

*Educational Activities at the Royal Palace of Caserta to Discover European Culture
through the Exhibition Dedicated to Queens*

*A programme of workshops, guided tours and in-depth activities for children,
families and adults accompanies the major exhibition dedicated to the queens who
shaped Naples and Europe between the 18th and 20th centuries*

A rich programme of educational initiatives and thematic itineraries will accompany the major international exhibition *Queens: Threads of Culture and Diplomacy between Naples and Europe* at the Royal Palace of Caserta.

Numerous activities curated by Opera Laboratori aim to make the exhibition a lively, interactive and engaging experience for audiences of all ages, with proposals specifically designed for families, children and adults.

The calendar of activities for children and families opens on **20 December at 4:00 pm** with *Christmas Pop Art*, a 90-minute workshop for children aged 6 to 10, costing €5. During the workshop, children, accompanied by their carers, will create an artistic greeting card inspired by the queens featured in the exhibition, reinterpreted in a Pop Art style through bright colours, stylised geometries and contemporary details. The activity draws inspiration from the central theme of the exhibition and its extraordinary protagonists: from Elisabetta Farnese to Maria Amalia of Saxony, from Maria Carolina of Habsburg-Lorraine to Giulia Clary, from Caroline Bonaparte Murat to Maria Isabella of Spain, up to Maria Cristina of Savoy, Maria Theresa of Habsburg-Teschen, Maria Sophia of Bavaria, and Margherita of Savoy and Elena of Montenegro.

The following day, **21 December at 4:00 pm**, *Royal Diary: The Crown Enigma* comes to life—a game-based visit (cost €5) that transforms the exhibition route into a treasure hunt. Armed with a secret diary, children move through the rooms in search of symbols, clues and hidden messages, solving puzzles that reveal the stories and relationships between the queens. This activity will also take place on **9 January, 6 February and 20 March**, always at 4:00 pm.

Christmas activities for families also include *Queens in Celebration*, an elegant and creative workshop scheduled for **Monday, 22 December at 4:00 pm**. After a brief introduction to the protagonists of the exhibition, participants will create a decorative fabric ornament inspired by the refined craftsmanship of the San Leucio manufactory, embellishing it with ribbons and trimmings. The cost is €8 per participant.

On **26 December**, two workshop activities are scheduled. At **11:00 am**, *Album of the Queens* (€8) will allow participants to tell the stories of the main queens through photographs and short texts. At **4:00 pm**, *Queens at Play: The Tombola of Destinies* takes centre stage—a workshop that combines the tradition of Neapolitan tombola—born in Naples in 1734 under Charles III of Bourbon—with the stories of the queens. During the activity (€5), children and families will discover anecdotes, curiosities and key moments in the queens' lives through tombola numbers and the symbols of the *Smorfia*, creating a path that connects play, culture and history.

Album of the Queens will be repeated on **Monday, 5 January** and **Wednesday, 4 February at 4:00 pm**, while *Queens at Play: The Tombola of Destinies* will be repeated on **31 December at 11:30 am**.

On **27 December at 4:00 pm**, children can immerse themselves in the sparkling universe of the queens with *A Jewel of the Exhibition*, a workshop (€8) that combines an in-depth visit focusing on the jewels depicted in the exhibited paintings with a creative session during which each participant can create a piece of jewellery inspired by 18th- and 19th-century fashions. *A Jewel of the Exhibition* will return on **2 January, 21 February and 21 March**, always at 4:00 pm.

The programme's creative strand continues with *The Queens of the Exhibition*, a drawing workshop (€5) in which the queens are transformed into manga-style characters under the guidance of illustrators Arianna Masia and Filomena Nostrale from the Scuola Fumetto Cassino. Children will learn the techniques of Japanese comics while reinterpreting the Bourbon queens with expressiveness and dynamism. The sessions will take place on **28 December, 22 February and 22 March at 11:00 am**.

The connection between play and history returns with *Guess Who – Queen Edition*, scheduled for **29 December at 12:30 pm**, and again on **11 January, 22 February and 22 March** at the same time (€5). During this interactive visit, adults and children collect clues and observe portraits to identify as many queens as possible: the winner is the one who, with attention and keen observation, manages to link every detail to the correct queen.

