Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte

2019: a year of innovation!

An immersive experience, a “first” in France
A contemporary art installation in the gardens

Presskit - 2019
THE CHÂTEAU DE VAUX-LE-VICOMTE IN A FEW DATES

• 1641: acquisition of the first lands of Vaux by Nicolas Fouquet and start of the works by Le Nôtre, Le Vau and Le Brun.
• August 17, 1661: Nicolas Fouquet offers a sumptuous reception to honor the king Louis XIV.
• September 5, 1661: arrest of Nicolas Fouquet by d’Artagnan.
• 1705: the widow of Nicolas Fouquet sells the estate to the Maréchal de Villars.
• 1764: César Gabriel de Choiseul-Praslin acquires the estate of Vaux-le-Vicomte.
• 1875: Gaston de Choiseul sells Vaux in an auction. Alfred Sommier, ancestor of the Vogüé family, buys it and undertakes to restore it.
• 1967: Patrice de Vogüé, grand-nephew of Alfred Sommier, receives the château as a wedding gift. He opens it to public visit the following year, in 1968, to deal with the restoration costs.
• 2015: Ascanio de Vogüé joins his brothers Alexandre and Jean-Charles at the estate’s management. They become the fifth generation to insure its governance.
2019: a year focused on innovation and modernity

The Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, a 17th century masterpiece by the architect Le Vau, the painter-decorator Le Brun and the gardener Le Nôtre, will open its doors on March 23, 2019 for the new season.

In 2019, Nicolas Fouquet’s palace will propose two new innovative projects to its different publics: the creation of France’s first 3-D surround-sound visit and the installation of an ephemeral work of contemporary art in its jardins à la française.

"More than ever, cultural institutions must fast-forward into the 21st century, using modern means to transmit their heritage. The Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte has always been synonymous with boldness, and so having the innovative technologies of our times make their contribution to history and art seems obvious to us," according to Ascanio de Vogüé, General Manager and Co-owner of the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte.

The estate of Vaux-le-Vicomte spans 500 hectares, including 33 hectares of French formal gardens. It is the largest private Historical Monument in France. It is today owned by the Vogüé family, which ensures its preservation and management. Left to right: Alexandre, Ascanio et Jean-Charles de Vogüé
An ephemeral work of art for the parterres of the boulingrins

The boxwood parterres of the boulingrins (derived from the English “bowling green”), aging and diseased, were uprooted in March 2019 to make way for an ephemeral work of art, created especially for the estate, and chosen from candidate proposals, a process begun in 2018.

After the deliberations of the jury, the project chosen was that of Patrick Hourcade. Photographer, video-artist and scenographer, this is the artist’s first attempt at landscape art, working in conjunction with the Décoral agency.

The project, titled “Ephemeral Ribbons” was inspired by Achille Duchêne’s designs for his boxwood arabesques, themselves inspired by Le Nôtre’s embroidery patterns, but in modern materials.

In the work, aluminum will lend all of its strength and dynamism to the arabesques, while at the same time allowing the constant interplay of reflections and mirror-images, much like the fountains in the gardens. Visitors will be able to enjoy discovering this original ephemeral work as of the month of June. The work will be on exhibition for 2 to 5 years, while possibilities are being searched for a permanent solution for the replacement of the embroidery-patterned boxwoods in the jardins à la française.

Cost of the project: 415 000 €, including 300 000 € of pursued sponsorship.
A new immersive surround-sound visit

Beginning in May 2019 and for the first time in a château in France, visitors will be able to relive the history of the 17th century, thanks to a 3-D sound system.

The immersive sound visit plunges the visitor into the center of History, which comes alive thanks to the sound environment: historic figures awake and come alive around him. The visitor is invited to discover key moments in the life of Nicolas Fouquet and the creation of Vaux-le-Vicomte, via technology that allows the creation of an entirely natural world of sound, where sound exists in three dimensions. Thanks to this experience, a visitor will also hear the sounds around the figures: the whispers of guests, the rustling of clothing, dishes rattling, doors slamming...

