

You will surely enjoy strolling down the alleyways, contemplating the majestic facade of the château from a multitude of angles and relaxing on a bench in the shade of a lime tree. You will likewise savor the colors and odors, especially in the eastern section with its condiment plants and "Catherine Deneuve" divine roses representing a tribute to *Peau d'âne* ("Donkeyskin"), the Jacques Demy film shot in Chambord in 1970.

Created in 2019, the vegetable gardens of Chambord were planted in the one-time château stables. Market gardeners have been applying organic and ecological permaculture-based farming. Small-scale, high-yield production consists exclusively of in-season fruits and vegetables. Discover the market gardeners' universe and the benefits of eco-friendly agriculture by visiting the installations with a guide or by taking away the vegetables and seasonal fruits on sale at the gift shops of the one-time stables.

Located near the ancient l'Ormetrou farm, the 35 acres of Chambord vineyards contain several historic grape varieties, including romorantin imported in Sologne by François I, pinot noir, cultivated in the estate during the 18th century and orbois originating in the Loire valley. The romorantin grape variety consists in pre-phyloxera plants dating from the mid-19th century and not having undergone any genetic transformation or grafting, dated mid 19th century; unique heritage that Chambord is striving to preserve. You will have an opportunity to taste these exceptional natural and organic wines in some château eating areas, and it is also possible to purchase bottles or cases in the estate gift shops.

Alongside the canal a 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) stroll can be taken throughout the year and will allow you to discover the fauna, the flora and the remarkable landscapes of a lush ecological reserve. Observatories, pontoons and explanatory panels await nature lovers.

Over 20 kilometers (12 miles) of paths are open for strolling and will allow you to discover by foot the richness and the biodiversity of the Chambord park. You will also appreciate exceptional views of the château.

Do not hesitate to request the "promenades" - the maps for strolls in the reception area.

<p>François I 1494-1547 King of France from 1515 to 1547</p> <hr/>	<p>Gaston, Duke of Orléans 1608-1660</p> <hr/> <p>In 1626, Gaston, Duke of Orléans received Blois county, on which</p>
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In 1519, François I initiated construction of a new royal house in Chambord, in the heart of the game-rich marshlands of Sologne. Even if he seldom sojourned there during his reign, he followed with pronounced interest the progress of work on the site, which is where he imagined and was having built a palace in his image, inheritor of medieval traditions and ideas of the Renaissance. For the monarch, Chambord was as much a destination where he enjoyed hunting with his intimates, as an architectural creation of genius and a political manifesto. It was also the place where, endeavoring to impress, he invited foreign diplomats and even his arch-rival Charles V, emperor of the Holy Roman Germanic Empire. When he died (1547), a chapel wing and the lower enclosure had yet to be completed. Henry II, his son, pursued construction of the west wing.

Chambord depended, from the hands of his brother, King Louis XIII. A rebel (*frondeur*) at certain times, in 1634 he was placed under house arrest... in Chambord. He appreciated the place to the extent of initiating the first known restoration campaigns. The terraces were hardly waterproof, and he had them repaired. The lantern towers and the sculpted vaults on the second floor had been altered by water inflows and were likewise improved. He acquired new pieces of land that would constitute the park of Chambord, and brought to completion the construction of the enclosure wall. That was how Chambord attained its present-day dimensions (5440 hectares = 13500 acres), fully surrounded by a 32-kilometer (20-mile) wall.

Louis XIV 1638-1715 King of France from 1643 to 1715	Stanislas Leszczynski 1677-1766 King of Poland from 1704 to 1709
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The Sun King was responsible for completion of construction of the château, which had been suspended since the reign of Henri II. The chapel wing and the enclosure were covered with a roof. Along with his court, Louis XIV sojourned in Chambord on seven different occasions, generally during the autumn, from 1660 to 1685. His days were punctuated, as it were, by hunting parties, comedy showings and dance evenings. In 1680, he set up a new royal apartment in his image at the center of the keep. He was also responsible for improvements on the outskirts of the château, helping to sanitize the site (canalization of the Cosson river) and creating a garden worthy of the appellation on an artificial terrace. While he initiated construction of stables in the château forecourt, his efforts there and elsewhere remained incomplete.

