

2024 ROADMAP



Palace of Versailles



CONTENTS

The Palace of Versailles	p.4
Unrivaled renown	p.6
THE OLYMPIC GAMES AT THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES	P.9
A unique setting for a global event	p.10
Universal architectural and natural heritage	p.12
High environmental standards	p.15
THE HORSE AT THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES	P.17
History of horses at Versailles	p.18
The horse in Palace collections	p.20
The Royal Stables today	p.26
2024 PROGRAMME	P.29
Exhibitions	p.30
Heritage restorations	p.34
Gardens	p.38
Improving visitor service	p.39
Cultural Olympiad	p.40
Shows	p.44
PRACTICAL INFORMATION	P.49

THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES

A jewel of world heritage recognised by UNESCO since 1979, the Palace of Versailles is at once a royal residence, a museum of French history established by Louis-Philippe and a seat of government where the two chambers of Parliament meet when united in Congress.

In addition to its three historic dwellings – the Palace itself, the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon – the Estate of Versailles gives pride of place to nature with a sweeping baroque garden adorned with groves and fountains designed by André Le Nôtre, as well as the Trianon Gardens, the Queen’s Hamlet – a royal refuge created by Marie-Antoinette – a wooded park surrounding the Grand Canal and, since 2009, the Estate of Marly.

Visitors come to Versailles from around the world to admire collections of artwork featuring more than 70,000 paintings, furniture pieces, sculptures, objets d’art, rare books, sketches, engravings and carriages. A veritable compendium of French history from the 17th century to the current day, the former royal residence exemplifies French elegance and art de vivre, alongside consummate savoir-faire.



PALACE

690,074 SQ. FT.

surface area

3,000

rooms

2,068

windows

71,895

works in
the collections

246 FT.

length of the
Hall of Mirrors

357

mirrors in the
Hall of Mirrors

PARK AND GARDENS

1,977 ACRES

surface area
of the estate

77 HA

surface area of the French
gardens surrounding the Palace

55

fountains

21.75 MILES

of pipes feeding
the fountains

824

sculptures on display
in the gardens

350,000

trees

ESTATE OF TRIANON

347 ACRES

surface area
of the Estate of Trianon

91,784 SQ. FT.

surface area
of the Grand Trianon

21,668 SQ. FT.

surface area
of the Petit Trianon

UNRIVALED RENOWN

Today, the Palace of Versailles boasts worldwide renown thanks to efforts to highlight its historic and natural heritage, a focus on contemporary creation and outreach initiatives. Dozens of expert craftsmen, direct employees or service providers, ply their trades to maintain the monumental Estate: woodworkers, upholsterers, gilders, clockmakers, restorers, fountain artisans, gardeners and more. The Public Establishment thus plays an essential role in creating direct and indirect jobs and preserving traditional savoir-faire. In this spirit, by 2025 Campus Versailles will be established in the Great Stables to offer training in the craftsmanship and heritage preservation skills that are the hallmark of Versailles and French savoir-faire.

Versailles has been a source of inspiration for creators throughout its 400-year history. Having served in the past as a palatial setting for festivities and entertainment, today it retains this aspect of its identity, welcoming contemporary creation and live performances. Every year, the Palace hosts several hundred artistic performances: operas, ballets, classical and electro concerts, fountain and pyrotechnic shows, drone choreographies and fireworks. The Estate boasts a decades-old tradition of inviting French and international artists, their creations enriching and communing with an unparalleled backdrop.

Versailles has also been a prime venue for diplomatic encounters since the 17th century: state visits and dinners, European Union summits, G20 meetings and other high-level events. In the world of art, the Palace applies its expertise in the field of heritage conservation and promotion for the benefit of museums and châteaux abroad. Finally, to ensure that people everywhere can take advantage of the Versailles experience, the Public Establishment organises temporary and travelling exhibitions, often in partnership with prestigious cultural institutions.



2023 VISITOR NUMBERS

8.2 M
visitors

2.9 M
spectators

3RD
most visited
tourist site in France*

TOP 4 VISITOR NATIONALITIES

FRANCE
19%
of visitors

USA
18%
of visitors

ITALY
6%
of visitors

GERMANY
5%
of visitors

OPERATION

1,000
employees

20,000
direct and indirect jobs

60
professions

€120 M
annual budget

55%
of income
from ticket sales

10% TO 15%
of income from
sponsorship initiatives

* after Disneyland Paris and the Louvre Museum



I.

**THE OLYMPIC
GAMES**

at the Palace of Versailles

A UNIQUE SETTING FOR A GLOBAL EVENT

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979 and boasting two “Remarkable Garden of France” labels, the Estate of Versailles stands out as an exceptional historical setting and a unique backdrop for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

From 27 July to 11 August, and then from 3 to 7 September 2024, the Palace of Versailles park will host the equestrian competitions (jumping, dressage and eventing: show jumping, dressage and cross-country), the five modern pentathlon tournaments and para-equestrian events.

The events will take place in temporary facilities installed on the *Étoile Royale* site at the western edge of the Park, as well as around the Grand Canal: a riding arena with a 16,000 seat grandstand, as well as obstacles and cross-country courses. These temporary structures will be designed by the Paris 2024 teams in coordination with the Public Establishment to ensure perfect preservation of the site’s natural, environmental and architectural features. Following the Games, all temporary infrastructure required to host the competitions will be removed and the grounds restored to their previous condition. As a lasting legacy of the event, the Public Establishment will carry out a comprehensive restoration of the *Étoile Royale* Gate.

Palace of Versailles teams (architects, site supervisors, gardeners, fountain artisans, project managers, legal and administrative staff, etc.) have been working on behalf of Paris 2024 for more than two years to orchestrate this exceptional initiative and will continue their work until the Games are over and the site has been entirely reconditioned. Going beyond technical expertise, the commitment of the Palace of Versailles extends to every aspect of the Olympic Games. The Public Establishment aspires to all-around perfection for this unique event, from the visitor experience to the cultural offering, as well as site accessibility and heritage promotion.



SPORTING EVENTS

3
sports
(equestrian, modern pentathlon, para-equestrian)

19
competitions

2
sites
(*Étoile Royale* and around the Grand Canal)

200
equestrian athletes
(showjumping, dressage, eventing)

70
modern pentathlon athletes
(equestrian, laser run, swimming, running, fencing)

70
para-equestrian athletes

FACILITIES

741 ACRES
dedicated
to competition

24
months
of work

494,400 FT³
of earth transferred
and stored to be replaced
following the Games

ÉTOILE ROYALE

3.29 MILES
surface area
of the riding arena

3
grandstands

16,000
seats

AROUND THE GRAND CANAL

3.29 MILES
length of
the cross-country course

27
obstacles

40,000
seats

UNIVERSAL ARCHITECTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Once a favourite royal hunting ground, the Estate of Versailles spans nearly 1,977 acres and comprises 120 buildings with an interior surface area of 2,215,676 sq. ft.

The Park of Versailles is a quintessential French garden built according to a precise geometric architectural plan. A lush counterpart to the building architecture, the green spaces of the Estate of Versailles and Trianon are composed of three distinct sections:

- the gardens, with their decorative flowerbeds;
- the groves, intended to provide a pleasant transition between the parterres and the towering trees shielding the horizon. These landscaped havens stand out as veritable outdoor salons concealed among the wooded spaces of the gardens of Versailles;
- the forest, punctuated by straight pathways and star-shaped intersections, originally designed for hunting.

Creating the gardens from woodland, prairies and marshes was a monumental task. The King, impatient to see his dream become reality, ordered scores of full-grown trees transplanted. Thousands of men took part in this titanic enterprise organised around two key avenues running north-to-south and east-to-west.



The Grand Canal, heart of cross-country competitions

In designing the Grand Canal, André Le Nôtre transformed the east-west perspective into a brilliant aperture that seems to go on forever. Construction work lasted 11 years, from 1668 to 1679. Being 5,479 feet long, the Grand Canal spans 59 acres with a perimeter of 3.54 miles. From the beginning, it served as a sumptuous venue for unforgettable festivities.

Fireworks were launched from the banks to celebrate the completion of construction work. In 1669, Louis XIV and his Court would cruise the canal in rowboats and other types of watercraft. In 1674, the Republic of Venice sent the King two gondolas, together with four gondoliers who were housed in a residential complex known since as Little Venice. Summer belonged to the King's fleet of skiffs, while ice skates and sleighs zipped about the frozen surface in winter. The canal's perpendicular branch allowed boats to reach the Menagerie (to the south) and the Trianon (to the north).

