

Wonderful Royalty

Discover the Savoy
Royal Residences
World Heritage Site



RESIDENZE
REALI SABAUDE
PIEMONTE





Welcome to Court

The House of Savoy wished to establish a system of royal residences, where the refined life of their court would take place, as a powerful display of the dynasty's power.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, the Savoy dynasty surrounded itself with a network of residences designed and built by the most important architects of the time. They were the setting of court life and testimony to the power that the family had gained; leisure estates and luxurious palaces along the rivers, on the hills and in the countryside that formed what was called the *Crown of Delights*.

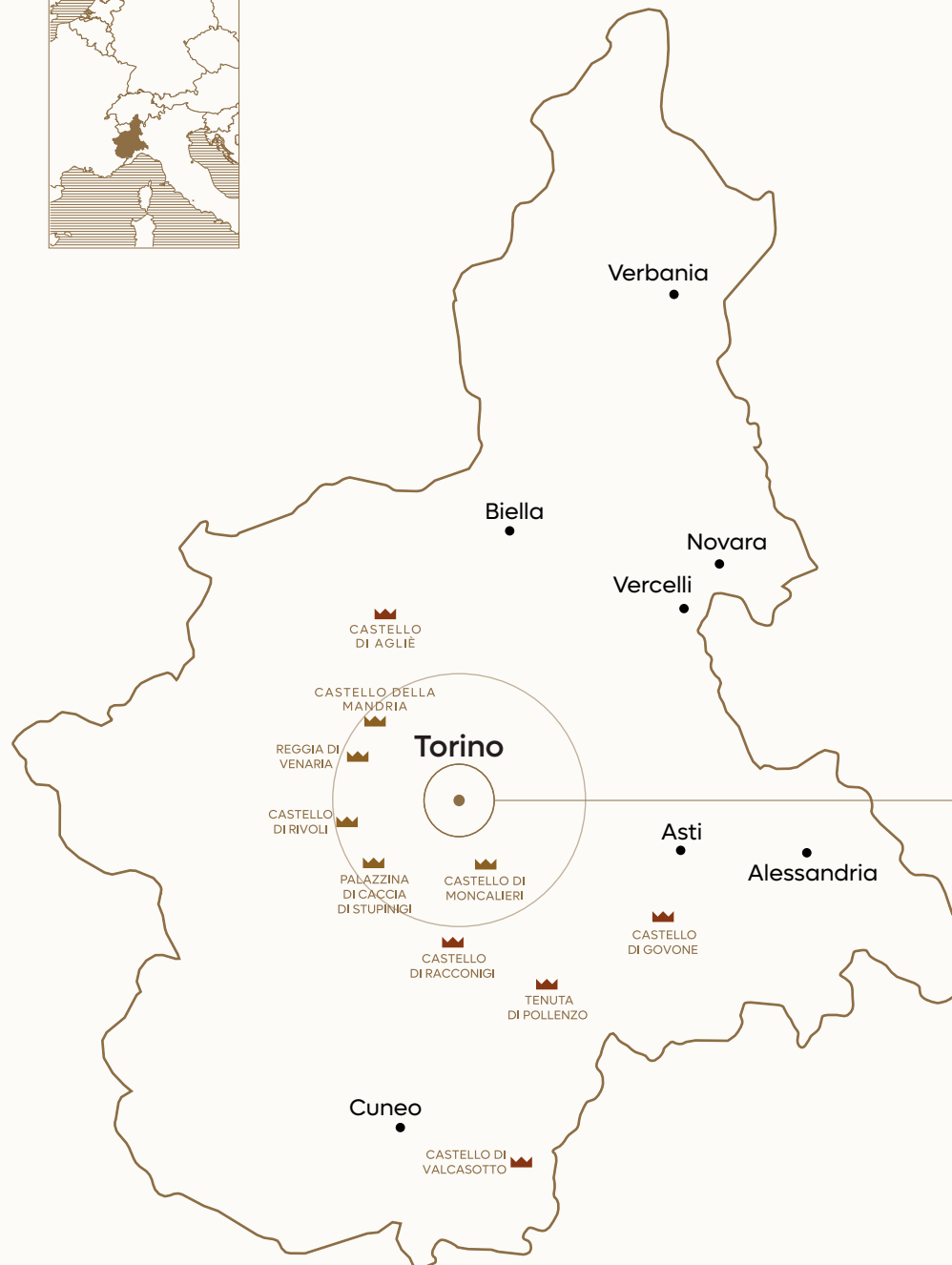


UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Royal Residences of the House of Savoy are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Lavish *maisons de plaisance* were built following a very specific architectural plan: to create a *Crown of Delights* around the city of Turin. The group of Royal Residences of the House of Savoy, a stage for court life, is unique in Europe, and was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.

