

## THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE CITY OF CASERTA

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### ABSTRACT

The ancient Palace of Caserta [Casa – irta] is located on the top of one of the hills of Tifatina mountain range, from where it offers stunning views, stretching from the fertile fields in the midst of which Capua, famous for his wealth, for miserable wars, and the most fortunate friendships with the Roman People, is located, to a Contrada, where nature and the ruins reveal the civilization of a great people, now extinct. There are different opinions about the origin of the ancient city of Caserta; some historians suppose that it was founded after the destruction of Suessola, but this is not true, because of Erchemperto, the monk who describes the fire of Suessola, speaks of Galazia and Caserta as they already existed. What is sure is that, after Suessola and Galazia were destroyed, in the ninth and tenth centuries, respectively, due to the barbarian incursions, the inhabitants of those towns took refuge in Caserta. Since the name Casa – Irtia is not mentioned in any writing that precedes the Lombard period, we can assume that the city existed under a different name, or that it was built when the Lombards settled in Italy. This second opinion is more likely since no monument or architecture dating back to Roman times was found, and, therefore, its origin can be traced back to the year 570 approximately. It was ruled by the Lombards, the Franks, Lombards-Italians, the Germans, the Normans, the Swabians, the Angevins, the Aragonese, the Spanish, the Austrians, the Kingdom of the Bourbons. Some limestone walls were built to protect the city, and the ramparts, the ancient castle and the cathedral, almost entirely preserved, are still visible. In 1734, Charles III of Bourbon was ready to conquer the Two Sicilies.

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