

CHAMBORD



2022

PRESENTATION FILE

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Introduction

In 2021, Chambord celebrated the 200th anniversary of the opening to the public of a monument that is the subject of worldwide admiration and fascination. Placed on the initial list of historic monuments in France in 1840, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981, Chambord is one of the Renaissance's most amazing buildings. Far from being a residential palace or a hunting lodge, Chambord embodies a true utopia: that of a brilliant work of art which has yet to reveal all its secrets.

Chambord is a unique location where harmony and modernity reign. Because preserving humanity's heritage is not a static attitude; rather, it involves perpetual re-evaluation in order to ensure that it responds to the wider public. Each year, new developments and innovative projects are presented to visitors and a rich programme of events punctuates the cultural season.

■ A tour of Chambord gives access to a world apart full of mystery, and unlocks the gates of genius.

This is a unique experience, from the moment visitors penetrate the 32-kilometre-long wall and enter the heart of a world apart, to the moment they come face to face with the genius of the architecture designed by François I and inspired by Leonardo da Vinci. Subsequently, each visitor to the estate is invited to design his or her own complete itinerary, starting from the Place Saint-Louis and heading towards the terraces of the château, taking in the royal residence, the 18th century kitchens, the children's quarters, the Ormetrou vineyards, the permaculture vegetable gardens, the Maréchal de Saxe's stables, the French gardens and the legendary double-spiral staircase!

Owned by the State since 1930, in 2005 the National Estate of Chambord became a public establishment of an industrial and commercial nature under the protection of the President of the Republic and the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition. The Board of Directors is chaired by Mr Augustin de Romanet. Since January 2010, the public establishment of Chambord has been directed by Mr Jean d'Haussonville.





History of the castle

500 years of history

1519. A palace emerged at the heart of the marshlands of Sologne. The boy king François I ordered its construction. The king liked to show his monumental architectural work to sovereigns and ambassadors as a symbol of his power, inscribed in stone. The plan for the castle and its decor was designed around a central axis: the famous double-spiral staircase, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci, an ascending spiral that leads from the first floor to the terraces which culminate in the Lantern Tower.

■ The completion of the works in the 17th century

The building was not completed until the reign of Louis XIV. The area around the castle was also developed at this time. Stables were built outside the castle and the river Cosson, which crosses the park, was partially channelled to clean

up the site. The Sun King and his court were to reside in the monument on a number of occasions. Molière even presented the premiere of his most famous comedy, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, at Chambord on 14 October 1670, in the presence of Louis XIV and the court.

■ The 18th century developments

In the 18th century, works were undertaken to fit out the interior of the castle. Louis XV subsequently (between 1725 and 1733) used it to house his father-in-law Stanislas Leszczyński, the exiled king of Poland, and then the Maréchal de Saxe, as a reward for his military victory at Fontenoy (1745). The need to bring warmth and comfort to the building led the various occupants to permanently furnish the castle and to have woodwork, parquet floors, false ceilings and small closets installed in the apartments.

During the Revolution, the castle was looted and the furniture was sold, but the monument escaped destruction.

■ In the 19th century: a private castle

Chambord was then abandoned until Napoleon donated it in 1809 to Maréchal Berthier in gratitude for his services. The latter only stayed there for a short time and his widow quickly asked for permission to sell the large property, which was in poor condition. Then, in 1821, the Chambord complex was offered by national subscription to the Duke of Bordeaux, grandson of King Charles X. The political events that led to his exile did not allow him to live in his castle, which allowed him to assume the title "Count of Chambord". He only became familiar with his estate during a short stay in 1871, during which he wrote his famous "*Manifesto of the white flag*" which led him to refuse the tricolour flag and thereby the throne. From a distance, however, the Count of Chambord was attentive to the upkeep of the castle and its grounds. He had the estate administered by a steward, undertook major restoration campaigns and officially opened the castle to the public. After his death in 1883, the estate was inherited by the Princes of Bourbon-Parme, his nephews.



LEONARDO DA VINCI, CHAMBORD'S ARCHITECT?

Was Chambord castle, an outstanding architectural creation, designed by Leonardo da Vinci?

Following the battle of Marignan, François I discovered the wonders of Italian architecture and the work of Leonardo da Vinci. On his return to France in 1516, François I invited the Italian master to stay at the French court as "the king's chief painter, architect and engineer". His influence on the design of the castle construction project can be seen when the architectural choices made (the centrally planned keep, the existence of a double-spiral staircase and double-pit latrine system with its ventilation duct, and the waterproofing system for the terraces, etc.) are compared with the sketches he made in his notebooks. No other artist, architect or engineer has left any trace of such principles. Chambord is therefore considered to be the master's first and last architectural creation; he died at the Château du Clos-Lucé in Amboise in 1519, a few months before the construction of Chambord actually began.

■ 20th century: Chambord, a haven for masterpieces during the Second World War

The castle and the park have been owned by the State since 1930.

In 1939, following the evacuation of the main museums in Paris, including the Louvre, thousands of works were sent in convoys to eleven castles and abbeys in central and western France, including Chambord. The castle, closed to the public, was to house thousands of works of art, mostly from French public collections, in order to preserve them from the bombings and the Nazis' greed.

With 4,000 m³ of crates stored in June 1944, Chambord became the largest of the 83 repositories used to house works of art during the conflict. Iconic works, such as *the Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci, *Liberty Guiding the People* by Delacroix or *The Lady with the Unicorn* were hidden at Chambord.

Thanks to zealous curators and heritage officials, national treasures survived the war unscathed, turning Chambord into an imaginary museum.

■ The 21st century, the beginning of a century of restrictions

The terrible floods of June 2016 forced the monument to temporarily close its gates to the public.

The half-millennium of the beginning of Chambord's construction in 1519 was celebrated in 2019! In a context of strong growth in attendance and self-financing, major initiatives have been launched. However, in 2020 and 2021, the health crisis led to repeated closures of the monument. Today, Chambord is working to become a laboratory of ecological transition, its general ambition being sustainable tourism.

■ Research at Chambord

In keeping with its mission to support scientific research and disseminate knowledge, the National Estate of Chambord supports various multidisciplinary research programmes. Catering for researchers, providing resources, participating in field work, co-producing mediation devices: there are many synergies around themes as diverse as Renaissance architecture and the rich biodiversity of the park.

Innovative digital mediation devices are thus made available to visitors to the castle.



The embodiment of the Renaissance

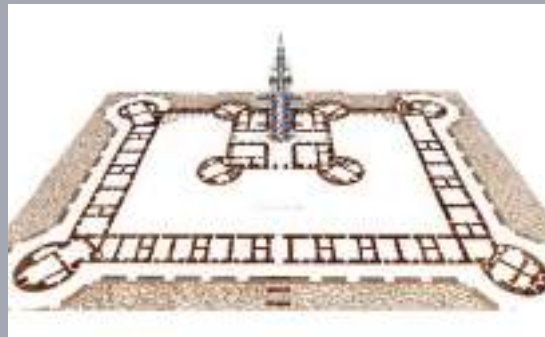
In the distance, its silhouette is immediately recognizable: the building, constructed in the heart of the surrounding woods and set in a plain full of gardens and parterres, little houses and roads, has an impressive array of roofs full of chimneys, dormers and turrets. Today, it resembles *Sleeping Beauty's castle*. During the Renaissance, it corresponded to the idea of the idealized palace conveyed by the medieval romances that were in vogue, such as *Amadis de Gaule* (1508).

There is something disturbing in this image composed of contrasts, combining the geometrical and the reasoned, the abundant and the whimsical, and the massive and the ethereal.

■ A centred plan

The central part of Chambord castle is its keep.

The internal composition of the keep is unique in France and undeniably Italianate. Its plan is centred on a Greek cross: the four sides of the building open onto large rooms nine metres wide and 18 metres long, forming a Greek cross. In the centre, the monumental double-spiral staircase unfolds. Finally, the cross shaped hall allowed standard dwelling spaces to be created in its corners.



A PHARAONIC CONSTRUCTION SITE



1539. After twenty years of work, the central keep of Chambord was completed. One thousand eight hundred labourers worked on the site at the height of activity. More than twenty thousand tons of tufa stone went up the Loire on barges from Tours to the port of Saint-Dyé. The slate for the roofs was extracted from quarries near Angers, the roof timbers were cut from nearby forests, and the lead for the waterproofing was shipped across the Channel from England.

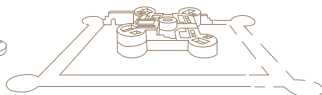
These abundant raw materials were cut, carved, sculpted and assembled, sometimes at heights of more than fifty metres, to be finally assembled.



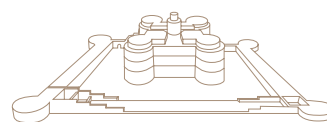
1519



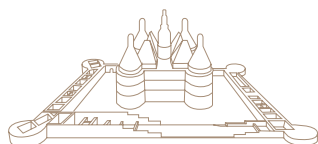
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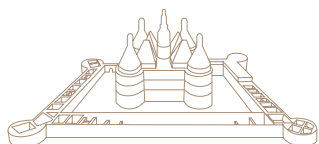
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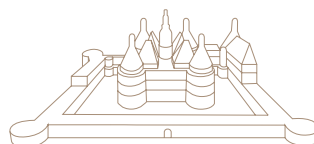
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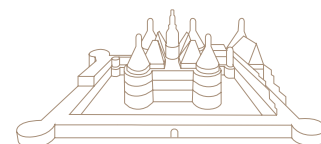
1531-1534



1539



1545



1547



The double-spiral staircase, the jewel of the castle

At the heart of the monument, at the crossroads of the great halls, rises a majestic staircase that fills all visitors with wonder: the double-spiral staircase. Consisting of two openwork ramps winding one above the other around a central core, it benefits from lateral lighting provided by the cross-shaped rooms' large bays. It provides access to the terraces from the keep's main floors. From there, it is surmounted by a narrow single spiral staircase, leading to the apex of the castle, at the top of the lantern tower.

Visitors find the staircase's location within the building particularly astonishing: it forms a kind of "backbone". Everything revolves around it, everything adapts to its dimensions. This is undoubtedly Chambord's greatest innovation, at a time when spiral staircases were more likely to be found on façades -- like the staircase outside the castle at Blois -- or were discreetly housed within the masonry. Secondly, visitors do not immediately perceive the existence of two ramps or how the two spirals are entwined. Some people are surprised to see people disappear as they climb, while others have fun (or give up!) trying to reach each other after having taken two different flights. The "fun" and "magic" of Chambord's ceremonial staircase then become apparent.



Decorations and furnishings for François I's travelling court

Since 2019

■ An updated visitor experience

Until 1682, when Louis XIV settled permanently at Versailles, the king was nomadic. He travelled across France with his court, taking his furniture, decorations and furnishings with him; these were installed by his stewards at each stage of his journey. It was within this context that Chambord was designed.

A scientific and didactic approach is behind the spectacular representation of François I's movable decorations, furnishings and textiles during his last visit to Chambord in 1545 and the recreation of the King's bedroom; these transform the tour. The aim is to recreate the atmosphere inside the castle at the time of François I.

Visitors to Chambord will find it fundamentally transformed by the installation of these decorations and furnishings, which remains an experiment: no structures are affected; the decorations and furnishings are removable; it is similar to a permanent exhibition; its design is based on the idea that these movable elements needed to be rolled up quickly and put in trunks as soon as the King was ready to leave.



At the same time, the atmosphere of the theatre built by Louis XIV for Molière's troupe has been recreated on the second floor: where the premieres of *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac* and *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* took place in 1669 and 1670

These sets were designed with the help and advice of the set designer Jacques Garcia.



Objectives

■ **Reinstating King François I, who commissioned Chambord, at the centre of the tour:** the museography of François I's apartments was inaccurate and no longer in line with current knowledge of the period under consideration, nor even with the expectations of the public.

■ **Providing keys to understanding the court: the French court was itinerant until the reign of Louis XIV.** It changed its place of residence, along with its furniture, according to the seasons. Between the king's visits Chambord, in which he stayed for only 72 nights during the entirety of his reign, reverted from a furnished and richly decorated castle to an empty one.

