

Château and Gardens

Villandry

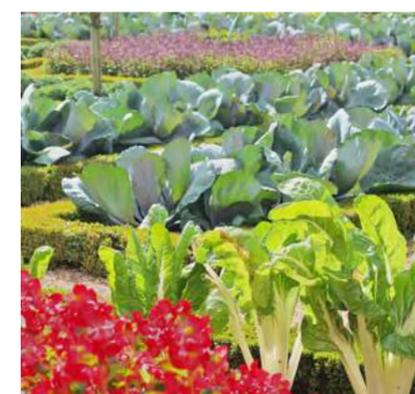
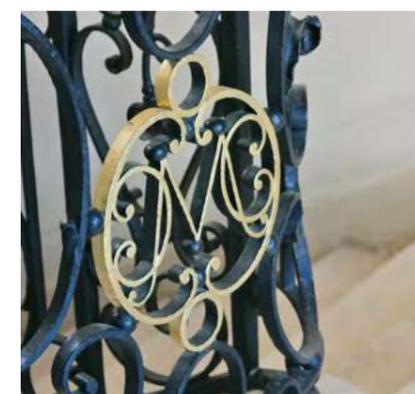
THE ART OF THE GARDEN IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

PRESS KIT

2020



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VILLANDRY, CASTLE AND GARDENS

VILLANDRY PAST AND PRESENT

The incredible story of a rebirth

IN THE MIDDLE AGE

A fortress, whose tower still remains today, was built. It was here in **the keep** in 1189 that the «**Paix de Colombiers**» would have been signed, in which Henry II Plantagenet, King of England, came before the King of France, Philippe Auguste, to acknowledge defeat.

DURING THE RENAISSANCE

Jean Breton, Finance minister under King Francis I, bought the estate in 1532 and in 1536, on the site of the old fortress, built a Renaissance castle. The architectural style of the Renaissance castle was a precursor of Anet and Fontainebleau and later became the Henri IV style.

FROM THE CLASSICAL PERIOD TO THE 20th CENTURY

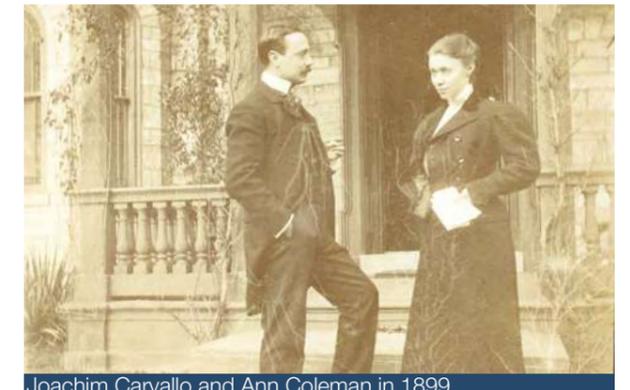
In the 18th century, the property came into the hands of the **Marquis Michel-Ange de Castellane** who wished to bring it up to the levels of comfort in vogue at the time and therefore had a number of modifications made to both the interior and the exterior.

The castle remained in the family until the Revolution, but then had a succession of owners from a wide range of horizons, such as the prince **Jérôme Bonaparte, Napoléon's brother**, and **the Hainguerlot family**. Some of them took little interest in its future, or indeed its upkeep.



The château in the early 20th century

At the same time, the gardens were also altered in line with the current trend for all things English: the Renaissance kitchen garden was destroyed to transform the whole estate into a large, English-style park.



Joachim Carvallo and Ann Coleman in 1899

VERY EARLY IN THE 20th CENTURY

Everything changed in 1906. **Joachim Carvallo**, of Spanish origin, and his American wife **Ann Coleman** bought the site. This marked a turning point, for them and for the castle: Joachim and his wife gave up their career in science, converted to the Catholic faith and devoted their fortune to restoring the monument.

Joachim was a cultivated man, with a passion for botany, architecture and Spanish art. In the first few years, the couple concentrated on restoring the stones, and gradually the place recovered its soul... But very soon (in around 1908), Joachim Carvallo began to **restore the castle to its Renaissance style**, which meant **bringing back the Renaissance garden** in the place of the romantic English park. And so began the great adventure of restoring the grounds by recreating the four levels of terraces and each of the gardens: the decorative vegetable garden, the garden rooms and the water garden.

TODAY

Today their great-grand-son, Henri Carvallo, heads Villandry.

A LIVING AND FURNISHED CASTLE...

Although Villandry owes its reputation to its incredible gardens, no visit is complete without a tour of the château.

The interiors of Jean Breton's Renaissance château were completely revamped by the **Marquis de Castellane** in the **18th century** and kept this way by its subsequent owners.



The Kitchen garden bedroom



The dining room

There is a **warm and welcoming atmosphere** to this **family home**, which is now fully open to visitors. Explore its 15 rooms, including dining room, kitchen, study and bedrooms, all harmoniously furnished and decorated with care. They are further embellished with **bouquets of fresh flowers**, to the great delight of visitors.

At Villandry, the gardens are never far away. Designed to be admired from a height, they can be viewed from the windows of the château. A tour of the château also includes access to the terrace of the mediaeval keep, with its spectacular view over the gardens and the Loire Valley.

...WITH HISPANIC TONES

The Spanish paintings collection

The château de Villandry presents a magnificent collection of mainly Spanish works dating from the 17th century, the golden age of Iberian painting. This collection was initially compiled by Joachim Carvallo. Incidentally, it was the scope of this collection that made him decide to buy Villandry: he wanted to display his treasures there.

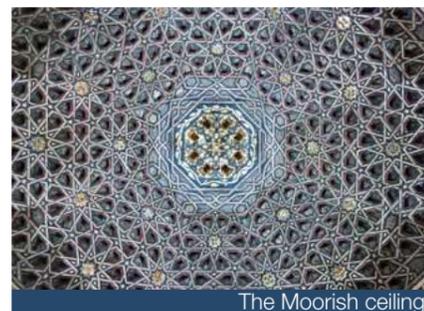
The current owner, Henri Carvallo, is keen to rebuild this collection by repurchasing works that were part of Joachim Carvallo and Ann Coleman's original collection.