The 3.3 mile cross-country course was developed along a specially-designed route around the Grand Canal. To ensure that visitors and spectators from the four corners of the globe can admire this architectural masterpiece in the best possible conditions, in 2023 the Palace of Versailles launched the restoration of the banks of the canal.

3.54 MILES

perimeter of
the Grand Canal

59 ACRES

surface area of
the Grand Canal

6.56 FT.

depth of
the Grand Canal



Étoile Royale, site of equestrian competitions

The *Étoile Royale* is located at the edge of the Grand Canal, along the main east-west axis of the Park of Versailles. A spacious circular esplanade intersected by four monumental tree-lined pathways, it serves as the focal point of Le Nôtre's *Grande Perspective*. It spans more than 12.4 acres up to the Royal Gate, the western end of the estate, and is located approximately 1.9 miles from the Palace facade.

Severely damaged by Cyclone Lothar in December 1999, the *Étoile Royale* has since undergone comprehensive restoration; the rows of linden trees were replanted and the network of pathways rebuilt.

Since the fall of 2023, Paris 2024 teams have been working to clear and level the ground in preparation for the construction of grandstands and the development of equestrian courses.

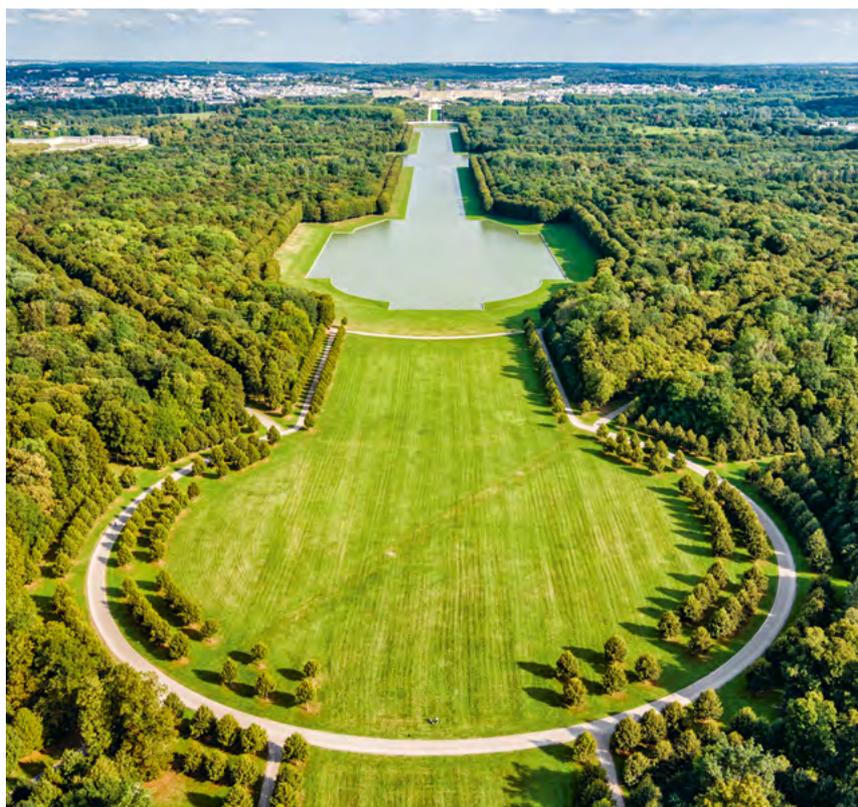
In addition to preparatory work intended to protect the area's natural heritage, the project has been designed to avoid damaging or moving a single tree in the park, importing any turf liable to alter the make-up of the soil and ensure that all constructions can be removed: at the end of the Olympic Games, the site will be entirely restored to its prior condition.

This reconditioning procedure will include the restoration of the Royal Gate, to be reinstalled according to its initial configuration – two separate gates located in the main axes and secondary pathways of the *Étoile Royale*. Located on the edge of the estate, this structure will serve as the official entrance for athletes and horses during the Games.

12.85 ACRES
surface area
of the *Étoile Royale*

1.86 MILES
distance between the *Étoile Royale*
and the Palace

8
pathways radiating
from the *Étoile Royale*



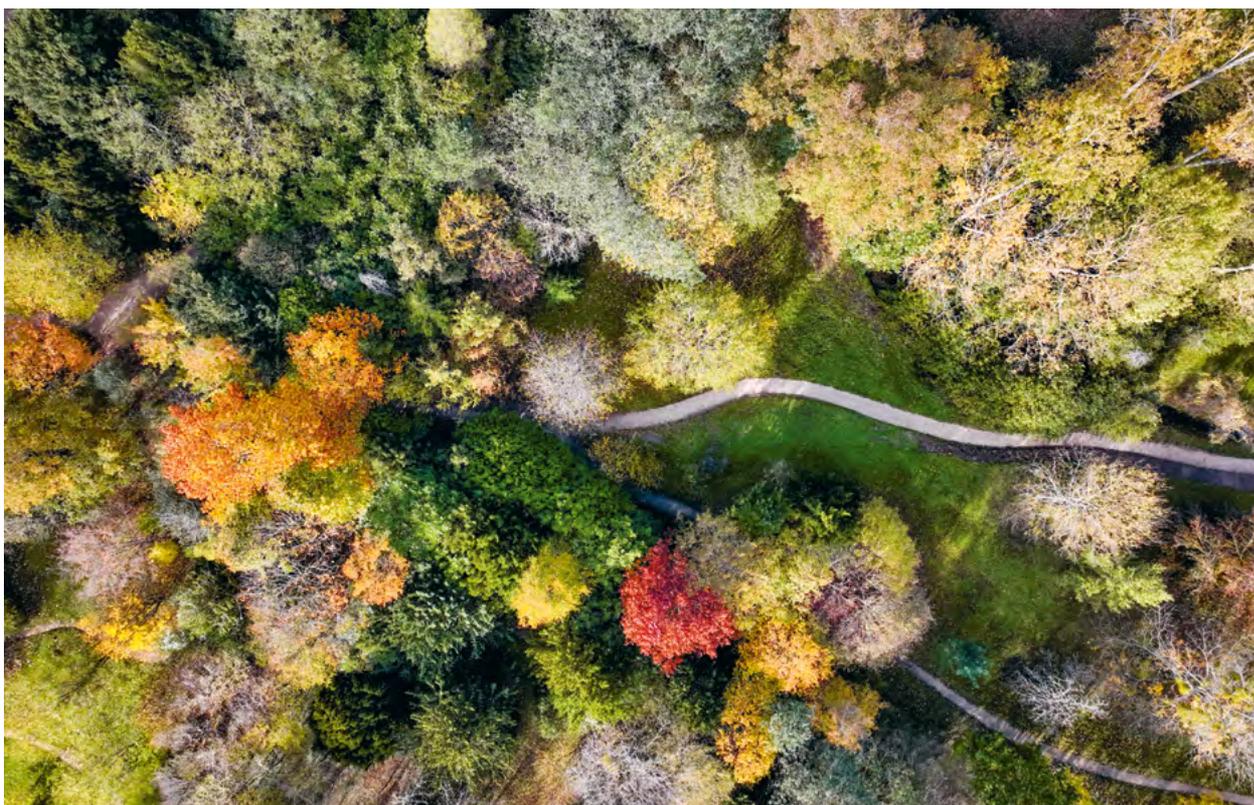
HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

As the first public cultural establishment to carry out a carbon footprint analysis in the 2000s, the Palace of Versailles has followed an environmentally responsible path for many years to minimize its impact. Thanks to the work of more than 1,000 agents, it implements a cross-cutting approach within its various departments, promoting sustainable development initiatives that address the institution's ecological and societal concerns.

An estimated 350,000 trees grow on the grounds, including eight dominant species (oak, maple, ash, beech, chestnut, walnut, linden, hornbeam) and nearly two dozen varieties of lesser prevalence (yew, hawthorn, etc.). These are just some of the more than 300 species of flowering plants identified throughout the Estate, which is also home to more than 60 bird species and a diverse animal population.

Preserving biodiversity thus stands out as a key issue for Estate management. Considering the ever-growing frequency and severity of environmental and climate crises, the teams are developing new ways to safeguard the natural heritage of Versailles.