■ **Welcoming visitors as the king's guests:** visitors are invited to see Chambord in all its glory, as it would have appeared in anticipation of the arrival of the king and his court.



Chambord, 1939 - 1945: "Save some of the world's beauty"

Permanent exhibition

■ A tour devoted to the Second World War:

In the fall of 2021, Chambord inaugurated a new permanent tour devoted to the monument's often overlooked Second World War history. The castle has indeed served as a venue for the preservation of iconic works from our national collections including *the Mona Lisa*, placed under safekeeping in Francis I's castle on four occasions during the conflict. This combination of both small- and large-scale history is achieved through testimonies and numerous photos from the archives. Various aspects of the conflict are evoked, including the evacuation of national museums against the backdrop of the Occupation and local resistance.

This exhibition, which is part of a global approach to the transmission of knowledge to younger generations, resonates with the release of the film *Valiant Hearts* on 11 May 2022, which is directed by Mona Achache and was shot at Chambord last year with Camille Cottin and Swann Arlaud: the story of six Jewish children who find refuge in Chambord during the summer of 1942 and are waiting to cross into the Free Zone (see page 20).

New in 2021



Chambord, a hunting estate and nature reserve (16th - 20th centuries)

Permanent exhibition

Since 2020



In the summer of 2020, new permanent exhibition rooms dedicated to the history of the estate and its long tradition of hunting were opened to the public.

From the creation of the enclosed park set up as a royal hunting lodge by François I to the time of the presidential hunts (1965–2010), through representations of royal hunts and the life of the estate and its gamekeepers in the 19th century, the exhibition relates an important part of Chambord's history.

Nearly a hundred works and documents, from the castle's ancient collection and from donations and acquisitions, are presented to the public in seven rooms on the second floor. Among the remarkable works are: three tapestries from the *Tenture des Chasses du roi François* (*Hunts of King Francis*) (Faubourg Saint-Marcel workshops, early 17th century), an astonishing horse-drawn hunting boat (19th century) and the Saint-Hubert stag sculptures used in 1970 in the filming of «*Peau d'âne*». In addition, there is an outstanding set of 4,000 venery buttons from the Bernard Tollu collection, deposited at Chambord by the Société de Vénérerie in 2015. Finally, a selection of emblematic wild animals has been stuffed and is on display to the public.

The tour is enlivened by mediation devices suitable for all (sound shower, video, objects to manipulate) that allow an entertaining, educational, and also sensory exploration of the various themes addressed.



The estate and the gardens

The French gardens

Since the beginning of its construction in 1519, Chambord has enjoyed spacious and game-filled surroundings in which the king could practice hunting. Louis XIV undertook sanitation works and wanted to give the castle a landscaped setting worthy of its architecture. He had two gardens designed, to the north and east, visible on the oldest surviving plans, which were never implemented. It was during Louis XV's reign, in 1734, that these gardens were redeveloped, embellished with avenues of trees, groves and 'embroidery' parterres (formal flowerbeds). They existed in this configuration for nearly two centuries before falling into disuse and, over time, being reduced to the status of lawns.

In 2016, after more than twelve years of historical research, the gardens as designed under Louis XIV were restored. This substantial project, the most important – in terms of gardens – that France has known for thirty years, is being launched for a few months.

In 2017, Chambord was transformed.



KEY FIGURES

THE FRENCH GARDENS:

- 6.5 hectares
- 44,000 m² of gravelled driveway
- 32,500 plants
- 18,000 m² of lawns
- 800 trees planted
- 5 months of work
- Cost: €3.5 million of investment, outstanding patronage, in a private capacity, from Mr Stephen A. Schwarzman.



The English garden

Designed in the 19th century, it had almost disappeared before being completely recreated in 2014. An 1889 survey shows groves of trees in front of the castle and a shrubby border on the side of Place Saint-Louis and the town hall. During the 20th century, the groves were removed for fashion and maintenance reasons. Today this is a landscaped garden with curved paths, lawns sloping gently down to the castle, flowering groves and large isolated trees (cedars, redwoods, etc.).

The great perspective

The 4.5-kilometre long great perspective bisects the castle on a north-south axis at the centre of which is the famous double-spiral staircase. Its requalification was made possible in 2018 thanks to the support of the AXA France company.

Permaculture vegetable gardens

Chambord's vegetable gardens have been re-established since 2019 as part of the monument's 500th anniversary celebrations.

The desire to recreate kitchen and food-producing gardens near the castle is linked to the historic location of two vegetable gardens in the 17th and 19th centuries.

In one case, the former stables of Louis XIV became cavalry barracks and then a stud farm in the 18th century, and were converted into open-air vegetable gardens in the 19th century. In the other, it is certain that the adjoining plots (five hectares) were used for food production continuously since at least the end of the 17th century and up until the 1980s.

Two vegetable gardens punctuate the monument's surroundings: one consisting of 5,000 square metres and the other of five hectares in the plot known as "Les Casernes". Various varieties of organic fruit and vegetables are grown according to the principles of agro-ecology, bio-intensive market gardening and permaculture.

■ A venue for training and learning

The gardens are designed to be a venue for education and the sharing of knowledge.

The aim is to make the general public aware of the social issues related to the ecological transition, particularly food.

Tours have been conducted since 2019, in addition to the programme of guided tours of the castle and French gardens.



In order to carry out its awareness-raising activities, particularly with younger visitors, Chambord plans to build two education rooms and an educational garden. In addition, theoretical and practical training courses are organized for adults, both beginners and experts.

The harvested fruit and vegetables are delivered to Chambord's cafés and restaurants. They offer quality organic food to the wider public and at affordable prices for families. Favouring a short circuit and the local economy, products from the vegetable gardens are also marketed in organic grocers', small and medium-sized shops, and in the region's restaurants.

■ Glasshouses in 2022

Throughout history, greenhouses have had a dual function: they are sometimes built to protect crops, sometimes for aesthetic reasons. In 2022, Chambord wishes to acquire a 19th century-style glasshouse which will be installed in the heart of the former stables of the Maréchal de Saxe.

Issues:

- The heritage issue, with the redevelopment of the stables and the former market gardening plots;
- The societal issue, with healthy and sustainable food production;
- The economic issue, with a viable project and job creation;
- The agricultural stake that Chambord lost and has regained thanks to several convergent initiatives (vineyards, eco-pasture, market gardening, etc.)



The estate

With a surface area of 5,440 hectares, the National Estate of Chambord is the largest walled park in Europe. Its outstanding landscape shelters an exceptional range of flora and fauna. The construction of the castle began in 1519. At the same time, François I acquired the agricultural lands adjoining the Boulogne forest to the north of the Cosson, to create the park. More than 2,500 hectares of agricultural land were annexed. This area consisted mainly of cultivated land, a few copses and, presumably, moors that fed the local peasant farmers' sheep. In 1645, Gaston d'Orléans, brother of King Louis XIII, increased the surface area of the estate and completed the construction of its surrounding wall. The area then reached its current size. Chambord Park is part of the Natura 2000 network, whose main objective is the preservation of biodiversity.



■ Walks

Since 2017, new footpaths have allowed entry into a section of the park formerly closed to the public. Visitors can enjoy 1,000 hectares of forest, bridle paths, footpaths and cycle tracks, meadows and moorland.

The "Grande promenade" circuit offers walkers a loop around the castle with new viewpoints on the monument and the chance to explore natural areas typical of the wild Sologne (digital nature rally and educational panels).

■ The National Hunting and Wildlife Reserve

This reserve was created in 1947 to repopulate France with big game. Today, Chambord is a place of reference for understanding the larger wild ungulates, thanks to a strategic scientific programme. Chambord is the only place in France that has both an area that is big enough to allow large animals to retain their natural behaviour, and a stone wall to prevent their entry and exit.

Forest wildlife officers, skilled in *panneutage* (live capture) techniques, have been collecting and storing data on deer for decades. This combination of factors allows the historic tracking of large animal populations.





Areas of development

Despite the health crisis, work continues at Chambord and the future is viewed with confidence. Four development priorities provide a framework for activities.

"With its 500 years of existence, Chambord embodies the tourism of tomorrow, a tourism that is above all sustainable. We need visitors; it is their presence that brings life to our heritage."

Jean d'Haussonville, General Manager of the National Estate of Chambord.



Sustainable Chambord

For several years, Chambord has been committed to the **conservation of traditional species** (Sologne black bees and Sologne sheep) and to sustainable development initiatives (eco-pasturing in its meadows, rational mowing, etc.).

Visitors are now encouraged to become "locavores" during their visit. The products harvested are marketed via a short circuit, whose first beneficiaries are its visitors who can buy vegetables or taste them in the estate's restaurants. They are encouraged to leave with an original and sustainable souvenir: a basket of vegetables or a bottle of the estate's organic wine.

In its own way, the National Estate of Chambord wishes to play a role in raising awareness about the urgency of the ecological transition and offer a new experience of sustainable tourism by placing the visitor at the centre of the process.

The incomparable biodiversity that reigns at Chambord is conducive to important research and sustainable development programmes on subjects as diverse as carbon sequestration and the evolution of species.

Educational Chambord



Witness to an era's rich heritage, a special place where architecture and nature work together, **Chambord will always appeal to the sensory perceptions of younger members of the public.**

Its considerations **include the issues of the transfer of knowledge, and awareness of the need to preserve environmental equilibria.**

A number of activities and workshops on its natural and architectural heritage, in connection with an **EAC (Artistic and Cultural Education) programme**, are therefore on offer. The richness of the site allows for multiple areas of work, facilitating the **implementation of multidisciplinary projects and allowing all audiences to take an active approach regarding heritage issues.**

In this unique place where everything is an object of learning and exploration, the future and the past are linked. It is a unique heritage space where young people can confront time and space; this can help give a special dimension to their artistic and cultural itineraries.

Agricultural Chambord

Since it was first conceived 500 years ago, Chambord has been conceived as a whole: a palace was built within a huge natural area that had been worked by man for centuries. Many of the estate's farms were active up until the 19th century.

Today, the ambition is to revive this agricultural vocation and **to make Chambord a food-producing estate once again**, notably through the planting of organic vines and the creation of vegetable gardens.

In 2015, 14 hectares of vines were replanted with a north-south exposure less than two kilometres from the castle, in the place known as "Ormetrou". The soil is predominantly sandy, mixed with clay in the subsoil.

In 2019, the bio-intensive market gardening project began in the Maréchal de Saxe's stables, at the foot of the monument. This first vegetable garden was subsequently extended in 2020 by five and a half hectares. In the long term, the objective is to create a diversified farm under agroforestry with market gardening, arboriculture and animal husbandry.

Social Chambord

Chambord is a fully-fledged company with 200 full-time employees. **Among them, 32 professions are represented with a wide variety of skills and training. Each year, more than ten apprentices and about fifty trainees are welcomed.** Chambord's ambition is to be a place that enables people to discover their professional vocations, especially young people on work-study programmes, work placements and professional training contracts.

More recently, a social component has been added to the training policy: an integration clause is now included in public catering contracts. Thus, an initiative for the restoration of the 32-kilometre wall surrounding Chambord, which is entirely dedicated to integration and professional qualification, began on 27 January 2020.

The challenge is twofold: it consists of both allowing job seekers to work on a rewarding site, and also transmitting the skills and know-how specific to the restoration of historic buildings. The people selected to work are mostly young jobseekers seeking training for a career in heritage, unemployed people and political refugees.



Focus on eco-pasture at Chambord

■ The Sologne sheep

The introduction of a farm breeding Sologne sheep at Chambord is part of the comprehensive ecological approach which has been undertaken by the estate for several years.

The objectives of this project are varied. First of all, it is a question of **participating in the safeguarding and development of the Sologne sheep**, an endangered species which had almost disappeared after the Second World War and which includes only a few thousand heads today.

The objective is also to **promote biodiversity and soil enrichment through a dynamic eco-pasture system**. The changes in grazing allow for a significant reduction in the amount of chemical and organic inputs to the estate's lands. The introduction of sheep also allows pollinating insects to proliferate.

