



## THE BRONZINO ROOM

The room takes its name after the important group of tapestries that decorate the walls, some of which were woven from cartoons by the famous Florentine painter Agnolo Bronzino. The tapestries are dedicated to the biblical figure of Joseph, son of Jacob, and were woven around the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century by order of Cosimo I de' Medici to adorn the walls of the Sala dei Duecento in Palazzo Vecchio, in Florence. The series is made up of twenty tapestries, ten of which are still kept in Florence, while the rest were taken to Rome in 1882 to embellish the Savoy dynasty's royal palace. At present, the ten tapestries of the Quirinale Palace are displayed in this hall according to a rotating system.

Nowadays the room hosts the meetings of the Italian President of the Republic with invited Heads of State and their delegations. The hall was once known as the "Dark Room" because the windows do not directly open onto the exterior but onto the "Hall of Battles", so called because it was decorated with several paintings dedicated to Renaissance victories. The painting on the vault, portraying an allegorical celebration of Italy, dates back to the reign of the House of Savoy, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The current appearance of this room is strongly conditioned by the rearrangement of this part of the Palace that was carried out ahead of Adolf Hitler's visit in 1938. That was when the marble portals and flooring were put in place, in addition to the busts of ancient Roman figures, almost all of which are modern and were purchased from antique dealers for the occasion.

Lastly, note should be taken of the richly engraved tables crafted in 1888 by the Venetian master craftsman Valentino Panciera Besarel to decorate the Imperial Apartments of the *Manica Lunga*, the Palace's "Long Wing".