The Moorish ceiling

Unexpected finds include the oriental drawing room, at the end of the gallery of Spanish paintings on the first floor. It has been fully restored, from the floor to the Mudéjar-style ceiling, which dates from the 15th century. Originally from a palace in Toledo, it is formed of 3,600 pieces of wood, all purchased and reassembled by Joachim Carvallo in the early 20th century.



The art gallery

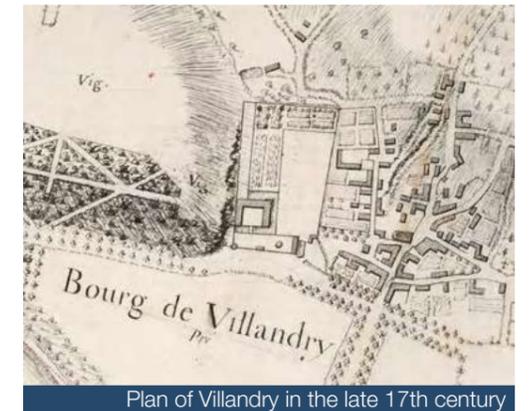


The Moorish ceiling

THE GARDENS OVER THE CENTURIES

16th CENTURY

This was when the Renaissance castle was built by **Jean Breton**. Thanks to archaeological digs, we know today that there was a decorative vegetable garden at the time, right next to the castle, such as those you can see in the illustrations of the *Plus Excellents bâtiments de France*, a work by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau, a brilliant Renaissance architect. This conviction was consolidated by the recent discovery of an 18th century blueprint which proves the existence of **two terraces**, one cultivated as a **vegetable garden** and the other as an **ornamental garden**.



Plan of Villandry in the late 17th century

18th CENTURY

At this time, Villandry became the property of the **Marquis de Castellane** who, from 1760 onwards, extended the gardens begun in the 16th century. For this, he bought plots of land from the villagers extending right up to the church. He thus created a **fine classic French style garden**. A **third level of terraces** was added to the vegetable garden – situated between the church and the castle, and the ornamental garden. On this last terrace, he created a pond in the shape of a Louis XV looking glass.



The grounds in 1860

19th CENTURY

The property then fell into the hands of the **Hainguerlot family**, and the gardens underwent considerable change: they were transformed into a **romantic English style park**. This type of grounds became fashionable in the late 19th century under the impulse of the Romantic Movement, and required much less maintenance than a French style garden. It was presumably for both these reasons that the Hainguerlot family decided to change to a landscape of winding paths, curves and clusters of trees and shrubs.

EARLY 20th CENTURY

Between 1908 and 1918, the new owner of Villandry, Joachim Carvallo devoted himself to restoring the Renaissance gardens. Why did he do this? Because he believed that the Renaissance castle – which he restored to its original beauty – should have the right gardens.

He therefore set about gathering the necessary information: first he led archaeological digs in the gardens and found the vestiges of base walls and pipes which enabled him to re-site the decorative vegetable garden. Then he consulted two important literary sources in particular: *Les Plus Excellents bâtiments de France* and the *Monasticon Gallicanum* which gave him an idea of what Renaissance gardens were like. He also consulted old blueprints, like that of the Marquis de Castellane and the Napoleonic land registry, which helped him in his quest.



View of the gardens in 1919

AND TODAY...

The gardens have once again been extended with the creation of the Sun Garden in 2008. This was created on a fourth terrace, from a sketch left by Joachim Carvallo.

SIX GARDENS IN VILLANDRY

There are a total of six gardens at Villandry. The Villandry gardens are laid out in a succession of terraces, and each garden has its own strong identity and aesthetic principles:



Aerial view of the kitchen garden



The ornamental rooms

At the lowest level is **THE DECORATIVE VEGETABLE GARDEN**, which has to feed the household, but not just in any old manner: it has to be quite simply magnificent as it is situated just next to the castle. Made up of nine squares of identical size but with different motifs inside, it covers an area of almost one hectare. There are two planting schemes per year: the spring scheme from March to June and the summer one from July to October.

On the intermediary level are **THE ORNAMENTAL ROOMS** designed as outside reception rooms: these are a natural extension of the castle rooms and are planted with tall boxwoods and flowers whose motifs are the timeless subjects of conversation: love, music and religion.

On the third level are the water garden, the herb garden and the maze.

THE WATER GARDEN, surrounding a fine pond intended to be the mirror reflecting the sky, is designed as a place for meditation. It is also a marvellous water reserve for watering the gardens.



The Water Garden



The Herb Garden

THE HERB GARDEN, just like the vegetable garden, supplies all the plants necessary for family life: medicinal plants, aromatic plants and herbs.

THE MAZE, with its long, winding paths, but containing no difficult pitfalls, symbolises man progressing serenely and smoothly towards God.

Finally, on the last level, you can enjoy **THE SUN GARDEN**. The most recent of the gardens, the sun garden, is a place to dream and get away from it all. The plants are cleverly placed in a delightful impression of disorder, which of course is only an impression. 80 years after the completion of the gardens, Henri Carvallo made news at Villandry in 2008 by creating the Sun Garden.

He commissioned the design – from a sketch by his ancestor Joachim – and the creation to Louis Benech and Alix de Saint-Venant.

The Sun Garden observes the same general principles of organisation in all the gardens at Villandry and forms a cloister of greenery, with lime trees and hornbeam, and comprises three chambers:

- The sun chamber, the central part of the garden, where there is a pond in the shape of the sun, the eight-point star designed by Joachim Carvallo, and beds of perennials in various hues of orange.
- The clouds chamber where the grassy paths form triangles winding in and out of the roses and blue-hued shrubs.
- The children's chamber with open-air games and crab apple trees.



