

CHÂTEAU DE VAUX-LE-VICOMTE

Presskit

2018 Program and Highlights

50th Anniversary of the Opening of the
Château to the Public



50^{ème} anniversaire de l'ouverture au public

50 ans de partage !

50^{ème} anniversaire de l'ouverture au public

1968



1968 - 2018

2018

SUMMARY

Page 03

50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Château to the Public

Pages 04 - 05

Events and Activities

Page 04 - Early 2018 Events: Easter, Candlelit Evenings and Grand Siècle Day

Page 05 - Late 2018 Events and Activities: The Styx, River of the Underworld (*Adventure by Jean de La Fontaine*), Vaux-le-Vicomte at the Movies, and Christmas

Pages 06 - 07

Support Vaux-le-Vicomte - Restoration projects

Pages 06 - A 3 D Sound System for Visiting the Château

Page 07 - Restoring the Cupola and Projection of Le Brun's work

Page 08

Rates, Schedule and Access to the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte

Press contact

"Today, my brothers and I are responsible for the preservation of the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte. We are proud to continue the work of our father: sharing this masterpiece with the greatest number." Alexandre de Vogüé



From left to right: Ascanio, Jean-Charles and Alexandre de Vogüé, the current owners of the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE CHÂTEAU TO THE PUBLIC

The Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, the 17th century masterpiece by the architect Le Vau, the decorative-painter Charles Le Brun and the landscape gardener Le Nôtre, will **re-open to the public on Saturday, March 17th**, launching a year of celebrating its 50th anniversary of opening to the public.

On **March 30, 1968**, Patrice de Vogüé decided to open the gates of Vaux-le-Vicomte, his home, to visitors:

"Everybody is invited to Vaux, not to a pompous and cold residence, but to my wife's home, M. Alfred Sommier's home, the Duc de Choiseul's home, Superintendent Fouquet's home...". Half a century later, the current owners continue their father's work: outreach by the château to ensure the preservation and restoration of this exceptional heritage.



The Grand Salon in 1968

Today, this, the largest private property classified as a historic Monument in France continues its tradition of being open to the widest possible public. Throughout the year, Vaux-le-Vicomte will celebrate this special anniversary, sharing its history, behind-the-scenes events and anecdotes with the public.

From March 17 to March 30, the château offers **FREE ENTRY to all visitors born in 1968** to commemorate its opening to the public.

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE OPENING OF THE CHÂTEAU DE VAUX-LE-VICOMTE TO THE PUBLIC

1919: Opening of the gardens to the public by Germaine Sommier, Patrice de Vogüé's aunt
March 30, 1968: Opening of the château to the public (from March 30 to October 20) by Patrice and Cristina de Vogüé

1976: Opening of the lower ground floor and of Vatel's kitchens

1979: Opening of the Carriage Museum

1979: Opening of the restaurant *l'Ecureuil*

1980: First Candlelit Visits

1983: Creation of the Association «Les Amis de Vaux-le-Vicomte» for the preservation and conservation of the château and its gardens

1984: Opening of the Private Apartments of Superintendent Fouquet, the Cabinet of Madame Fouquet, the Louis XV and Louis XVI apartments, Great Laundry

2018 EVENTS

Vaux-le-Vicomte celebrates Easter
March 31, April 1 & 2



This year, the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte invites every child, outfitted with a chef's toque, to participate in a giant treasure hunt, ending in an Egg hunt! Numerous activities and workshops will be offered to our future chefs, as well as a chocolate sculpture exhibition inside the château.

For our 50th anniversary of opening to the public, the younger generations of the owners' families will be on hand to meet the visitors while participating in games in the gardens!

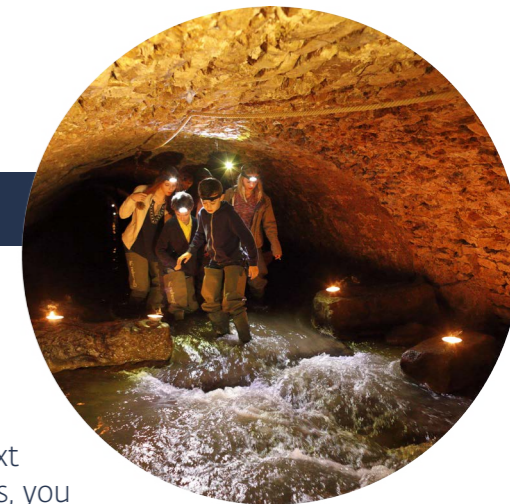


ADVENTURE BY JEAN DE LA FONTAINE

The Styx, River of the Underworld

From April 14 to November 5: every weekend and bank holiday + French C zone holidays (except Summer holidays)

Presenting an exceptional adventure on the underground river which was diverted by Le Nôtre in 1654 during the creation of the French gardens, this specially designed trip is fun and interactive, and draws on La Fontaine's text "The Love of Cupid and Psyche". Equipped with headlamps and thigh boots, you will be guided along the Styx, river of the classical underworld, participating in a series of agility and logic tests. An unprecedented and intense adventure brought to life by professional actors!



Candlelit Evenings

Every Saturday evening from May 5 to October 6

Every Saturday evening from May 5 to October 6, visitors will experience the 17th century château and its jardins à la française by the flickering lights of 2,000 candles. An elegant dinner, a champagne bar and macaroons will complete a perfect, romantic evening. To complete this magical moment, marvelous fireworks with a giant '50' will be set off at the end of each evening.



Vaux-le-Vicomte at the Movies
September 22 - November 4

Vaux-le-Vicomte invites you to explore behind the scenes of the best-known films and movies shot at the château. Visitors will have the opportunity of seeing special exhibitions and projections of important scenes as well as discovering techniques practiced by professionals of the silver screen through new activities and exhibitions.

