

## CONSULTA FOR REGGIA DI VENARIA



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Since 1987, Consulta, the Council for the Enhancement of the Artistic and Cultural Heritage of Turin, has been investing in and working on what is most precious for mankind: Culture, which must be preserved and enhanced for generations to come. Started by a small group of friends working at leading companies in the area with the aim of tackling together – through planning and investments – the problem of the degrading historical and artistic heritage of the city at that time, Consulta now has 38 members.

*Social Responsibility* drives and supports the Ethical Patronage approach of its members and guides the choices of the association which has always worked in close collaboration with the institutions and ministerial bodies responsible for the conservation and protection of heritage.

Consulta believes in Culture as an economic and inclusive lever, a driving force for development, and a generator of attractiveness in the local area. In 35 years of activity, over 35 million euros have been invested and more than 100 projects of planning, restoration, enhancement, increased access, communication, innovation and education have been carried out.

Consulta is a value, an example of Italian excellence resulting from listening to the needs of the community and the entrepreneurial spirit.

The commitment of Consulta towards Reggia di Venaria began in **2006** with the *restoration of the **Statues of the Four Seasons***, made of Frabosa marble by Simone Martinez in 1752. Originally intended for the round hall of the connecting gallery between the Duke of Savoy's apartment and the chapel, they were moved to the Gardens of the Royal Palace in Turin in 1810. The recovery work revived the refined shaping of the sculptures, degraded by the elements, and brought the works back to the Reggia which had reopened to the public.

In **2012**, Consulta carried out other works for the Royal Residence. After an important restoration project, the marvellous ***Peota Reale***, formerly part of the collections of the Civic Museum of Ancient Art, was transported to Venaria and placed in a spectacular setting along the tour itinerary. The Peota is a boat built in Venice in 1730 at the behest of Charles Emmanuel III for shows and pleasure sailing on the river Po. Sixteen metres long, it is adorned with gilded wood carvings and is richly furnished for parties and processions on the water. At the bow, the wooden statues of the Po and Adige rivers stand next to a graceful Narcissus, while at the stern, two sea horses are placed at the side of the rudder.

In **2015**, as a prelude to the works carried out on the masterpiece by Castellamonte unveiled today, Consulta promoted and supported an accurate restoration of the monumental statue of the Hercules colossus, made of Frabosa marble, 3.20 metres high, weighing 2 tons.

Made by Bernardo Falconi in 1670, it was the fulcrum of the sumptuous fountain, called "Fons Herculeum". The statue was moved several times when Castellamonte's "Baroque apparatus" was dismantled. In 2015, after being restored, Hercules waited patiently in the Gardens of the Reggia to return to his place in the foreground, at the centre of the large basin of the Water Theatre.

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