Aerial view of the Sun Garden



The Sun chamber

LAWN TENNIS WIMBLEDON STYLE

The old tennis court in the gardens of Villandry was renovated in the spring of 2010 in the pure Wimbledon style. The gardeners have once again shown proof of their skill and today you can admire an almost unique spot in France: a splendid «high tech» lawn tennis court, which every month, is de-thatched, reseeded, mown and relined. In addition to the joy it gives to tennis players of all levels, the spot also reveals another aspect of the gardens: as a place for games and competition, with a sporting attitude to boot. The spot is visible to the public and is open to experienced and amateur players during some of our events.



The tennis court

A TURNING POINT: GOING ORGANIC IN THE GARDENS

Over ten years ago, Villandry gambled on **a move towards organic farming**. A ban on the use of pesticides and chemical insecticides led head gardener Laurent Portuguez and his team to rethink the way they worked, the tools they used and their methods of organisation, with the motto: “observe to anticipate and anticipate to avoid chemical treatments”.

From fighting disease to withstanding unpredictable weather, managing gardens requires constant attention and an ability to regularly solve problems and come up with new ideas. Ten years later, their efforts have paid off: the ecological management of a site such as Villandry has proved well and truly possible. Balancing heritage preservation, modern day concerns and biodiversity management, the maintenance of the gardens at Villandry is a year-round challenge.



Laurent Portuguez, head gardener

A few concrete examples of what has been done in the gardens:

■ STOP PESTICIDES

All pesticides have been eliminated from the gardens and replaced either by parasitic or predatory auxiliaries or by nematodes, which feed on diptera larvae (flies, etc.). For example, native predators of the lime mite might have been introduced following the recommendations of the university technology and skills transfer unit Innophyt specialising in organic methods of preventing the spread of lime mite, which cause discoloration and leaf fall in the lime trees in the Villandry gardens. These natural predators are being introduced in controlled conditions so that they eventually become permanent residents of the gardens.



Finally, since we have stopped using chemical insecticides, insects hitherto naturally present have started to come back in the kitchen garden, and many of the natural enemies of aphids (green or black fly), such as syrphus flies, green lacewings, and parasitic wasps, are present and are at work to attack these pests.

■ THE NATURAL FUNGICIDES

At the same time, we are fighting against fungus borne leaf diseases without using synthetic treatments: by stimulating the natural defences of roses, vines and fruit trees with treatments using minerals, trace elements, essential oils, slurry and decoctions to strengthen the plants and make them more resistant to disease.

■ THE ORGANIC FERTILIZATION

Chemical fertilisation has been eliminated and has now been replaced by organic fertilisation, in the form of compost comprising a variety of granules supplying nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. All the fertilisers can be used in organic farming but require several targeted applications as and when needed to avoid the soil becoming impoverished.

The elimination of the chemical fertilization was with few changes:

- Changes in growing methods: multi-tined spades are now used to preserve the activity of the bacteria contained in the top 10 to 15 centimetres of soil. Unlike ordinary digging, it avoids burying this microscopic life 30cm under the surface. Hoeing is also done more frequently to make the watering more efficient.

- Changes in the choice of plants: introduction of plants, seeds and growing composts with “organic farming” certification. So the spring and summer planting schemes are now fully organic.

■ THE WEEDING

We no longer use glyphosate or any other anti-germinating treatment. The whole site is weeded traditionally with tools such as wheel-mounted hoes and harrows... and some very patient gardeners! This year we are experimenting with thermal weed control and a natural weedkiller based on acetic acid.

For lawns: scarification removes straggly growth and the use of Verti-drain aerates the soil, improving the quality of the lawns and encouraging faster growth without chemical treatment. The green waste management is outsourced to a specialised company which has a composting centre.



10 gardeners work full time to maintain the gardens; an apprentice *Compagnon du devoir* artisan completes the team. It is strengthened in the summer by interns to undertake, among other things, the manual weeding work. Young people with disability service company regularly take part in the garden work.

52 kms of boxwood are pruned twice a year; in May and August. About 300 hours are required just to prune the small box hedges in the kitchen gardens.

115 000 flower and vegetable plants are planted out in the kitchen gardens or the gardens rooms. About half the plants are prepared by the gardeners in the castle glasshouses (seeds are sown and seedlings planted out, etc.)

2 planting schemes each year, established aesthetic and agronomic criterias : one from March to June and the other from July to September.

1016 lime trees spread all over the property are pruned every winter. This takes a team of four gardeners two months to complete, i.e. 1,100 hours of work, in addition to the 400 hours of work to prune the vines, roses bushes, pear and apple trees.

162 topiary yews, pruned twice a year, in June for the first ornamental room, and in October for the second one.



