## Contents

List of illustrations	ix
Acknowledgements	x
Introduction	1
Chapter 1: From locus classicus to cosmopolitan picnic site	11
The disturbing discovery of Herculaneum and Pompeii	15
The classical and empirical on Etna	21
Curiosity and katabasis	25
Gothic picnics on the volcano: Winckelmann and Sade	29
Tourist picnics on Vesuvius	32
From picnic sites to the land of cockaigne	39
Incommensurability and measure	45
Chapter 2: Two modern 'Plinies' and the empirical turn	51
On the influence of Kircher and chemistry	52
Volcanological theories based on seawaters and electricity	60
The basalt controversy and the empirical turn	70
Volcanological networks and rival schools of thought	77
Chapter 3: On the volcanic sublime, its art and artifice	87
Eighteenth-century theories of the sublime: Burke and Kant	90
The Alpine sublime and the volcanic sublime	96

viii Contents

The volcano as tableau	98
The sublime volcano in art	102
Artificial volcanoes	110
The uncanny fascination with lava	113
Industrial volcanoes	116
From the sublime spectacle to the sublime spectator	120
Chapter 4: More heat than light? Natural philosophies of volcanism	127
An anti-clerical volcano	132
The volcano of popular passions	138
The volcano as a source of enlightenment	143
Prometheus versus Empedocles	151
Chapter 5: A volcanology of revolution 1789-1794	<b>15</b> 9
Staging the volcano of revolution	167
The volcano and the Terror	175
June 1794: Vesuvius and the Terror	186
Chapter 6: Volcanic Iceland: conquering Hekla and	107
surviving Laki	197
Banks on Staffa and Hekla	205
The deadliest volcano: Laki 1783	213
Lived experiences of the Laki eruption and its effects 1783-1784	218
Eighteenth-century explanations for volcanogenic weather	227
Conclusion	233
Bibliography	239
Index	269