To make total immersion in this “sound cinema” possible, HF beacons will be situated around the château, communicating with visitor headphones: scenes will automatically begin to play out all along the length of the visit, and visitors will thus find themselves immersed continuously in the Grand Siècle for an hour.

The visit will be proposed without extra charge to all visitors of the château.

Cost of the project: 750 000 €, including 487 500 € of pursued sponsorship.
2019 Events

Easter at Vaux-le-Vicomte  
*Saturday 20, Sunday 21, Monday 22, April 2019*

**THE GREATEST EGG HUNT IN FRANCE!**

The “Écureuil” family (the squirrel was Nicolas Fouquet’s emblem) has disappeared. Along the route of a treasure hunt in the château and the garden, visitors must locate it to participate in the final egg hunt and win a prize: chocolate! Decorations in the reception rooms, face-painting, pony rides, skits and an egg hunt for adults will also be part of this perfect day out for the family. New: there are prizes to be won by finding gold hazelnuts hidden in the garden!

*Full price: 17.90€ / Reduced price: 15.90€ / Free under 6*

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Easter holidays  
*April 23 to May 5, 2019*

For the first time, visitors will be invited to extend the Easter festivities during the holidays! Spring decorations, free face-painting, and a giant treasure hunt all over the estate will delight young and old during the (Zone C) Easter vacation, along with a present for every child!

*Full price: 16.90€ / Reduced price: 14.90€ / Free under 6*

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Candlelit evenings  
*Every Saturday from May 4 to October 5, 2019*

Every Saturday night from May to October, Vaux-le-Vicomte offers its visitors an opportunity to rediscover this 17th century masterpiece in the flickering light of the two thousand candles illuminating the château and its jardin à la française. A romantic refined dinner, champagne bar and macaroons will complete this delightful, timeless evening. A marvelous fireworks display ends each of these magical evenings, to the captivating sound of waltzes...

*Full price: 19.90€ / Reduced price: 17.90€ / Free under 6*
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!

*Price per session: 60€ (one session for 2 to 6 persons). Duration: 1h*

Grand Siècle day

Sunday, June 2, 2019

**Spend a day costumed in the fashions of the Grand Siècle**, where Baroque and popular dances mix with skits performed by musketeers and carriage rides, for a unique experience in the art of living à la française at the time of Louis XIV and Nicolas Fouquet!

**Tableau Vivant contest**: the château invites costumed guests to form a tableau vivant inside the enormous picture frames placed around the garden and in the château. Visitors themselves are invited to elect the **most beautiful costumes** of the day!

*Full price: 17.90€ / Reduced price 15.90€ / Free under 6*

Vaux-le-Vicomte celebrates Christmas

November 23, 2019, to January 5, 2020

For the 14th year, the Vaux-le-Vicomte estate will transform itself for the Christmas period into an **enchanted palace of a thousand colors**. Visitors will be invited to discover a colorful Christmas through the magical illumination of the gardens and the château, and the marvelous decorations and surprises in reception rooms fragrant with cinnamon and gingerbread. Fires in the hearths and carriage rides will complete this magic moment independent of time and space.

*Full price: 19.90€ / Reduced price: 17.90€ / Free under 6*
Useful information

Prices
Full price entry: 16,90 € / Reduced price: 14,90 € / Free under 6.
For events tickets prices, consult our website.
NEW! An Annual Pass is available for unlimited access to the estate (including during events):
45 € for adults, 28 € for children!

Access
By train: train line P from Paris Gare de l’Est to Verneuil l’Etang then ‘châteaubus’ shuttle
By car: 50 minutes to the South of Paris.
By tour bus: Fontainebleau and Vaux-le-Vicomte in one day with pariscityvision.com.

Dates and times
Open every day from March 23 to November 3, 2019, then during the
Christmas period.
Saturday Candlelit evenings from May 4 to October 5, until 11 PM.

www.vaux-le-vicomte.com/en

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Press contact

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