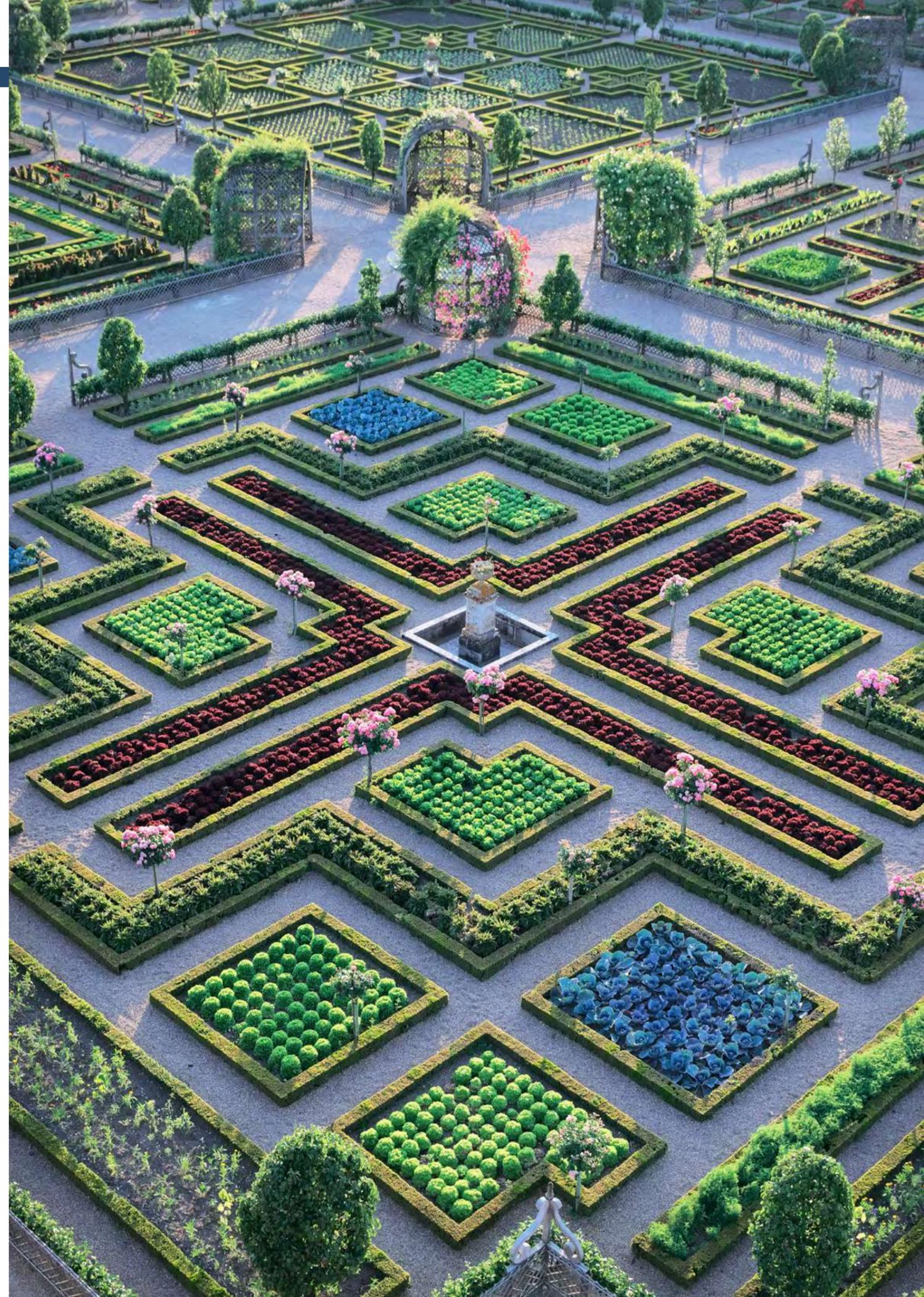
THE «QUALITÉ TOURISME» ACCREDITATION

Since 2006, Villandry had been part of a discussion on quality in the Loire Valley, conducted together with a number of tourist sites in the region and the Touraine Departmental Tourist Board. Villandry Castle and two other sites in Indre-et-Loire received their certification at the end of 2009. Since then a number of other sites have joined us... Quality accreditations are progressing and becoming well established in the Loire Valley!

In January 2019, the Château de Villandry was awarded a renewal of the Qualité Tourisme accreditation for five years.

OTHERS DISTINCTIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- With the help of the Touraine Departmental Tourist Board, Villandry has been working hard since 2009 to make its château and gardens accessible to all members of the public. In recognition of its efforts to welcome people with mental, physical and visual disabilities, it was awarded **«TOURISME & HANDICAP»** status in 2015.
- The gardens have been awarded the **«REFUGE LPO»** certification by the League for the Protection of Birds in 2013. Villandry is the first castle to obtain this label.
- The gardens were acknowledged by the **«LOIRE À VÉLO»** association in 2009.
- In 2005 the gardens were designated by UNESCO as an **«AMBASSADOR SITE» FOR THE LOIRE VALLEY, PLACED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST.**
- In 2004 the gardens were awarded the **«JARDIN REMARQUABLE»** certification by the Culture and Communication Ministry.
- TripAdvisor is the greatest travel review site listing no less than 35 million different points of views about hotels, restaurants, attractions, museums... In 2015, Villandry was awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2015. It ranks second among the castles of the Loire just behind Chenonceau.
- The chateau and the gardens were listed as a **«HISTORIC MONUMENT»** in 1934 and are founder members of the «Demeure Historique», an association of the owners of private listed monuments.



VILLANDRY GOES BACK IN TIME

As part of the year marking the 500th anniversary of the Renaissance, the Château de Villandry has conducted lengthy research in partnership with the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance and the Intelligence des Patrimoines programme to **develop our knowledge of Villandry during the Renaissance**, as well as of its builder, Jean Breton, a figure who has remained little-known until now. This partnership will continue over the coming years through **new archaeological and historical research**.

BUT WHO REALLY WAS JEAN BRETON?

Jean Breton is believed to have been born circa 1490, the son of a royal notary from Orléans. Breton himself worked as a **notary and secretary to the king** from 1517, gradually taking on a host of roles in the royal administration. He climbed both the professional and the social ladder, aided by his marriage to Anne Gédoyne, the daughter of a royal secretary whose duties he inherited. His imprisonment with **François I** in Pavia in 1525 and the roles he held brought him into the king's inner circle. As **finance secretary and controller-general of wars**, and with his ability to decipher coded letters, **he was at the forefront of matters of the kingdom and foreign policy**.

During the Renaissance, many royal secretaries had opulent residences built in the Loire Valley, such as Gilles Berthelot at Azay-le-Rideau and Thomas Bohier at Chenonceaux. Jean Breton also purchased several seigneuries and had châteaux built on them; the best known of these include the **Château de Villesavin**, built in 1526, and the **Château de Villandry**, built in 1532.



