



## THE HALL OF VICTORY

Also this room forms part of the suite of rooms designated for Napoleon Bonaparte in 1812.

This room was dedicated to the theme of War or Victory, as confirmed by the lively battle scene that stands out at the centre of the beautiful coffered ceiling. The painting was by Felice Giani, the painter who also decorated the ceilings of the adjacent rooms.

The gypsum frieze decorating the upper portion of the walls is also consistent with the theme of the room. The medallions contain the portraits of the so-called Twelve Caesars, which referred to the Roman Emperors from Julius Caesar to Domitian, displayed between pairs of winged Victories and weapon trophies. Each one of the medallions originally bore the name of the corresponding emperor but when Pope Pius VII returned to the Quirinale Palace after the Napoleonic occupation, the names of the emperors were removed.

This room contains two very precious pieces of French furniture dating back to the 18th Century. A “cartonnier”, the file cabinet standing behind the desk which, instead of being endowed with drawers, is fitted with leather-covered boxes that were used to file documents. An exquisite and delicately crafted secretary desk made by woodworker Martin Carlin is decorated with extremely refined Sevres porcelain panels painted with baskets of flowers.

On the walls above the doors to the Hall, there are seven 18<sup>th</sup> Century oval paintings containing the portraits of ladies of the Viennese court of Maria Carolina of Austria, the wife of Ferdinand IV, King of Naples.

Lastly, worthy of special note is the original 19<sup>th</sup> Century clock consisting of an alabaster column topped by a complex mechanism showing the planetary phases.