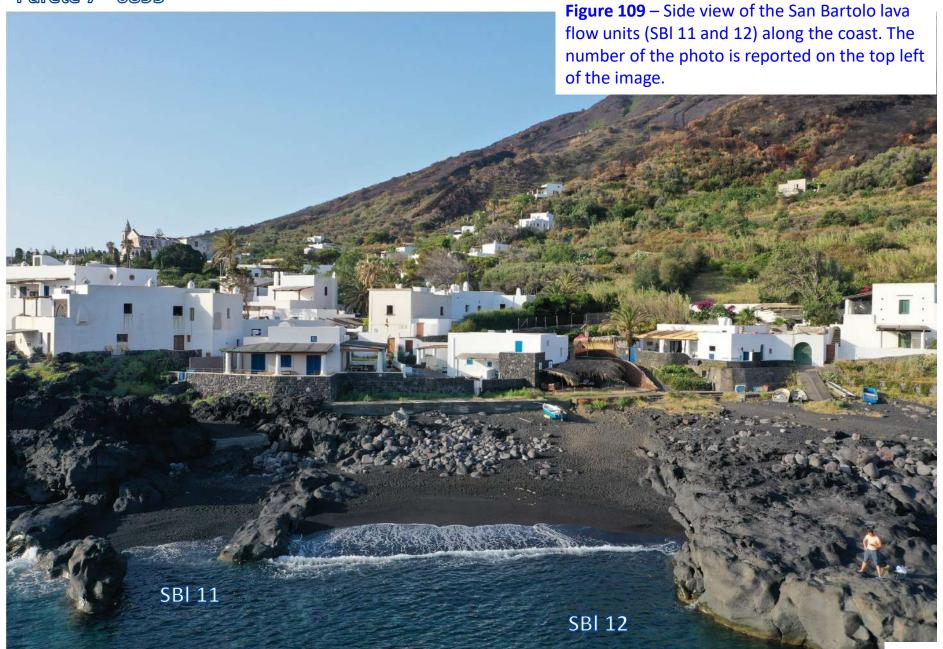












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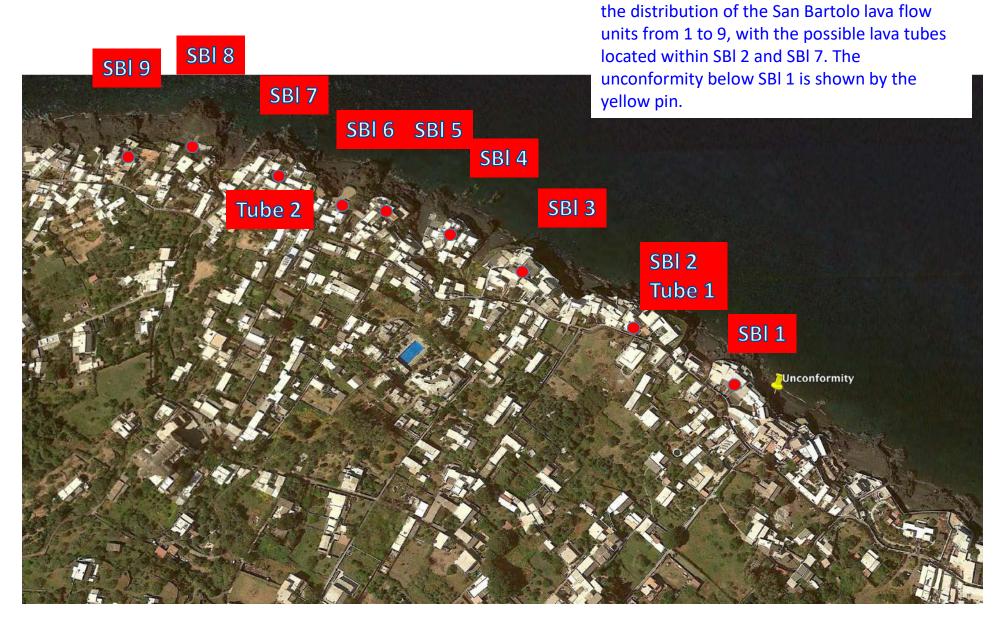


