



## *The Residences of the Royal House of Savoy*

# La Venaria Reale

Restored to the Baroque magnificence that inspired its construction in the mid-1600s by Duke Carlo Emanuele II of Savoy, the monumental estate of the **Reggia di Venaria**, located just outside Turin, is once again a **symbol of modernity and culture**.

The **recovery project of La Venaria Reale** culminated in October 2007, with the inauguration of the Reggia after two centuries of neglect and decay and eight years of intensive restoration. Promoted by the European Union and curated by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism together with Regione Piemonte, this project is the largest ever undertaken in Europe in the cultural sector. Since its opening in 2007, **La Venaria Reale has become one of Italy's most visited cultural sites**.

**La Venaria Reale** is a large **permanent cultural project** that offers opportunities for cultural knowledge and entertainment: its court is open to visitors, offering them a wide range of experiences, including educational activities, exhibitions and events. Here, both Italian and the international public can discover the treasures of art, history and architecture immersed in an extraordinary natural landscape.





The monumental palace, that extends over an area of 80,000 square meters, is home to some of the finest examples of universal Baroque: the enchanting Hall of Diana designed by Amedeo di Castellamonte, the breathtaking Great Gallery and the solemn Church of St. Hubert, the grandiose complex of the Juvarra Stables designed by Filippo Juvarra in the 18th century, the sumptuous decorations, the famous Bucentaur and the spectacular Fountain of the Stag in the Court of Honor. These provide a unique setting for the *Theater of History and Magnificence*, the permanent display — almost 2,000 m long — devoted to the House of Savoy, that spans from the basement level to the *piano nobile* of the Reggia.

Seen from above, the Reggia and the Gardens are at the center of an area of architecture and parkland extending uninterruptedly over 950,000 square meters. All around them, large exhibition complexes emerge, such as the Juvarra Stables, the Rooms of the Pages and the Rooms of the Arts, the *Conservation and Restoration Center* (housed in the 8,000 sq.m. building of the former Alfieri Stables); the Old Town Center, the Castle of La Mandria and the Cascina Rubbianetta farmhouse. The horizon stretches as far as the eye can see over the 6,500 hectares of greenery of the nearby Park of La Mandria.







**The Gardens** appear today as a **perfectly balanced combination of ancient and modern elements** set in a boundless scenario, where archaeological remains and contemporary artworks dialogue in harmony. The 17th-century grottoes, the ruins of the Fountain of Hercules and the Temple of Diana, the restored Great Pond, the Grand Parterre, the Alleys, the Flower Garden and the Rose Garden, the delightful Fantacassino, and Italy's largest Potager Royal create a unique and unparalleled example of an Italian historical garden, thanks to its glorious perspectives and the vastness of the natural scenery against the backdrop of the Park of La Mandria and the mountain peaks of the Alps in the distance.

At the turn of the century, this **80-hectare area** was so badly damaged as to prevent even the perception of the Gardens' original 17th-18th century layout. A complex restoration project has led, over a period of eight years, to the **reconstruction of the landscape and its historical landmarks** with an eye towards modern **aesthetics and contemporary needs**: more than 170,000 new plants are now in place, next to important art-works by the contemporary masters **Giuseppe Penone** (*The Garden of Fluid Sculptures* and *Anaphora*) and **Giovanni Anselmo** (*Where the Stars are coming one span closer*).



**La Venaria Reale, declared part of UNESCO's World Heritage**, lies at the heart of the Circuit of Royal Residences of Piedmont and it is connected to Turin's Museum District.





La Venaria Reale is a permanent cultural project that combines historical aspects and entertainment options.

A few hours are simply not enough to experience La Venaria Reale: it takes at least one full day to truly appreciate the wealth of attractions and services available. These include bookshops, cafés and a first-rate restaurant, exhibitions and seminars, educational activities, location rental and assistance for disabled visitors.



The Venaria Reale estate (Reggia, Gardens, Castle of La Mandria) is managed by **Consorzio delle Residenze Reali Sabaude** (formerly, Consorzio di Valorizzazione Culturale “La Venaria Reale” ), a Consortium made up of the Ministry of Culture, Regione Piemonte, the Venaria Reale Town Council, Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione 1563 per l’Arte e la Cultura.

The Consortium grants considerable management autonomy to La Venaria Reale thanks to its modern organizational and administrative structure with the aim to involve in its promotion and operation the entire Circuit of Royal Savoy Residences of Piedmont.

The Consortium is headquartered at the Reggia di Venaria – Piazza della Repubblica, 4 – Venaria Reale (Turin – Italy) – Ph. +39 011 4992300 – [www.lavenaria.it](http://www.lavenaria.it).







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