



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### OPENING OF THE PALACE HISTORY GALLERY OF VERSAILLES

AN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN HISTORIC COLLECTIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOOGLE

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WHAT DID VERSAILLES LOOK LIKE BEFORE LOUIS XIV? HOW DID THE SMALL HUNTING LODGE OF LOUIS XIII BECOME THE LARGEST PALACE IN EUROPE? WHAT EMBELLISHMENTS DID THE YOUNG SUN KING WANT IN HIS PALACE OF FESTIVITIES AND AMUSEMENTS? DID YOU KNOW THAT THE HALL OF MIRRORS WAS ORIGINALLY A TERRACE OVERLOOKING THE GARDENS?

THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES IS A UNIQUE PLACE, A ROYAL RESIDENCE, A HISTORY MUSEUM AND A REPUBLICAN PALACE. BUT ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE KEY DEVELOPMENTS OF ITS LONG HISTORY? TO ACCOMPANY THE SIX MILLIONS VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO DISCOVER IT EACH YEAR AND ENABLE THEM TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW IT GREW OVER THE CENTURIES, THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOOGLE, DECIDED TO CREATE THE PALACE HISTORY GALLERY.

THE PALACE HISTORY GALLERY, which opens to the public on 14 June 2012, consists of eleven rooms which explain to visitors – as a prologue to their visit to the Grand Apartments – the richly varied functions of the places they are about to explore. The Gallery combines the presentation of the collections of Versailles with physical scale models and striking 3D reconstructions.

THIS PRESENTATION is backed up by a website dedicated to the history of the Palace – [www.versailles3d.com](http://www.versailles3d.com) – which puts at the service of the project the latest technological tools developed by Google's engineers.

THE PALACE HISTORY GALLERY AND THE WEBSITE [WWW.VERSAILLES3D.COM](http://WWW.VERSAILLES3D.COM) are essential educational and cultural mediation tools designed to improve the understanding of Versailles by its visitors and by all those interested in this ancient residence of the kings of France.

#### AT VERSAILLES, WHEN YOU VISIT

THE PRESENTATION OF THE ELEVEN ROOMS was designed to be an intuitive and visual circuit immediately understandable by all.

- The rooms combining thematic and chronological displays evoke the key stages in the creation and transformation of the royal residence, from the hunting lodge of Louis XIII up to the national estate of today.

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- Taken from the collections of Versailles, the artworks, paintings and sculptures, which tell the history of the Palace are brought together here for the first time.
- They are exhibited in a new way in a contemporary and simple setting for which the lighting was given careful study.
- Reproductions of old engravings and physical scale models enrich the presentation.

**TO FACILITATE THE INTERPRETATION AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THESE WORKS**, 3D films introduce each of the major development stages of the history of the Palace, enabling visitors to visualise them in a spectacular and original way. The partnership with Google has brought innovative solutions to the project: the new technologies used for presenting the cultural heritage are tremendously useful tools for restoring long-gone buildings and interiors and for following their transformation over time.

### ON THE INTERNET, ON YOUR MOBILE...

**CENTRAL TO THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND TOOLS**, the website **www.versailles3d.com** makes available to the visitor – real or virtual – innovative keys to understanding designed with the teams of the Google Cultural Institute.

- The opening of the eleven rooms was preceded by the production of a complete scale model of the estate on **Google Earth**, from the Place d'Armes and the Stables to the palaces of Trianon and the Groves. Over 200 hectares have been modelled and this project will continue to be enriched over the months to come !
  - Go even further on the website **www.versailles3d.com** which allows you to go back in time with Google Earth. Four scale models with commentaries are proposed to net surfers: the first palace of Louis XIII, the palace of festivities and amusements, the palace of the sun, and Versailles on the death of Louis XIV.
  - An interactive online game, *Confusion in Versailles*, allows children from 6 years old to have fun while learning about the work of Louis XIV in Versailles.
  - Used for its educational and entertainment advantages, 3D is also a tremendous online resource for... dreaming. the development of the WebGL language which provides a 3D immersion experience via the Chrome browser has enabled the palace of Versailles and the Google Cultural Institute to produce in partnership "**Chaos to Perfection**", a dreamlike and informative ramble around the gardens and the palace.  
**www.chaostoperfection.com.**  
**Phoenix**, a group originally from Versailles and known worldwide, was attracted to the project and offered to illustrate this interactive film with one of its pieces of music, *Love like a Sunset*.
  - Currently being developed, a **Smartphone application** will soon allow visitors to the Palace to immerse themselves in its history via their smartphones, telephones and tablets.
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## GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

[HTTP://WWW.GOOGLE.FR/CULTURALINSTITUTE/](http://www.google.fr/culturalinstitute/)

**GOOGLE'S CULTURAL INSTITUTE** develops technological solutions for viewing, hosting and digitising materials to favour the creative presentation, protection and promotion of culture online.

**THANKS TO ITS DEDICATED TEAM OF ENGINEERS**, Google's Cultural Institute has already collaborated with organisations in several countries on different projects, notably for putting online thousands of artworks in the framework of the Google Art Project, the digitisation of the archives of Nelson Mandela and the Dead Sea Manuscripts.

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