Breton coats of arms
Azure a chevron Argent a chief Gules charged with three golden bezants

FROM COLOMBIERS TO VILLANDRY

Although the name "Colombiers" is recorded as being associated with the land that is now Villandry up to the 17th century, it became "Villandry" in 1639 at the request of Balthazar Le Breton – a direct descendant of Jean Breton – to the king.

It has long been suggested that the name "Villandry" came from Villa Andriaca, which stood in ancient times on the site of what is now the château. Research conducted in 2019 revealed that "Villandry" is in fact the name of the first fiefdom of Jean Breton, purchased twenty years before Colombiers and located between Châteaudun and Orléans (a place called Villandry still exists in the commune of Villampuy in the Pays Dunois). The name was therefore transferred, a fairly common practice under the Ancien Régime.

However, the Colombiers name has not faded from memory, as the residents of Villandry still refer to themselves as "les Colombiens"!

FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE RENAISSANCE: VILLANDRY IN 3D

As part of the exhibition "Jean Breton: the Renaissance at Villandry", extensive research has been conducted into the architectural transformation of the château between the end of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. A 3D model film tracing this transformation has been made in partnership with the company Dripmoon. The video is shown in the screening room at the entrance of the château, forming a wonderful introduction to the visit and an unmissable source of information on Villandry's architectural history.



3D reconstruction of Villandry in 1540

VILLANDRY GOES HYBRID



Herplant BVBA's greenhouses

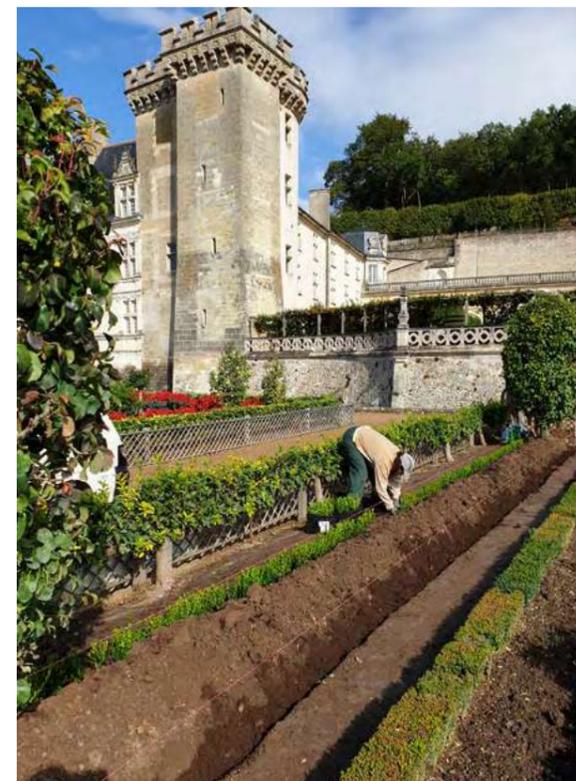
Planted by Joachim Carvallo over a hundred years ago, box is a fundamental aspect of Villandry. Easy to prune, its evergreen foliage makes it a guardian of the gardens, maintaining the emblematic lines and motifs season after season.

As with any plant, box is affected by variations in weather, disease and more, and while the plants at Villandry are very resistant, the château's owner, Henri Carvallo, has decided to take preventive measures by gradually replacing the box. The first campaign began a few years ago, replanting 6 of the 9 beds in the Ornamental Kitchen Garden with Faulkner Microphylla box, a more resistant variety.

Henri Carvallo remains very mindful, closely following scientific developments relating to box, particularly the work of the company Herplant BVBA, in partnership with the University of Ghent. Together, they have recently developed 4 varieties of hybrid box that are resistant to fungal diseases.

Through close collaboration with these professionals, in November 2019 Villandry became the world's first historic garden to plant these new species of box, most notably the "Heritage" variety.

As the smallest box is the most fragile, the gardeners at Villandry first replaced that of the Herb and Sun Gardens and completed the replanting of box in the last 3 beds of the Kitchen Garden. It is painstaking work, given that each bed alone contains 8,000 plants. In the Ornamental Gardens, the box is taller and more robust, so only a few individual plants have to be replaced from time to time.



Planting new boxwood in the Kitchen Garden

Box plants both new and a century old are therefore beginning a new decade together, under the watchful eye of Laurent Portuguez, Head Gardener, and his team. Perhaps, with these new defences, they will resist another century!

THE BOX TREE MOTH

It is rare to talk about box, particularly in historic gardens, without talking about the box tree moth. At Villandry, however, it does not cause any damage, principally due to the heightened vigilance of the gardening team, which uses *Bacillus Thuringiensis* as a biological treatment. This bacteria is sprayed onto the foliage from



March to October and is ingested by the caterpillar, putting an end to the life cycle and proliferation of this lepidopteran.



EVENTS

MEETING IN THE GARDENS

6 and 7 June

Guided tours, horse-drawn carriage rides and more: discover Villandry's gardens in a different way.

NIGHTS OF A THOUSAND FIRES

3 et 4 juillet, 7 et 8 août

With gardens lit by over 2,000 candles, activities, fireworks and more, a magical and unforgettable evening awaits you at Villandry!

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

19 and 20 September

Discover the expertise that is essential in preserving French heritage, with master craftsmen and artists.

KITCHEN GARDEN DAYS

3 and 4 October

Come and meet Villandry's gardeners and enjoy activities as a family.

LA NUIT DES CHÂTEAUX

24 October

Explore the chateau at nightfall

**CHRISTMAS MAGIC
IN THE LAND OF CHÂTEAUX**

From 5 December 2020 to 3 January 2021

Be transported by the warm Christmas atmosphere that fills the Chateau, which has been fully decorated for the occasion!

EXHIBITIONS

■ *IN THE CASTLE*

GABRIELE REINA,
**RENAISSANCE HERALDRY, IN THE TIME
OF FRANÇOIS I AND LEONARDO DA VINCI**

From 30 March to 1st June

Standards bearing the coats of arms of the Court of Valois and the Italian Wars, painted with oil on damask and cloth.