Special attention is also given to fashion, a central theme of the exhibition, with *The Wardrobe of Wonders – Queens of Style* (€5), taking place on **3 January at 11:30 am, 13 February at 4:00 pm and 20 March at 4:00 pm**. This activity leads children to discover the hidden language behind the queens' clothing, accessories and jewellery. In official portraits, every element of dress conveyed a political message and symbolised rank. Workshops for children aged 6 to 10 last 90 minutes and can accommodate up to 20 participants per time slot.

The programme for adults opens with *Queens in Words*, a thematic visit that allows visitors to meet the queens through their authentic voices: letters, reflections and correspondence that reveal the human side, emotions and responsibilities hidden behind their public roles. This itinerary will take place on **20 December at 11:30 am, 22 December at 11:30 am, 18 January, 15 February and 29 March**, always at 11:30 am, at a cost of €10.

Another fascinating event is *Diary of a Queen: Maria Carolina*, which leads participants into the pages of the unpublished diary of Maria Carolina of Habsburg-Lorraine from the years 1781–1785, based on the studies of Cinzia Recca. Participants (€10 per person) will read and discuss selected excerpts directly in the exhibition rooms, exploring the queen's character, political strategies and daily life. Visits will take place on **26 December at 12:30 pm, 24 January at 12:30 pm, 7 February and 7 March**, always at 12:30 pm.

The most convivial experience is *Tea with the Queens*, a journey through three centuries of female power marked by intrigue, charm and culture, concluding with an informal conversation over tea served in the Palace café. The event is scheduled for **29 December at 5:00 pm and 3 January at 5:00 pm**, with a limit of 20 participants, a duration of 90 minutes and a cost of €15.

Every day, visitors may also take part in *A Journey among the Queens*, a guided visit held at **11:30 am and 5:15 pm**, offering a one-hour itinerary through the history, politics, passions and power strategies of the queens featured in the exhibition. Each group consists of a maximum of 20 participants, and the cost is €10 in addition to the exhibition entrance ticket.

Completing the rich programme is a series of short, free, reservation-only talks held every Thursday in January, February and March at **4:30 pm**, for a maximum of 10 participants. January's meetings focus on key dynamics of court life:

- **8 January:** *Educating for the Throne. The Art of Becoming Queens*, on the education of princesses;
- **15 January:** *Court Bonds. Marriages that Shape Alliances*, on marriage as a political tool;
- **22 January:** *Queen Mothers. Guardians of Heirs and Dynasties*, exploring motherhood as a public function;
- **29 January:** *Queens on Stage. Role and Public Image*, analysing ceremony as the language of absolute power.

The cycle continues on **5 February** with *Gestures of Power. Ceremonial and Etiquette*, dedicated to the active exercise of power by queens through patronage, charity and diplomacy; and on **12 February** with *Royal Rooms. The Assertion of Taste*, offering insight into private spaces and personal passions, such as Caroline Bonaparte Murat's neoclassical taste.

In February, dialogue between past and present begins with the cycle *Queens and the Contemporary World*. On **19 February**, *Education and Power* compares the strategic education of princesses with modern challenges in accessing leadership roles, especially in STEM and politics. On **26 February**, *Public Image. From Court Portrait to Social Media Icon* draws parallels between official royal portraits and today's dynamics of personal branding. On **5 March**, *A Room of One's Own* examines the queens' private spaces as areas of personal expression, linking them to modern forms of public exposure of individual passions. The cycle concludes on **12 March** with a double focus on motherhood and the couple as a political space: *Motherhood and Career* reflects on the dual role between dynasty and private life, while *The Contract* investigates marriage as a strategic alliance, then and now.

Reservations are required for all activities, and exhibition entrance tickets are not included in the activity fees. For information and bookings, visitors can contact the Royal Palace of Caserta Info Point at **+39 0823 324185** or write to caserta@operallaboratori.com.

The Royal Palace of Caserta thus invites the public to discover a rich, structured and engaging programme of experiences accompanying the exhibition *Queens*, with itineraries designed to bring history closer in a creative, emotional and accessible way. A unique opportunity to experience the complexity, power, sensitivity and cultural influence of the women who profoundly shaped the destiny of the Kingdom of Naples and Europe.