Along with what was left of his court, in 1725 the exiled king of Poland, father-in-law of King Louis XV, was invited to sojourn in the royal house of Chambord. He appreciated the solitary comforts of an isolated palace and a tranquil, pious, well-ordered life. At the same time, he harbored the hope of recovering his throne and putting an end to his wanderings. During the "dog days" of summer, malarial fever compelled Stanislas to leave the château and to take temporary refuge in nearby residences (Blois, Saint-Dyé, château of Saumery, château of Ménars). Intent on cleaning the Chambord air, he pursued the work started on the orders of Louis XIV on the outskirts of the monument. He left the estate for the last time in August 1733.

Maurice, Count of Saxony 1696-1750	Henri, Duke of Bordeaux, Count of Chambord 1820-1883
In 1745 Maurice of Saxony, marshal	A grandson of the future king

of France, was awarded Chambord by Louis XV as recompense for his military feats. It was "like a sovereign" that he sojourned with his court and his regiments, filling his days with military maneuvers, hunting parties and entertainment. He also supervised major projects in the château and its park. He had a theater set up on the second floor of the keep and modernized the royal apartment with sumptuous furnishings.

Last but not least, the marshal completed installation of a French-style garden and constructed numerous roads in the park to facilitate hunting with hounds. On 30 November 1750, it was in the château that he drew his final breath.

Charles X, Henri received Chambord as a birth gift thanks to a national funding campaign in 1821. Driven into exile in 1830, it was at a distance, from his Austrian residences, that he administered the estate with the ardent hope of residing there on his return to France and of reigning under the name of "Henri V".

The château benefited from numerous restoration campaigns, which brought it back from the brink of ruin.


And for the first time, the monument was open for visitors. The count presented a collection of works, particularly family portraits, that had been either acquired on the art market or given as gifts by loyal royalists. He died in 1883 as the last direct heir of King Louis XIV.


Any damage done to the monument will be liable to prosecution and éviction from the monument.

Areas accessible to persons with reduced mobility: Reception area / Ticket office / Ground floor of the keep (with its rooms) / Audiovisual room/ Carriage room / Café / Toilets / Gift shop

Seat sticks and wheelchairs can be lent to you in the reception area, subject to availability. Dogs accompanying people with disabilities are admitted in the monument compound.

The HistoPad visitor's kit includes a customized version and enables access to commentaries on the rooms of the upper floors.

 **Digital mediation tool adapted to the needs of persons with hearing impairment** (containing commentaries in French sign language).
Audiovisual room: film subtitled in five languages (French, English, German, Spanish, Italian). HistoPad available in French sign language.

 Digital mediation tool adapted to the needs of persons with vision impairment (version with audio description in French)
Fully accessible tactile models and tactile moldings of the vaults are available.

On reservation: customized guided tours with supports / heritage workshops for school groups.
Contact : reservations@chambord.org

1515 François I becomes king of France.

1519 Death of Leonardo da Vinci in Amboise, construction of the château of Chambord gets underway.

1539 The keep has been completed. François I invites Charles V to Chambord for an overnight stay.

1542 Construction of the park enclosure wall gets underway.

1545 Final stay of François I in Chambord. Work on the royal wing has been completed.

1547 Death of François I. Having become king, his son Henri II carries on with château construction.

1556 Construction is suspended. A chapel wing and the lower enclosure remain unfinished.

1625 Gaston, Duke of Orléans receives Chambord in appanage.

1641-1642 Château restoration gets underway. Building of the park enclosure wall continues.

1643-1662 Final acquisitions of land for what is to become the park.

1660 Death of Gaston, Chambord reverts to the crown. First stay of Louis XIV.

1670 World première of Molière's *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* in Chambord with Louis XIV in attendance.

1692 Development of the outskirts gets underway, as does work aimed at fully completing the château.

1695 Construction of stables in the château forecourt. Final sojourn in Chambord of Louis XIV.

1725 Stanislas Leszczynski moves into Chambord.

1730-1734 Sanitation and development of the outskirts resumes: planting of the French garden.

1733 The ex-king of Poland leaves Chambord for the last time.

1745 Louis XV grants the count of Saxony (Marshal General of France) the right to inhabit the château and its park.

1748 The marshal moves into the château permanently and completes development of the outskirts.

1750 The marshal dies in the château.

1781 The park and the château are entrusted to the royal stud farm (haras) under the supervision of the Marquis de Polignac.