JOËL KLINGER,
TIMELESS. SKIES AND CHÂTEAUX

From 7 June to 6 September

The Renaissance châteaux of the Loire Valley, photographed at dawn, dusk and under starry skies.

BRIGITTE CHAPPAZ,
**FAUNA AND FLORA.
VILLANDRY IN SILK THREAD**

From 19 September to 15 November

Panels of silk embroidery and other needlework

■ *IN THE SUN GARDEN*

ROGER ET JACOTTE CAPRON,
LADIES AND BIRDS IN VILLANDRY

From 6 June to 30 September

Roger Capron's monumental sculptures, produced in concrete by Reinhold Harsch and coloured by Jacotte Capron



MEETING IN THE GARDENS

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June

Villandry will again be taking part in Meeting in the Gardens, with “The transmission of knowledge” as this year’s national theme. Aimed at highlighting France’s many public and private parks and gardens, this event invites everyone to come and (re)discover the gardens and learn about the importance of maintaining and preserving this part of our heritage.

Activities will punctuate and enhance your visit throughout the weekend. Horse-drawn carriage rides, special guided tours and many other activities offer different opportunities to roam and appreciate the majesty of Villandry’s gardens.

Usual rates

Activities included in the gardens’ entrance fee

NIGHTS OF THOUSAND LIGHTS

Friday 3 July, Saturday 4 July,
Friday 7 August and Saturday 8 August

As the nights draw in the gardens are bathed in the light of over 2000 candles, with a special night-time opening perfect for a dreamy stroll. With a focus on the Renaissance, this year’s Nights of a Thousand Lights will once again be the place to be for lovers of beauty and poetry. Walks in costume, shows, wall projections and fireworks will delight kids and grown-ups alike, leaving them starry-eyed at the end of the night.

There is limited capacity so we strongly recommend buying your tickets online from the Château de Villandry website except if you visited the gardens during the day.

Rates:

Adults: €13 - Young people: €7.50

Free for children under 8 years old

€6 extra for those who visited the gardens during the day

Online ticket office. Limited capacity.



«MONUMENTS HYSTÉRIQUES»

Friday 18 September

(Hysterical monuments)
Project by Vanasay Khamphommala,
with the Centre Dramatique National de Tours and the
Lapsus Chevelu Company
Part of the 2020 Act(e)s biennale.
Evening performance

To mark the opening of the European Heritage Days, five actors get to grips with the subject of monuments, place and space and take inspiration from the château’s main courtyard, which becomes a theatre set for an evening.

“Halfway between theatre and performance, documentary and fiction, essay and story, Monuments hystériques (Hysterical monuments) examines the way in which we organise spaces in response to the way that spaces, in return, sculpt our imaginations.”

Online ticket office - Limited capacity

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September

To celebrate European Heritage Days, Villandry is showcasing the region’s artistic craftsmen. From interior decorators and decorative painters, to stone masons and cabinetmakers, many craftsmen have kept old skills and techniques alive, passing on their knowledge as guarantors of the preservation and conservation of our heritage.

During their visit to the château, visitors will be able to meet these artistic craftsmen, talk to them and discover the trades and expertise they have preserved. Visitors can even try their hand at some of the techniques!

To enhance these two days, guided tours of the gardens along with horse-drawn carriage rides will also be offered to the public.

Reduced rates
Activities included in the château’s entrance fee





KITCHEN GARDEN DAYS

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October

While the vegetable garden and the gardens are at their best, Villandry's gardeners will go to meet visitors and share their know-how and tips with them. Novice or seasoned gardeners will no doubt leave with lots of ideas in their head and vegetables in their basket.

Some exhibitors will also present their products and creations inspired by the world of gardens: plants, local produce, decorations, gardening essentials... there will be something for everyone!

The Vegetable Garden Days will be an opportunity to have a fun family time, taking part in lots of activities and guided tours or strolling through the gardens.



Usual rates
Activities included in the gardens' entrance fee

LA NUIT DES CHÂTEAUX

Saturday 24 October

Who hasn't dreamed of exploring a château at nightfall? This year, Villandry is taking part in the second edition of La Nuit des Châteaux, or "Night at the Châteaux". For one night only, Villandry comes to life and to light. From the dining room to the bedrooms, the library to the kitchen, explore all the rooms in the warm and welcoming château, which has been owned by the Carvallo family for over a hundred years.

Online ticket office : www.nuitdeschateaux.com
Limited capacity

La Nuit des Châteaux is a new concept and a national event created by the start-up Dartagnans and its online heritage-based ticketing service, dartngo.fr. The aim of La Nuit des Châteaux is to raise awareness of heritage preservation among the general public, through an unforgettable night-time event.



CHRISTMAS MAGIC IN THE LAND OF CHÂTEAUX In family Christmas in the heart of the gardens

From 5 December 2020 to 3 January 2021

In the drawing room, a fire crackles in the hearth, while in the dining room, the festive table has just been laid. The guests will arrive any minute. Upstairs, preparations for Christmas are also under way, especially in the children's rooms, where they are eagerly waiting to finally open their presents. In the château, the Christmas decorations keep family traditions alive, from the Spanish touches brought by Joachim to the American accents of Ann Coleman's heritage. From the windows, you can admire the gardens, which have also put on their winter attire: mosaics of ornamental cabbages and leeks, box tree lacework and the outlines of yew tree topiary, and long avenues of sleepy lime trees that promise enchanting winter strolls. The sumptuously decorated Christmas trees and mantelpieces bring an expression of nature inside the walls of the château, like an extension of the gardens which give Villandry its very special aura. As night falls, the patterns of the box trees glitter with a soft light, revealing the majesty of this winter garden.

A festive atmosphere fills the château and gardens, inviting us to experience Christmas with the Carvallo family, which has owned Villandry since the early 20th century...

During the school holidays, special events will transport visitors young and old into the magic of Christmas.