Initiated following Cyclone Lothar in 1999, the park maintenance and replanting programme continues to be implemented in more distant and undeveloped areas, with a view to preserving the diverse mix of flora and fauna while also restoring the park to its appearance under the *Ancien Régime*.





II.

THE HORSE

at the Palace of Versailles

HISTORY OF HORSES AT VERSAILLES

Under the *Ancien Régime*, daily Court life at Versailles revolved around horses and the various tasks these animals fulfilled: entertainment, warfare and transport, for the royal family and courtiers alike. The horse contributed to the manifestation of royal power in all its guises.



Great Stables and Small Stables

The Great Stables and Small Stables were built between 1679 and 1683, when Louis XIV was at the pinnacle of his glory. Facing the palace, these new, ample stables were designed to accommodate several hundred royal horses from France, Europe and around the world, classified according to race and colour. The names Great Stables and Small Stables refer not to the size of the buildings, but to the prestige of the animals housed within. They served as glaring testimonies to the power of a kingdom that had risen to European pre-eminence under Louis XIV.

The royal stables were among the most important departments of the King's Household. The Great Stables was administered by the Grand Écuyer de France – known as *Monsieur le Grand* – while the Small Stables fell under the authority of the Premier Écuyer – *Monsieur le Premier*. The Grand Écuyer was responsible for saddle horses, trained for hunting and war. The Premier Écuyer was in charge of all other mounts, such as coach horses.

Traditional French equestrianism

The French equestrian arts first appeared under Louis XIII and developed further under Louis XIV, reaching their peak at Versailles. French riding style aimed for perfect harmony between the horse and rider, prompting the animal to behave with all the grace of its natural attitudes. The mastery and flair of the King's equerries contributed to the prestige of the kingdom.

A passion for the hunt

One activity for which horses were particularly in demand was hunting; indeed, the very roots of Versailles lie in the Bourbon love of the hunt. Louis XIII was so enamoured with the forests of Versailles that, in 1623, he ordered the construction of a modest hunting lodge that would be transformed by Louis XIV into the palace we know today. Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI shared this passion, leading hunting parties every two days on average. Even when he could no longer ride following an accident in 1686, Louis XIV continued to hunt aboard a carriage, holding the reins himself. Louis XV, who preferred hunting with hounds, considered the activity to be more than simple entertainment, displaying a predilection for its technical aspects. Louis XVI was also an avid hunter, and Marie-Antoinette, who spent much of her childhood on horseback, regularly took part in the hunt, even riding astride her horse rather than side-saddle, as was customary for ladies at the time.



THE HORSE IN PALACE COLLECTIONS

Horses are a familiar image in the decor of the Palace of Versailles: in painting and sculpture, real or mythological, depicted alone or with a rider, at war, during the hunt or on carousels, etc. The beauty and elegance of the animal's silhouette, the might of its musculature and the dignity of its gait provided inspiration for the finest artists. The Palace of Versailles collections feature several masterpieces portraying horses as symbols of glory and majesty. Today, in honour of the equestrian competitions at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the Palace of Versailles is organising a major exhibition devoted to the horse and equestrian culture in Europe between the 16th and 20th centuries. The event will stand out as the first of such magnitude to pay tribute to the horse.

The Apollo's Baths sculptures

François Girardon, Gilles Guérin, Sébastien Regnaudin, Balthazar and Gaspard Marsy

1666 - 1674

Marble

Original: lower vestibule of the Royal Chapel

Replica: Apollo's Baths Grove

The Grotto of Tethys, named for a titan of Greek mythology, sister of Oceanus, is one of the masterpieces of Louis XIV's initial idea of Versailles. Built in 1666, this artificial grotto featured, amid a refined decor made up of shells and fountains, an large-scale marble sculptural ensemble: one groupe portraying *Apollo servi par les nymphes* ("Apollo Served by the Nymphs") by François Girardon and Thomas Regnaudin, and two groups representing horses: *Les Chevaux du Soleil pansés par les tritons* ("Tritons Grooming the Horses of the Sun"), by Balthazar and Gaspard Marsy, and *Les Chevaux du Soleil s'abreuvant* ("Horses of the Sun Drinking") by Gilles Guérin. The scene depicted by the three sculptures takes place at dusk, as Apollo and his horses enjoy well-earned rest after having driven the sun across the sky: Nymphs serve Apollo while tritons groom or water his horses. The god's features mirror those of Louis XIV, thus inferring a link between Apollo's daily undertaking and the monarch's royal duty: to work tirelessly in the service of the kingdom.

Built to inspire awe, the Grotto of Tethys was demolished in 1684 and the sculptural groups moved to an early iteration of the Apollo's Baths Grove in 1704. In 1781, painter and landscaper Hubert Robert modified the grove, giving it the shape we know today.



Unsurpassed masterpieces of 17th century French art, today Apollo's horses are on display in the lower vestibule of the Royal Chapel, almost exactly where the Grotto of Tethys once stood. Replicas have adorned the Apollo's Baths Grove since 2000.

Equestrian statue of Louis XIV

Pierre Cartellier, Louis-Messidor-Lebon Petitot
1825 - 1836
Bronze
Place d'Armes

This work was originally commission by Louis XVIII as a statue representing Louis XV, to be placed on the Champs-Élysées Roundabout. However, the project was cut short by the July Revolution: by 1830, only the horse had been cast. Louis-Philippe resurrected the project, commissioning the sculpture of a rider in 1834. Rather than Louis XV, he chose the likeness of Louis XIV with the intention of placing the statue in the Royal Courtyard of the Palace of Versailles in 1837. The work remained in place until 2009, when it was moved to the edge of the Place d'Armes upon the restitution of the Royal Gate. The docile horse, inspired by the ancient Roman statue of Marcus Aurelius, is a perfect symbol of a political animal: the rider dominates his mount just as the King dominates his subjects.



Apollo's fountain

Jean-Baptiste Tuby
1668 - 1670
Gilded lead
Gardens of Versailles

Located at the mid-point of the *Grande Perspective* at the end of the Royal Way running from the palace to the Grand Canal, the Apollo's fountain is undoubtedly one of the most renowned pools in the gardens of Versailles. The basin is adorned in its centre with a sculptural composition representing Apollo's quadriga rising from the sea to bring light to the world, a masterpiece executed by Jean-Baptiste Tuby between 1668 and 1670, at the height of Louis XIV's reign, and cast at the Manufacture des Gobelins.

The lead sculpture comprises 13 statues and weighs nearly 30 tonnes. At the centre of the piece, Apollo stands on his four-horse chariot accompanied by a cherub. Tritons mark the four cardinal points, while dolphins are perched at the edges between them.

The sculptural group underwent a fundamental restoration from December 2022 to March 2024.



Louis XIV in the guise of Marcus Curtius

Le Bernin

1671 - 1688

Marble

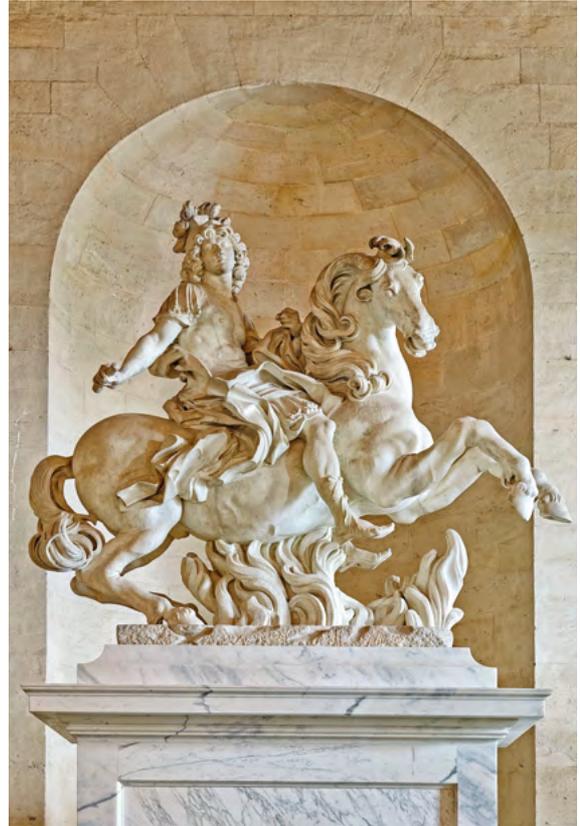
Palace Orangery

In 1665, during his visit to France, Gianlorenzo Bernini promoted the idea for a grandiose monument to the glory of the King. The commission was formalised in 1667 and Bernini created the statue in Rome with the help of artists in residence in the Académie de France, working under the master's watchful direction. Intended to depict the art of harnessing brute force, the work displays the King in the guise of a modern-day Hercules, climbing the mountain of virtue upon a rearing horse, its marble body seeming to defy the laws of physics.