Finally, it is a question of **recovering the estate's pastoral character**. The Sologne sheep represents a major element of local heritage. Its characteristics allow it to survive easily in the humid climate of the Sologne.

Chambord, defender of French, local and rural heritage, is perpetuating this breeding tradition.





Initiatives 2022

For the monument

The restoration of the monument is under the direction of the **Chatillon Architects Agency** and **François Chatillon**, Chief Architect of Historic Monuments, in charge of the **National Estate of Chambord** since 2019.

■ Restoration of the lanterns

Thanks to an investment of almost €3.5 million, work on the castle's lanterns was launched under the direction of François Chatillon in 2021. The latter had not been restored since the end of the 19th century. The works aim to restore Chambord castle's roof lanterns: the keep's four lanterns (Dieudonné tower, Henri V tower, François I

tower and Caroline de Berry tower) as well as those of the Robert de Parme tower and the Tour de la Chapelle. Apart from a few occasional repairs, no restoration work has been carried out on the lanterns for over 50 years.

This project addresses two major issues:

- **Deterioration**

The priority of this work is to secure Chambord's roof trusses, the ends of which are threatened by damage within the lanterns. The first health checks carried out on some of the lanterns since the beginning of the project have revealed significant differences in the condition of the six lanterns of the castle, some of which have suffered more damage than expected. The Caroline de Berry lantern is in a poor structural state with roof trusses that, over time, had begun to twist and sag.

Interventions are planned to repair the damage, in particular to repair defects in the joints, to straighten the structure, consolidate the bracings, replace pieces of wood that are too damaged and also ensure that the zinc and slate roofs are water-tight once more.



- **Restoration and enhancement of Chambord's original heritage**

In order to restore Chambord's silhouette as closely as possible to its original design, the lead ornaments that have disappeared over time (salamanders, fleurs-de-lys, railings, volutes, candelabra and architectural ornaments) are to be restored thanks to the intervention of exceptionally skilled craftsmen. They demonstrated the magnificence of the royal residence, expressing Chambord's utopian nature and the aesthetics of the chivalric romances loved by François I. Further historical research has confirmed the presence of dark blue-grey tints on these lead decorations. The application of appropriate patinas will make it possible to approximate the nuances originally created.

Construction began in May 2021 and will continue for 24 months.

■ Restoration of the moat

The work consists of restoring the masonry walls by the north and east parterres at Chambord castle to their original condition. At the edges of the six-hectare platform, they form a perimeter of nearly 1.32km, and date from the creation of the gardens in the 18th century. The two bridges that allow access to these parterres are also being restored.

The work, which began in May 2021, will take 25 months.



■ Restoration of the François I staircase

The François I staircase is located at the corner of the François I wing and the royal wing. The building is in average condition, suffering from progressive deterioration in the tufa stone that constitutes it, which has been weakened by exposure to the weather. The intervention includes a general clean and the restoration of the masonry and sculptures.

Work will begin in the spring of 2022 for a period of 12 months.



chatillon architectes

Having graduated from the Paris-Belleville School of Architecture in 1986, **François Chatillon** joined the École des Hautes Études de Chaillot in 1999, where he obtained a heritage architect's diploma, then in 2004 he qualified as chief architect for historic monuments.

Since then, he has oriented his thoughts and activities towards the question of current heritage. As chief architect of historical monuments, he is in charge of the Grand Palais in Paris, the Château de Voltaire in Ferney-Voltaire, the Beaux-Arts in Paris, Paris' 8th arrondissement district (Arc de Triomphe, Obelisk of Luxor, and the Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild) and, since 2019, the National Estate of Chambord.

He is the head of the Chatillon Architects agency (Paris and Ferney-Voltaire), which today has a multidisciplinary team of 45 employees.

For the estate

■ Restoration of the Estate's surrounding wall



On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the monument celebrated in 2019, Chambord launched a number of projects to enhance its heritage, including the restoration of the surrounding wall. The construction of the wall, which is over 32 kilometres long and encircles the estate, began in 1542 at the request of François I. Essential to an understanding of the history of Chambord and classified as a Historic Monument, this element of its heritage has suffered a great deal of damage, particularly due to the 2016 floods.

A 100% integration contract has been set up with the Acta Vista association, a major player in active inclusion through heritage. For nearly 20 years, it has been developing a work camp model that combines training, the professional integration of jobseekers and the development of the heritage and cultural assets of the territories.

The National Estate of Chambord extends its thanks to the Malatier-Jacquet Foundation, housed at the Fondation de France, and LafargeHolcim France for support provided for the restoration of the estate's surrounding wall in the form of a workcamp.



■ Completion of the Chambord cellar



In 2015, as part of its mission to preserve its heritage and in a spirit of eco-responsibility, the decision was made to replant vines less than two kilometres from the castle, at a place called "Ormetrou", to create a winegrowing operation where grapes are harvested and wine is produced.

A permanent cellar and various spaces have been set up in the pre-existing buildings at the Ormetrou farm, near the vineyards.

Work began in the autumn of 2020 so that the new building would be operational for the 2021 wine harvest. The site will also include accommodation (self-catering accommodation and B&B), in order to make Chambord a wine tourism destination in its own right. Tastings will be held from 2022 in the cellar in the renovated former workshop which has a magnificent view of the castle.

The different locations are as follows:

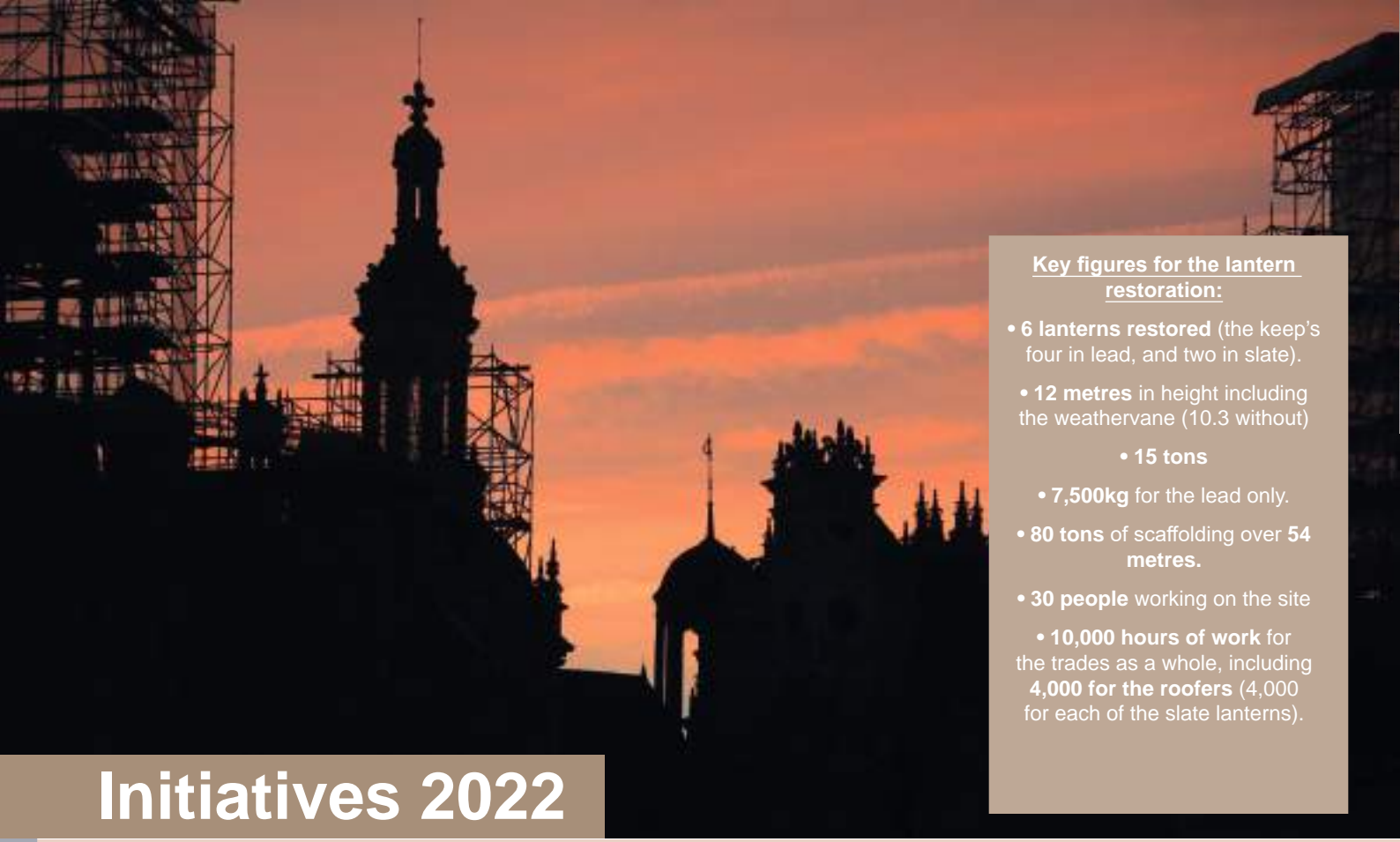
- The cellar's vat room
- A reception and tasting room
- A storage area
- A hangar
- Office space
- (Future) accommodation
- Stock

■ The Hannetière self-catering holiday cottage

The opening of the La Hannetière self-catering holiday cottage, scheduled for April 2022, will enhance the range of accommodation available at Chambord. Interior, exterior and landscape renovations are planned.

■ The opening of the wine tasting room

In addition to the construction of a new cellar, a tasting room has been created and will be open to the public from April 2022 at the place known as "Ormetrou".



Key figures for the lantern restoration:

- **6 lanterns restored** (the keep's four in lead, and two in slate).
- **12 metres** in height including the weathervane (10.3 without)
 - **15 tons**
 - **7,500kg** for the lead only.
- **80 tons** of scaffolding over **54 metres**.
- **30 people** working on the site
 - **10,000 hours of work** for the trades as a whole, including **4,000 for the roofers** (4,000 for each of the slate lanterns).

Initiatives 2022

Companies and trades

Like an open-air laboratory, Chambord is home to outstanding craftsmen and women working on projects with a century-long perspective.

■ **The lanterns**

Three companies from the Centre-Val de Loire Region are restoring the castle: **Guèble**, part of the Villemain group, is responsible for the scaffolding, while the roof trusses are being restored by the specialist **Battais-Centre**, and the lead and slate roofs by the group **UTB**.

The ornamental work is being done by two workshops located in the Maine-et-Loire Department: the **Ateliers Perrault**, in charge of the roof trusses and **Couvertures de Loire**, which is reworking the lead section.

Labelled as a Heritage Company In residence, the **Mariotti workshop** is working on the gilding of the lanterns' weathervanes and the **Tollis workshop**, a benchmark in art restoration, is working on the polychromy of the lead domes.

■ **The François I staircase**

In the spring of 2022, another large-scale construction project began: the staircase in the François I wing, also supervised by the Chatillon Architects agency. The Parisian and Nice-based workshops **Enache** and **Morisse-Marini** are bringing their expertise to bear on the restoration of the sculptures and the **Maison Grevet**, based in Mayenne, is working on the staircase's stonework. Between ten and twelve months of work are anticipated.

Fire safety measures

A complete programme to ensure the monument's safety and upgrade its electrics has been implemented, including an emergency generator for the monument, the removal of the high-voltage electrical transformers (24,000 volts) from the monument and stables, upgrading the wiring and lastly repairing the fire detection system.

During the works, a 360° film will be shown to visitors using virtual reality headsets (see page 25).



© Kemmel Production

Cultural season 2022

An ambitious cultural programme has been introduced since 2010, the main priorities of which reflect the three major cultural fields of the Renaissance: text, music and fine arts, plus theatre and dance. Among the artists who have exhibited at Chambord since 2010 are Georges Rousse, Paul Rebeyrolle, Guillaume Bruère, Djamel Tatah, Philippe Cognée, Bae Bien-U, Koïchi Kurita, Jérôme Zonder, Susumu Shingu and Lydie Arickx.

