



THE HALL OF THE ZODIAC

With this room we enter the wing of the palace overlooking the garden, which was chosen by the House of Savoy to host their main ceremonial activities.

The room contains a stucco frieze from the Napoleonic period, modelled by Carlo Finelli and depicting the *Triumph of Julius Caesar*. Everything else in the room is the result of the late 18th Century transformation of the Quirinale Palace into a royal palace for the sovereigns of a unified Italy.

In contrast with the austere atmosphere of the former pontifical palace, the vaulted ceiling was decorated in 1888 by Annibale Brugnoli with a languid allegory of Aurora flanked by the signs of the Zodiac. In the lunettes below the vaulted ceiling the sovereigns' guests could admire young women dancing, playing music, drinking, feasting...

For the walls the court decorators chose a spectacular series of 18th Century tapestries entitled *The New Indies* and dedicated to the flora and fauna of Brazil and Latin America. Indeed, the group of tapestries hanging in this room is not part of the older series but was woven later, still in the 18th Century, and in which the South American wildlife was enriched with European and African animals.