The statue remained in Rome for nearly two decades, until 1684. The following year, it arrived in Versailles where it was unveiled to Louis XIV inside the Orangery. The King found the work disappointing: his criticism is said to have concerned the horse's over-elaborate posture, the lack of accuracy in the royal likeness, the extravagant folds of the fabric, etc. The statue was nevertheless installed on the parterre of the Orangery where it stood until 1688, when it was altered by Girardon and displayed behind the Neptune Fountain.

It was moved once again in 1702 to close the southern perspective of the gardens: isolated and invisible on the far side of the Lake of the Swiss Guards, this masterpiece was largely forgotten.

The original has now been on display in the Orangery for many years. On 21 December 1988, a lead replica was installed in the Cour Napoléon of the Louvre Museum, while a copy adorns the edge of the Lake of the Swiss Guards.



Napoleon at the Saint-Bernard Pass

Jacques-Louis David

1802

Oil on canvas

Marengo Room, Palace of Versailles

In this iconic painting, Jacques-Louis David captures the power and energy of Napoleon Bonaparte crossing the Alps at the start of the victorious and celebrated Italian campaign of 1799-1800. The first version of the painting was executed in the wake of the expedition. In all, five such works were painted, the canvas on display at Versailles being the third.

With this painting, the artist created a neoclassical masterpiece and one of the most emblematic examples of Napoleonic propaganda. In the foreground, the future emperor appears mounted on a rearing horse, his outstretched arm pointing the way for his soldiers, visible in the background. The strongly diagonal composition contributes to the dynamism of the scene. Napoleon's serene gaze seems to address the viewer. His bright red cloak billows in the wind, gripping the gaze amid the austere landscape. The blue uniform, white horse and red cloak evoke the colours of France.

The names of Hannibal and Charlemagne are engraved on rocks at the bottom of the scene. Napoleon adroitly ties his destiny to these two giants of history in whose steps he follows.



Equestrian portrait of Louis XIV

René-Antoine Houasse

1674

Oil on canvas

Mars Room, the King's State Apartment

This masterful equestrian portrait of Louis XIV by René-Antoine Houasse is undated. The King appears to be in his forties, which would indicate that the work was painted in the 1670s. The battle in the background likely represents the final campaigns of the Dutch War, which ended in 1678 with the victory of Louis XIV.

The King is mounted on a superb Perline horse performing the dressage air known as the “levade”. Unlike the equestrian portraits by Pierre Mignard representing the King in Roman garb before Maastricht or wearing armour before Namur, here the sovereign wears an exceedingly luxurious French costume. With this composition, René-Antoine Houasse replicated for the King of France the famous equestrian portraits of Philip IV of Spain painted by Diego Velázquez.



Coronation coach of Charles X

Charles Percier, Étienne-Frédéric Daldringen

1814-1856

Sculpted and gilded wood, gilded metal and bronze,
leather, velvet, glass

Gallery of Coaches

This carriage, surely one of the world's finest, was initially commissioned for the coronation of Louis XVIII and ultimately built for that of Charles X. Designed by architect Charles Percier and completed in less than six months in 1825 by carriage maker Étienne-Frédéric Daldringen, it was used a mere three times: twice during the coronation of Charles X for his entry into Reims and subsequent entry into Paris, and once under Napoleon III for the baptism of his son Louis-Napoléon, Imperial Prince. The carriage was modified for this event, with the addition of the imperial insignia.

It exhibits monumental dimensions: 14.8 ft. in height and 22 ft. in length, weighing nearly five tonnes, much heavier than a conventional carriage owing to the extraordinary quantity of engraved and gilded bronze. The vehicle stands out as a masterpiece in every regard: the gilders, sculptors, painters and embroiderers executed an exceptional carriage awash in luxury and refinement. The exterior is entirely sculpted and gilded, while the interior is draped in crimson silk richly embellished with gold embroidery. In the French tradition, it was pulled by a team of eight horses.



THE ROYAL STABLES TODAY

Today, the Great Stables and Small Stables are fully incorporated into the National Estate of Versailles. In the north, the Great Stables of the King is home to the National Equestrian Academy of the Estate of Versailles. Founded in 2003 by Bartabas, this institution ranks among the heirs to the King's equerries, who first brought acclaim to the French equestrian tradition. The Academy continues to play a key role in creating live performances, while preserving and passing down expertise in the equestrian arts.

Campus Versailles will be established at the Great Stables by 2025 with the aim of creating a unique training centre dedicated to professions in the field of artistic crafts and heritage, central facets of French savoir-faire.

Finally, the Great Stables houses the Gallery of Coaches, a peerless collection of ceremonial vehicles from the 18th and 19th centuries: sedan chairs, children's carriages, and extravagant sleighs. The pieces on display provide remarkable insight into Court life and the refinements of the *Ancien Régime*, the Empire, the Bourbon Restoration and the 3rd Republic.

To the south, the Small Stables now hosts the Research and Restoration Centre for the Museums of France and the Versailles National Superior School of Architecture, as well as the Gallery of Sculptures and Casts. This last stands out for its extraordinary collections of works from the 17th and 18th centuries, a wealth of specimens of Greek and Roman architecture and more than 5,500 historical mouldings featured in the catalogue of the Louvre Museum Department of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities. In addition to this magnificent assortment, the gallery houses the originals of masterpieces that once adorned the gardens of Louis XIV at Versailles. Restored and moved to safe shelter, these works have been replaced with replicas as part of an extensive preservation campaign.







III.

2024

PROGRAMME

HORACE VERNET

Until 17 March 2024 – Palace of Versailles

The Palace of Versailles is devoting a major retrospective to the painter Horace Vernet (1789-1863). Initially associated with Versailles under Louis-Philippe, over a period spanning more than 13 years the artist produced some of the finest works in the historical galleries. Today, the Palace boasts the largest collection of Vernet's paintings. This retrospective, assembling more than 200 works and taking place more than four decades after the last exhibition devoted to Vernet, offers visitors the chance to discover a number of never-before-seen masterpieces, along with sketches and drawings illustrating the artist's method.



IMPERIAL SILKS FOR VERSAILLES

MOBILIER NATIONAL COLLECTION

From 19 March to 23 June 2024 – Grand Trianon

In February 1810, Napoleon, who had expressed the desire to refurbish Versailles, granted a special fund of six million francs for this purpose. At the same time, Lyon silk manufacturers were facing great difficulties. Looking to support the struggling industry, the Emperor chose to place a substantial order worth some two million francs. Between 1811 and 1813, no less than 50 miles of fabrics were delivered by the Lyon silk manufacturers to the Imperial Garde-Meuble for Versailles. This exhibition from the Palace of Versailles and the Mobilier National looks back on the history of this great commission.



EVA JOSPIN – VERSAILLES

From 18 June to 29 September 2024 – Orangery

The Palace of Versailles is inviting artist Eva Jospin to present her work *Silk Room* at the exhibition *Eva Jospin – Versailles* at the Orangery, organised thanks to the patronage of Parfums Christian Dior.

Inspired by the Embroidery Room of the Palazzo Colonna in Rome and Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, *Silk Room* is a triumph of embroidery. Its 3,767 sq. ft. of landscapes were created by the craftsmen of the Chanakya workshop and the Chanakya School of Craft in Mumbai, with constant input from Eva Jospin. Each detail of the artist's design was transfigured into thread using more than 400 shades of silk, cotton, and jute skeins, creating an installation reminiscent of 19th century panoramas. Eva Jospin previously presented *Silk Room* at the Dior Fall-Winter 2020–2021 haute couture fashion show at the invitation of Maria Grazia Chiuri.

A singular dialogue with the of the Palace of Versailles Orangery

To create this striking piece, Eva Jospin drew from her usual themes of choice: nature, leisurely strolls, and architectural follies. *Silk Room* will be presented in the Orangery in a linear fashion, encouraging visitors to wander and engage in an immersive experience.