EXHIBITION

Dominique Blain, *Displacements*

Until 13 March 2022

Coinciding with the opening of new spaces devoted to the history of Chambord during the Second World War, and the role the castle played in preserving national collections, the temporary exhibition *Displacements* by Dominique Blain, organized in partnership with the Canadian Cultural Centre, allows the public to question what works of art mean to each of us, and what we are prepared to do to protect our masterpieces, especially in times of war.

Among the works presented on the second floor of the castle, two videos, a luminous glass sculpture and photographs will mirror the installation *Monuments II* the main work of which can be seen under the coffered vaults: a monumental sculpture which exactly reproduces the crate in which Titian's *Assumption of the Virgin* was transported to safekeeping during the First World War.



View of the installation *Monuments II* © Leonard de Serres

Curators of the exhibition: Ami Barak and Catherine Bédard

Catalogue: Editions SKIRA Paris, with texts by Ami Barak, Catherine Bédard, Louise Déry and Gérard Wajcman / €30.
Item available on <https://boutiquedechambord.fr/catalogue-d-exposition-dominique-blain-deplacements.html>

The film "Cœurs vaillants"

Released in cinemas on 11 May 2022

Produced by Les Films du Cap

The new space dedicated to the Second World War is accompanied by the release of the film "Cœurs vaillants" (Valiant Hearts), directed by Mona Achache and filmed at Chambord during the summer of 2020.

This film tells the story of six Jewish children hidden at Chambord during the summer of 1942 while waiting to cross into the Free Zone. It is based on the historical context of the castle as place of exile for works of art from national museums during the Occupation.

Camille Cottin and Swann Arlaud play the two main adult roles and a very impressive cast of children complete the team.



EXHIBITION

Pablo Reinoso, *Overflow*

From 1 May to 4 September 2022

Since he began creating visual artworks, the notion of balance has preoccupied the designer and Franco-Argentine sculptor Pablo Reinoso (the Les Respirantes and Les Paysages d'eau series). Delivering a protean work which uses all sorts of materials (wood, stone, air, metal) and progressing by successive series, the artist is constantly exploring the same idea in greater depth: that of the life force, through the principle of vegetable growth applied to his materials and a conceptual formatting of the fundamental cycles of life.

This exhibition, the most important in the artist's career, will combine existing works invited to dialogue with certain areas of the château, his recent work on trees, which is very well suited to Chambord, as well as several new works, specially conceived for the exhibition, which will be displayed in the fireplaces on the second floor, in the gardens (a monumental sculpture in stone and metal, conceived as a counterpoint to the double-spiral staircase) and, for the first time, at the core of the famous double-spiral staircase.

It is to this relationship between culture and nature, this highlighting of balances, that the artist wishes to commit his premise, and sketch a reflection involving a potential collaboration between man and nature, inviting visitors to reconsider our individual roles in finding harmony. In recent years, this reflection has been translated into visual form by his work involving trees (Still Tree, Articulations, Uprooted).



2019 - Still Tree © Rodrigo Reinoso

144-page catalogue,
InFine editions, €35.

EXHIBITION

Castle Life

From 16 October 2022 to 5 March 2023

In the autumn, *Vie(s) de châteaux (Castle Life)*, a photographic exhibition will be presented that explores the links between Chambord and the City Palace of Udaipur in Rajasthan, India, with which Chambord is twinned. Through more than a hundred photographs shown for the first time, the exhibition aims to highlight the surprising connections between these two royal houses, which are so far apart geographically and culturally.

Carefully avoiding all exoticisms as well as forced connections, the tour will include various sections: architecture, official life, slices of life, historical moments and hunting practices. Throughout the exhibition, the visitor will be able to discover the historic and aesthetic wealth of the Indian palace, but also, by contrast, grasp more precisely the distinctive features of the royal castle of Chambord.



Viewed by Manek Chowk. The bed of the elephants, circa 1895-1905. © Mewar Foundation

RESIDENCIES & ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

As it does every year, Chambord is offering a series of initiatives designed to promote cultural democratization, particularly for target audiences: schools, amateurs, associations, media libraries and "precluded" audiences (prisons, care homes for the elderly, underprivileged areas).

These residencies allow Chambord to become not only a venue for dissemination, but also a place where contemporary art is created. This year, **Pablo Reinoso** will be spending three months at the castle to prepare his exhibition (March–May), and the writer **Emmanuel Adely** will be coming to find inspiration for his next book (October–December). The presence at the castle of artists from various disciplines provides an opportunity to organize meetings with the local public but also to work with the territory's various structures and institutions.

WRITERS AT CHAMBORD

Stéphane Lambert

Sunday 6 February

Audrey Gaillard

Sunday 6 March

Céline Minard

Sunday 3 April

The year 2022 will mark the return of the cycle of readings initiated in 2011 where, echoing the man of letters François I, a writer is invited to come and read excerpts from his works. These meetings with the literature of our time, open to all, end with a discussion between the author and his audience and a signing session.

Music Day

21 June from 8pm

As always, this 15th edition will give pride of place to musicians from the Centre-Val de Loire Region and to diversity: hunting horns, rock, reggae-ska, electro-pop, Breton music, blues, French songs, etc.

Free access - Free parking - On-site catering

In partnership with Chambord's Events Committee.

Horn concert

24 June at 8pm

A not-to-be-missed event on an estate closely linked with hunting, this great annual concert offers the opportunity to listen to the Chambord School's horn players accompanied by a renowned ensemble. This year, in the castle courtyard, we will be welcoming the Bien-Aller Sarthois, a group of fourteen horn players recognizable by their red tunics with black trim, French champions in 2016.

Rates : €20/€15 (open seating)

CONCERT

Sting: My Songs Tour

Tuesday 28 June 2022

Initially scheduled for the summer of 2020, the tour **Sting: My Songs** will be a supercharged rock concert featuring the best songs Sting has written in his prolific, 16 Grammy Award-winning career, both with The Police and solo.

SOLD OUT



SHOW

Chambord nights

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 May 2022



Chambord was the initiator of the first sound and light show in the world in 1953, an event inaugurated by President Vincent Auriol! Today, Chambord is renewing this tradition and wishes to welcome the public for a new sound and light show, co-produced with Masters Events Factory.

On 20 and 21 May 2022, two evenings for exploring the castle's history, myths and legends, during a grand evening show with fireworks.

6.30pm

Opening of the doors
Bars and Restaurants

8pm

Processions and events

10pm

"Chambord nights"
The grand evening show

11pm

End

Categories / rates

Gold Square Cat.: €80 full rate
Glass of Champagne and Plaid

Seat Cat.: Full price 45€ / reduced price 40€

Lawn Cat.: Full price from €15* to €30 / reduced price €25
*Child price aged 4 to 12, free for children under 4

PRM Cat.: €25

25th Chambord Brocante

1 May 2022

Located on the castle's southern parterre, this event, which welcomes more than 400 selected exhibitors, offers a majestic and outstanding setting to professionals and individuals, and features furniture, curios, earthenware, old tools, objets d'art, etc.



EVENT

From 4 to 5pm, free admission
On-site catering / Free parking
Exhibitor bookings: resapuces.fr/2241
Information: comitedechambord@gmail.com

39th Edition of the European Heritage Days

17 and 18 September 2022

A special programme in connection with the national theme "Sustainable Heritage" has been prepared: Discover our game-booklets, guided tours, workshops, meetings, and special opening times with family or friends.



Christmas in Chambord



As in previous years, from 1 December, the Chambord forest literally invites itself into the castle and takes over the arms of the ground floor cross. From the entrance porch to the French gardens, the monument is clothed in a decor worthy of a fairy tale!

The outdoor walkways are also embellished with a hundred fir trees that are illuminated every evening at dusk.



A variety of events within the castle:

As of 1 December: traditional wooden games (Louis XIV billiards, trou-madame, etc.) and board games

Weekends and holidays: Renaissance music and dance, characters strolling around in costume, introductions to dances and poetry, film projections, story readings, horn concerts, nature activities, creative workshops, family game booklet, meetings with Father Christmas and many other surprises, etc.



Christmas show

A performance combining great action sequences, music, magic, comedy items and historical references.

11 Chambord Festival

2 to 16 July 2022

Since its creation in 2011, the Chambord Festival has offered an eclectic programme that travels through the history of music, sometimes combining text, dance and theatre. Its 11th edition will consist of 13 concerts given in the sumptuous setting of the castle courtyard or in more intimate rooms, where musicians of international stature and emerging talent will meet. The artistic direction of the Festival is assured by the pianist Vanessa Wagner.

Programming



■ Saturday July 2 at 8pm*

– Castle courtyard

The Balcon

Programme: Mahler, *The Song of the Earth*
Conducted by Maxime Pascal, 14 instrumentalists from Le Balcon will be accompanied by two singers for a memorable version of Mahler's Song of the Earth, which the composer described as a "symphony with voices", performed in Schoenberg's rare version for tenor, baritone and chamber orchestra.



■ Sunday 3 July at 6.30pm and 8.30pm**

– Castle

Olivier Baumont (harpsichord) and Denis Podalydès (narration)

Programme: "A harpsichord for Marcel Proust" (Couperin, Rameau, Massenet, Scarlatti, Bach, etc. / texts by Marcel Proust)
Olivier Baumont's recital, punctuated by excerpts from *La Recherche* read by Denis Podalydès, features harpsichord works cited in the novel (Rameau, Bach, Handel, Scarlatti) but also very rare pieces for harpsichord by composers contemporary with Proust, such as Massenet, Hahn, Anthoine and Ravel.



■ Tuesday 5 July at 8pm*

– Castle courtyard

Natalie Dessay (soprano) & Philippe Cassard (piano)

Programme: "Women's words" (Alma Mahler, Clara Schumann, Massenet, Debussy, Poulenc, Stravinsky, etc.)

Long-time partners and collaborators, Natalie Dessay and Philippe Cassard, offer a recital

dedicated to women, lyrical heroines and composers who lived in the shadow of their husbands or brothers. Extraordinary scores delivered with passion by the famous soprano, with her inimitable vocal charisma.



■ Wednesday 6 July at 8pm*

– Castle courtyard

Appassionato (with Vanessa Wagner)

Programme: Strauss, *Metamorphosen*; Schoenberg, *Transfigured Night*; Bach, *Concerto No. 1*

Directed by Mathieu Herzog, *Appassionato* is a "chamber ensemble" that offers new and accessible insights into great orchestral masterpieces. At Chambord, it will perform two masterpieces of the post-Romantic period and a Bach concerto, for which it will be joined on stage by the pianist Vanessa Wagner, artistic director of the Festival.



■ Thursday 7 July at 8pm**

– Castle courtyard

La Réveuse Ensemble

Programme: "Ramages & plumages" ("Songs & Feathers") (Purcell, Couperin, Haendel, Rameau, Williams...)

Birdsong is quite different from the sounds made by instruments, and yet no other animal has inspired musicians and composers to the same extent.

This programme evokes, through man's fascination with birds, a certain vision of music in the 17th and 18th centuries, across science, nature and culture, mirroring works of the 20th and 21st centuries, etc.



■ Friday 8 July at 8pm*

– Castle courtyard

Le Concert de la Loge & Eva Zaïcik (mezzo-soprano)

Programme: Vivaldi, *Four Seasons* and operatic arias
This programme intertwining Vivaldi's famous *Four Seasons* with some of his inexplicably unknown operatic arias promises musical bliss, especially since it is to be performed by the young baroque ensemble *Le Concert de la Loge* accompanied by mezzo-soprano Eva Zaïcik, who was discovered at the *Victoires de la Musique Classique* in 2018 and is among the Italian master's most active interpreters.



■ Saturday 9 July at 8pm*

– Castle courtyard

Michel Dalberto (piano) & Quatuor Elmire (strings)

Programme: Liszt, *Piano Sonata in B minor*; Louis Vierne, *Quintet for piano and strings, op.42*

After performing Liszt's famous piano sonata, Michel Dalberto will call on his wide experience of French music to accompany his young comrades within the promising *Quatuor Elmire*, founded in 2017 at the Paris Conservatory and already the winner of several international competitions with a powerful but little-known work by Louis Vierne.

