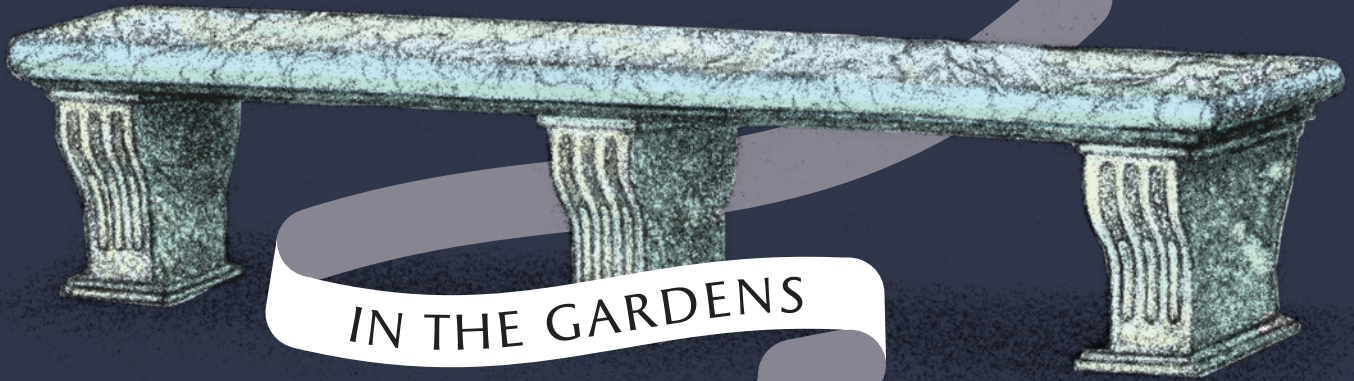


ADOPT

AN ANCIENT BENCH

IN THE GARDENS

OF VERSAILLES



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

A PAUSE IN THE HEART OF A HISTORIC SETTING

# THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES,

## AN OPEN AIR-MUSEUM



Essential features of the design in Le Nôtre's gardens, benches give structure and rhythm to the space, allowing variation between moving and resting. Situated overlooking a parterre or nestling in a cool grove, something to aim for or a pleasant surprise, benches accompany walkers

as they discover the Garden, and become places for reflection and observation, where you can contemplate, listen, smell or feel the life of the Garden. 32 ancient benches, sheltered in the heart of three groves on the southern edge of the Garden, are today in need of restoration.

*"In a large garden, nothing is needed quite as much as benches: it would be nice to have one on every stretch of path. They have specially designated places in recesses, alcoves in arbours, at the ends of alleys, on terraces and at pretty viewpoints [...] They can be made of marble, stone and wood."*

**The Encyclopedia by Diderot and Alembert  
– II 55a – 1751-1772**



**A bronze marker bearing your name or the name of your choice will be placed at the foot of each adopted bench.**



### 32 ancient benches in the heart of the King's Garden

In the heart of the **KING'S GARDEN**, an enclosed garden with an English-style informal layout created by the architect Dufour upon request by Louis XVIII, in the place of the former Love Island and Royal Island, there are 22 stone benches which currently show signs of damage from adverse weather.

Commissioned by Louis XIV around 1702, and built opposite the King's Garden, the **MIRROR POOL** is framed

by a sculpture of two dragons by Jean Hardy. Designed over three levels, the pool is surrounded by 6 stone benches, including 4 circular ones.

The **QUEEN'S GROVE**, designed at the end of the 18th century and replacing the famous Maze, today contains 4 stone benches in its centre, as well as its sculpted decoration which includes two bronze copies of the Borghese Gladiator and a marble stature of Minerva.

ADOPT



A BENCH

- To commemorate a significant event
- To celebrate a birth
- In memory of a loved one
- To show your attachment to this important landmark of art and history

To contribute to the standing of Versailles, universal heritage

## HOW TO ADOPT A BENCH?

Select your bench on the map and get in touch with our Donor Relations Department

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ADOPT?

The adoption of a bench costs €3,800, and €4,000 for circular benches. This adoption grants a tax deduction of 66% for individuals and 60% for enterprises off the amount of your gift.

## IN RETURN FOR YOUR GIFT

### FOR INDIVIDUALS

#### Acknowledgements

Your name or the name of the person to whom the adoption is dedicated on a plaque placed at the foot of each bench.

#### Photo rights

The patron will be able to use copyright free photographs of the “adopted” bench in the setting of Versailles, for their greetings cards.

#### “A year in Versailles” card

The “A year in Versailles” card granting unlimited access to the Palace for a year will be given to individuals who take part in the campaign.

#### Invitation to the reception in honour of the patrons of the gardens of Versailles

You will meet all the participants of the campaigns including patrons, landscape architects, restorers, gardeners, artists and curators during the Gardens Evening, an event held regularly in the Palace.

### FOR COMPANIES

#### Acknowledgements

The name of the company will feature on the plaque placed at the foot of each bench.

