

Sorrento, by Philipp Hackert



with the portraits of Homer, Virgil, Dante and Torquato Tasso; the revolving bookcase was created using mahogany and palisander. This bookcase was realized to allow the Queen to read various books without having to get up to look for them.

## The Painting Gallery

Visitors arrive to the two wings of the **Painting Gallery** from the Hall of the Nativity Scene. The Gallery has various sections named according to the works they host. Ferdinand I of Bourbon commissioned court artist Jakob Philip Hackert to paint the main ports of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. In the section called the **Ports of Campania** visitors can admire *Castellammare* (1782), *the Wharf and Fortress of Gaeta* (1790) and *The Small Marina of Sorrento* (1794); a canvas representing a hunting scene and two representing military manoeuvres. The section called the **Ports of Calabria and Sicily** hosts *The Peak of Calabria*, *the Port and Bay of Messina*, *the City of Syracuse*, *The Port and Bay of Palermo* and *The Stacks of Trezza*, all created between 1791 and 1793. The last

Otranto, by Philipp Hackert



section of this series is called **Ports of Apulia** and Hackert painted the ports of Taranto, Gallipoli, Brindisi, Bisceglie and Trani and the *Inlet of Santo Stefano in Monopoli*, painted between 1789 and 1791.

The second wing of the Gallery has only recently been set up and it hosts portraits of the kings and queens of the Bourbon dynasty. This wing has more of a historical worth than an artistic one. The first section is dedicated to the head of the family Charles of Bourbon and contains a portrait of him, one of this wife Maria Amalia and one of Philip V all painted by Francesco Solimena. Following is a section dedicated to Ferdinand IV and Maria Carolina, containing numerous portraits of the sovereigns, among which one of Maria Carolina as a young girl painted by Raffaello Mengs. The last large section is an oval-shaped room and hosts a canvas painted by Giuseppe Cammarano in 1820, portraying the family of Francisco I and the family tree of the Bourbon Dynasty, and many portraits of Fredrick I and his two wives Maria Christina of Savoy and Maria Theresa of Austria.







# The Park



## The Park

Entrance to the Park is from the courtyards of the Royal Palace. The Park covers a surface area of 120 hectares and it is infused with an enchanted atmosphere. It is a symmetric and ordered Italian garden, one of the most grandiose architectural complexes in Europe. The Park of the Royal Palace of Caserta was supposed to be as impressive as the Palace itself in the project by Luigi Vanvitelli (however the work was overseen by his son Carlo). The architect had studied the projects of his Dutch, German and French colleagues and he was quite familiar with European parks and gardens, such as Versailles, but for economic reasons (following the abdication of Charles of Bourbon in 1759 to become Charles III of Spain) the original design had to be modified. The original Italian garden became a park divided into two parts and the nineteen fountains were reduced to six and substituted with herms and statues copied from the ancient models by Tommaso Solari and Andrea Violani (the marble groups of the fountains were also created Paolo Per-