



## THE HALL OF MIRRORS

The Hall of Mirrors is one of the most important in the Quirinale Palace from the perspective of the institutional activities carried out there. This is where some audiences with the Head of State and the swearing-in of Constitutional Court Judges are held.

The current layout of the room dates back to 1877 and was designed by Ignazio Perricci in an elegant Rococo style, in line with the tastes of Princess Margherita. Indeed, the future queen supervised the furnishing and decoration work of the great halls and attempted to banish the monastic atmosphere of the old papal palace by drawing inspiration from the lavish style characterizing the European royal palaces of the 1700s.

The hall was designed to be a ballroom, as revealed by the pictures on the vaulted ceiling depicting a playful circle of figures suspended in the sky. The walls are covered with a glittering sequence of mirrors creating an infinite rebounding of reflections from the Murano chandeliers. The porcelain-white that characterizes the room is enlivened by gilt carvings and by the curtains, also gold-coloured.

Perhaps this is the room in which it is easiest to imagine life in the court of the House of Savoy at the end of the 1800s. It was then that the Quirinale Palace, after the austere centuries of the papacy, became the backdrop for sophisticated jet-set receptions, sumptuous luncheons and court balls.