The sites reserved for courtly *loisir* are now open to the public, and have come alive through culture, housing historical collections and serving as event venues that fascinate through their splendour. They are places to visit, and above all places to experience.



The paths of the Royal Residences

Plunge
into the history
of Savoy.

IN TURIN

The palaces as seats of power

The kings and princes of the House of Savoy lived in the majestic palaces and austere buildings in the heart of Turin, near Piazza Castello: in this area, and from here they commanded and controlled their territory.

Musei Reali di Torino, Palazzo Madama, Palazzo Carignano, Palazzo Chiabrese, Castello del Valentino, Villa della Regina

AROUND TURIN

The sites of court life

A "crown" of splendid leisure palaces and hunting lodges near the city, where the ceremonies and receptions that marked the calendar of life at court were held.

Reggia di Venaria, Castello della Mandria, Castello di Rivoli, Castello di Moncalieri, Palazzina di Caccia di Stupinigi

IN PIEDMONT

The royal holiday residences

In the 19th century, the court loved to travel to comfortable country residences surrounded by large parks, to spend their leisure time in more intimate, private settings.

Castello di Agliè, Castello di Racconigi, Castello di Govone, Tenuta di Pollenzo, Castello di Valcasotto



IN TURIN

The palaces as seats of power

For centuries, the centre of Turin was the core of the Savoy political power and the heart of the dynasty.












Here in the city centre, in close proximity one to another, are located the palaces where the court lived and from which the State was ruled.

The Royal Palace, symbol of the magnificence and splendour of the dynasty, is the heart of the Command Area and of the Royal Collections, now gathered in the Royal Museums, a reflection of the vigilant rule of the House of Savoy and its love for the arts.

The area of Piazza Castello, bordered by Palace of Chiabrese is dominated by the monumental Juvarrian façade of Madama Palace, a triumph of the Baroque style, stylistically akin to the San Lorenzo dome and the nearby Carignano Palace.

Near the city centre, surrounded by vineyards and elegant gardens, the Queen's Villa and the Castle of Valentino were the favourite residences of duchesses, princesses and queens.



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Musei Reali di Torino



The heart of the
political and cultural
power of the House
of Savoy

The Royal Museums of Turin offer a fascinating journey through history, art, and nature. They bring together, in a single great museum project, the Royal Palace, the Royal Gardens, the Library, and the Royal Armory, the Sabaudian Gallery, the Exhibition Galleries at the Palace of Chiabrese, and the Chapel of the Holy Shroud.

This project confirms the international importance of the city and of its art, architectural, and historic heritage: 3 km of an extraordinary route through the history of the city, from the early Roman settlement to Italian Unification.

Musei Reali di Torino / Royal Museums of Turin
Piazzetta Reale, 1 - Torino/Turin
Telephone: +39 011 5211106

Info: mr-to@cultura.gov.it
www.museireali.beniculturali.it



Palazzo Madama



A unique building with a 2000-year history

"The house of centuries is Madama Palace. No other building brings together so much time, history, and poetry".

Guido Gozzano

In the 1st century, it was the Porta Decumana of Augusta Taurinorum; in the 13th century, it was a medieval castle; in the 18th century, it was a masterpiece of the European Baroque; in the 19th century, it was an astronomical observatory and then the Senate of the Kingdom, where the unity of Italy was declared, with Rome as its capital declared the unification of Italy and established Rome as its capital. The residence of the Royal Ladies, Christine of France and Maria Giovanna Battista of Savoy-Nemours, is the memory, identity, and future of Turin, which never settles, on the contrary it's constantly innovating. Madama Palace houses 75,000 works of art that tell the story of a city and a territory with unique characteristics, a key hub in the development of European civilisation.