Once again this year, the Château de Villandry will be taking part in the event "Christmas in the Land of Châteaux", alongside the châteaux of Chenonceau, Azay-le-Rideau, Langeais, the Royal Château of Amboise, the Royal Fortress of Chinon and the Royal City of Loches.

Adults : €12 - Youth : €7 - Free for children under 8





RENAISSANCE HERALDRY, IN THE TIME OF FRANÇOIS I AND LEONARDO DA VINCI'

Gabriele Reina

From 30 March to 1st June

In spring, the exhibition gallery of the château will welcome an impressive presentation of heraldic banners in dazzling colours, as Gabriele Reina invites us on a journey through history with the art of the symbol. Featuring the arms of François I, Jean Breton – who built Villandry in the Renaissance – or even Leonardo da Vinci, the coats of arms he paints in oil on large pieces of fabric commemorate an ancillary science of history, whereby great painting was linked with the magic of the most mythical animals in the fertile Mediaeval imagination.

LADIES AND BIRDS IN VILLANDRY

Roger and Jacotte Capron

From 7 June to 30 September

Celebrated ceramicist Roger Capron (1922-2006) dedicated his twilight years to sculpture in the round. Anyone who dreams of greatness has to break away from the limitations of ceramics. Reproducing his works in concrete allows his friend Reinhol Harsh to triple their dimensions. With the help of Jacotte Capron, the artist's wife and colourist, incredible monumental sculptures in bright colours are brought to life. The fruit of a wonderful friendship and strong bond, these creations light up the spaces that house them. What could be better for the Sun Garden, which this summer will welcome four works whose wings echo both the celestial symbolism of this garden and its diverse bird life.



Exhibition organised with
Le Jardin des Amoureux and JR Capron - Harsch Edition



TIMELESS SKIES AND CHÂTEAUX

Joël Klinger

From 7 June to 6 September

In the land of the châteaux, our eyes gladly linger over the work of Renaissance builders and the surrounding landscapes, but do we ever take the time to look up at the skies above? This summer, photography and astronomy come together at Villandry.

For over twenty years, Joël Klinger has been observing the sky through his lens and scanning the Milky Way that soars above the châteaux of the Loire Valley. From dusk to dawn, he captures precious, almost imperceptible moments, such as Amboise under a shower of stars, or Villandry in the glowing evening sun. With a camera by way of a telescope, Klinger invites us to take a fresh look at the majestic heritage of the Loire.

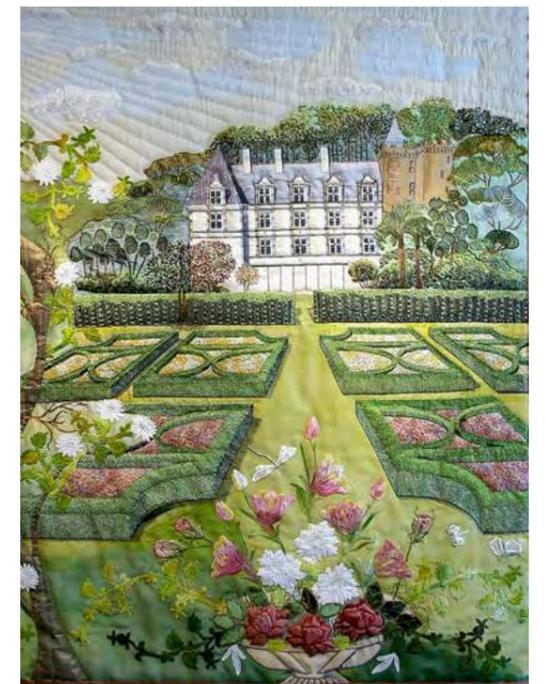
FAUNA AND FLORA, VILLANDRY IN SILK THREAD

Brigitte Chappaz

From 19 September to 15 November

In the Villandry gardens, passion and dedication come together to foster and uphold extraordinary creativity with plants; both elements feature in the embroideries of Brigitte Chappaz, who draws inspiration from the flora and fauna surrounding the château.

A passionate collector, for many years she has been patiently unearthing antique silks and lace, which she skilfully embroiders, creating motifs, large-scale tapestries, small tableaux or even bound books. Through her needle, she brings the Villandry countryside and its fauna alive. With silk yarn, forgotten or unusual stitches and antique beads, this autumn Chappaz will be sharing her expertise and creativity in the château's exhibition gallery.





RATES 2020

	CHÂTEAU & GARDENS (2h minimum)	GARDENS ONLY (1h minimum)
ADULTS	€ 12	€ 7,50
YOUTH aged 8 to 18 years old and students - 26, with up to date card	€ 7	€ 5
GROUPS 15 paying visitors min.	€ 8,50	€ 5,50

FREE FO CHILDREN UNDER 8 YEARS OLD

VISIT OPTIONS

To help you best explore and enjoy the château and gardens of Villandry, discover its history and unravel its mysteries, several options are available:

- 

■ **VISITOR GUIDES FOR THE CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS** allow you to discover Villandry at your own pace.
Plan around 2 hours to visit the château and gardens
French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Czech
- 

■ **AUDIOGUIDES FOR THE CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS** are available for individual visitors and groups;
Adults: French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian, Dutch, Russian
Children: French
- 

■ **GUIDED TOURS OF THE CHÂTEAU** are available for individual visitors from 9 March to 11 November 2019 (except for Sundays from May to September and during certain weekend events).
In French only – approximately 1 hr 15
Groups can enjoy guided tours in English and Polish on reservation.
- 

■ The visit to the château begins with **AN 18-MINUTE FILM** played in a screening room. With the history of Villandry and an introduction to the gardens and interiors, enhanced with stunning aerial views, this video perfectly complements the visit and provides an insight into the upper levels of the château for those unable to reach them.
In French – subtitles in French or English
- 

■ The **VILLANDRY SMARTPHONE APPLICATION** can be downloaded free from the AppStore and Playstore. It offers additional content during the visit or quite simply allows you to discover Villandry at home.
French, English, German, Italian and Spanish.

