



THE FIRST STATE ROOM

The First State Room is the place where, on occasion, the President of the Republic informally meets distinguished dignitaries and guests before heading to the ceremonies taking place in the Great Hall of the Cuirassiers.

Originally it was the drawing room of an apartment that included the following suite of four rooms. According to the original plans these rooms were destined to be used by the Pope but were then used as the guest quarters for sovereigns and other foreign dignitaries hosted in the Quirinale Palace.

The frescoed frieze along the upper part of the wall is by Agostino Tassi, who painted it in 1616. The coat of arms of the Borghese pope, Paul V, can be seen in the four corners, while the eight scenes depicted in the faux-framed paintings illustrate the life of St. Paul, the saintly namesake of the Pontiff.

The ceiling decoration, dedicated to an allegory of the *Fruits of Peace*, dates back to 1906 and the beautiful Murano coloured glass chandelier is also from the early 20th Century.

The room's most outstanding furnishings include a valuable French clock from the mid-1700s, two 18th Century Neapolitan tapestries dedicated to the tales of Don Quixote, and the painting by Francesco Mancini, from the first half of the 18th Century, showing *Chastity Flogging Cupid* after having broken his bow and arrows. It is one of the few works of art from the papal collections that were left in the Quirinale Palace after the Unification of Italy.