

REGGIA DI CASERTA

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 **Palatine Chapel** and then to the royal 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.

Court Theater

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".

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. 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.

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.

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.

Among the most important: "Appointment in the garden" promoted, on June 5th-6th 2021, by APGI, the Parks and Gardens Association of Italy, and sponsored by the Ministry of Culture; the "Concert of the Santa Sofia Academy" held on August 26, 2021; "The matinees of the Royal Palace of Caserta", appointments with the Caserta Chamber Orchestra; "A summer worthy of a King. Great music at the Reggia di Caserta", an event organized in collaboration with the MIC and the Municipality of Caserta, organized and promoted by Scabec with the support of the San Carlo Theater of Naples and the Municipal Theater "Giuseppe Verdi" of Salerno. It has hosted internationally renowned artists.

In the coming months the Reggia di Caserta will host two major exhibitions:

- **Fragments of Paradise.** *Gardens over time at the Reggia di Caserta.* About two hundred works including paintings, drawings, sculptures, herbaria, books, art objects and contemporary interpretations will tell the history of the garden through the centuries. Starting from the complex of the Royal Palace of Caserta, systems of villas and their gardens that have characterized the peninsula, from the Renaissance to the early nineteenth century, will be related.

- **The little Prince.** *Giuseppe Sanmartino at the Reggia di Caserta.* The exhibition starts from the discovery, in the deposits of the Vanvitellian complex in the early months of 2021, of the marble portrait of a life-size newborn by Giuseppe Sanmartino, identified with the Royal Infante Carlo Tito di Borbone, firstborn male of King Ferdinand IV and Maria Carolina of Austria.

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
- **Bookshop:** 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.
- **Park transport bus**
- **Bike rental service**

Times

The opening and closing times are as follows:
Every day except Tuesday (weekly closing day).

Royal Apartments 8:30 - 19

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 - Saturday and Sunday 10 am / 1 pm

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/>

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