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Palazzo Madama / Madama Palace

Piazza Castello - Torino/Turin

Telephone: +39 011 5211788

Info: ftm@arteintorino.com

www.palazzomadamatorino.it



Palazzo Carignano



A Baroque design
for the first Italian
Parliament

Carignano Palace, one of the most original buildings of the Turin Baroque period, stands out for its curvilinear terracotta façade and its atrium with double staircases. In 1679, Prince Emanuele Filiberto commissioned the construction the Palace to Guarino Guarini, who took inspiration from Bernini's designs for the Louvre.

During the 19th century, a second building was added to house the Italian Parliament, with a new façade overlooking the current Piazza Carlo Alberto. With its current quadrangular structure, Carignano Palace is a symbol of the history of the House of Savoy and of the Italian Risorgimento. Carlo Alberto and Vittorio Emanuele II were born in the Palace, which was also the seat of the Subalpine Parliament and the first Italian Parliament.

On the ground floor there are the elegant apartments of the Princes of Carignano, decorated with beautiful Baroque panelling. Since 1938, the rooms on the piano nobile (the main floor) have housed the National Museum of the Risorgimento.



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Palazzo Carignano / Carignano Palace

Via Accademia delle Scienze, 5 - Torino/Turin

Telephone: +39 011 5641711

Info: drm-pie.palazzocarignano@cultura.gov.it

www.polomusealepiemonte.beniculturali.it



Palazzo Chiablese



An extraordinarily elegant apartment

Chiablese Palace was built in the late 16th century on medieval foundations, and in the 17th century it became Cardinal Maurizio of Savoy's residence when he stayed in Turin. Its current appearance dates back to the 18th century, when in 1753 King Carlo Emanuele III of Savoy gave it to his second son, Benedetto Maurizio, Duke of Chiablese. Court architect Benedetto Alfieri designed for him what was soon regarded as one of the most elegant apartments in the city. The best artists active in the court yards participated in the decoration, with local, Roman and Neapolitan provenance, achieving results worthy of the greatest European residences of the 18th century. Pietro Piffetti's spectacular double body cabinet in the Alcove Room testifies to

the exceptional richness and refinement of the furnishings.

During Carlo Felice's reign, the building was used as the King's residence; it then became property of Ferdinando of Savoy -Carignano, Duke of Genoa. In 1850, upon his marriage to Elizabeth of Saxony, the rooms underwent a significant renovation. Margherita of Savoy, the first Queen of Italy, was born here in 1851, and the palace became the residence of her brother Tommaso and his wife, Elizabeth of Bavaria. After the war, the palace became the headquarters of the Department of Fine Arts, and it has now recovered its role as a Savoy residence with the restoration and refurbishment of the courtly flats on the first floor, recently opened to the public.



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Palazzo Chiablese / Palace Chiablese

Piazza San Giovanni, 2 - Torino/Turin

Telephone: +39 011 5220411

Info: sabap-to@cultura.gov.it

www.sabap-to.beniculturali.it



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Castello del Valentino



Parties and receptions in the court gardens

In the 16th century, the Castle of Valentino was already a riverside residence outside the city, but it was in its heyday under Christine of France, the first Regent of the House of Savoy, who selected it as her main palace; she had the Castle enlarged according to the French style and promoted the rich decoration of the rooms on the piano nobile.

When she died, her frequent parties died with her. A few decades later, one of the

side gardens became the Botanical Garden of the University, which can still be visited.

Throughout the 19th century, the castle underwent significant changes, mainly due to the 1858 International Exhibition promoted by Cavour.

Nowadays, located at the centre of the 18th century park of Turin, the Castle of Valentino is the headquarters of the Turin Polytechnic School of Architecture.

Castello del Valentino / Castle of Valentino

Viale Pier Andrea Mattioli, 39 - Torino/Turin

Info: visite.castellodelvalentino@polito.it
www.castellodelvalentino.polito.it



Villa della Regina



A "Vineyard" close to the heart of Turin

Now open again to the public after a meticulous restoration, the Queen's Villa is a spectacular backdrop to the city, at the centre of the Italian-style gardens with pavilions, water features, and newly productive agricultural areas. Created as a hillside court vineyard for Cardinal Maurizio and Princess Ludovica, it was the favourite residence of duchesses, princesses, and queens of the House of Savoy until the 19th century.

