

CHÂTEAU DE VAUX-LE-VICOMTE



Celebrates Nicolas Fouquet's 400th anniversary 1615-2015



Nicolas Fouquet (1615-1680) was an important figure in French history. Like his family emblem, the squirrel, he lived up to his motto "*Quo non ascendit*" (What heights will he not scale). He rose to become Superintendent of Finances under Louis XIV and successfully restored the state's credit. He was also a great patron of the arts whose supreme legacy was creation of the magnificent Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte.

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of his birth, Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte is dedicating 2015 to both celebrating his artistic patronage and, hopefully, shedding light on the man himself. The estate is planning an array of not-to-be missed events, tours and special exhibitions that will honour his gift for recognizing and cultivating artistic talent. Consistent with our mission of restoring and protecting the estate, we are also launching three restoration projects to preserve and enhance the beauty of Fouquet's creation and hosting a horticultural discussion about the decline of the boxwood due to fungus and box blight that is devastating many gardens, especially historical ones.

Additionally, we have entered into relationships with erudite institutions, researchers and experts to enable a better understanding of the 17th century lifestyle and ideals that Fouquet helped elevate. With the help of our esteemed partners we hope to decipher, analyse and expand upon all the information Nicolas Fouquet produced during his lifetime to gain keener insights into his personality and his lasting mark on world culture.

There is much here to be enjoyed by art historians, culture enthusiasts, and the general public at large. We hope you will join in our celebration and share all that you deem relevant with your audience.

Alexandre, Jean-Charles and Ascanio de Vogüé

Restoration

Garden sculpture restoration

Twenty-six garden sculptures will be restored between April and November 2015. They date back to the 17th century and are both privileged witnesses of the chateau's history and the epitome of the greatest artists of the time: Michel Anguier, Mathieu Lespagnandelle and Philippe de Buyster.

Individuals and corporations interested in supporting the restoration are invited to get involved via the "Reveal Our True Faces" project. More details can be found here: <http://www.vaux-le-vicomte.com/en/support-vaux-le-vicomte/reveal-true-faces-statues-project/>



Game cabinet restoration

The entire decoration on this cabinet will be restored in spring 2015. The grotesques depicting fanciful characters interwoven with beautifully decorated garlands of flowers and plants were painted around 1658-1660 by Italian artists surrounding Charles Le Brun.



Quincunx replanting

Approximately 80 hornbeam and lime trees will be planted at the start of winter 2015 on the same spot where chestnut trees grew to the east of the chateau. Unfortunately, the trees were infected by horse-chestnut leaf miners and had to be cut down. A new quincunx row should appear at the start of spring.





Special Exhibitions

September 5th to November 11th 2015

Conversation in Silence, Jörg Bräuer

Jörg Bräuer will exhibit his photographs of garden statues in an imaginary conversation between these witnesses of Vaux-le-Vicomte's history. This exhibition will take place parallel to the "Reveal Our True Faces" fund-raising project which will help fund the restoration of these statues. This exhibition is immortalizing the 350-year-old statues on glossy paper and glass.



Virtual exhibition, starting April 2015

Google Cultural Institute

Nicolas Fouquet and Louis XIV, patrons of the arts

The Château de Versailles research centre and Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte have joined forces to explore the parallel lives and personal tastes of these two major 17th century figures.

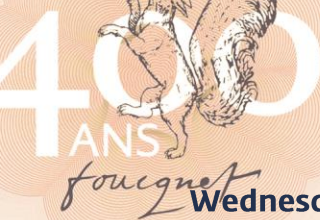


October and November, 2015

Costumes from the *Versailles* TV series

The chateau will exhibit costumes from the *Versailles* TV series (on Canal+) to present 17th century fashion.





Key Dates and Events

Wednesday, March 4th 2015

“What is the future of the boxwood?” study day

The boxwood has embodied the beauty and wealth of historical gardens for several centuries but they have gradually been declining for a decade due to fungal diseases and boxwood blight. Vaux-le-Vicomte hopes to review these devastating diseases, [advances \[JG1\]](#) in research and solutions for the future through this professionals-only study day.



Sunday, March 8th 2015

Château reopening to the general public

The Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte reopens on March 8th to the delight of visitors.



Thursday, July 9th 2015

Airs sérieux et à boire, Les Arts Florissants, directed by William Christie preceded by cocktails and dinner on the south terrace of the château

The famous baroque music ensemble, Les Arts Florissants, performs a not-to-be-missed concert in Le Nôtre’s legendary garden at Vaux-le-Vicomte. Advance reservations are required.



Saturday, July 18th 2015

Les Fâcheux, Molière, by La Fabrique à Théâtre

Theatre lovers will be treated to a performance of *Les Fâcheux*, strictly lit by candlelight. For the first time since its August 17th, 1661 debut at the unveiling of Vaux, Molière’s ballet-comedy will again be performed in the very place for which it was created. The performance will transport you back to the 17th century. Advance reservations are required.



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Our Annual Events

Sunday February 1st

The 3rd "Les Foulées de Vaux-le-Vicomte"

A unique run set against a historical backdrop in woodland paths and French gardens (2 adult runs and 3 for children)

Saturday-Monday, April 4th, 5th and 6th 2015

Vaux-le-Vicomte Celebrates Easter

In partnership with chocolatier *Léonidas*, over 50,000 eggs (3 tons of chocolate!) will be hidden in the garden's secret corners. There's even an egg hunt for adults!

Every Saturday evening (May 2nd – October 3rd)

Candlelit nights

Vaux-le-Vicomte glows in the light of 2000 candles as thousands of flickering flames create a magical and romantic setting. A gold and silver fireworks display lights up the garden on warm summer evenings, Saturdays at 11pm.

Sunday, June 21st 2015

The 11th Seventeenth Century Grand Journée

Relive a day in the French court in the château: picnics, 17th century concours d'élégance and period entertainment in the garden (fencing, horse show, baroque dances).

Saturday and Sunday, September 19th - Sunday 20th

European Heritage Days

Château collections dating back to the 17th century will be showcased with guided tours by Ecole du Louvre students. Enjoy a trip back in time to understand the everyday lives of artists who worked for Nicolas Fouquet.

Friday-Sunday, November 6th, 7th and 8th

Chocolate Palace

Awaken your senses and admire the talent of the greatest chocolatiers, savour their chocolate [creations](#) and uncover the secret behind cocoa and its aromas.

December 2015 and January 2016

Christmas

A magical setting is created with Christmas trees, crackling fireplaces and Christmas lights in the garden: Vaux-le-Vicomte celebrates Christmas!





**Information and visuals available on request
vaux-le-vicomte.com**

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