

# REGGIA DI CASERTA

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# press kit





The Reggia di Caserta (*Royal Palace of Caserta*) is an autonomous museum of the Ministry of Culture, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The Reggia di Caserta monumental complex includes the Royal Palace, the Royal Park, the WWF Bosco di San Silvestro Oasis and the Caroline Aqueduct.

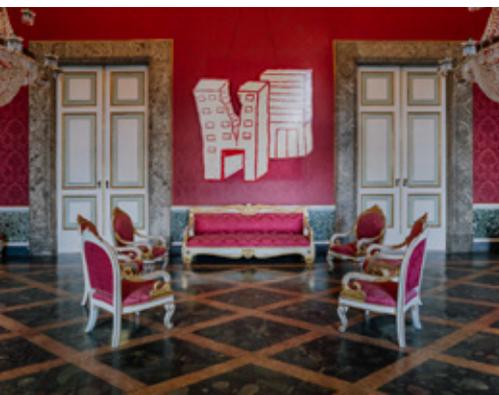
## THE ROYAL PALACE AND ITS COLLECTIONS

The extraordinary **Royal Palace**, commissioned by King Charles of Bourbon and designed by the architect Luigi Vanvitelli, is a monumental structure that occupies 47,000 square meters and rises over five floors.

The museum itinerary of the **Royal Apartments** can be reached by climbing the marvelous **Royal Staircase** which connects the **Lower Vestibule** to the upper one. The **Upper Vestibule** leads to the Royal Apartments, to the **Palatine Chapel** and then to the Queen's Apartments. The most majestic setting of the Royal Apartments is certainly the **Throne Room**, used for the reception of the prominent personalities of the time. The other nineteenth-century rooms that follow are also of great value, such as the **bedroom of Joachim Murat**, the **bedroom of Francis II**. In the eighteenth-century wing, the itinerary continues with the **Rooms of the Seasons**, the **Boudoir of Maria Carolina**, with the **Palatine Library**, the **Picture Gallery** and the **Court Nativity scene**, a great passion of the noble royal family.

To date, the itinerary is "contaminated" by the presence of artworks belonging to the **Terrae Motus** collection of Lucio Amelio, which boasts works by internationally renowned contemporary artists such as Josef Beuys, Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Mimmo Paladino, Mario Schifano, Gianni Pisani, Robert Mapplethorpe and Jannis Kounellis. At the end of the Royal Apartments tour, there is the Lucio Amelio Room, dedicated to the gallerist who inspired the Terrae Motus collection.

Since 1 March 2023, in the back rooms of the great Sala delle Guardie in the Royal Apartments, the **Vanvitelli Rooms** have been set up as part of the project "1773 -2023 Luigi Vanvitelli the Master and his heritage". On the occasion of the Vanvitelli celebrations - 250 years after the death of the great architect -, the permanent exhibition allows the public to understand the Master's personality in relation to his clients, to the project, to the realization and the grandeur of the challenging masterpiece. The material heritage on display - such as the wooden scale models of Antonio Rosz, the portraits of the architect, the project drawings - is integrated into a digital and technological story which emphasize its exhibition power.





## QUEEN'S APARTMENT

The Second Hall of the Queen's Apartment was recently inaugurated following the demolition of a mid-20th-century ceiling that had reduced the room's height to create an upper floor. This intervention is part of a broader project aimed at securing and consolidating the areas formerly assigned to the National School of Administration and the Italian Air Force, which were reassigned to the Reggia di Caserta Museum under the 2014 Commissioner's Plan.



The space currently hosts **Perspectives at the Reggia di Caserta** by Massimo Listri. This photographic exhibition pays tribute to one of the most acclaimed and internationally recognized contemporary masters of architectural and interior photography.

## COURT THEATRE

An extraordinary example of eighteenth-century theatrical architecture, it is structured with horseshoe-shaped stalls enriched by giant-order columns. The stage was set up so that it could open onto the Royal Park in case of scenic needs, such as the simulation of the Carthage fire during the representation of the abandoned Dido, the 1770 work by Pietro Metastasio. Great artists have trod the stage of the Vanvitellian theater over the centuries until today. Riccardo Muti, on stage with the Cherubini Orchestra in *The last seven words of Christ on the cross* by Joseph Haydn in January 2021, said: "This is a unique place ... Even the acoustics are extraordinary ... where the sounds are reproduced in a natural way. In this wonderful room the thrill of being immersed between history and beauty reappears".