Decorations and furnishings of this court residence, with its Royal Apartments overlooking the extraordinary lounge, reflect the taste for fine arts and the exotic that was popular in European courts during 18th century.



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Villa della Regina / Queen's Villa

Strada Santa Margherita, 79 - Torino/Turin

Telephone: +39 011 8195035

Info: drm-pie.villadellaregina@cultura.gov.it

www.polomusealepiemonte.beniculturali.it



AROUND TURIN

The sites of court life

The life of the Savoy court among amusements and ceremonies.

Life at the Savoy court was marked by leisure activities and ceremonies in the luxurious residences surrounding the city. These residences were built to create a refined “Crown of Delights” around the capital, displaying the magnificence of the House of Savoy.

The majestic Baroque buildings of the Stupinigi Hunting Lodge and the Royal Palace of Venaria were created as hunting lodges and places for leisure.

Originally, the Castles of Rivoli – today Museum of Contemporary Art – and Moncalieri had defensive purposes; these ancient strongholds were then transformed into welcoming *maisons de plaisance*.

The Castle of La Mandria, inside the Park bearing the same name, became the favourite residence of the first king of Italy.





Reggia di Venaria



Invitation to court

Comprising the charming Hall of Diana, the solemn Great Gallery, and the Chapel of Sant'Uberto, its huge Juvvarian Stables - 18th century works by Filippo Juvarra, the complex of the Royal Palace of Venaria is considered one of the greatest Baroque masterpieces in the world. The Venaria Reale, which was restored as one the most important restoration sites of the European Union, is currently a great

"permanent cultural project", providing learning and emotional opportunities, as well as many other experiences. This is a cultural project in which ancient and modern realities come harmoniously together.

In 2019, its large gardens were awarded the prize of "Most Beautiful Park in Italy", and they are a fascinating blend of ancient and modern.



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PICNIC AREA

Reggia di Venaria / Royal Palace of Venaria
Piazza della Repubblica, 4 - Venaria Reale (TO)
Telephone: +39 011 4992333

Info: prenotazioni@lavenariareale.it
www.lavenaria.it



Castello della Mandria










A hunting lodge
and a display of love

Built at the time when the Royal Palace of Venaria was created to raise purebred horses, Vittorio Emanuele II then turned this into his favourite residence. Here the king could enjoy hunting far from his duties at the court, as well as indulge his many passions and his love for Rosa Vercellana, for whom the castle was intended.

The Royal Apartments, fully furnished and preserved, have 20 intimate, private rooms which reveal the king's preferences and taste. In addition to the historic significance of the castle, its park is an important natural asset, where centuries-old trees and architectural gems can be found.















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Castello della Mandria / Castle of La Mandria
Viale Carlo Emanuele II, 256 - Venaria Reale (TO)
Telephone: +39 011 499 2333

Info: prenotazioni@lavenariareale.it
www.lavenaria.it



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Castello di Rivoli

Museo d'Arte Contemporanea



Between past,
present, and future

Built in the 11th century as a military stronghold, the Castle of Rivoli is now home to the Museum of Contemporary Art, which displays a renowned art collection and great temporary exhibitions in a striking historic and architectural setting. The Castle came into the hands of the House of Savoy in 1247 and became the first seat of the court of the dukes of Savoy. In the 17th century, it was transformed into the court residence of Carlo and Amedeo di Castellamonte. The Manica Lunga, the duke's art gallery, which is more than 140 metres long, is another attraction of the building.













In the 18th century, Vittorio Amedeo II entrusted Juvarra with a great rebuilding project which was never completed. In 1793, architect Carlo Randoni continued the works for its new owner, Vittorio Emanuele, the duke of Aosta. The second-floor apartment was fully renovated during this period. The unfinished structures, highlighted by Andrea Bruno's restoration in the 1980s, establish a fascinating line of continuity between past, present, and future.



