



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

REDISCOVERING VERSAILLES

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VERSAILLES,

A ROYAL HOME



Breathing new life into the Palace of Versailles, recreating the atmosphere of a living palace by restoring its decorative features and returning the original furniture to the royal or princely apartments. Presenting these furnishings in new ways to offer fresh insights into life as it was at the Palace of Versailles over the centuries...

- The Gilded Study
- The Antechamber of the Grand Couvert
- The Mercury Salon
- The Abundance Salon
- The Apollo Salon
- The Games Room

- The King's Bedchamber, in the Private Apartments
- Louis XVI's Attic Library
- The Apartments of Mesdames, daughters of Louis XV...

All these rooms have been given a new lease of life through the restoration of their historical appearance, suggesting the function they endorsed on the eve of the Revolution.



“Over the years countless donations both modest and spectacular, sometimes entirely anonymous, always wonderfully generous, have funded a stream of acquisitions which has allowed us to restore the royal and princely apartments to the state which made them the talk of Europe and the world over the centuries.”

Catherine Pégard
President of the Public Institution
of the Palace, Museum and National
Estate of Versailles



The task is immense, and would not be possible without the support of the Palace's friends, may they be patrons or ambassadors to potential new patrons. A support which is greatly appreciated by the millions of visitors from all over the world who flock to the Palace each year, keen to share in the "Versailles dream"...

In 1793 the Palace of Versailles was emptied: 17,000 items of furniture and objects from the royal collections were auctioned off during the Revolution. Since the early twentieth century, successive generations of curators have been working tirelessly and passionately to track down items of furniture and decoration which were originally part of the decor of Versailles, or other royal and princely residences. Wherever possible, the curators have sought to acquire these items and return them to the Palace. This long-term endeavour demands extreme patience, completing a puzzle piece-by-piece. The results are immensely rewarding: seeing a work of art reunited with its own history and the setting for which it was originally created. Little by little, the Palace of Versailles is once again becoming a showcase for the finest creations of the seventeenth century, a period in which French artistry reached unprecedented heights of perfection.

Above, from left to right:
The Mercury Salon. Louis XIV lamp stand, produced as part of a skill-based patronage performed by the company Staff Décoratif.

Charles-Nicolas Dodin, set of vases with green bases, three of which were acquired thanks to the patronage of LVMH Moët Hennessy – Louis Vuitton



Versailles, palace of silk and gold

Visiting the royal apartments would be an entirely different experience without the precious fabrics which adorn the walls and furniture. Based on archive documents and period sources, these textiles and their distinctive patterns are painstakingly recreated in silk, sometimes enriched with gold thread and always embellished with elaborate trimmings. These fabrics are then used to reupholster the walls, curtains, beds, armchairs, stools, fire screens, decorative screens etc. This way, visitors can get a real sense of the atmosphere of exquisite refinement which prevailed in the palace as well as private apartments, rooms which sparkle once again in the light of the numerous chandeliers, lamps, candelabras and torches. Of France's historic silk-makers, there are still two companies based in Lyon who own the last existing period looms, as well as the precious know-how passed down through generations of silk weavers. Restoring the fabrics of Versailles using authentic period techniques is also a way of conserving France's unique artistic heritage.



Weaving apparatus

Above, left to right:
The Queen's Gilded Study, desk which belonged to Marie-Antoinette by Jean-Henri Riesener, listed National Treasure, acquired thanks to the generous support of LVMH Moët Hennessy – Louis Vuitton and Sanofi

Fabrics from Marie-Antoinette's Billiard Room, restored with the patronage of Lady Michelham of Hellingly

Get involved by making a contribution to:

- The acquisition of furniture and decorative objects, scientific and musical instruments, books, lamps, gold and porcelain tableware, paintings and sketches, sculptures;
- The restoration of decorative textiles;
- The restoration of furniture and decorative objects.



Chandelier from Mesdames' apartments, fitted with crystal LED candles as part of the skill-based patronage of SWAROVSKI



Portrait of the countess of Artois by François-Hubert Drouais, acquired thanks to the patronage of the Fondation La Marck



Louis XIV's desk by Alexandre-Jean Oppenordt, acquired thanks to the patronage of AXA and the Friends of Versailles



Drawing of Marie-Antoinette by Jean-Joseph Bernard, donated by Mrs Elisabeth de Rothschild

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

You can make a donation using the form attached, or contact our Patronage Department which will be happy to provide you with more details on the projects currently underway and introduce you to the people who make Versailles today.



Fan representing Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette's wedding, acquired thanks to the patronage of Mr and Mrs Philippe Mollier



Jus pot from Marie-Antoinette's "rich in colour and gold" service, donated by the Forum Connaissances de Versailles via the Friends of Versailles

For more information and advice: contact Serena Gavazzi or Caroline Picard
By telephone:
+ 33 (0)1 30 83 77 04/84 49
By email: serena.gavazzi@chateauversailles.fr

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE

to the refurbishing and restoration of fabrics in the royal and princely apartments at the Palace and Estate of Versailles

By making a donation of

For French tax payers: 66% tax deduction

For companies with a subsidiary in France: 60% tax deduction

Title	Surname	First Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Floor. Staircase. Apartment.	Building. Residence.	
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Telephone	Date of birth	
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Email address		
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Please return this form along with a cheque made payable to "L'agent comptable de l'EPV" at the following address:

Château de Versailles
Service Mécénat
RP 834 – 78008 Versailles cedex France

I would like to receive information regarding events and patronage campaigns at the Palace of Versailles

Date
<input type="text"/>
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Acknowledgements

- I would prefer to remain anonymous
- I would like my name to feature on the list of patrons of this campaign, or I would like to dedicate this donation to:*

Title	Surname	First Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

* You can dedicate your donation to a person of your choice. This person's name will then feature on the list of patrons of this campaign. For further information, get in touch with the Patronage Department: + 33 (0)1 30 83 77 04 – serena.gavazzi@chateauversailles.fr