Eva Jospin will be adding a new embroidery panel to her work for this exhibition. The panel takes inspiration from the groves of the gardens of Versailles, particularly the Apollo's Baths Grove, redesigned in the late 18th century by painter and landscape gardener Hubert Robert whose work nourishes Eva Jospin's reflection on the essential role of gardens. The Orangery's unique architectural strength makes it the ideal setting for the artist's monumental embroidery while also resonating with the work in terms of scale and theme: a visit to Versailles offers ample opportunities to wander among groves and waterfalls, just as the eye meanders at leisure through the textile panels. Eva Jospin has managed to capture a mirror image of another garden, just as spectacular as the gardens of Versailles.



THE HORSE IN MAJESTY AT THE HEART OF A CIVILISATION

From 2 July to 3 November 2024 – Palace of Versailles

As an artistic echo of the Paris 2024 equestrian competitions, thanks to the patronage of CMA CGM Group, the Palace of Versailles is presenting an exhibition of unprecedented breadth dedicated to the horse and equestrian civilisation in Europe. Through more than 300 works, viewers explore developments over nearly half a millennium, from the 16th to the 20th century. Beginning at the dawn of the modern era, a time of profound changes to the place and use of the horse in civilian and military society, the exhibition follows history up to the eve of World War I, which marked the end of a horse-drawn civilisation and the animal's new role in the fields of leisure and entertainment.

Consisting of 13 sections, the exhibition will enliven several of the Palace's most iconic spaces: the Africa Rooms, the Hercules Room, the Hall of Mirrors, the War and Peace Rooms, as well as the apartments of Madame de Maintenon and the Dauphine.

Of horses and Kings

The exhibition opens with a gallery presenting the favourite horses of European princes, sovereigns and emperors, through works such as the exceptional equine portraits making up the collection of Charles XI of Sweden, as well as more intimate paintings like those of Queen Victoria's Arabian horses.



Royal stables: animal palaces

This section will highlight the size and beauty of the royal and aristocratic stables built in the 17th and 18th centuries: Maisons, Versailles and Chantilly. These sites make plain the importance of horses as symbols of power under the *Ancien Régime*.

The art of riding

The Royal Stables of Versailles also function as an educational institution, imparting skills and knowledge. The Royal Riding School at Versailles saw the art of traditional French riding reach a level of singular perfection.

The horse: master of war

One of the most compelling aspects of the tender bond between man and horse can be seen in their shared adventure in war, and often in death. The exhibition will explore the motif of the cavalry charge with a prime focus on the timeless work of Leonardo da Vinci portraying horses and soldiers as a single body, fierce and spectacular.

The horse in death

The exhibition will illustrate the carnage of modern warfare from an unconventional perspective: the massacre of horses. Through the countless equine corpses strewn about the foreground of paintings, artists accentuate the violence and wastefulness of combat.

Horses in revelry: show horses

Equestrian games were paramount events in the life of European courts. The exhibition will offer several rare accounts of these fleeting festivities: ceremonial lances, extravagant shields and quivers, sketches of caparisons, lavish gouache renderings of Swedish carousels, illuminated drawings and manuscripts.

Horses & luxury: opulence in the stables

Following from the arts of revelry, the exhibition will present an assortment of strikingly luxurious equestrian adornments fashioned as veritable objets d'art.

Ceremonial armour

The exploration continues in the royal apartments where visitors will encounter still more unexpected wonders, starting with a complete ensemble of parade armour showcased in the Hercules Room.

Masterpieces of metalwork

The crowning glory of these awe-inspiring evocations, the Peace Room will feature an array of silversmithing masterpieces as precious as they are poetic.



Horses & science

The exhibition will also reveal the relationship between art and science through an anatomical study of the horse. In particular, the earliest drawings by Andrea del Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci, icons in the art world, will be united for the first time thanks to the gracious collaboration of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the British Royal Collection.

The horse as model



From time immemorial, the horse has been a favourite subject and a source of inspiration for artists. The exhibition will present various masterpieces of the genre: The Piebald Horse by Paulus Potter (J. Paul Getty Museum), as well as the spectacular portraits of Eugène Delacroix and Théodore Géricault.

Horses & Legend

The exhibition will highlight the unbridled imagination surrounding the equine frame in late 19th century art: the fantastic cavalcades of Nordic mythology dialogue with the massive and extravagant paintings of Ulpiano Checa.



Galloping into a new world

The visit will conclude with the final days of equestrian civilisation. Within a few mere decades, a millennia-old way of life ceased to exist: the advent of the railroad and automotive industries took the world to new and dizzying speeds, eclipsing the steady cadence of horses' hooves.

RESTORATION OF APOLLO'S FOUNTAIN

Until 29 March 2024

Apollo's fountain, one of the most famous fountains in the gardens of Versailles, is undergoing a comprehensive restoration thanks to the patronage of CMA CGM Group. The sculpture will be reinstalled in February 2024 to allow the fountain artisans to revive the traditional water features, which will resume from 29 March for the musical fountains shows, and of course for the Olympic Games.

An iconic fountain

Located in the mid-point of the *Grande Perspective*, between the Palace and the *Étoile Royale*, Apollo's fountain represents daybreak. Created by Jean-Baptiste Tuby between 1668 and 1670 during the reign of Louis XIV, this lead sculptural group comprises 13 statues and weighs nearly 30 tonnes. At the centre of the piece, Apollo stands accompanied by a cherub on his four-horse chariot. Tritons mark the four cardinal points of the composition, while dolphins are perched at the edges between them.

Condition prior to restoration

Despite continuous maintenance, Apollo's Chariot showed considerable deterioration due to the technical demands of water features. The last major restoration was carried out a century ago, between 1923 and 1927. Restoring the works became a matter of urgency to remedy the structural deformations caused by corrosion of the internal framework, significant deterioration of the lead and severe erosion of the surface coating. Moreover, the water effects become discordant, with barely a passing resemblance to their initial, synchronized choreography.



Comprehensive restoration



December 2022

Launch of the restoration: the 13 lead sculptures were dismantled for transport to the Coubertin Foundry.



Since January 2023

The sculptures were individually overhauled: consolidation of the framework, cleaning of the lead shell, straightening of deformed components and sealing of cracks.



Since April 2023

At the same time, each restored sculpture was re-gilded using the traditional gold leaf technique.

December 2023 - January 2024

Following consolidation of the framework, craftsmen in the lead workshop commenced work on the sculpture of Apollo. The final piece of the group to be restored, it is also the most massive: 8.9 ft. tall and weighing 6.5 tonnes.

Following restoration of the lead shell, gilders will continue the metamorphosis. As with all the statues making up the group, restorers apply the various coats of primer and gold size before applying the gold leaf. They then burnish the sculpture in warm tones to recreate the original bronze hue.

February 2024

The sculptural group will return to its location at the heart of the gardens of Versailles. The Palace's fountain artisans will then take over, creating new fittings and nozzles to reproduce the original water effects.

From 29 March 2024

The fountain will be fully reopened for the musical fountains shows. This spectacular restoration procedure aims to re-create the harmony and visual synchronisation of an emblematic fountain while re-establishing the full splendour of the *Grande Perspective* as imagined by Louis XIII and Louis XIV.



RESTORATION OF THE HONOUR GATE

Until spring 2024

The Palace of Versailles has initiated the restoration of the Honour Gate, the main entrance to the Estate, along with the two surrounding sculptural groups by Girardon and Massy. Thanks to funding from the Department of Yvelines, this operation will restore the original layout of the gate, along with the ornamentations added in the 19th century. The scaffolding, installed in September 2023, will remain in place until spring 2024, when the restored Honour Gate will be unveiled to the public.



RESTORATION OF THE ŒIL-DE-BŒUF ANTECHAMBER

Until June 2024

An iconic room in the daily life of the court under the reign of Louis XIV, the Œil-de-Bœuf antechamber is undergoing a comprehensive restoration. This operation will restore the woodwork, the gilding, and the painted décor of this masterpiece of decorative arts. The Palace is also bringing the King's Apartments into compliance, including the famous King's Chamber. They will all be presented to the public in summer 2024.



RESTORATION OF THE BANKS OF THE GRAND CANAL

Until spring 2024

In 2023, the Palace of Versailles launched the restoration of the banks of the Grand Canal, a major architectural element of the park designed by André Le Nôtre. By spring 2024, thanks to the patronage of Jacquemus, 420 modern concrete copings in the menagerie branch of the canal will be replaced by copings made of Saint-Leu stone. This historical and resilient material, mined from quarries in the Oise valley, will provide a long-lasting improvement to the basin, all while making it more watertight.