RATES

* Cat. A: €50 / €35 - Cat. B : €30 / €20

** Single Cat: €20 / €15

*** Single Cat: €23 / €17

Open sheltered seating

Festival Pass (all concerts in category A): €185

5-concert pass (category B): €90

One ticket purchased = one free admission to the castle, gardens and exhibition



of experience and an intense presence on stage; these four instrumentalists and their concert partners are united by a subtle sense of complicity.



■ **Friday 15 July at 8pm*****

– French gardens

The Symphony of Birds

Programme: Schubert, Satie, Saint-Saëns, Stravinsky, etc. and birdsong
With Lidija Bizjak (piano), Geneviève Laurenceau (violin), Jean Boucault & Johnny Rasse (birdsong vocalists)

Two birdsong vocalists, a pianist and a violinist form a unique quartet that offers a musical performance combining the classical repertoire and the interpretation of birdsongs from the five continents. This recital for four instruments, which will be performed in the castle's French gardens, will touch upon the subjects of love, wedding dances, dreams, death, etc. A timeless journey, without borders.



■ **Sunday 10 July at 8pm*****

– Castle and gardens

"Château en musique" with Vassilena Serafimova (marimba), Noémie Boutin (cello) & Beatrice Berrut (piano)

Following the great success of the previous edition, "Château en musique" offers the public the opportunity to spend an evening at the castle where, during their visit, they will be able to listen to three recitals involving various instruments and repertoires, often given in unusual places. Combining both exploration and intimacy, this musical stroll will reserve some more surprises...



■ **Friday 13 July at 8pm****

– Castle courtyard

The Harmonic Hand

Programme: "Zefiro" (Monteverdi programme)

With "Zefiro", five singers and two musicians (theorbo and viola da gamba) from La Main Harmonique continue their exploration of Monteverdi's madrigals and return to the search for colour, the fusion of text and music, and the freedom to interpret emotion in their performances.



■ **Thursday 14 July at 8pm** **

– Castle and gardens

Silent Piano by Vanessa Wagner

Programme: Study of the Invisible

This new evening provides an opportunity to attend a ... silent concert. Equipped with headphones, the public will be able to wander freely in the castle without missing a note of the recital that will be played, live, by Vanessa Wagner sitting in front of a piano equipped with Yamaha's SILENT™ device. For this musical stroll through the gardens and some of the monument's rooms, the pianist will play her upcoming album Study of the Invisible, whose minimalist pieces will lend themselves perfectly to the experience.

■ **Saturday 16 July at 8pm***

– Castle courtyard

Centre-Val de Loire/Tours Region Symphony Orchestra (conductor: Glass Marcano)

Programme: South American music

The Centre-Val de Loire/Tours Region Symphony Orchestra, a great regular of the Chambord Festival, conducted by the young and energetic Glass Marcano – the first black conductor to conduct in France – will end this 11th edition. For the occasion, it will perform a programme devoted to composers from South America, the guest conductor's birthplace.



■ **Tuesday 12 July at 8pm***

– Castle courtyard

Zaïde Quartet (strings), Manon Galy (violin) and Jorge González Buajasán (piano)

Programme: Chausson, Concert in D major op.21, for violin, piano and string quartet; Fauré, Quintet for piano and string quartet no.1

A young, multi-award-winning duo, violinist Manon Galy – nominated instrumental soloist of the year at the 2022 Victoires de la Musique Classique – and pianist Jorge Gonzalez Buajasán, have been invited to perform at Chambord alongside the Quatuor Zaïde, an ensemble with plenty

www.chambord.org

reservations@chambord.org

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The National Estate of Chambord extends its thanks to the Caisse d'Epargne Loire Centre and the EDF Power Plant at Saint-Laurent-Nouan for supporting Chambord's 11th Festival.

RATES

* Cat. A: €50 / €35

Cat. B: €30 / €20

** Single Cat: €20 / €15

*** Single Cat: €23 / €17

Open sheltered seating

Festival Pass (all concerts in category A): €185

5-concert pass (category B): €90

One ticket purchased = one free admission to the castle, gardens and exhibition

Tour Types

Self-guided tour

Created to glorify a king by the most enlightened minds and skilful hands of its time, Chambord has been admired by visitors since the 16th century.

A tour map in 14 languages is available free of charge on site.



Two films on the history and architecture of the castle are shown continuously on the first floor of the keep.



Guided tours

Every day, tour guides enable visitors to explore its history and the emblematic elements of its architecture.

■ Exploratory tour

The tour explores the history and singular architecture of François I's castle and gives access to spaces that are usually inaccessible.

Duration: 1½ hours

Every day at 10am / 11am / 2pm / 3pm.

Other schedules: consult us.

Tour recommended for children aged 7/8+.

Entrance fee to the castle (see rates)

+ €7 per adult / €4 for children aged 5 to 17



■ In-depth tour

An organized tour within the intimacy of a limited group, to take an in-depth look at the history and architecture of François I's castle. It allows access to spaces that are otherwise closed to the public (service stairs, attics and lantern tower).

Duration: 3 hours

Weekends and public holidays at 2pm.

Castle entrance fee (see rates) + 11€.



■ Prestige tour

This guided tour lasting 1½ hours focuses on the history of the castle in the 16th century highlights the meaning and scope of Chambord's architecture. Via hidden stairs, it offers exclusive access to the mezzanines and attics and ends with a glass of champagne.

Total duration of the activity: 2 hours

2 persons+.

30 people maximum per guide.

Tasting of a glass of champagne.

Quote on request.

All year round: at the closing of the castle or during the day. Booking required.

Information and bookings:

evenements@chambord.org /

02 54 50 50 75

New signage

The new signposts and the labelling of rooms and works demonstrate a better understanding of the castle's spaces and history, placing, among other things, greater emphasis on François I's and Louis XIV's stays.

The graphic identity of the signs has been modernized and unified using charcoal grey wood printed with white text for better contrast and therefore better readability. Digital labelling, presented as slideshows and diffused on screen, is integrated remotely in the most furnished and decorated spaces.



Loyalty card

Unlimited access to the castle for one year. Personal loyalty card.

Benefits:

- Free and unlimited access to the castle and the French gardens
- Reduced rate for accompanying persons (up to five accompanying persons)
- Free parking
- Reduced rate for cultural activities (guided tours of the castle, vegetable gardens or in the forest, and concerts) and the equestrian and birds of prey show
- 5% discount in the castle's two boutiques
- 5% discount in the castle's restaurants (Café d'Orléans and Autour du Puits)

Rate: €40.

Card valid for one year from the date of issue at the ticket office located inside the castle. Identification to be presented at the time of issue. **The car parks are free of charge; reimbursement of tickets can be claimed at the castle's reception hall / ticket office during opening hours.**

Tour with the HistoPad

The HistoPad offers a spectacular immersive visit to the era of François I. You will explore nine rooms in the castle which have been entirely reconstructed in 3D and virtual reality thanks to the expertise of Renaissance specialists.



As of 2019, new immersive views can be seen in the chapel!

ALSO INCLUDED :

- Interactive maps to help visitors find their way around and organize their tour.
- A guide to 24 of the castle's rooms, to explore their history and collections.
- Over an hour of audio commentary on the history and architecture of the castle.
- An entertaining and interactive treasure hunt for younger members of the public.

All the contents are accessible by international audiences thanks to the texts' translation into twelve languages. The HistoPad was developed within the framework of a partnership between Chambord and Histoverly. Rates: €6.5 per adult / €5 for children aged 5 to 17 (in addition to the entrance fee) or Family Pack €17 / 3 tablets.



Film 360, "Chambord, the ultimate tour"

Available according to the period

In 2020 and 2021, museums and cultural institutions underwent long periods of closure. Within the context of the international health crisis, Chambord has worked to enrich its digital offering. Entirely shot in 360° in very high definition, this incomparable journey proposes to live Leonardo da Vinci's dream-come-true. Many of the places filmed remain inaccessible to the human eye.

In a special room and through virtual reality helmets, the public can enjoy a twelve-minute immersive experience.

This film will also be shown outside Chambord's walls in cinemas equipped with 360 degree technology.

Lambert Wilson plays the film's main character while **Claire Chazal** has lent her voice to the commentary that presents the major stages that led to the Chambord of today.

The film is produced by Kemmel Production, and written and directed by Arnaud Lemaire and Arnault Berthou.

FLAT RATE: €8

Tour of the vegetable gardens

The guided tour of the ecological kitchen garden is entertaining and interactive. It presents the production methods used, which are inspired by permaculture. Using concrete and easily-understandable examples, guides describe and explain various themes such as the organization of space, the water cycle, the use of low-tech tools, biodiversity, etc.



Practical information:

Recommended for visitors aged 5/6+. All ages.

€9 per adult / €5 for children aged 5 to 17

Duration: 1½ hours. Every day. Departs at 10am.

Meeting place: in front of the entrance to the Maréchal de Saxe's stables, near the sign "départ de visite".

Distance travelled: about 700m. Paths through the meadows, not accessible (for the moment) to PRM. Benches are available at several locations along the way.

Visitors' Tip: outdoor visit. Bring an umbrella, cap, water, etc. depending on the weather.

Guided tours for groups bookable on +33 (0)254 504000 / reservations@chambord.org

An online nature rally

Chambord offers a new and entertaining activity that will appeal to young and old alike: the nature rally.

With this treasure hunt, solve the riddles with your family to see Chambord and its surroundings in a new light - both the history of the castle and the natural environment that surrounds it. The online nature rally was created by the start-up Rendr, incubated as part of the Orange Fab France programme, in partnership with Orange.

Duration: 1½ hours
2.76-kilometre course

New in 2022



For children

Fun tours

Meeting a character from the past

Children can meet Julien the master clockmaker, Brother Thomas, and Gaspard, François I's bodyguard.

Witnesses to the great moments in Chambord's history, they take parents and children on a wonderful adventure within the castle.

During school holidays and certain long weekends (information: reservations@chambord.org).

Tour recommended for children aged 5 to 10 accompanied by their parents.

1½ hours.

Rates : €7 per adult / €4 for children aged 5 to 17 (in addition to the entrance fee).



Riddle books, Cassandra the Salamander

François I's emblem, the "Salamander" mascot has been entertaining and educating young visitors for the past twenty years. Cassandra the Salamander takes children on an exploration of Chambord through two books of puzzles to be solved within the castle and in the French gardens.

■ Riddle book, Cassandra the Salamander in the castle

Have fun exploring Chambord

Younger members of the public are invited to explore Chambord's secrets. An eighteen-page booklet takes children and their families through the castle's must-see places.

Reading, observing, navigation, counting and writing: adopt this strategy to solve the eight riddles, find the final mystery word and win a gift. A fun way to explore the castle freely as a family.

■ Riddle books, Cassandra the Salamander in the French gardens

Have fun exploring the French gardens

The Chambord teams have created a new version of the puzzle booklet on the theme of French gardens.

Today, Cassandra leaves the monument's walls to roam through the French gardens. Follow her on her latest quest for a wonderful open air family adventure.



Find your bearings within a given space, learn how to compose a French garden, and learn about the species planted at Chambord. These are just some of the discoveries to be made as you explore the six and a half hectares of gardens.

Rate: €4 which includes a notebook, pencil and reward to be collected at the castle boutique.

Recommended for children aged 7 to 12 and their families.

The French gardens close 30 minutes before the castle closes (4.30pm in winter).

The Cassandra's Garden notebooks are available for purchase until 3.30pm.

Workshops

Information on www.chambord.org
and service.educatif@chambord.org

New in 2022



During school and public holidays.
1½ to 2½ hours
Find the programme and booking
arrangements on www.chambord.org

Royal holidays at Chambord

Tours and workshops are scheduled during school and public holidays so you can (re)explore Chambord with your family.

This is an opportunity to share an educational and entertaining session exploring various themes related to Chambord castle and its natural heritage: try stone cutting, constructing a model of the castle, tracking animals in the forest, creating land art, etc.

