



THE GRAND BALLROOM

Along with the Great Hall of the Cuirassiers, the Grand Ballroom represents the heart of the presidential palace. Indeed it hosts ceremonies and audiences including large numbers of invitees and is also the setting for State luncheons and the swearing-in of new governments.

The furnishing of the room dates to the years immediately following the Unification of Italy. Indeed, the Savoy family chose this room for their most important ceremonies because of its vast dimensions. This explains why the typical Rococo style favoured by the sovereigns here gave way to a more stately arrangement: an imposing architecture decorated with military symbols and allegorical figures rising up to the centre of the vaulted ceiling featuring a fustian painting dedicated to the Triumph of Italy.

The room however was also destined to be used for luncheons and balls and, to this end, was enriched with two enormous mirrors reflecting and amplifying the light from the large chandeliers. In 1889 the room was fitted with a “permanent orchestra platform” – a high balcony overlooking the room, destined to host the musicians hired to accompany the court banquets and dances.