To celebrate the 50 years of opening to the public, the estate will also offer a retrospective of the movies shot in the château in 1968, featuring one of Orson Welles's first color films!



The Grand Siècle Day
Sunday, June 3, 2018



Visitors in period costumes - or simply spectators - are invited on a journey through time, back to the 17th century at the court of the Sun King. Baroque dancers, musketeer shows and carriage rides will offer a perfect overview of French *art de vivre*.

New this year: winners of the Best Costume contest will be invited to take part in tableaux vivants: grouped in giant frames they will portray famous people or scenes—creating veritable living paintings!

To commemorate its 50th anniversary of opening to visitors, the château continues its tradition of sharing, inviting all visitors to vote for their favorite costume!



Vaux-le-Vicomte celebrates Christmas
From November 24, 2018, onwards



Children have always been entranced by the toys they find under the Christmas tree. The château invites you to reconnect with the magic of your childhood Christmases through a story told by toys! Rediscover your cherished Christmas memories in the beautifully decorated 17th century salons. New decorations in lights and activities will dazzle you throughout the day. New this year: for its 50th anniversary of opening to visitors, the château will open for the first time during the week, from Wednesdays to Sundays, then every day during school holidays. For this special commemoration, our teams will propose numerous surprises.



VAUX-LE-VICOMTE 2020: AN AMBITIOUS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN (6M€) TO FINANCE INNOVATIVE, EXPERIENTIAL PROJECTS

Over 2 M€ per year is required for the estate to be preserved in the best way possible. **Vaux-le-Vicomte 2020 aims to collect 6 M€** thanks to different forms of sponsorship (corporate, individual, foundations, etc.) in France and abroad, to fund part of the restorations that are necessary in any ancient monument, but also to provide the means and events that encourage the public to become fully immersed in the Grand Siècle atmosphere at the château...

Collected funds will firstly be allocated to 4 projects: safety and security of the estate, financing the annual "Vaux-le-Vicomte at the Movies" event, and two innovative projects: the 3D surround-sound system recreating the Grand Siècle and the restoration of the cupola of the Grand Salon.

THE FOUQUET AFFAIRE - LIVING HISTORY IN 3 D SOUND

Starting early in 2019 and for the first time in a French château, visitors will be able to discover 17th century history thanks to a 3D audio system:

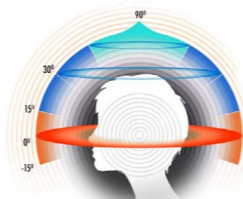
Equipped with interactive headsets, visitors will experience the greatest hours of the estate. Thanks to a reconstitution in 3D sound, they will be immersed in a special visit. Visitors will encounter Nicolas Fouquet, their host, and numerous characters (Louis XIV, Le Notre, La Fontaine, etc.), who contributed to this masterpiece of French art from its beginnings up until his fall from grace. Thanks to this technology, the rooms of the château serve as a backdrop to the plotting and scheming that took place against an atmosphere of 17th century pomp and splendor. **The château comes to life in a new and entertaining way, accessible to visitors of all ages.**

For this innovative project, 535 500 € needs to be collected during 2018.



The 3-dimension sound will immerse the visitor in the 17th century history.

3D sound, or binaural sound, is a technology that allows the creation of a natural sound universe, where sounds are localized in space, and come directly from in front, behind, from right or left of you. The listener is at the center of the action, his experience totally immersive, that of a "cinema of sounds" in a real setting.



The visitor will hear the sounds coming from all directions

Funds sought: 535.500 euros (71% of the project)

The Région Ile-de-France has pledged 29% of the project budget.

Implementation date: March 2019

THE CUPOLA OF THE GRAND SALON: THE SUN PALACE

Restoration of the Grand Salon Cupola and Caryatides, central masterpiece of Vaux-le-Vicomte

350 years ago, the painter-decorator Charles Le Brun completed the design for an exceptionally large fresco on the cupola of the Grand Salon. **The cupola stands 60 feet above the floor and totalizes a surface of 1,300 square feet, the largest in France at the time.** Because of the arrest of Nicolas Fouquet in 1661, the painter could not even begin his work. Fortunately, a preparatory drawing still exists today at the Department of Graphic Arts of the Louvre Museum.



The current painting of the Grand Salon, representing an eagle in a cloud-studded sky, was created in the middle of the 19th century

Our PROJECT: to complete Le Brun's vision and to finally have his painting decorating the cupola. Using an ingenious technical solution, the original design will be projected on the ceiling's surface after its restoration and preparation.

The challenge of such a projection is to offer visitors an enthralling three-dimensional spectacle using the whole of the architecture of the Grand Salon and its dome to project Le Brun's project in a didactic and immersive way via an innovative show mixing sound, light and video.



Preparatory sketch, by Charles le Brun, representing the Sun Palace

To accomplish this ambitious project, up to 900 000€ in donations are needed for the restoration, and 750 000€ for the multimedia projection.

**Funds sought: 900.000 euros for the restoration of the cupola and caryatides
750.000 euros for the multimedia projection of the drawing by Charles Le Brun.**

Restoration and projection dates: 2019-2020 winter

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50 ans de partage



1968 - 2018

Useful Information

www.vaux-le-vicomte.com

Prices

Full price entry: €16.50 / Concessions: €14.50 / Free under 6.
For events tickets prices, consult our website.

Dates and times

Open every day from March 17 to November 4, 2018, then during the Christmas period.
Saturday Candlelit evenings from May 5 to October 6, until 11 PM.

Access

By train: train line P from Paris Gare de l'Est to Verneuil l'Etang then 'châteaubus' shuttle (59 minutes travel).

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.

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