WORKSHOPS AT THE CASTLE

- "Furnish the King's dwelling".
- Apprentice architect(s)
- Stone carving workshop
- Fun tours

WORKSHOPS IN THE FOREST

- Tracking animals
- The world of the pond
- Art-nature
- Nature walk

My birthday at Chambord

For the first time, children are invited to celebrate their birthday with an entertaining and educational activity in a unique setting. Supervised by an facilitator, they can try tufa stone sculpture, learn about the life of the court during the Renaissance or go in search of animal tracks in the forest. The activity ends with a "royal" snack, prepared with organic products from Chambord's vegetable gardens or nearby producers.

ALSO INCLUDED:

- Workshops supervised by a nature or heritage facilitator
- Local snacks
- A souvenir of the activity (depending on the workshop: animal footprint, carved stone block or set of stickers)
- The use of a room in the castle or on the estate
- An invitation card to download, print and personalize



MY BIRTHDAY AT THE CASTLE

Workshop "In the shoes of the king's steward: furnish a Renaissance dwelling".

After exploring the organization of the court, the daily life of an itinerant sovereign and some of the castle's historic rooms, the children simulate François I's arrival at Chambord and furnish a house with imitation furniture and objects.

A workshop in which you put yourself in the shoes of the king's steward!

MY BIRTHDAY IN THE FOREST

Workshop "Tracking animals"

Children become detectives, identifying the inhabitants of the woods by noting all the clues they have left behind: food scraps, droppings, nests, footprints, etc. The forest becomes a scene to be examined with a fine-tooth comb!

The little detectives immerse themselves in the life of the animals of the forest and then take a cast of a footprint to take home.

MY BIRTHDAY STONE CUTTING

Introduction to tufa sculpture workshop

After time spent observing and discussing the materials used to build the castle, its sculpted decorations and the trades involved at a Renaissance construction site, the children are introduced to tufa sculpture.

Equipped with the traditional tools used by stonecutters, they imitate the ancient techniques and recreate one of the castle's characteristic motifs (salamander, F, fleur-de-lis or rhombus) to take home.

Launching in April 2022.

Saturdays, from 2.15 to 4.45pm. Children aged 6 to 12.

The calendar, and organization and booking details are available on: www.chambord.org



As of spring 2022, the second floor of the François I Tower is entirely dedicated to children. A place of exploration and experimentation specially designed for children.

By means of digital devices, the manipulation of objects and entertaining and sensory experiences, children will be able to deepen their knowledge of François I, and the castle's history and architecture.

For little ones (2-5 year-olds) there is a curiosity area with early learning activities and a reading corner.

The development of this new permanent space presents several challenges: refocusing part of our activities on families and younger members of the public, enriching the permanent tour and visitor experience, involving visitors of all ages in what we have to offer, living and reliving Chambord, encouraging exploration, curiosity, questioning, dialogue, the sharing of knowledge and participation in learning in an entertaining and attractive way.

■ Mechanical manipulation of objects integrating digital technology

A large materials library to answer all the questions children have about building materials and the Chambord construction site. It includes samples of materials to touch, interactive printed cards to match up with the materials, antique objects, and an interactive touch terminal.

- **"Which projects"**: An entertaining activity which involves rebuilding the king's castles.
- **"The king changes his plans"**: an animated film explaining one of Chambord's secrets.
- **"Measure yourself against the king!"**: a mobile measuring rod which allows children to measure themselves against François I according to two units of measurement: the system in force in the 16th century and the current metric system.

■ Digital devices

- **"What would your emblem be if you were king?"**: an interactive terminal for children to choose their royal emblem, its attribute and motto.
- **"Le Quizz des matériaux" (Materials Quiz) touch terminal**: Interactive touch table with mini-games for exploring Chambord's history and architecture.

■ Mock-ups and the non-digital manipulation of objects

"The prodigious staircase".



■ Sound device

"The Sound Hut": a sensory exploration of Chambord.

■ Settings and reconstruction

- **"The Story Corner"**: Inside the majestic setting of castle and forest, children can take some time to relax with picture books and illustrated texts devoted to Chambord, French history and nature.
- **"Take the king's place on the throne"**: Chambord recreates a royal setting to allow young visitors to stage and photograph themselves "in majesty".

Furniture becomes fun: six printed cubic footstools are available for visitors to sit on. They are also an excuse to have fun forming giant puzzles! Put back together and in the right order, they form six images of the castle at different periods, from different viewpoints and using various representation techniques.

■ Another activity (observation, deduction, construction):

- **"Apprentice Builder"**: the classic construction game.
- **"On the job"**: an activity to answer four questions involving observation and deduction.

■ Patrons and sponsors:

The children's quarters benefits from the remarkable support of the **Malatier-Jacquet Foundation based at the Fondation de France, the Caisse des Dépôts group, the Lelièvre Endowment Fund, the Association of the Friends of Chambord, the Lefèvre company, and Orange Grand Ouest.**

Thanks to **the music ensemble Douce Mémoire, Histoverly, Martine Todisco and Philippe Barbeau.**

Scheduled to open on 9 April 2022 - Permanent mediation space.

Location: 2nd floor of the keep - François I Tower.

Every day from 9am to 5pm during the off-season and 6pm during the peak season.

The activities are accessible from age 3.

Free admission, no extra charge.



Outdoor activities

Equestrian and birds of prey show

François I, the knight-king
From 9 April to 2 October

In the Maréchal de Saxe's stables the public can embark on a grand cavalcade, to the rhythm of the horses and the sound of Jacques Weber's voice. Birds of prey brush against visitors' shoulders and the show plunges them into the atmosphere of the court of François I: his reign will no longer hold any secrets for them.

This show in six scenes, both educational and entertaining, is produced by Pégase Production. It is an excellent extension to a tour of the monument.

From 9 April to 2 October at 11.45am and/or 4pm.

Every day from 5 July to 21 August.

Days out available on chambord.org

€16 per adult – €12.50 for children aged 5 to 17

Combined adult ticket castle + show: €26

Summary sheets:



Day pass to Chambord

Entrance to the castle and French gardens

- + Equestrian and birds of prey show
- + HistoPad
- + Leisure activity reduction

Valid from 9 April to 2 October. Within the limits of available places for the equestrian and birds of prey show.

€30 per adult

€20 for children aged 18 to 25

€16 for children aged 5 to 17



2021 - Léa Chauvet



Pégase production

Located in Salbris, the Pégase Production company, directed by Frédéric Sanabra, specializes in equestrian stunts and has been developing its work on film sets for about thirty years.



Total immersion

At the end of the show, visitors can leave with a number of high-quality souvenirs created especially for Chambord. The show's costumes, with their links to the iconography of the period, can be purchased for children. (further information on page 27)





Outdoor activities

Hiring a boat, electric cart or bike at the pier

Explore Chambord in a different way: by boat on the canal, by bike in the walkways or by electric cart.

From 9 April to 6 November
Prices at the jetty, at reception at the castle or on www.chambord.org



One post and three rods

Tour of the reserve

Visitors take a seat in an all-terrain vehicle to explore the private part of the estate, accompanied by a nature guide. An opportunity to discover the outstanding biodiversity of a park unlike any other in Europe.

Minimum age requirement: Age 3.
Rate: €100
Summary sheets:



Hiring fishing posts

From 25 April to 31 December

Amateur or specialist anglers can now fish in the Cosson canal (near the castle).

One day: €60 / Two days: €100



Listening to the stags rutting

From mid-September to mid-October, the deer's mating season, "the rut" is a good time to observe the kings of the forest, accompanied by a nature guide. Accessible from a raised hide in the reserve which is closed to the public.

3 hours. Group limited to 16 people.
Minimum age requirement: Age 12.
Booking recommended.
Rate: €35/pers. mornings, departure between 6 and 7am
40€/pers. evenings, departure between 6 and 7pm

Hiring a ground level hide

From mid-September to mid-October

During the "rut", enthusiasts and adventurers gather for an unforgettable experience in the observatories in the Chambord reserve, which offer a perfect view of this spectacle.

New in 2021



Attendees: knowledgeable wildlife photographer
Attendee age: 18+
Maximum capacity: 1 person
- Evening option: from 3.15pm (pick-up) to dusk
- Evening + morning option: from 3.15pm day 1 to 10am day 2
Rates : 2 options
- Evening: €200
- Evening + morning: €300



The Château de Chambord brand and products

For years, the name and image of Chambord have been used by third parties around the world to promote a wide variety of products. For the past ten years, Chambord has been working to reclaim the use of its brand.

To date, Chambord has a portfolio of over 20 French and international brands; several legal steps to recover the use of its name and image were simultaneously taken with medium-sized companies and multinationals. In order to protect the brand, it was also necessary to protect the use of images of the monument: no controls had been placed over the reproduction of its facade on consumer products with no links to the history of the place (taps, coffins, raspberry liqueur, vacuum cleaners, etc.). The 2016 LCAP law introduced a major change, as any commercial use of Chambord's image is now subject to authorization and may be accompanied by the payment of a fee.

Once the legislative framework was established and the registration of the trademarks validated, the development of Chambord product lines was launched.

■ Authentic products

Chambord has based itself on the abbeys, and has made its park an exceptional source of natural resources. Thus honey, wine, organic vegetables and birch water are harvested on site and promoted locally. Oak barrels, venison, wooden decorations, objects made from antlers and leather goods are also produced by craftsmen using traditional methods. Each of these "authentic" products is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity or marked with Chambord's royal seal.

■ Brand collaborations and licenses

In return for a contract and a royalty paid for the products sold, manufacturers are authorized to use the Chambord brand within a well-defined framework, as is the case with the fashion house Céline, the Faïencerie de Gien, the porcelain manufacturer Pillivuyt, the chocolate maker Cémoi and the Biscuiterie de Chambord (partner since 2022). Finally, some collaborations take place when know-how is both outstanding and French, for example in the case of the pastry chef Sébastien Gaudard.

■ Chambord's seal

This seal was found on a forester's hammer used at Chambord for centuries. This tool, composed of an axe and a mace engraved with a punch, was used for "hammering" trees. Today, Chambord uses this royal seal on all of its products to guarantee the products' origin.



■ Where are the products sold?

Products from the Chambord range are sold in the estate's three physical boutiques, on the online boutique and also through regional networks dealing with small and medium scale distribution and organic shops, as well as in delicatessens in Paris, Lyon, Tours and Orleans.



CELINE



SEBASTIEN GAUDARD
PARIS

The estate's products

By purchasing Chambord's products, visitors contribute to the renaissance of one of the emblems of French heritage, with all proceeds being reinvested in local projects that welcome the public.

Wine at Chambord

Items available on <https://boutiquedechambord.fr/>

The Chambord wine project is a historic project. In 1518, François I undertook the construction of Chambord and brought to the Loire Valley the grape variety that is probably the origin of Romorantin.

For the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the estate, historic grape varieties have been reintroduced near the monument, in the Ormetrou area, in an eco-responsible agricultural approach. A thousand metres from the castle, a single block of fourteen hectares has been planted with a north-south exposure. The soil is predominantly sandy, mixed with clay in the subsoil.

The Chambord vineyards are managed directly by a winegrower recruited by the estate, under contract with an eco-certified laboratory and with the advice of the Marionnet family. In 1999, Henry Marionnet discovered and bought vines planted before 1850, which were ungrafted and pre-phylloxera.

These vines were replanted at Chambord in 2015.

A word from the sommelier:

The dashing Romorantin is not lacking in elegance and complexity. An exceptional wine, elegant and lively, with floral, lemon, quince, and lime notes.

The colour of Pinot Noir is very pronounced and its aromas are mainly those of dark fruits: blackberries, cherries, blackcurrants. It is full-bodied, combining density, complexity and finesse.



THE WINES

The grape varieties

Between 2015 and 2019, five grape varieties were gradually planted over fourteen hectares.

- Four hectares of Romorantin from pre-phylloxera vines,
- Four hectares of Pinot Noir,
- Three hectares of Sauvignon,
- Two hectares of Orbois,
- One hectare of Gamay.