VILLANDRY EN FAMILLE

Keen to offer the best welcome to all visitors, Villandry pays particular attention to family visits.

- **Interpretation stations** In the gardens, seven interpretation stations allow children and parents alike to gain a better understanding of plants, gardens, and water management in gardens, as well as how the site and landscape have evolved over the centuries.
- **The maze** of charms, created at the beginning of the 20th century, will amuse families who are not looking to find the exit but reach the central lookout point.
- **A children's play area** Continuing on from the Sun garden, this space dedicated to children offers a moment of relaxation for young and old. A well-deserved rest after the visit!
- Various **storytelling walks and activities** are also offered during certain events and holidays.

- **A games booklet** Notebook in hand, children set forth into the gardens, go through the forest, get lost in the maze, explore the vegetable garden and the love gardens
Only in French
For 7 to 12 year olds



A storytelling walk in the gardens

WITH A SCHOOL GROUP

To discover Villandry with their pupils, teachers can choose to **visit the château and gardens on their own** or enjoy a **guided tour of the gardens** given by a guide/leader.

According to school year, **workshops** are also offered to become familiar with herbs, learn about symmetry or get acquainted with gardening techniques and managing a garden in an eco-friendly way.



Workshops to discover Villandry's bat colony are also available, led by a guide from LPO Touraine, along with illuminated manuscript workshops supervised by professionals from the Institut Européen d'Enluminures in Angers.

To prepare their visit, teachers can download an **educational file** and **pupil worksheets** from the website.

Informations and reservations : +33 (0)2 47 50 02 09 – info@chateauvillandry.com

OUVERTURES ET HORAIRES

■ THE CHATEAU

Open every day, from 8 February to 15 November, and from 5 December 2020 to 3 January 2021.

*Last ticket sold 1/2 hour before closing

From 1st to 5 January	09:30am-05:00pm*
From 6 January to 7 February	Closed
From 8 to 29 February	09:00am-05:00pm*
From 1st to 31 March	09:00am-05:30pm*
From 1st April to 30 June	09:00am-06:00pm*
From 1st July to 31 August	09:00am-06:30pm*
From 1st September to 24 October	09:00am-06:00pm*
From 25 October to 1st November	09:00am-05:30pm*
From 2 November to 15 November	09:00am-05:00pm*
From 16 November to 4 December	Closed
From 5 to 18 December	09:30am-05:00pm*
From 19 to 31 December	09:30am-05:30pm*

■ THE GARDENS

Open every day, all year long, at 09:00am

**Last ticket sold

From 1st January to 7 February	09:00am-05:00pm**
From 8 to 29 February	09:00am-05:30pm**
From 1st to 31 March	09:00am-06:00pm**
From 1st April to 30 September	09:00am-07:00pm**
From 1st to 24 October	09:00am-06:30pm**
From 25 October to 15 November	09:00am-05:30pm**
From 16 November to 4 December	09:00am-05:00pm**
From 5 to 31 December	09:00am-05:30pm**

TO GET THERE

Take the castle route! Villandry is just 2 hours from Paris by car, 15 minutes from the castles of Azay-le Rideau and Langeais, and 40 minutes from the Château de Chenonceau!



■ If you are coming from Paris

By car (240 Km) : A10 junction 24 (Joué-lès-Tours) then A85, towards Saumur, junction 8 (Villandry)

By train : from Montparnasse station (55mn) then take a taxi from Tours or Saint-Pierre-des-Corps station(20mn)

■ If you are coming from Nantes

By car : A11 then A85 junction 8 (Villandry)

By train : TER (90min) then take a taxi from Tours or Saint-Pierre-des-Corps station(20mn)

■ If you are coming from Tours

By public transport : the «Fil Bleu» shuttle (www.filbleu.fr)

And...**by bike** ! Follow the « Loire à Vélo » route (15 Km)

P Cars, coaches, RVs, bikes... A free parking area close to the entrance to the site is available to all visitors.



Restaurant and tea room

Ideally located at the entrance to the chateau, La Douce Terrasse offers seasonal cuisine inspired by the kitchen garden.

All the menu is prepared from regional produce, accompanied by the wines of the Loire Valley. An inviting menu in which the presence of spices and culinary or aromatic plants will surprise you!



THE MENU offers a choice between three seasonal starters, meat or fish from the local market, a vegetarian dish, a platter of goat's cheeses of varying ripeness, and a choice of three desserts.

From **THE A LA CARTE MENU**, visitors can enjoy «tartines» served with a beautiful salad of edible herbs and flowers, quiches, pastries and homemade desserts.

La Douce Terrasse also has a children's menu and a baby menu.

Visitors in a hurry can try our **TAKEAWAY SNACK BAR**, for a tasty meal on the go! In addition to a wide range of homemade ice creams, traditional, original sandwiches, crêpes and fresh drinks are served at all times of the day.

Visitors can also purchase an all-inclusive package, comprising entry to the site and a meal (reservation only).

Non-stop service
from 9:30am to 7pm during high season
Open from 28 March to 11 November

Booking/Informations :
+33 (0)2 47 50 02 10
restaurantladoulceterrasse@gmail.com

Room rental and caterer

Seminars, cocktails, lunches, dinners, picnics... The Douce Terrasse invites professionals and non-professionals alike to enjoy a unique culinary experience, offering food inspired by the chateau's vegetable garden, enhanced with regional produce and accompanied by Val de Loire wines.

Several spaces are available for hire, including the cloister of greenery, the Michel-Ange de Castellane room in the 18th century outbuildings and the troglodyte orangeries that open onto the Garden of Love.

Menus and quotes on request
Contact : Emmanuelle Roublin, La Douce Terrasse Restaurant Manager
+33 (0)2 47 50 02 10 – restaurantladoulceterrasse@gmail.com



PRESS CONTACT

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