



CHÂTEAU DE VAUX-LE-VICOMTE

Program and Highlights 2017

Press Release January 2017

RE-OPENING ON MARS 25, 2017

The Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, the 17th century masterpiece by the architect Le Vau, the decorative-painter Charles Le Brun and landscape gardener Le Nôtre, will re-open to the public on Saturday 25th March for the 2017 season.

Vaux-le-Vicomte will be offering a new visiting experience, fuller and more enriched, with events for the whole family as well as restoration projects looking for support from crowdfunding and sponsorship.

2017 will be the year that Vaux-le-Vicomte opens its doors even wider to even bigger audiences.

Ever mindful of the history and artistic richness of the château of Nicolas Fouquet's time, the three Vogüé brothers, the owners of the estate, will be continuing their cultural program bringing together entertainment and culture.

Vaux-le-Vicomte celebrates Easter – April 15, 16 and 17, 2017

« One for all and all for one (Easter chick)! »: a giant treasure hunt followed by an Easter egg hunt will lead visitors on the quest of the Egg-basketteers! Activities and workshops for both adults and children will round off this delightful fun-filled day.



Candlelit Evenings – every Saturday evening from May 6 to October 7

2,000 candles will light up the château and Le Nôtre garden with their flickering glow for an enchanting evening. 2017 marks the return of a fireworks display with a difference, which will wrap up this timeless evening.

New this year: every Saturday evening, a prize draw will give one lucky visitor the chance to set off the **fireworks!**

Grand Siècle Day – Sunday June 11, 2017

Visitors in period costume - or simply onlookers - are invited on a journey to the time of 17th century at the court of the Sun King. On this occasion, a picnic lunch on the lawn at the heart of the gardens by Le Nôtre will be allowed. There will be a prize giving for the best costumes, rewarding the richness and period detail of the enthusiasts' attire.



NEW



Vaux-le-Vicomte at the movies – From September 16 to November 5

Numerous films have been filmed in the majestic setting of the château : Moonraker (James Bond, 1979), The Man in the Iron Mask (1998), and even Marie-Antoinette by Sofia Coppola (2006) ...

This year, on the occasion of the launch of season 2 of the BBC series Versailles and the latest film by Dany Boon (Raid Dingue); Vaux-le-Vicomte invites you to explore behind the scenes of the best-known films shot at the château. Visitors will have the chance to see the costumes from the series, the most beautiful sets which will be reconstructed for this occasion, as well as techniques from the professionals of the silver screen, through new activities and exhibitions.

A gourmet Christmas at Vaux-le-Vicomte – November 25 and 26, every weekend in December, and every day from December 23 to January 7, 2018 (Except December 25, 2017 and January 1, 2018)

For Christmas this year, Vaux-le-Vicomte will be honouring all things **sweet and delicious.**

A thousand and one decorations and fairytale illuminations will transport both children and adults into a delicious sugary world of sweetness. Forests of candy apples and gingerbread houses will be installed in the château.



RESTORATIONS TO THE CHÂTEAU IN 2017

Restoration of the ceiling of the *Chambre des Muses* - The work of Charles Le Brun and his workshop rediscovers its splendour! *October 11 – March 15, 2017*

From March 2017, on the occasion of the reopening of the estate, visitors can rediscover the entirely restored ceiling by Le Brun in the *Chambre des Muses*. In fact, this ambitious six-month project, covering a surface area of 175 sq m., will be finished in March 2017. The central painting, *The Triumph of Fidelity*, will be replaced at the centre of the ceiling. This painting was taken down last October to be restored on the floor of Nicolas Fouquet's state room, where visitors to the château could observe the work in progress. The entirety of the €450,000 needed for the restoration has been financed by a generous American patron.



2017: Special restoration of the château's clocks *June - September / Individual and corporate sponsorship*

The twelve clocks adorning the state rooms of Fouquet's château are to be restored this summer by the studio of M. Fustier (Horloger de la Croix-Rousse, Lyon). These spring-loaded clocks, from the 17th, 18th, 19th or 20th century, were acquired over the years by the Sommier-Vogüé family and the Association of Friends of Vaux-le-Vicomte. Restored in the workshop, they will be returned in time for the start of the school year in 2017. The restoration of these clocks will be made possible thanks to the donation of generous sponsors, who will have the chance to adopt the clock of their choice, for sums from €2,500 to €8,000 (before tax deduction).