Eventually, the wines produced will consist of a red wine corresponding to a blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay (84% Pinot Noir and 16% Gamay, in accordance with "AOP Cheverny" specifications), a white wine made from the "Orbois grape variety" blended with the area planted with the "Sauvignon grape variety" (60% Sauvignon and 40% Orbois, in accordance with "AOP Cheverny" specifications), and a pure white wine made from the historic grape variety now called Romorantin.



NATIONAL ESTATE OF CHAMBORD

White wine from Chambord, "Vin de France" - Romorantin.

- Coming soon: AOP (PDO, Protected Designation of Origin) Cour-Cheverny
- Romorantin produced from a single variety of grape
- Vines resulting from cuttings from pre-phylloxera vines

METHOD

The grapes were picked when they were very ripe and full of sugar, to ensure a balance between acidity and ripeness. The grapes are destemmed in a state-of-the-art press, under inert gas. Fermentation takes place gently at low temperature, without malolactic fermentation.



CHAMBORD CASTLE

Red wine from Chambord - Pinot noir.

- With AOP (PDO, Protected Designation of Origin) Cheverny status
- Blend of 16% Gamay and 84% Pinot Noir

METHOD

Whole bunches of grapes are emptied (without destemming) into stainless steel tanks. Thanks to the indigenous yeasts present on the skin of the grapes, fermentation takes place naturally; the juice gradually turns into wine inside each grape.

All these wines are natural; the grapes were hand-picked by volunteers, including Chambord staff.

BOTTLED BY THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF CHAMBORD

The "baroness" bottle was chosen in memory of a model from the personal cellar of the Maréchal de Saxe, master of Chambord in the mid-18th century, a specimen of which was unearthed during an archaeological dig.

Prices

€30 for a bottle of white wine
€20 for a bottle of red wine

Adoption

It is still possible to **adopt a vine** for €1,000. This donation to Chambord allows the purchase of a batch of bottles at a preferential price, a nameplate and an adoption certificate (see page 40).



Chambord's organic fruit and vegetables



The vegetable gardens are designed in an entrepreneurial spirit, following the principle of exploiting its own resources, already implemented at Chambord; the harvested products are marketed.

Its marketing favours a short, local circuit; the first to benefit are the estate's employees, Chambord's restaurants, small supermarkets, organic shops and also the estate's visitors.



Honey from Chambord's black bees

In 2015, about 40 hives of Sologne black bee colonies were established in different areas of the estate, including the heather plots located in the eastern part of the estate, away from the castle and the public. This project allows us to harvest several types of honey, including acacia honey and forest honey.



Venison

The creation of a processing industry for game harvested at Chambord extends the hunting activities of the estate and is in line with the development policy initiated with the sale of authentic products guaranteed by their origin. This project also contributes to an ethical approach to the defence of hunting activities.

Several studies have shown that game meats are of high nutritional quality: they are low in fat, rich in phosphorus and potassium and are an excellent source of iron.

The products are cooked according to recipes created exclusively for Chambord.

The products are sold via short circuits, through local restaurants and butchers, large and medium-sized shops near Chambord, a few Parisian outlets and, lastly, Chambord's physical and online boutiques.



Local produce from royal territory!

Terrines made by La Bourriche aux Appétits, in Blois (20km from Chambord).

Cured meats produced by the artisan butcher Jérôme Davau, in Nouan-le-Fuzelier (50km from Chambord).



The Chefs' Committee

All our recipes have been tasted and validated by great French chefs, our project's sponsors:

- Guillaume Gomez
- Brunot Doucet
- Christophe Hay
- Jean-Pierre Vigato
- Julie Andrieu

Birch water



Sap harvesting

Each year, the birch sap harvest lasts about three weeks between February and March. In 2019, the first harvest of birch sap took place on the estate. Some 400 birch trees had been tapped entirely by hand by Chambord's forestry workers.

In 2021, the harvesting of this natural sap was done professionally. More than 3.4 kilometres of pipes were installed to connect 692 trees on a slightly sloping plot in the heart of the forest, which is perfectly suited to the system. With this new method, harvesting is more efficient. The sap arrives directly into a tank via a pump system and is less intrusive for the tree. In 2021, 13,500 litres were harvested.



■ As a drink and in cosmetics

Chambord markets harvested birch sap as a drink or in the form of cosmetics.

Birch water is available in 25 or 50cl bottles as a refreshing drink or as table water. A range of birch sap cosmetics is also being developed with Odaloire, a company in Tours.

These Chambord products are made without using heat or in a bain-marie, in order to preserve all the ingredients' properties. They are also formulated to minimize any risk of allergic reactions (absence of essential oils in particular). Hand and face creams, micellar water and lip balm are offered on the online boutique: www.boutiquedechambord.fr.

■ The benefits of birch sap

Birch sap is also known as the sap of a thousand virtues. Thanks to its filtered plant acids, this resource is draining and purifying for the body.

The diuretic and depurative benefits of birch water consumed as a cure in spring have been known since the Middle Ages. Naturally very rich in minerals (potassium, sodium, calcium and magnesium) and trace elements (zinc, silicon and flavonoids), it is the elixir of well-being par excellence!



Objects made from antlers

These objects are unique, certified pieces produced from the antlers of stags in the Chambord forest. Stags shed their antlers naturally each spring and some of them are found by forestry officers. Key rings, knife rests and walking sticks are handmade by the carpenters of Chambord.

Leather goods

Created from the skins of deer or wild boar from the Chambord forest, each piece is unique and produced in small quantities. These products are handmade by the leather worker Alexandre Mareuil.



Chambord's barrels

Sharing the concerns of the wood industry regarding the export of French oak as a raw material, in 2018 Chambord began producing barrels made entirely from oak from its own forest.

The Chambord forest borders the estate forests of Boulogne, Russy and Blois, which are ideal for the production of oak barrels. All of its lands and its forest are classified as historic monuments. A limited edition of high quality oak barrels is available each year.

The manufacturing process involves the meticulous and highly skilled selection of oak trees, the manufacture of staves and the designing of the barrels.

The barrels are made and heated by the Cadus cooperage, located in Burgundy. For each barrel delivered, this cooperage has committed itself, in partnership with a Burgundy nursery, to the replanting of an oak tree in France.

This heritage project is both economic and sustainable: Chambord wishes to reinstate its forest's place in French history, promote the wood industry, develop its brand's reputation and be part of an integrated approach to wine tourism.

Chambord oak is hand-split into staves in the traditional manner and matured for two years in the open air at the heart of the estate. Chambord oak brings structure, length, finesse, freshness and complexity

to the greatest wines and spirits, in France and world-wide.



Boutiques

The estate's boutiques

Decoration and furnishings, regional gourmet cuisine, objets d'art, fine books: Chambord's boutiques offer a selection of carefully chosen items. Different themes devoted to the forest, children, tableware, etc. ensure you will find the perfect gift.

■ AT THE CASTLE

This beautiful space measuring 400 m² is accessible free of charge from the royal porch and is open every day, except when the castle is closed.

■ ON THE VILLAGE SQUARE - RECEPTION HALL

In the heart of the new reception hall, this open-access boutique offers a range of regional products and flagship items sold in the castle's main boutique.

■ THE STABLE BOUTIQUE

This boutique presents two ranges of exclusive products, one linked to the world of the equestrian and birds of prey show and another which provides visitors with an extension to their tour of the vegetable gardens.



Online boutique

There are more than 200 references to explore online, divided into six categories:



■ Young people.

■ Fashion and decoration.

■ Gourmet cuisine.

■ Tableware.

■ Nature and well-being.

■ Bookshop and souvenirs.



<https://boutiquede Chambord.fr/>



Catering



Vegetables, coldmeats, organic wines from the estate and local products are offered and promoted at Chambord in our two directly managed restaurants.

Different menus are on offer, from fast food to a more upscale gourmet restaurant.

■ Around the well

Below the castle short circuits are given preference, delivering fresh, quality products and a selection of salads and sandwiches, directly from Chambord land or its immediate surroundings.

From 4 April to 1 November.
11.30am–6.30pm

■ Café d'Orléans

In the castle courtyard, with its terrace overlooking the keep and a fireplace that crackles in the autumn, the Café d'Orléans welcomes visitors for lunch during the castle's opening hours, with hot seasonal dishes cooked on the spot with products from the estate or the surrounding area.

From 8 February to 1 November and school holidays.
Spaces accessible to people with reduced mobility.



On the village square

Restaurants and shops welcome you all year round on Chambord's village square (between the car parks and the castle): varied menus, local specialties and local products (wine, terrines, etc.).

- Maison des vins (House of Wine) - +33 (0)254 509840.
- La Cave des rois (The Cellar of Kings) - +33 (0)699 301753.
- Bergeries de Sologne - +33 (0)254 333203.
- Biscuiterie de Chambord - +33 (0)254 816097.
- Creperie du cerf - +33 (0)254 422122.
- The Saint-Louis - +33 (0)254 203127.
- The Castle Arms - +33 (0)254 422944.

■ Le Grand Saint Michel, the Relais de Chambord's gourmet restaurant

The chef offers a haute cuisine experience that highlights French culture and traditions via a seasonal menu. High quality products, mainly from farmers, local producers and Chambord's vegetable garden.



Accommodation

Just a few metres from the castle and at the estate's gates, Chambord offers an opportunity to stay in the heart of an exceptional UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Self-catering accommodation

■ "Stag" and "Salamander"

These holiday cottages have a four-star rating, and are located only 200 metres from the castle. Luxury accommodation at the heart of a historic house for breaks with family or friends. With a remarkable level of comfort, refined decoration and access to a large private garden, these holiday cottages at the heart of the estate are the ideal place to recharge your batteries. Each cottage has four bedrooms and can accommodate up to eight people.



■ The "Gabillière"

This holiday cottage is located at the entrance to the estate and at the edge of the Chambord forest. It has a 3-star rating, and allows a rare proximity with nature. It is located a few metres from the first raised hides for wildlife observation.

One of the estate's former farmhouses, this single-storey self-catering holiday cottage has a warm, country-style atmosphere and can accommodate up to six people.

It is fully equipped, and also has a fireplace and a private garden, three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

■ La Hannetière

Coming up in the summer of 2022

This ancient 16th century house has been entirely renovated using the finest materials and is now a five-bedroom heritage self-catering holiday cottage at the heart of the estate's reserve!



Hotel

■ Le Relais de Chambord ****

Located fifty metres from the castle, this 4-star hotel has 55 rooms and suites, fifteen of which have an exceptional view of the castle and the French gardens, and eighteen a view of the Cosson River.

In 2018, the hotel was completely renovated by renowned French architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte, to create a luxury establishment. The decoration was designed to reproduce the warmth of a country house, with living spaces designed to encourage conversation by the fireplace, in the library or around the pool table.

His bistro restaurant, the Grand Saint-Michel, located opposite the castle, opens onto a monumental terrace and offers its guests a menu that changes with the seasons. The cuisine highlights French culture and traditions via a menu that favours high quality products, mainly from local breeders and producers or from the Chambord vegetable garden.

Its SPA is a haven of peace and well-being where a professional team provides treatments from the NuxeSpa range. The space is equipped with two treatment rooms (one of which is double), a hammam, a sauna, a relaxation area offering a selection of herbal teas, as well as an outdoor jacuzzi with a view of the castle.

A bar and meeting rooms complete the ensemble.

Practical information:

Open all year round, the Relais de Chambord is managed by Marugal, a designer of unique destinations, and forms part of the Small Luxury Hotels collection.





Groups, privatizations and filming

Private hire, seminars and events

Many special events are organized at Chambord in a variety of formats: jewellery collection presentations, commercials, feature films and hit shows, classic car meets, sports rallies, gala dinners, political seminars, cultural gatherings, weddings, family celebrations and corporate anniversaries. At Chambord, nothing is impossible!

Information on www.chambord.org
and evenements@chambord.org



Space hire

Filming

Chambord castle and its 5,440-hectare estate offer many possibilities for filming: films, documentaries, programmes, etc.