RESTORATION OF THE GRAND TRIANON ROOFS

Until spring 2024

In 2023, the Palace of Versailles began restoring the roofs of the Grand Trianon, located at the far northern end of the Grand Canal. By 2024, the southern wing will be completely restored, beginning the preservation of one of the most intimate and sophisticated sites in the Estate of Versailles, built in 1687 for Louis XIV and Madame de Maintenon.



EPHEMERAL GARDENS AT THE GRAND TRIANON

From June to October 2024

Every year, the Grand Trianon gardeners design ephemeral parterres on an original theme. In 2024, visitors will discover two parterres with distinct identities:

- The Upper Parterre, thanks to the patronage of Maison Francis Kurkdjian, will unveil an aromatic botanical creation inspired by the Perfumer's Garden opened to the public in June 2023;

- The Lower Parterre will be also be covered in blossoms this summer, with a nod to the equestrian competitions of the 2024 Paris Games. The gardeners will transform these four squares of turf into a "pony garden" by planting highly colourful floral elements.

These two parterres will offer visitors a unique and playful perspective, enchanting kids and adults alike.



RESTORATION OF THE SOUTH PARTERRE

Until June 2024

The South Parterre is one of the three grand parterres at the entrance of the Gardens of Versailles. Created in 1661 by Le Nôtre and expanded in 1687, the parterre is composed of an axial pathway planted with topiaries, with two symmetrical basins surrounded by four sections, composed of boxwoods, cut sod, flowers, and topiaries. Inside the sections, flower beds are cut into a lacework in the shapes of rinceaux, palms, and arabesques on top of a stone backdrop. Over time, the design was simplified: some yew trees were not replaced while others grew too big; boxwoods suffered from disease; and finally the flowerbeds overgrew their borders.

This restoration will reestablish the precision of the designs, while a base of coloured stone will highlight the lacework patterns. The sections of turf will be varied and embellished with flowers. The frequency and dimensions of the topiaries will be reestablished in proper proportion with the parterre. This operation is supported by the Department of Hauts-de-Seine and the Department of Yvelines.



A REIMAGINED WELCOME AREA

Summer 2024 – South Ministers’ Wing

Upon entering the Palace via the Honour Courtyard, the public is presented with a large and reimagined Welcome Area and informational space, where they can access all the services necessary for a comfortable visit (ticket window, bathrooms, boutique, recommendations, and visitor assistance).

In summer 2024, a 4,800 ft² “concierge-lounge” space – unheard-of in a museum – will offer a restaurant service designed to improve visitor experience.

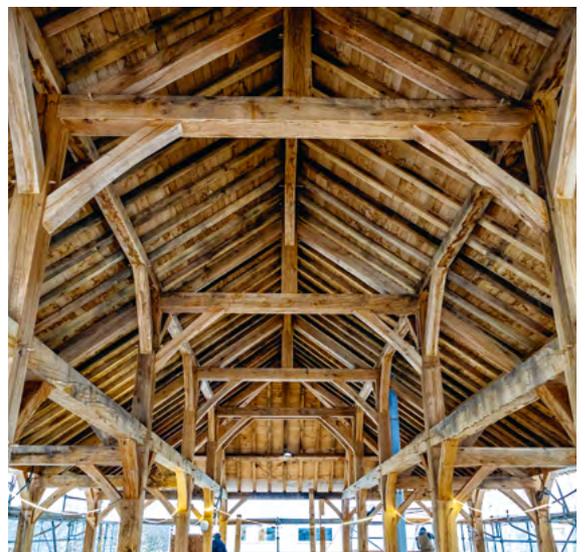


A NEW LOBBY

After April 1st 2024 – At the edge of the gardens

In order to improve comfort for the visiting public, a 2900 ft² Lobby is being built at the edge of the Gardens. Starting in spring 2024, this space, accessible on foot, will offer all visitors a covered picnic area protected from the wind. In the lower floor of the building, taking advantage of the sloping terrain, a spacious restroom area will be accessible to all the visitors to the Palace and the Gardens.

Consisting of a traditional oak framework covered in flat tiles, this building evokes a bygone 18th century hall in the same location that was used as a “warehouse for the King’s amusements.” It served as the stockroom for materials used in the Royal Opera, located right beside it.



UNIQUE GUIDED VISITS

All year long

Specially designed around the Olympic Games, public visits about art and sports are on offer all year long: “Versailles: Games and Sport”; “Dancing at the Court”; “Gods and Heros”; “Versailles by Horse or by Carriage”; “Horses in Art”; “All Muscled-Up: Representations of Heros and Athletes.” Even a “Versailles by Bicycle” visit is available in the Park.

From 2 to 6 April 2024

As part of the Olympic and Paralympic week organised by the Ministry of National Education in partnership with the French National Sporting Movement, the Palace of Versailles offers a program of guided visits for students to help them discover the collections of the museum through the prism of sports and art.



ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 18-25

All year long

Specific activities are also offered for visitors between 18 and 25, such as the “Heroic Nudes” and “The Queen’s Bath” visits, and the “Model Drawing” and “Meditation at Trianon” Workshops.



ARTS PENTATHLON

From November 2023 to March 2024

The Palace of Versailles invites students, people with disabilities and those unaccustomed to culture to participate in the Arts Pentathlon, thanks to the patronage of MGEN. Inspired by the Pentathlon of the Muses designed by Pierre de Coubertin for the 1912 Games, this program invites participants to join workshops in five artistic disciplines: visual arts; literature and writing; digital arts; architecture and design; and music and performing arts.

8 and 9 June 2024

A few weeks before the beginning of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, the events of the Arts Pentathlon will be offered to families on a special weekend: June 8th and 9th, 2024.



VERSAILLES IN BLOOM PASSING DOWN SAVOIR-FAIRE

Until August 2024

In 2024, the Palace of Versailles will bring back the *Versailles in Bloom* project, which invites youths in vocational programs in the cities of Mureaux and Plaisir to discover the trades of Versailles. In order to apply the learned skills, 200 youths will create botanical artwork on the theme of “horses.”



STOPPING BY VERSAILLES DREAMS IN MOTION

Until September 2024

Organised by the Palace of Versailles with the *Association Nouvelle du Vivre Ensemble*, this project offers an introduction to dance through studio time with choreographers to people living with disability. Then a photographer will immortalise the body in movement as they perform the choreography. These photographs will be exposed at the Palace of Versailles starting 15 June 2024.

This project is made possible through the patronage of McArthurGlenn and the support of the Department of Yvelines and CAF 78.



JUST DANCE 2024 EDITION "A NIGHT AT THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES"

The Palace of Versailles, Ubisoft and the National Centre of Cinematography and Animated Pictures (CNC) joined forces to create a new map, "A Night at the Palace of Versailles," to commemorate the release of the musical video game, Just Dance 2024 Edition.

Immersed in the heart of 18th century Versailles, players travel through the iconic sites of the Palace and the Gardens all while dancing to two pieces of Baroque music modernised in a pop arrangement: *La Marche pour la Cérémonie des Turcs* by Jean-Baptiste Lully and *Les Sauvages* by Jean-Philippe Rameau.



FOUNTAINS SHOWS AND MUSICAL GARDENS

From 29 March to 31 October 2024 – The Gardens of the Palace of Versailles

In the spring and summer, the public can take a stroll through the heart of the French gardens of the Palace of Versailles to the rhythm of baroque music (Lully, Haendel, Charpentier, Campra, Cavalli...). Meandering away from a blooming parterre, in a grove not usually open to the public, visitors find topiaries (plants shaped by hand) and a thousand statues, hidden masterpieces. musical fountains shows is an opportunity to discover these groves and their working fountains. The 55 fountains and basins with their 600 water shows are activated in the traditional manner with the help of a lyre-shaped key by the Palace of Versailles' fountain artists. With your family or with friends, a royal and musical stroll awaits visitors all day long.



CIMAROSA'S "L'OLIMPIADE" A CONCERT VERSION OF THE OPERA

16 May 2024 – Royal Opera

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset, director

With Josh Lovell, Rocío Pérez, Marie Lys, Maite Beaumont,
Sophie Harmsen and Alex Banfield

A wink to the 2024 Olympic Games, conductor Christophe Rousset – a champion of the Italian baroque repertoire – highlights this rare work from the beginning of this bel canto by Cimarosa. Based on a libretto by Metastasio, *L'Olimpiade* makes heroes of athletes confronting each other at Olympus in a series of Games whose winner will get to marry the princess with several unexpected twists throughout. This dazzling rendition turns this dramatic masterpiece by a Neapolitan composer into a true piece of musical fireworks.



