

## Old centre of the city

The centre of medieval Bucharest, its Royal Court was placed somewhere between Lipscani, Splaiul Independentei, Calea Victoriei streets and the I. Bratianu Boulevard. The place on which the royal palace with all its gardens and outbuildings was placed, is now known as the commercial neighbourhood 'Curtea Veche' (The Old Court). After being used a few centuries, in 1776, the old palace was abandoned and the terrain was sold to merchants. All the foreign tourist's descriptions unanimously agree on the elegance of the gardens and on the luxury inside the palace. In its book, 'Histoire delle moderne rivoluzione della Vallachia' (Ed. N. Iorga, Bucharest, 1914), the Italian Anton-Maria Del Chiaro Fiorentino, the private secretary of Constantin Brancoveanu describes in a detailed manner the luxury inside the palace during ages of this ruling prince.

From all the monuments in the center of our city, we strongly recommend the Curtea Veche Museum, where fragments of constructions raised in the ages of Vlad Tepes (Dracula), Mircea Ciobanul and Constantin Brancoveanu can be seen. The museum also holds a large number of flagstones, vases, stone cannonballs and traces of settlements going back to the fourth century, as well as other vestiges. Nearby is the church Buna Vestire, Bucharest's oldest building kept to our days. Mircea Ciobanul built the church, in the end of the second reign (1558-1559). Another interesting place in this old center would be Manuc's Inn (Hanul lui Manuc). A rich Armenian, Emmanuel Marzan, also as Manuc-Bei built the inn around 1808. With its four sides and its interior court, the inn became a two star hotel, with a bar and restaurant. The Stavropoleus church, a beautiful construction built in 1724 by a greek monk is also located in this area, around the 'Carul cu bere' restaurant. The church exterior gallery, of a tremendous beauty, was carved in stone. Bucharest apartment