## GRAND GALLERY

Since 2024, the Reggia has opened the Gran Galleria to the public. The spaces were inaugurated by the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella on February 29, 2024. After major reconstruction and restoration work, the west wing of the Royal Palace has been returned to the public, which, in Luigi Vanvitelli's drawings, was intended as an internal connection between the King's apartment and that of the Queen. Very large spaces, approximately 1300 square meters, with internal heights of up to 16 meters, which offer opportunities for the staging of exhibitions and events of national and international importance.



## CAROLINE AQUEDUCT

It was also conceived and designed by the architect Luigi Vanvitelli on commission from Charles of Bourbon to power the water features of the Royal Palace and the entire palace and to supply the surrounding area. The entire route of the aqueduct runs for a length of 38 km and is visible, in all its magnificence, for a stretch above ground about 10 kilometers from the Royal Palace, in the Valle di Maddaloni area. The bridge is an imposing tuff structure with three tiers of round arches that rises to a height of 60 meters and a length of about 500 meters.





## ROYAL PARK AND THE ENGLISH GARDEN

The **Green Museum**, consisting of the Royal Park and the English Garden, which covers an area of 123 hectares, is the expression of a complex landscape vision. The **Royal Park**, designed by the genius of Vanvitelli, is a typical example of an Italian garden built with vast lawns, flower beds and lush water features. In fact, along the central axis there are large pools with fountains and waterfalls decorated with large sculptural groups that create a scenographic effect of great impact. The waterway culminates in the Torrione and the large waterfall. The water is transported by the Caroline Aqueduct.

In the lateral area of the lower part of the Royal Park, inside the **Old Wood**, there are the large artificial lake **Peschiera**, built and commissioned by Ferdinand IV to delight in small naval battles, and the **Castelluccia**, a place of games and entertainment for the little princes.

In the Old Wood, Michelangelo Pistoletto's **Third Paradise** installation was inaugurated in June 2025. This permanent creation, by one of the leading figures of Arte Povera, is composed of natural wood and historic stone materials, abandoned for decades and recovered in the Green Museum, uniting the memory of artifice with the vitality of nature. The installation is 25 meters long and 10 meters wide.

The **English Garden**, in the upper part of the Green Museum, was strongly desired by Maria Carolina of Habsburg, sister of Marie Antoinette of France. It is characterized by an apparent "natural" disorder of waterways, fake ruins, such as the Cryptoporticus in the Bagno di Venere which houses the statues from the Pompeii excavations and the Farnese collection, and the ruins of the Doric Temple. The English Garden has a rich and precious plant heritage. Numerous exotic specimens from all over the world were planted here.

Inside the English Garden, since 2024, the **Graefer Greenhouses** have been inaugurated, a project to recover the productive spaces of the English Garden. Since its origins, the English Garden has been an important center of botanical experimentation, known throughout Europe. Inside, in fact, there are two eighteenth-century greenhouses, to which the Serra Grande, designed in 1863, was added not far away. With the Graefer Greenhouses project, the structures have been the subject of careful restoration and subsequent reopening to the community. They preserve a magnificent botanical heritage and a permanent laboratory of sustainability. The plants, cultivated again, following the nineteenth-century catalogs, are an example of resilience, spontaneous beauty and the great regenerative capacity of Nature.

Halfway along the waterway is the former guardhouse of Ercole. This small farmhouse, originally intended to guard the Court's gardens, has now become a plant and gift shop, offering visitors a preview of what they will find at Le Serre di Graefer in the English Garden.



## INITIATIVES

The Reggia di Caserta, in addition to being appreciated by the public for its historical and artistic value as a Royal Apartments and the Green Museum, has hosted countless initiatives of various kinds that have been met with great success.

The Royal Palace of Caserta hosted the exhibition **Frammenti di Paradiso. Gardens over time at the Royal Palace of Caserta** from 1 July to 7 November 2022. About two hundred works including paintings, drawings, sculptures, herbals, books, art objects and contemporary interpretations as a story of the history of the garden through the centuries.



From 1 March to 15 July 2024, the photographic exhibition **Visioni** took place in the Gran Galleria with the exhibitions **Attraversamenti** by Luciano D'Inverno and **Genius et Loci - La drammaturgia dello sguardo** by Luciano Romano.

From 21 May to 20 July 2025, the Court Theatre hosted the exhibition **Abisso**, a site-specific project curated by Marina Guida and created by Per Barclay, which transformed the eighteenth-century theater into a reflective abyss by filling its floor with a black, oil-like fluid.



