The oasis of Jericho provided the backdrop to the grand Royal Estate and agricultural plantation established by the Hasmonaeans on the northern bank of Wadi Qelt. Herod the Great developed the estate into a luxurious winter resort with extensive palaces on both banks of the wadi, including reception halls, courtyards, pools, bathhouses and exotic gardens. The building complex was completed by a hippodrome and by the palatial fortress of Cypros built on the top of a hill overlooking the oasis. After the First Revolt, a Roman villa was built upon the site of Herod’s Third Palace between 70-112 CE.

The excavations of the Hasmonean and Herodian Winter Palaces at Jericho were conducted under the auspices of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem by the late Prof. Ehud Netzer during the years 1973–1987. This is the fifth volume in the series of final reports summarizing the results of the excavations. The preceding volumes presented the stratigraphy and architecture (Volumes I and II), pottery (Volume III) and the decoration of the palaces (Volume IV). The current volume, with contributions by fifteen authors, presents additional pottery assemblages and other small finds such as glass, stone, metal, inscriptions, and architectural decoration. These finds reveal similarities with finds uncovered at many other sites in Judea, especially Jerusalem.

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