VERSAILLES ELECTRO

18 May 2024 – *Palace of Versailles Terraces*

After the success of previous iterations, the Palace of Versailles is once again opening its gardens for a new electronic evening on the Palace terraces. An exceptional evening at the foot of the Hall of Mirrors, overlooking the French gardens and drawing in thousands of spectators. This otherworldly moment continues the tradition of the first parties from the time of the Sun King, and also evokes Versailles as the cradle of French electronic music.



LES FÊTES GALANTES

27 May 2024 – *Palace of Versailles*

In costumes identical to the clothes from the most beautiful eras of Versailles, participants of the *Fêtes Galantes* are invited to rediscover the refined and artistic ambiance of the “apartment parties” organised by the King. All evening long, they roam the King’s State Apartments and the Hall of Mirrors, visiting the Royal Opera, learning baroque dances, participating in baroque or sacred music concerts, and visiting the King’s Private Apartments, or those of Madame du Barry or the Mesdames. An unforgettable and timeless evening.



THE GRAND MASKED BALL

8 June 2024 – The Orangery at the Palace of Versailles

The Palace of Versailles still echoes with the great royal parties that lit up the Court in its heyday. From its first iteration, the Palace of Versailles' Grand Masked Ball has celebrated these fanciful and sophisticated nights through an evening that has become unmissable. The Palace of Versailles' Orangery opens its doors and its gardens for this memorable and whimsical evening. The dancers, performers, and artists revel until sunrise, then head to an after-party in the Grove of the Ballroom. Dressed up in their finest baroque costumes and their masks, participants make the most of this breathtaking evening.



THE NIGHT FOUNTAINS SHOW

From 8 June to 21 September 2024 – Gardens of the Palace of Versailles

Every Saturday night in summer, the gardens of the Palace of Versailles glow with a thousand flames and invite the public on a voyage through time to the rhythms of the music of the Sun King. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to stroll through the groves usually closed to the public and to admire the fountains bursting with water and light. To end the evening, the pyrotechnicians of Groupe F, true magicians of fireworks, join on the *Grande Perspective* for a royal show of fireworks.

Noteworthy dates

Saturday 8 and 15 June – Option to come in Baroque costume

Sunday 14 July – National Party

Thursday 15 August – The Fire Night Fountains Show

Saturday 21 September – The Electro Night Fountains Show



THE ROYAL SERENADE

From 8 June to 14 September 2024 – The King's State Apartments and the Hall of Mirrors

Every Saturday in summer, the Royal Serenade allows participants to discover the King's State Apartments at the Palace of Versailles like they've never been seen before. As the sun sets, this visit/performance offers a unique experience from the Royal Chapel to the Hall of Mirrors, where artists, dancers, musicians, singers, and fencers – all bedecked in sumptuous baroque costumes – bring back to life the scenes from the 17th century court to which the gold of Versailles bore witness. An exceptional immersion into the most beautiful rooms of the Palace of Versailles.



COLIN DE BLAMONT'S "LES FÊTES GRECQUES ET ROMAINES" A CONCERT VERSION OF THE OPERA

4 July 2024 – Royal Opera

La Chapelle Harmonique
Valentin Tournet, director
With Cyrille Dubois, David Witczak,
Marie-Claude Chappuis, H  l  ne Carpentier,
C  cile Achille and Gwendoline Blondeel

Les F  tes grecques et romaines, the first opera by Colin de Blamont, has been a success since its creation. This heroic ballet brings different classical festivals to the stage, notably the Greek Olympic Games. Valentin Tournet, accompanied by his ensemble La Chapelle Harmonique, breathe life into these unique "festivals" immortalised by an 18th century French composer–Lully's worthy successor–with subtle and harmonious music, endowed with gracious and rousing melody.





IV.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

for journalists and visitors

JOURNALISTS

Contact the Press Office

The Palace of Versailles Press Office is at your service to answer your questions and help you organise your reporting:

Hélène Dalifard, Violaine Solari, Élodie Mariani, Barnabé Chalmin

+33 (0)1 30 83 75 21

presse@chateauversailles.fr

Please find the latest news and press releases at: en.chateauversailles.fr/press

The press office is your primary contact for the following subjects:

- news about the Palace of Versailles (exhibitions, restoration work, integration of the Olympic Games into the heart of the site and the preservation of patrimony, etc.)
- history, heritage, and the collections of the Palace,
- trades and savoir-faire marshalled for the preservation of the Palace,
- the institution (Public Establishment, budget, etc.)

The press office is also available to facilitate your access to the Palace.

What falls under the scope of the Press Office?

The Press Office covers: the stables, the Place d'Armes, the entry courtyards of the Palace and all the interior spaces, the garden and its groves, the park (Grand Canal, the wooded pathways), the Trianon Estate (the Grand and Petit Trianon and the Queen's Hamlet).

To film, take photographs, or hold interviews within the Estate of Versailles, no matter the kind of media (print journalism, radio, television, web), requires authorisation. To obtain it, contact the Press Office.

Drone filming within the Estate of Versailles requires prior authorisation. Authorisation is granted by the Yvelines Prefecture –(Office of Regulation and Elections, office of general regulation) – and the Palace of Versailles (Press Office). The average response time is three weeks. Address your requests to: pref-police-aerienne@yvelines.gouv.fr

The Palace of Versailles has several images (photo and video) available on demand under certain conditions.

The Palace of Versailles Press Office does not offer credentials for the Olympic Games.



Other useful press contacts

- **Paris 2024:** For questions on the Olympic Games organised at the Palace of Versailles, access to the Olympic sites and credentials for the Games: media@paris2024.org

- **Château de Versailles Spectacles:** for open-air events (Musical Fountains Show, Musical Gardens Show, Night Fountains Show), events (*Les Fêtes Galantes*, Great Masked Ball in the Orangery, Versailles Electro), the musical season (at the Royal Opera, the Royal Chapel, etc.), and credentials for all these performances.

Nicolas Hustache
+33 (0)1 30 83 73 77
nhustache@chateauversailles-spectacles.fr

Opus 64
+33 (0)1 40 26 77 94
opus@opus64.com

- **National Equestrian Academy of Versailles:**
communication@acadequestre.fr

VISITORS

Opening of the Palace during the Games

The Palace of Versailles will maintain its normal operations (hours, access) during the Olympic Games.

Occasional restrictions of access for motor vehicles and pedestrians will affect certain days between 27 July and 11 August, and between 3 and 7 September.

All day-to-day practical information can be found at: en.chateauversailles.fr

Information and Reservations:
+33 (0)1 30 83 78 00
en.chateauversailles.fr

Find the Palace of Versailles on social media:



All programming at the Palace of Versailles (performances, concerts, events) can be found at: en.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr

The Palace of Versailles' mobile application offers an interactive map for visiting the entirety of the Estate, easily orientating yourself, real-time hours as well as tips for your visit, all the audio guides in 13 languages (for the Palace, the Gardens, the Trianon Estate, the Gallery of Coaches...), and full access to all the Palace of Versailles podcasts.

The application is available without an internet connection. Available in French, English, and Spanish.

Getting to Versailles from Paris

RER C, to Versailles Château – Rive Gauche.

SNCF trains from Montparnasse station, to Versailles - Chantiers.

SNCF trains from Saint-Lazare station, to Versailles - Rive Droite.

171 bus from the Pont de Sèvres RATP to Versailles - Place d'Armes.

Autoroute A13 (to Rouen), exit: Versailles – Château. Parking at the Place d'Armes. Parking is available for a fee, except for people with disabilities, and during performance nights after 7:30 pm.

Off-Season Hours Until 31 March

The Palace

Every day but Monday, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (last admission: 5:00 pm).

The Estate of Trianon

Every day but Monday, from 12:00 noon to 5:30 pm (last admission: 5:00 pm).

The Gardens

Every day, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (last admission: 5:30pm). Access is free through the Honour Courtyard or the Park.

The Park

Every day from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (last admission: 5:30 pm). Pedestrian and cyclist enter free from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm through: the Queen's Gate, the Sailor's Gate, the Saint Anthony Gate, and the Honour Gate (pedestrian access only).