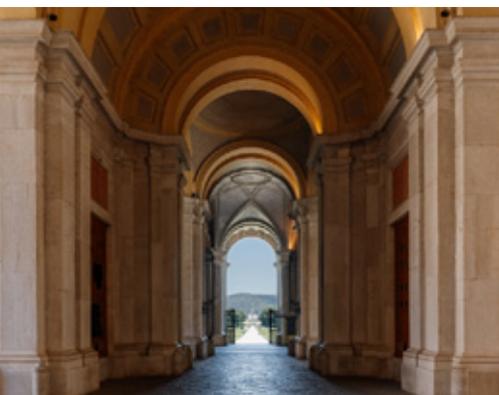
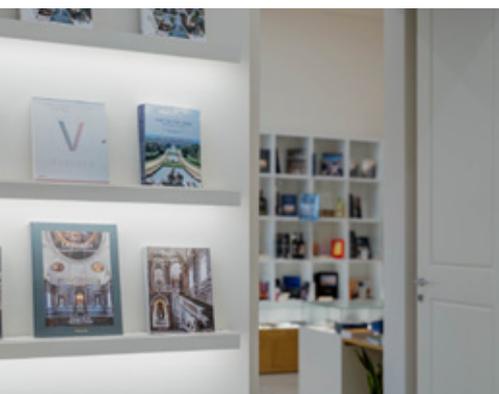
From 27 November to 1 September 2025, the Grand Gallery hosted the exhibition **Metawork - Michelangelo Pistoletto at the Royal Palace of Caserta**. The show took its title from the work *Metawork - United Portraits*, which, through an artificial intelligence program, recombines the photographic portraits of eight citizens of Cittadellarte, enabling the transition, central to Pistoletto's work since his *Mirror Paintings*, from the individual to the collective dimension.

In recent years, the Royal Palace of Caserta's collections have been enriched with new works, thanks to the restitution of items belonging to the royal collections by other museums and cultural institutions. The museum has also initiated a policy of acquiring works closely linked to the Royal Palace's artistic heritage. To tell this fascinating story of comings and goings and showcase the beauty of these new additions to the museum's collections, the exhibition **Tutto Torna! New Acquisitions and Returns to the Collections of the Reggia di Caserta** will be held in the rooms behind the Throne Room from October 22nd to December 8th, 2025.



The exhibition **Regine. Weavings of Culture and Diplomacy between Naples and Europe** will be open in the rooms of the Grand Gallery until April 20th, 2026. With over 200 works, the exhibition narrates and reconstructs the world of the queens—from Elisabeth Farnese to Maria Amalia of Saxony, from Maria Carolina of Habsburg-Lorraine to Caroline Murat, from Maria Sophia of Bavaria to the sovereigns of Savoy—who contributed to the construction, affirmation, and diffusion of European culture. Their stories unfold through paintings by Antonio Rafael Mengs, Jean-Baptiste Wicar, Ilario Spolverini, Giuseppe Bonito, and Giuseppe Cammarano, among others; as well as ceremonial dresses, accessories, furnishings, books and publications, musical instruments, and photographs.





## SERVICES

- The services that the Royal Palace of Caserta offers are designed make the visiting experience easier, unique, and suggestive
- **Free maps:** available for consultation and download on the website of the Reggia di Caserta or available for free at the bookshop and along the tour itinerary.
- **Guide and educational assistance:** it's possible to rent audio guides for adults and children and in-ear noise cancelers for guided groups. It is possible to use the guide service and educational assistance.
- **Luggage storage:** it is available free of charge at the cloakroom at the central gate every day from 8:30 to 18.30
- **Museum Store:** there is a specialized bookshop within the complex
- **Catering:** there are two points: the cafeteria and buvette in the telescope at the entrance to the Royal Park and the "Diana and Atteone" restaurant in the Royal Park, at the end of the Waterway.
- **Transport bus** to visit the Royal Park
- **Golf car**
- **Bike rental service**

## TIMES

The opening and closing times are as follows:

Every day except Tuesday (weekly closing day).

- **Royal Apartments** 8:30 - 19:20 (last access 18:15)
- **Queen's Apartment** Opening and closing times vary depending on events
- **Palatine Chapel** 8:30 - 18:15
- **Grand Gallery** Opening and closing times vary depending on events
- **Royal Park** 8:30 - closing time varies according to the month of the year
- **English Garden** 8:30 - closing time varies according to the month of the year
- **Court Theater** - opening and closing time varies according to the month of the year.

All information and changes regarding the visit, times and costs are specified on the official website of the Royal Palace of Caserta at the following link:

<https://reggiadicaserta.cultura.gov.it/visiting-information/>

## CONTACTS

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

