



PALAZZO CASTELLUCCIO

NOTO, SICILIA



COURTYARD

The Palazzo was built in 1782, at the end of eighteenth century, when the Baroque style started to fade away in favor of the Neoclassical style. It was built for the family Di Lorenzo who carried the noble title of Marquis of Castelluccio. The family was very powerful from the 18th until the beginning of the twentieth century. In that period the family was strongly tied with the Court of Naples, governed by the Bourbons, especially when Ferdinand and Queen Marie - Caroline ruled the Kingdom of Naples and the Two Sicilies. The Order of Malta inherited the Palazzo after the death of the last Marquis in 1981. It remained closed and uninhabited until when the current owner purchased it in 2011. The restoration works which started in 2011, were made in the respect of the history and the soul of the palazzo, which was brought back to its original aspect. The frescoes were restored only when it was necessary, otherwise they were simply cleaned. We renovated the ceilings, the low paneling, the doors, the windows, the electricity...

The carved stones, placed in the walls, are family mementos (probably funeral slabs) brought from the ancient city Noto Antica after the famous earthquake of 1693. They date to 1602.

1 STAIRCASE

The staircase, dated XVIIIth century in "pietra pece" is the access point to the noble floor. The gilding has been perfectly preserved thanks to a meticulous restoration. The walls have been decorated with countless litographies, gravures, portraits and maps: these are souvenirs from the époque of the Grand Tour during the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries.



2 ENTRANCE

On the ceiling of this hall you can see the coat of arms of the Marquis, with its full name, Corrado di Lorenzo del Castelluccio and Borgia, Knight of the Order of Malta. The walls are decorated with frescoes representing classical sculptures, and they were found in good conditions. The local architect Corrado Papa has been curing all of the restoration works by respecting the original decorations that were preserved, like the majolicas on the floor. All of the artworks and antiques are part of the new owner's private collection.



3 BILLIARD ROOM

The frescoes on the ceiling and the low paneling date to 1782 and represent the Neoclassical taste that can be find in the Neapolitan and Sicilian palazzos. Please look at the portrait of Lady Hamilton. She was the wife of the British ambassador in Naples and the muse of the Grand Tour. The Grand Tour was an initiation journey for all "well-born" people willing to discover for example the Antique art and frescoes of Pompeii. The painted secretary desk below come from the same period.





4

BALLROOM

Now we are in the ballroom with its neoclassical ceilings and low paneling, dated 1782, the origins of the palazzo. On the wall, the large portrait of Ferdinand, King of Naples and Sicily. He was nicknamed "Nasone". Naso in Italian means "nose" and as you can see on the portrait he had a big one... On the opposite wall, the troops of Murat fighting at the entry to Naples, with the eruption of Vesuvius in the background... The Italian gilded wood sofas, date to the late eighteenth century.

5

MUSIC ROOM

We are now in the music room where the musical duet or trio could be placed under the alcove, with a passage on each side for the staff so they could serve without disturbing the musicians. The neoclassical ceilings date to the construction of the palazzo in 1782. They were restored and cleaned retaining their original colors and patina. You can also admire these 2 rare Sicilian Baroque pieces of furniture: a secretary and a painted wooden dresser. The tea table has a pastel illustration representing the Royal Palace in Caserta near Naples...



6

PINK GALLERY

This series of drawings shown in the gallery represents Sicily in the early nineteenth century. The two seats covered with leather are from the same period and come from Northern Italy. Both the Roman console table in gilded wood and a French gaming table date to the eighteenth century. Two silver chandeliers which you can see on the ceiling date to the eighteenth century and come from Messina, in Sicily.



7

SILVER ROOM

In this room you can see different paintings that show the eruption of volcanoes which attracted tourists to the South of Italy back then.. The silver wallpaper, which dates to nineteenth century, was completely restored. Only a piece of wallpaper, found in a poor condition, remained on the wall when the owner acquired the palace. This piece was used as a sample to bring the wallpaper to its original look.



8

THRONE ROOM

In this room you can find spectacular objects that represent the great Sicilian furniture art. The large clock dates to the first half of the XVII th century and it comes from a church in Palermo. The two consoles facing each other with a stunning trompe-l'oeil decoration, and "lumachella" marble on the top also come from Palermo and date to the early eighteenth century. The sofas and armchairs are typically Sicilian and come from the same Baroque period. The throne with gilded wood comes from the region of Venice.



9

MURAT ROOM

The next room is dedicated to Gioacchino Murat and his wife Caroline Bonaparte, the sister of Napoleon. Murat reigned over the Kingdom of Naples and the Two Sicilies. A marble profile above the mahogany console represents Caroline Bonaparte. Above the door you can see a portrait of Murat painted by Girodet. The walls, decorated in trompe-l'oeil, represent the Empire style. The chaise longues and the two stools are Neapolitan. The armchair is made by Jacob and dates to the XIXth century.



10 CHAPEL ENTRANCE



Here we are in the chapel entrance. (the second closed door at your right..), It is more of a private "oratory" access, where the members of the family could pray and meditate. This room is decorated with Sicilian and Neapolitan religious antiques from the 17th and 18th century. The Sicilian confessional comes from Palermo. The beautiful nativity scene is Neapolitan. The reliquaries (paperolles) on the walls were made by religious congregations in Italy or France in the XVIIIth or XIXth century.

11 TERRACE

The terrace offers a views of the interior Marquis' private oratory, the owner's private library and the dining room with a well-preserved stucco decorating the ceiling with a hare and partridges painted in the corners that clearly indicates that the room was used to dine. The circular wear of the ceramics tiles around the table reminds us of the Marquis' main dining room function.



12 ANCIENT KITCHENS



You will now discover the kitchens of the palazzo in their original state, just as found by the current owner. He didn't want to modify them, nor to renovate them so we could see what the equipment of a kitchen in the past centuries was. Nothing was changed, not even the everyday kitchen accessories. The family that lived in this palazzo was numerous and occupied different apartments. Please see the dumbwaiter, bread and pizza oven and the dining room stuff (like the original handmade soap under the sink).

13 STABLES

We are in the stables that have been renovated recently. In the next room the chaises and carts were kept. The truffs are decorated with Sicilian ceramics, so they could be cleaned easily. The bite marks on the wood of the feeders confirm the activity that took place here. The cool temperature, maintained thanks to the thick walls, allowed horses to withstand the heat of the Sicilian summers.



CREDITS

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