Figure 111 – Google Earth map summarizing

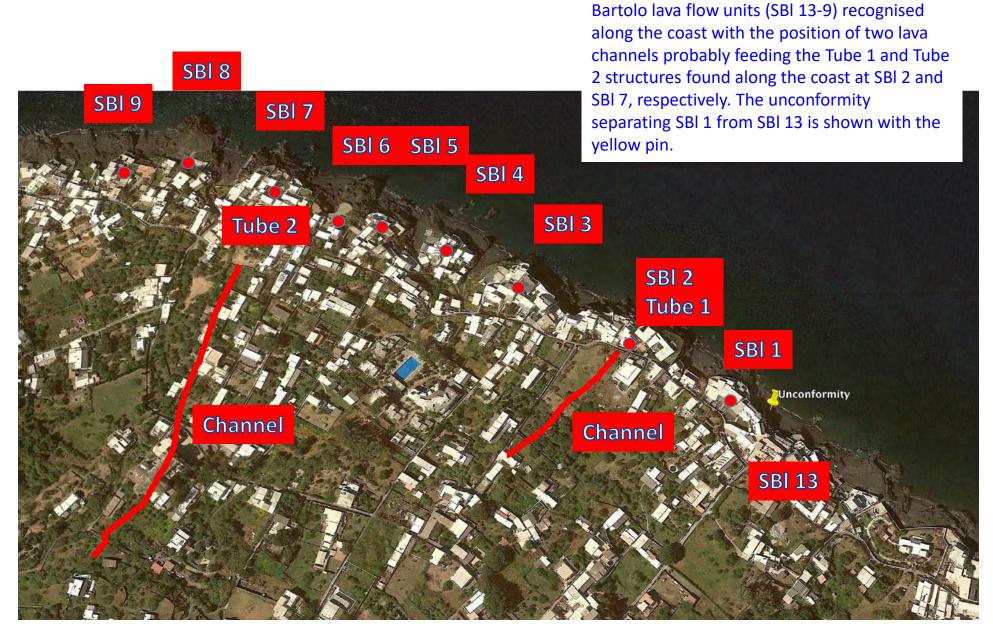
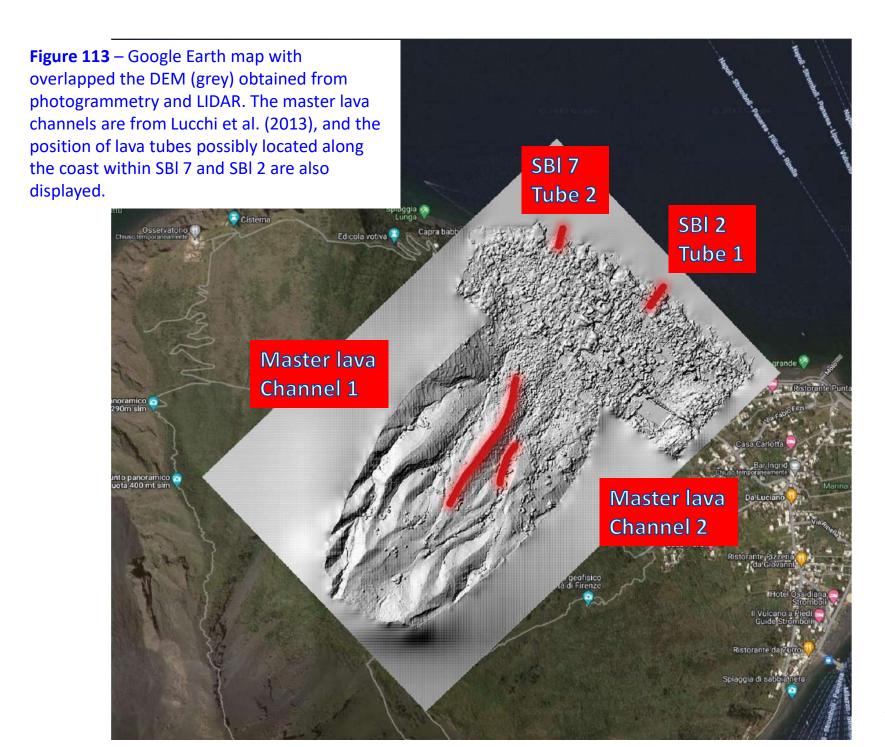
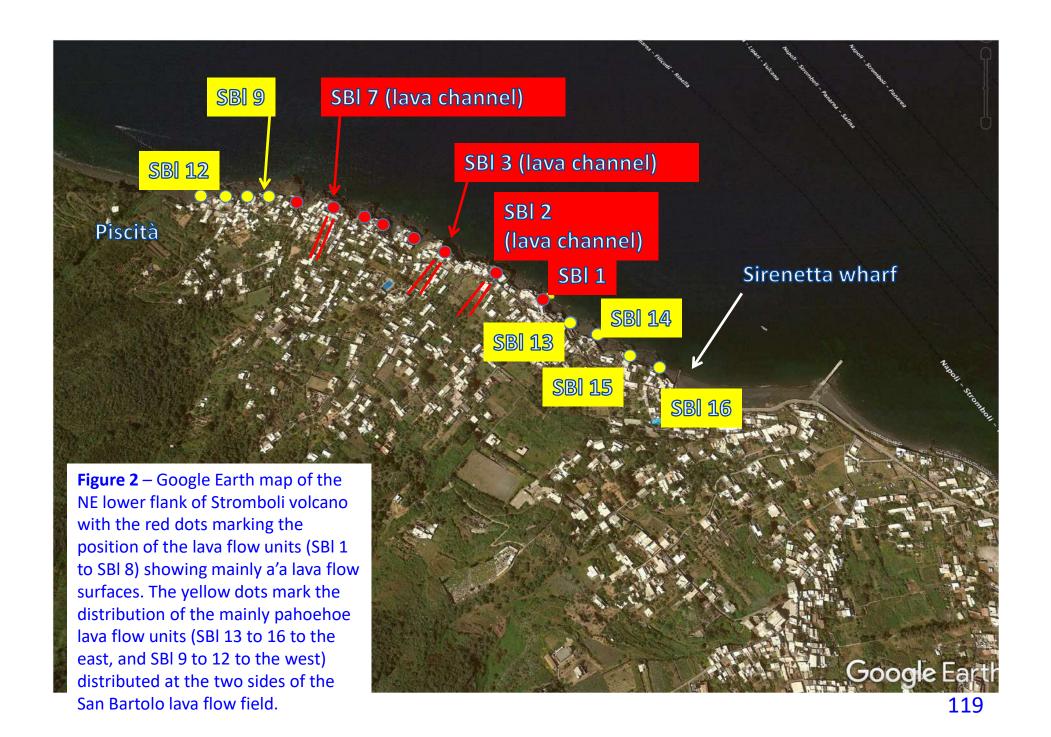


Figure 112 – Google Erath map of the San





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