Vehicular access every day from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm through the Queen's Gate and the Saint Anthony Gate.

Fee: 12€ per vehicle.

The Gallery of Coaches

Saturdays and Sundays, from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm (last admission: 4:45 pm). Free entry.

The Royal Tennis Court

Only by guided tour.

The Marly Estate

Every day from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (final admission: 5:30 pm) for pedestrians. Free entry through the Porte de Bourg (RD7).

High Season Hours

From 1st April to 31 October

The Palace

Every day but Monday, from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm (last admission: 6:00 pm).

The Estate of Trianon

Every day but Monday and 1 May, from 12:00 noon to 6:30 pm for the Grand and Petit Trianon (last admission: 6:00 pm). The Gardens close at 7:30 pm (they start clearing out at 7:00 pm).

The Gardens

Every day, from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm (last admission: 7:00 pm). Pedestrian access via the Honour Gate or the Park from 7:00 am to 8:30 pm and by the Dragon Gate from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm (last admission: 7:00 pm). Free entry, except on days of the Musical Fountains Show and the Musical Gardens Show.

The Park

Every day, from 7:00 am to 8:30 pm (last admission: 7:45 pm). Pedestrian and cyclist access: from 7:00 am to 8:30 pm (last admission at 7:45 pm) through the Queen's Gate, from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm (last admission: 7:00 pm) through the Sailor's Gate, Saint Anthony Gate, and the Honour Gate.
Fee: 12€ per vehicle.

The Gallery of Coaches

Saturdays and Sunday from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm (last admission: 5:45 pm). Free admission.

The Gallery of Sculptures and Casts

Saturdays and Sundays from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm (last admission: 5:45 pm). Free admission.

The Royal Tennis Court

Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm (last admission: 5:45 pm). Free admission.

The Marly Estate

Pedestrian access every day from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm (last admission: 7:00 pm). Entry via the Porte du Bourg, the Deux-Portes Gate, the Royal Gate, the Coeur-Volant Gate, the Porte du Roi and the Porte du Stade.

Extended hours from mid-May to mid-September:

- until 9:30 pm on weekends from 13 May to 25 August, 2024

- until 8:30 pm on weekends from 1 to 15 September, 2024

Fees

To access the Palace, a timed reservation is required, in order to decrease your wait time and increase the comfort of your visit. It is strongly recommended to purchase your tickets on the Palace of Versailles website.

Palace: 21€, 13€ (reduced price).

Trianon: 12€, 8€ (reduced price).

Passport: 24€, 32€ (days of the Musical Fountains Show and the Musical Gardens Show).

Audioguide, available in 13 languages: French, English, Spanish, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Korean, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Arabic): 5€, 4€ (reduced price).

Several guided tours are available all year round in French and English to discover the lesser-known spaces of the Palace, affording glimpses into the private lives of the royalty.

Fee: 10€ + entry to the Palace, 7€ (reduced price).

Entry to the Palace of Versailles is free for people under 18 years of age, people under 26 living in the European Union, people with a disability, and jobseekers in France, etc.

The complete list of free-entry and reduced-fee conditions is available at: en.chateauversailles.fr

On-Site Services

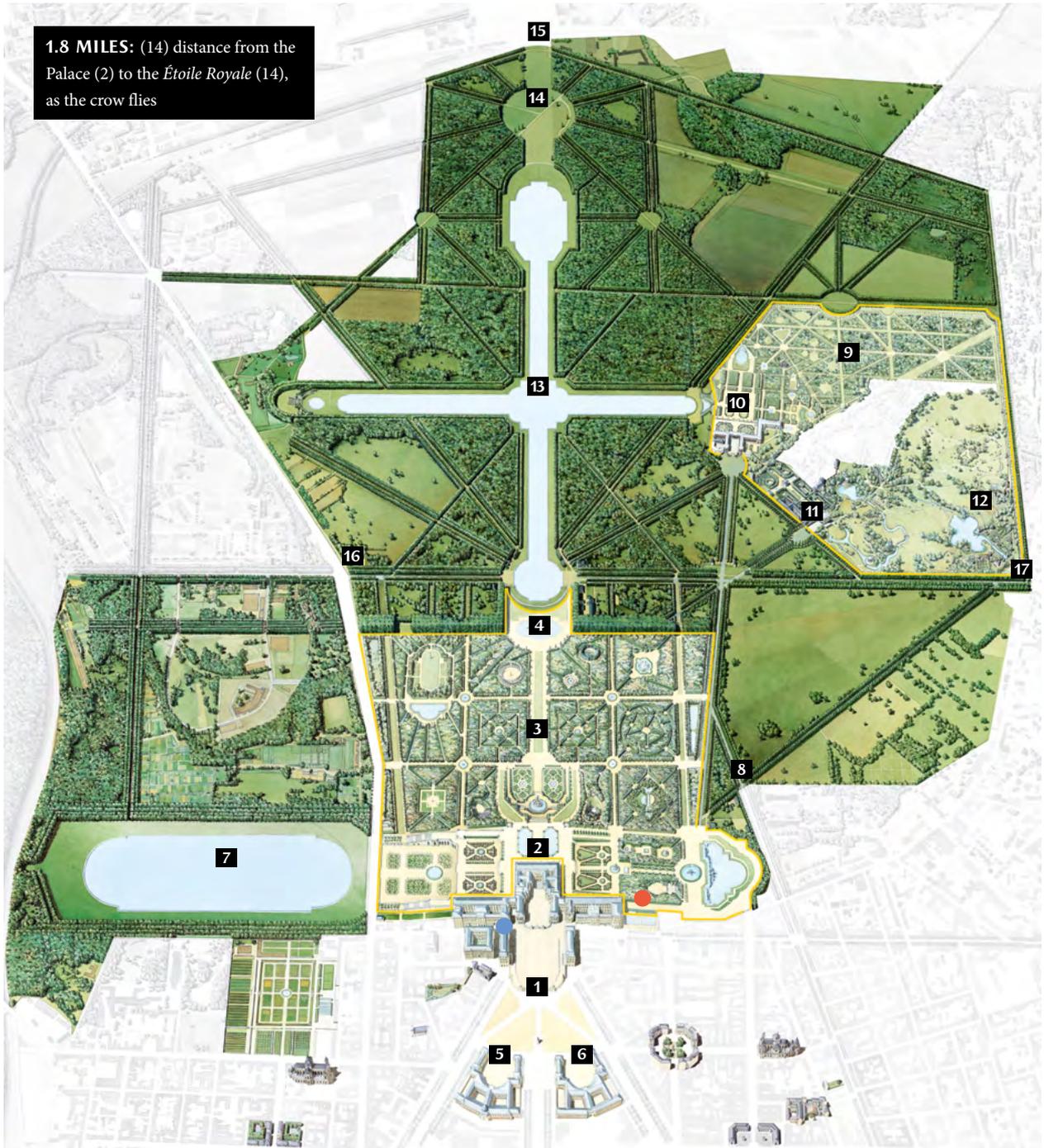
In order to improve the comfort of your visit, numerous services are offered to the public within the Estate of Versailles: information points, bathrooms, water fountains, cell phone charging stations, transportation within the gardens (via small train, electric mini-cars, bikes, rowboats...), boutiques, restaurants, etc.

Discover all that's on offer at:

en.chateauversailles.fr/plan-your-visit/facilities

MAP OF THE ESTATE

1.8 MILES: (14) distance from the Palace (2) to the *Étoile Royale* (14), as the crow flies



1 Honour Gate: Entrance of the Park

2 Palace of Versailles

3  Gardens of Versailles

4 Apollo's Fountain

5 Small Stables: Gallery of Sculptures and Casts

6 Great Stables: Gallery of Coaches and National Equestrian Academy of Versailles

7 Lake of the Swiss Guards

8 Queen's Gate: Park Entrance

9  Estate of Trianon

10 Grand Trianon

11 Petit Trianon

12 Queen's Hamlet

13 Grand Canal

14 *Étoile royale*

15 Entrance to the Olympic Site

16 Sailor's Gate

17 Saint Anthony Gate

 A reimagined welcome area
South Ministers' Wing

 A new lobby
At the edge of the Gardens











PRESS CONTACTS

Hélène Dalifard, Violaine Solari, Élodie Mariani, Barnabé Chalmin

+33 (0)1 30 83 75 21

presse@chateauversailles.fr

en.chateauversailles.fr/press