#### Photo rights

The patron will be able to use, free from copyright, photographs of the “adopted” bench in the setting of Versailles, for communication concerning the patronage operation and for corporate communication (activity reports, greetings cards etc.)



#### “A year in Versailles” card

The “A year in Versailles” card granting unlimited access to the Palace for a year can be given to companies who are patrons as part of the compensation for their donation.

#### Admission without queuing

The patron company will benefit from the free provision of tickets for admission without queuing for visits to the Palace and Estate of Versailles during public opening times.

#### Provision of spaces

The patron company will benefit from the free provision of spaces in the Palace for the organisation of public relations events (private visits outside of public opening hours, cocktails, dinners).

#### Invitation to the reception in honour of patrons of the gardens of Versailles

You will meet all the participants of the campaigns including patrons, landscape architects, restorers, gardeners, artists and curators during the Gardens Evening, an event held regularly in the Palace.

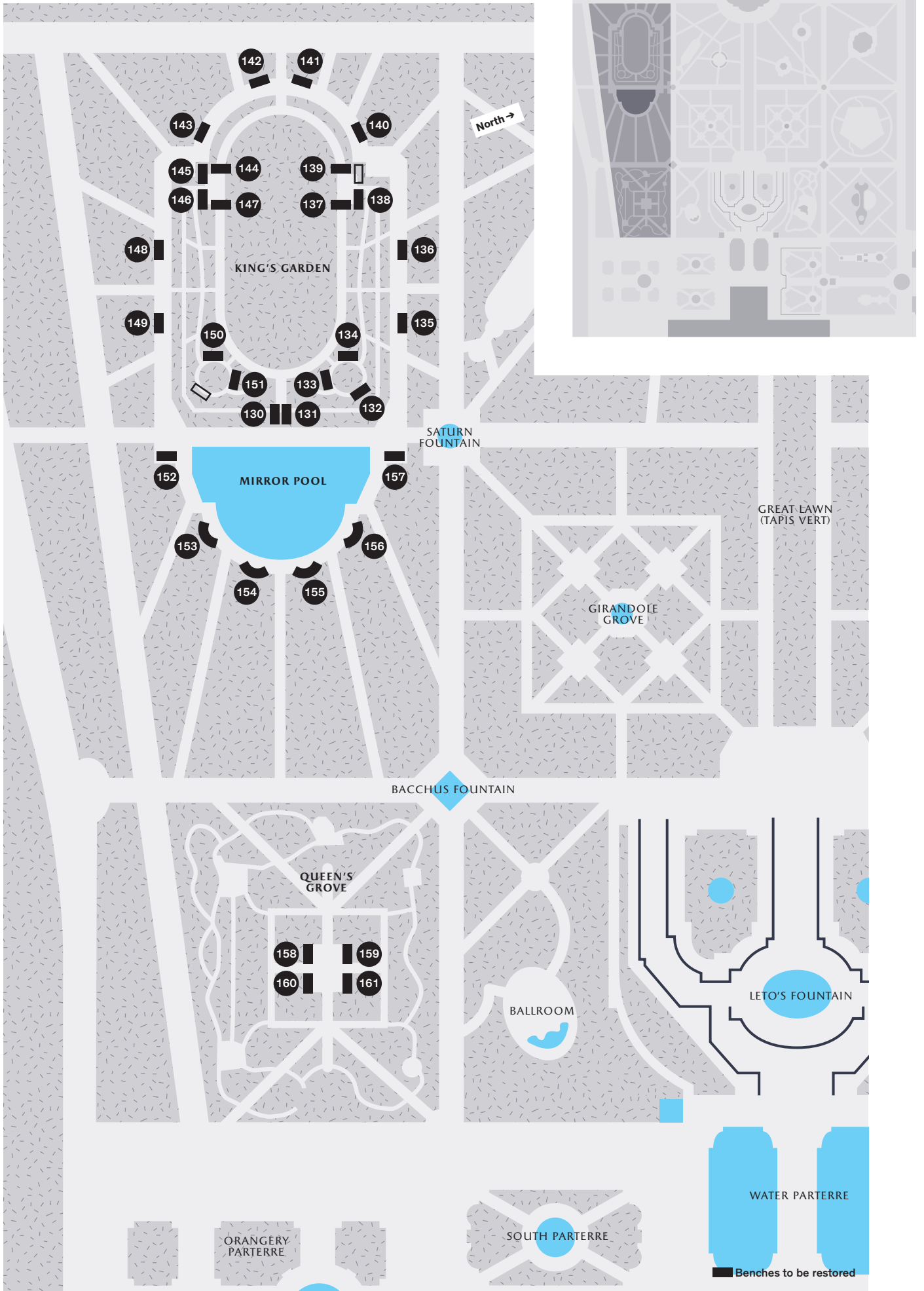
*These benefits are offered up to a maximum value of 25% of the donation*

#### On hand to advise you:

Serena Gavazzi, Constance Flahault and Caroline Picard

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MAP OF THE LOCATION OF THE BENCHES