Castello di Rivoli / Castle of Rivoli
Piazza Mafalda di Savoia - Rivoli (TO)
Telephone: +39 011 9565222

Info: info@castellodirivoli.org
www.castellodirivoli.org



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Palazzina di Caccia di Stupinigi



A hunting lodge
for a European
court

A hunting lodge and a party venue built in 1729 upon Filippo Juvarra's design, the Stupinigi Hunting Lodge is one of the jewels of Turin; located at 10 km from Piazza Castello it is perfectly aligned to face the south. Built on a land that was originally donated by Emanuele Filiberto to the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus (1573) it is now the property of the Ordine Mauriziano Foundation, a government body dedicated to its conservation and improvement. After significant restoration, the Hunting Lodge is now open to the public. It is one of the most outstanding 18th-century complexes in Europe, with its original furnishings, paintings, and masterpieces of cabinetry and landscaping.



Palazzina di Caccia di Stupinigi / Stupinigi Hunting Lodge
Piazza Principe Amedeo, 7 - Nichelino (TO)
Telephone: +39 011 6200634

Info: biglietteria.stupinigi@ordinemauriziano.it
www.ordinemauriziano.it/palazzina-di-caccia-stupinigi



Castello di Moncalieri



From stronghold to royal residence

One of the most ancient residences of the House of Savoy, the imposing Castle of Moncalieri overlooks the Po River near Turin. Built in the Middle Ages for defence purposes, the House of Savoy turned it into a “place of delights” after many embellishments and enlargements. Beloved by the women of the House of Savoy, like Queen Maria Adelaide and Princesses Clotilde and Letizia, not only was the castle a place to stay, but also the

place where the young princes were brought up, and was the scene of crucial historic events (in 1849, Vittorio Emanuele II signed the famous Moncalieri Proclamation in there).

Family mementoes of the House of Savoy are still present all over the royal apartments. The castle is the headquarters of the Piedmontese First Regiment of the Carabinieri.



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Castello di Moncalieri / Castle of Moncalieri

Piazza Baden Baden, 4 - Moncalieri (TO)

Telephone: +39 011 4992333

Info: drm-pie@cultura.gov.it

www.polomusealepiemonte.beniculturali.it



IN PIEDMONT

The royal holiday residences

The Savoy court loved spending long periods of time in comfortable countryside residences surrounded by greenery.

In the second half of the 18th century, the royal family spent long periods in residences far from Turin.

The Castle of Govone, famous for its 18th century garden and its roses, was acquired for this purpose, as was the Castle of Agliè, with its fresco-decorated ballroom and its fully preserved rooms from that time, which turn the castle into a triumph of elegance and splendor.

In the 19th century, the members of the house of Savoy loved to stay at the Castle of Racconigi, with its extraordinary Romantic-style park, at the Pollenzo Estate, the current headquarters of the University of Gastronomic Science, and at the Castle of Valcasotto, a former Carthusian monastery turned hunting lodge.





Castello di Agliè










A romantic triumph of elegance

In its seven centuries of history, the Castle of Agliè has welcomed dukes, princes, and kings. Now it is owned by the marquesses of San Martino, and its old, noble past can still be found in the diversity of its apartments and gardens.

Surrounded by a park of centuries-old trees and large greenhouses, the castle has 300 rooms, and a heritage of precious and highly diverse furnishings and collections, including archaeological relics and striking ornithological and oriental items. The Ballroom and the many historic rooms, perfectly preserved, make the castle a triumph of elegance and splendour.













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Castello di Agliè / Castle of Agliè
Piazza Castello, 1 - Agliè (TO)
Telephone: +39 0124 330102

Info: drm-pie.aglie.prenotazioni@cultura.gov.it
www.polomusealepiemonte.beniculturali.it



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Castello di Racconigi



Royal leisure
and a natural oasis

From the time of Carlo Alberto to the fall of the monarchy (1946), the royal family spent its leisure time in this imposing castle built by architect Guarino Guarini for the princes of Carignano. It is surrounded by a majestic park created by garden designer Xavier Kurten, one of the main examples of the European Romanticism and its sensibility towards nature and landscapes.

Visiting the Castle of Racconigi today means not only experiencing the pomp of the House of Savoy while admiring the original furnishings and the splendid portrait collection, but also walking through greenhouses and farmhouses and see the storks that make their nests in the park, an outstanding natural oasis.

Castello di Racconigi / Castle of Racconigi
Piazza Carlo Alberto - Racconigi (CN)
Telephone: +39 0172 84005

Info: racconigi.prenotazioni@cultura.gov.it
www.polomusealepiemonte.beniculturali.it



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Castello di Govone



Leisure times amid
frescoes and gardens

This medieval fortress was rebuilt in its current Baroque form by the counts of Solaro following Guarino Guarini's designs. In the 18th century, its façades were decorated with the impressive statues brought from the Royal Palace of Venaria, and its interiors were furnished with precious Chinese carpets bought in the Far East.

