



## A HISTORIC WORK PROJECT IN CHAMBORD: RESTORATION, 300 YEARS LATER, OF THE FORMAL FRENCH GARDENS

In 2017, Chambord will be dramatically transformed: Thanks to the exceptional personal 3.5 million euro donation of Mr. Stephen A. Schwarzman, the château is getting ready to recover its **formal French gardens**. The sponsorship agreement was validated on Wednesday December 7, 2016 by the administration board members of the National Estate of Chambord, under the presidency of Guillaume Garot (Member of Parliament).

Imagined during the reign of Louis XIV, with a sketch of them dating back to 1734, the gardens existed for more than two centuries before progressively disappearing between the two world wars. They shall cover 16 acres at the foot of the château's northern facade. **For over 20 years France had not experienced such a large-scale garden restoration project, featuring more than 600 trees, 800 shrubs, 200 rose trees, 15250 plants marking out the perimeters and 18874 m<sup>2</sup> of lawns.** **The rapidly executed preparatory work got underway in August 2016, and subsequent to its completion just five months later, it will be open to the public on 1 April 2017.**

Commissioned by the National Estate of Chambord at the initiative of Jean d'Haussonville, Chief Executive Officer, the project was validated in principle by the President of the Republic during his December 2014 visit to Chambord and on the scientific level in February 2015 by the French national commission of historic sites and monuments. Fifteen years of studies and cross-referencing of scientific data based on archives, old plans, engravings and archaeological research have confirmed with exactness the emplacements existing in the 18th-century plans.



Press contacts:

Chambord : Cécilie de Saint Venant, communications and brand director,  
[cecilie.saintvenant@chambord.org](mailto:cecilie.saintvenant@chambord.org) 02.54.50.50.40.31

Image 7 : Laurence Heilbronn [lheilbronn@image7.fr](mailto:lheilbronn@image7.fr) ; Nathalie Feld [nfeld@image7.fr](mailto:nfeld@image7.fr) 01.53.70.94.23

*Royalty-free aerial photography and videography using drones available on request.*

**Stephen A. Schwarzman** is Chairman, CEO and Founder of Blackstone.

*He said the following regarding his support for Chambord:*

*"National treasures like Chambord are of tremendous importance to the cultural heritage and history of France, the French people as well as the international community. As the world experiences rapid change, our ongoing engagement with the past can provide meaningful context and heighten our understanding of the present day. I am proud to support this particular effort to restore Chambord's historic formal gardens, and I urge others to join me in preserving Chambord and other important historic sites for future generations."*

Mr. Schwarzman founded Blackstone in 1985 and has been involved in all phases of the firm's development since then. Blackstone is now the largest alternative asset manager in the world, with \$361 billion Assets Under Management (as of September 30, 2016).

Highly active in civic life around the world, Mr. Schwarzman holds leadership roles in multiple renowned organizations. Mr. Schwarzman is an Officier de la Légion d'Honneur. He serves as a member of The Council on Foreign Relations, The Business Council, The Business Roundtable, and The International Business Council of the World Economic Forum. He is co-chair of the Partnership for New York City and serves on the boards of The Asia Society and New York-Presbyterian Hospital, as well as on The Advisory Board of the School of Economics and Management at Tsinghua University, Beijing. He is a Trustee of The Frick Collection in New York City and Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



Mr. Schwarzman is also an active philanthropist with a history of supporting education and schools. Whether in business or in philanthropy, he has always attempted to tackle big problems and find transformative solutions. In 2015, Mr. Schwarzman donated \$150 million to Yale University to establish the Schwarzman Center, a first-of-its-kind campus center in Yale's historic "Commons" building. In 2013, he founded an international scholarship program, "Schwarzman Scholars," at Tsinghua University in Beijing to educate future leaders about China. Endowed with \$450 million, the program is modeled on the Rhodes Scholarship and is the single largest philanthropic effort in China's history coming largely from international donors. In 2007, Mr. Schwarzman donated \$100 million to the New York Public Library on whose board he also serves.

In 2016, *Forbes* magazine named Mr. Schwarzman "The most Powerful Person in Finance" and in 2007, he was included in *TIME* magazine's "100 Most Influential People."

Mr. Schwarzman holds a B.A. from Yale University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He has served as an adjunct professor at the Yale School of Management and on the Harvard Business School Board of Dean's Advisors.

**Press contacts:**

Chambord : Cécilie de Saint Venant, communications and brand director,  
[cecilie.saintvenant@chambord.org](mailto:cecilie.saintvenant@chambord.org) 02.54.50.50.40.31

Image 7 : Laurence Heilbronn [lheilbronn@image7.fr](mailto:lheilbronn@image7.fr) ; Nathalie Feld [nfeld@image7.fr](mailto:nfeld@image7.fr) 01.53.70.94.23  
*Royalty-free aerial photography and videography using drones available on request.*