Groups

Chambord offers year-round services for groups, either à la carte or as a package. Catering services at the castle also allows you to spend a whole day on site and take full advantage of the estate and its activities. A "Destination Chambord" brochure for works councils, associations and travel and holiday operators is available on our website, under Groups.



"Destination Chambord"
brochure

Groups of 20 people or more
Information on www.chambord.org
and devtour@chambord.org



Patronage at Chambord

In 2019, EDF provided lighting for the monument through a skills sponsorship initiative.

An innovative patronage policy

By supporting Chambord, patrons participate in the restoration of a historic monument and thus contribute to the preservation of French heritage and humanity. For companies and individuals alike, this is a unique opportunity to become associated with the future of one of humanity's masterpieces and to join the ranks of the great patrons of heritage and art.

Their names will be associated with an iconic monument with a thoroughly updated image.

Over the past decade, Chambord has undergone a profound cycle of change: many large-scale projects have been implemented and major initiatives have been completed.

The patronage policy of the National Estate of Chambord is based on four main priorities: the agricultural, the sustainable, the educational and the social.

The projects proposed to patrons are part of this approach. For example, it is possible to support the social and solidarity inclusion initiative for the restoration of the wall, or the creation of educational spaces within the castle devoted to young people.

A new online donation tool

The creation of an online donation platform is an essential element in the development of Chambord's patronage activities.

The year 2020, marked by the health crisis, was also characterized by a major digitalization of donations: the share of online donations increased by 72% compared to 2019. Online giving has become an essential tool for fundraising.



Online donation platform

Companies

■ Patronage

Becoming a patron of Chambord allows you to benefit from tax relief: a 60% reduction in corporate tax (up to 0.5% of annual turnover).

Patrons can benefit from considerations equivalent to up to 25% of the amount of they donate.

■ Sponsorship

The National Estate of Chambord encourages patronage and also offers, in exceptional circumstances, the sponsorship formula. Unlike patronage, amounts donated by companies are not tax deductible. Sponsors can benefit from considerations equivalent to up to 100% of the amount of they donate.

■ Considerations

The National Estate of Chambord offers tailor-made considerations to its patrons and sponsors.

■ Material considerations:

- pass to visit the castle and French gardens
- private tours of the castle, the reserve and the vegetable gardens
- listening to the stags rutting
- private hire of spaces for the organization of events
- the National Estate of Chambord's products
- invitations to events (concerts, openings, etc.)

■ Intangible considerations:

- The company's name on the *Wall of Patrons and Sponsors* beneath the castle's Royal Porch.
- Logo on Chambord's communications media (posters, presentation folders, etc.).





Contact: mecenat@chambord.org
+33 (0)2.54.50.40.03

Individuals

All donations to the National Estate of Chambord are eligible for the tax relief provided by the French General Tax Code.

- 66% reduction in income tax
- 75% reduction in property tax

FONDS DE DOTATION
TRANSATLANTIQUE

Adoption projects

Adoption projects are set up by the National Estate of Chambord. They allow as many people as possible to support Chambord, so that everyone can contribute to the building.

- For €500, in partnership with the **Transatlantic Fund**
- For €1,000, adopt a vine
- For €1,000, adopt a lime tree in the French gardens
- For €2,000, adopt a bench in the castle grounds
- For €3,000, adopt a citrus tree in the French gardens

Patrons and sponsors 2022

The National Estate of Chambord extends its thanks to the patrons, companies and individuals who support the various projects. Below are the corporate patrons and sponsors who support Chambord:

Fondation
**Malatier
- Jacquet**

Accuracy

Caisse
des Dépôts
GROUPE **Mécénat**

Groupama
PARIS VAL DE LOIRE

**FONDS
LELIEVRE**

RATP

CA
VAL DE
FRANCE

TRECA
PARIS

apbi
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

cheminées
Poujoulat

Le
PATELIERE
Since 1789

FONDATION
YVES ROCHER

Fondation
la France
Mutualiste
UNION DES ASSURÉS MUTUALISTES DE FRANCE

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Chambord on the international scene

In 2019, more than a third of Chambord's visitors were of international origin. As a direct consequence of the health crisis, in 2021 foreign visitors represented only 13.4% of visitors. Efforts are now focused on French and European customers.



For several years, Chambord has been developing exchanges with major heritage sites around the world. Exchanges of expertise on the preservation and enhancement of heritage, cultural cooperation and the development of tourism sites are the common basis for these twinnings. In 2015, a twinning agreement had been signed with the **new Summer Palace of Beijing**, its purpose being cooperation between the two countries in order to deepen mutual knowledge of cultures and histories. That year, Chambord and the **Venaria Reale** in Turin, Italy, signed a partnership agreement. The two sites wished to undertake to promote their cultural, educational and scientific activities in France and Italy, in order to develop and intensify tourism between the two countries. This twinning also allowed the teams from Chambord and the Venaria Reale to exchange ideas on the heritage management of estates that include architectural and natural elements, and on the integration of contemporary artistic creation at heritage sites.



Partnership with the City Palace of Udaipur in Rajasthan, India

In April 2015, Chambord signed a partnership agreement with the City Palace of Udaipur. This is the first cooperation project between the Loire Valley and Rajasthan, which aims to develop Indian tourism in France, as well as to preserve and promote Indian heritage. The next step will be to organize the Maharani Mewar Charitable Foundation's exhibition on Rajasthan at Chambord in 2022 (see page 20).



Figures

2010

2019

Attendance

729,551

VISITORS

1,130 852

VISITORS

Employment

132

STAFF

220

STAFF

Average visitor's basket

€8

€18

Financial autonomy (including salaries)

80.5%

IN 2006

93.3%

IN 2019

Work

€27 MILLION

OF WORK DONE ON THE ESTATE SINCE 2010

Communications

+ 990%

CHAMBORD'S PRESENCE IN THE PRESS

500,000

SINGLE VISITS TO THE WEBSITE

19 MILLION

SINGLE VISITS TO THE WEBSITE
IN 2021

€18.3 MILLION

ESTIMATED ADVERTISING EQUIVALENT FOR THE 2021 PRESS REVIEW

Sponsorship

€100,000

IN DONATIONS IN THE FORM OF
PATRONAGE

€2 MILLION

IN DONATIONS IN 2021 UNDER
THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Chronology

1515 Victory of Marignan. François I becomes king of France.

1519 Death of Leonardo da Vinci in Amboise, beginning of the construction of Chambord.

1539 The keep is completed. François I invites Charles V to Chambord for a night.

1542 Beginning of the construction of the estate's surrounding wall.

1545 François I's last stay at Chambord. Completion of the Royal Wing.

1547 Death of François I. His son Henry II, now king, continues the construction of the castle.

1556 Suspension of construction. The chapel wing and the lower enclosure are not completed.

1626 Gaston d'Orléans receives Chambord in his apanage (portion of royal domain granted by kings to their younger sons or brothers).

1641-1642 First restoration works at the castle. Continuation of the construction of the estate's surrounding wall.

1643-1662 Last acquisitions of land to constitute the estate.

1660 Death of Gaston d'Orléans. Chambord returns to the crown. Louis XIV's first stay.

1685 Construction of the stables in the castle forecourt. Louis XIV's last stay at Chambord.

1686 Interruption of all work.

1725 Stanislas Leszczyński moves to Chambord.

1730-1734 Resumption of improvements and sanitation works around the castle.

1733 The former king of Poland leaves Chambord for good.

1745 Louis XV grants the Maréchal de Saxe the use of the castle and its estate.

1748 The Maréchal de Saxe takes up permanent residence in the castle and completes the improvements in its grounds.

1750 The Maréchal dies in the castle.

1781 The estate and the castle are entrusted to the Royal stud farm directed by the Marquis de Polignac.

1792 The castle's furniture is sold at auction during the Revolution.

1809 Napoleon offers Chambord to Maréchal Louis Alexandre-Berthier, Prince of Wagram.

1821 The estate is given to Henri d'Artois, Duke of Bordeaux, the last of the Bourbons.

1840 The castle is added to the list of France's historic monuments.

1871 The first and only stay of Henri d'Artois, now Count of Chambord.

1883 Death of the Count of Chambord. His Bourbon-Parme nephews inherit the estate.

1923 The castle's surroundings become a listed site.

1930 Purchase of the estate by the State.

1939-1945 Thousands of works of art from French museums are moved to the castle for safekeeping.

1947 The estate becomes a national hunting and wildlife reserve.

1981 The castle is listed as a world heritage site (UNESCO).

1997 The entire estate is listed as a historical monument.

2005 Creation of the public establishment of the National Estate of Chambord.

2017 Opening of the French gardens.

2019 Celebration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of construction.

2021 200th anniversary of the opening of the castle to the public.

Opening of the castle

The castle is open every day of the year except on 1 January, 28 November and 25 December.

Opening hours:

- 2 January to 25 March: 9am - 5pm
- 26 March to 30 October: 9am - 6pm
- 31 October to 16 December: 9am - 5pm
- 17-31 December to*: 9am - 6pm

Last access ½ hour before the castle closes.

The French gardens close ½ hour earlier.

*The castle closes at 4pm on 24 and 31 December.

Access to the castle and the French gardens

€14.5 Full rate

€12 Reduced rate

€12 Groups of 20 people or more

€30 **Chambord Passport**
(one day on site)



Access to Chambord Park

■ Parking P0 600 metres from the castle (cars and motorcycles): €6 / day.

■ Parking P1 (minibus): €11 / day
Bus: €50 / day.

Free parking for groups visiting the castle (proof of purchase of at least 7 tickets to be presented at the cash desk).

■ Parking P2 (cars): €4 / day.
(Motorhome): €11 / 24h.

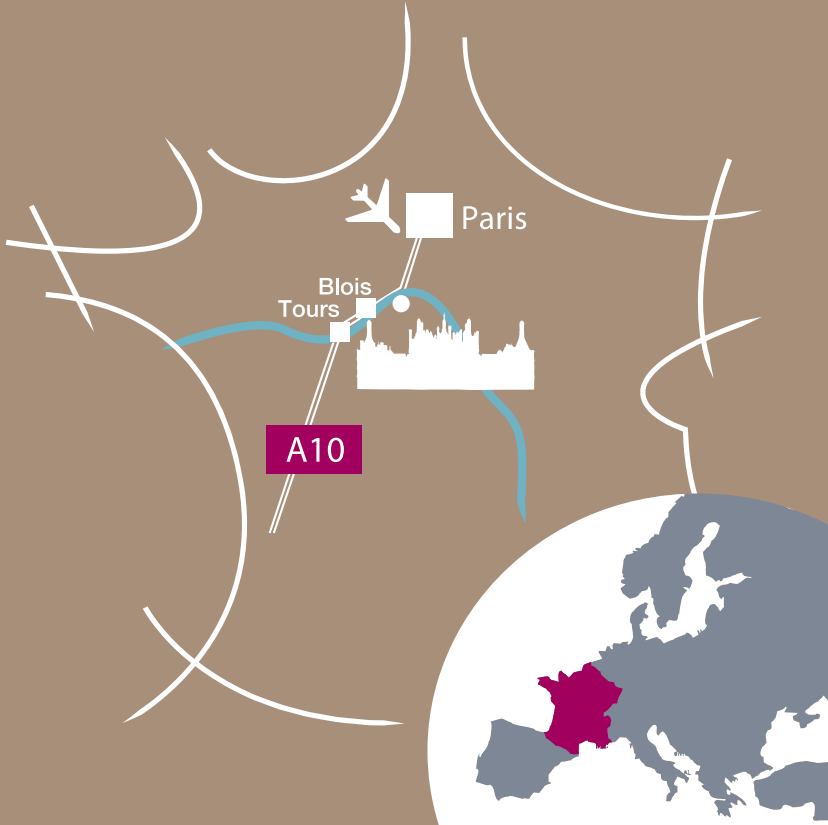
■ 10-visit parking card (vehicles): €10 valid for 1 year.

■ Free bicycle parking.

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Access

From Paris (less than two hours)

Via A10 the motorway, take signs for Bordeaux, exit at Mer (no. 16) or Blois (no. 17)

By train from Austerlitz station to Blois-Chambord or Mer

Contact

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