It was acquired by the House of Savoy in the late 18th century and selected by Carlo Felice as his summer residence. The king had its interiors redecorated with spectacular frescoes and splendid trompe-l'oeils, such as the mythological ones in the main hall.

The Castle of Govone is also famous for its 18th-century Italian-style garden, where many rose varieties grow, as well as a rare species of wild tulip.



Castello di Govone / Castle of Govone











Piazza Roma, 1 - Govone (CN)

Telephone: +39 371 4918587

Info: info@castellorealedigovone.it

www.castellorealedigovone.it



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Tenuta di Pollenzo



A kingly farm

It was Carlo Alberto who first understood the agricultural potential of Pollenzo. He created an impressive farm with vineyards and wine cellars, where winemaking techniques still used for the great red wines of Langhe were developed. Carlo Albert, with his Romantic vision, wanted to recreate medieval Pollenzo. He commissioned Xavier Kurten to design its gardens and refashion the town square, church, tower, and the Albertina farmhouse in the neo-Gothic style.

Today, after careful and meticulous restoration, Pollenzo offers its visitors the Albergo dell'Agenzia (four-star hotel), the Garden, to taste typical local dishes and the great wines of lower Piedmont.

The complex also houses the University of Gastronomic Sciences, with students arriving from all over the world, and the Wine Bank, a treasure chest with over 40,000 wines from all over Italy.



Tenuta di Pollenzo / Pollenzo Estate
Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, 13 - Pollenzo (CN)
Telephone: +39 0172 458416

Info: info@agenziadipollenzo.com
www.agenziadipollenzo.com



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Castello di Valcasotto



From monastery
to hunting lodge

This castle, which was originally a Carthusian monastery, was acquired by the House of Savoy and turned into a hunting lodge by Carlo Alberto. The project masterfully combined the simplicity of a former convent and the monumental style suitable for a royal residence.

The castle was never a main residence, however, but a place for private leisure: this is where Vittorio Emanuele II, the "hunter king", held his great hunts, and princess Maria Clotilde spent her summers. Even today, glimpses of life at court can be found in the bedchambers, which maintain their original furnishings, as well as in the king's kitchens. Even though the Castle of Valcasotto is not part of the World Heritage Site, it is part of the Royal Residences of the House of Savoy in Piedmont.

Castello di Valcasotto / Castle of Valcasotto
Garessio (CN)
Open from spring to autumn by reservation

Telephone: +39 347 8386179 - +39 347 6327959



Gardens and royal parks

The network of Savoy Royal Residences offers an interesting overview of the history of the gardens from the 1600s to the present day.

The tour retraces the history from the 17th century to the present day with examples of typical Italian gardens (Queen's Villa), ample perspectives that recall the French model (Royal Palace of Venaria), 18th century gardens (Royal Museums of Turin, Castle of Moncalieri, Stupinigi Hunting Lodge, Castle of Agliè), large 19th century parks (Castle of Racconigi, Pollenzo Estate, Castle of Govone), public parks (Valentino Park), all the way to the contemporary interpretations at the Royal Palace of Venaria.





Royal Snack

A mouth-watering plunge into a bygone age

Snack time can be turned into a little journey back in time: enjoy a Merenda Reale® in the cafés of the Royal Residences participating in the initiative.

You can choose between a steaming hot chocolate or a Bicerin, offered together with irresistible 'bagnati' and other chocolate specialties strictly for dipping such as *savoardi*, *baci di dama*, *torcetti*, *lingue di gatto*, *canestrelli*, *cri cri*, *diablottini* and *gianduìotti*.

Enjoy an unforgettable break of sweetness!



Villa della Regina



Royal Pass

The key to discover the Savoy Royal Residences.

Bring back the court atmosphere with the Royal Pass, the card that grants you access to the network of the Royal Residences of the House of Savoy in Turin and Piedmont.



Musei Reali



residenzerealisabaude.com



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REALI
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Residences
of the Royal House of Savoy,
World Heritage since 1997