Restoration of the château's central clock

Participatory sponsorship: April 15 – May 15. Restoration : May- June

Time stands still at Vaux-le-Vicomte: for the first time since the 19th century, the central clock commissioned by Alfred Sommier (great grandfather of Patrice de Vogüé) will no longer chime. In April, the château will launch a crowdfunding initiative to restore one of the pieces of the central mechanism which stopped working at the start of January this year. The clock will not only be restored but also modelled in 3D so that visitors will be able to see its inner workings.



Restoration of the statue of Hercules – *February – May 2017*

Facing up to all weather conditions since the 19th century, the majestic bronze statue which is the focal point of the views created by Le Nôtre in the gardens at Vaux-le-Vicomte, will be restored from the month of February 2017. Sculpted by J.Tournois and cast by the Thiébaud brothers, this statue will be entirely re-gilded, to restore its original lustre. It represents Hercules at rest after his 11th labour, in the garden of Hesperides, and is twice as large as the original sculpture, by Lysippus (4th century BC). The €75,000 restoration, is made possible in its entirety by American patronage.



Plantation of the flowerbeds – *May - June 2017*

Every year, the estate renews the flowerbeds visible from the state rooms of Nicolas Fouquet, to delight visitors of the château. This year for the first time, two companies will sponsor this original new composition, a fantastic decoration for the French-style gardens at Vaux-le-Vicomte. Made up of the flowers in pink, white and blue, chosen by Cristina de Vogüé, the beds will also be fragrant, in particular with some superb Blue Fortunes (agastaches).



NEW FOR 2017!

NEW

Entertainment by Jean de La Fontaine - Every weekend, bank holiday and school holiday (France zone C), from April 29 to November 5

Both fun and educational, this year the château will be running new activities on the subject of Jean de La Fontaine, who was a close friend of Nicolas Fouquet. Through games and riddles on the writings of La Fontaine, visitors will discover the secret spots in the château including some never before accessed by the public!



- **The Styx, river of the underworld:** a scripted adventure in the underground river rerouted by Le Nôtre in the 17th century.
- **The Journey of the Swan:** a journey on the grand canal in the gardens on swan-shaped pedalos.
- **The Hare and the Tortoise:** why not play a game of croquet on the lawn?
- **The Oak and the Bicycle:** a new excursion on mountain bikes in the forest of the estate, set out to discover a fable.
- **Mysterious Fables:** geo-tracking expedition of with the use of your GPS in the garden and the park – hunting for morals



PRIVATE FUNCTIONS AND GROUPS AT THE CHÂTEAU

NEW

Seminars and team building days: how to be a manager like Nicolas Fouquet

A very special place for seminars and business events, this year Vaux-le-Vicomte will be offering themed guided tours of the estate: between art and management. The innovation and creativity at Vaux-le-Vicomte are an inspiring example for businesses and their employees: the tour will show how to adapt leadership and better understand team dynamics, in order to nurture excellence.



How to entertain French-style – new activity for groups at the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte – throughout the year 2017

In the 17th century, François Vatel – Nicolas Fouquet's renowned maître d'hôtel at the château – brought French gastronomy to the level of an art. This year the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte will launch a new workshop for groups (30 people), to teach the fundamental rules of this French speciality: the art of the table, the art of entertaining.

NEW





PRESS CONTACT

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Useful Information

www.vaux-le-vicomte.com

Dates and times

Open every day from March 25 to November 5, 2017 from 10 AM to 5 PM, then during the Christmas period from 11 AM to 5.45 PM.

Saturday Candlelit evenings from May 6 to October 7, until 11 PM.

Prices

Full price entry: €15.50 / Concessions: €13.50 / Free entry for under 6 years old.
Events tickets: supplementary cost will be added.

Access

By train : train line P from Paris Gare de l'Est to Verneuil l'Etang then 'châteaubus' shuttle (total duration: 59 minutes).
See timings at www.vaux-le-vicomte.com

By car : 50 minutes to the South of Paris.

By tour bus : Fontainebleau and Vaux-le-Vicomte in one day with pariscityvision.com.