1792 The château furniture is auctioned off during the French Revolution.

1809 Napoleon offers Chambord to the marshal Louis Alexandre-Berthier, prince of Wagram.

1821 The estate is offered to Henri d'Artois, duke of Bordeaux, last legitimate descendant of the Bourbons.

1840 Registration of the château on the list of historic monuments of France.

1871 The only sojourn of Henri d'Artois, who has become count of Chambord.

1883 Death of the count of Chambord. His nephews inherit the estate.

1923 The estate becomes an officially listed site.

1930 The estate is purchased by the French state.

1939-1945 Thousands of artworks from French museums are safeguarded in the château.

1947 The estate becomes a national hunting and wildlife reserve.

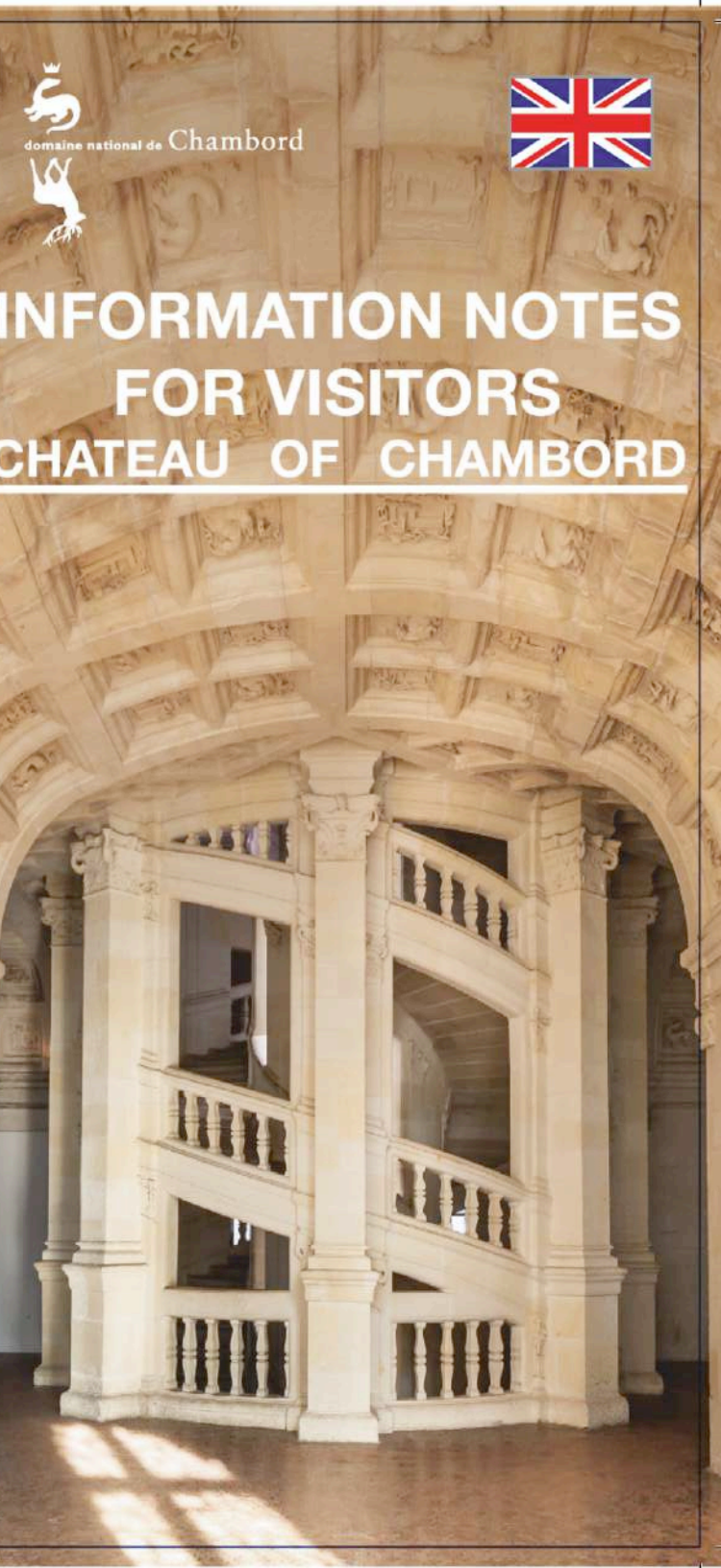
1981 The château is inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites (UNESCO).

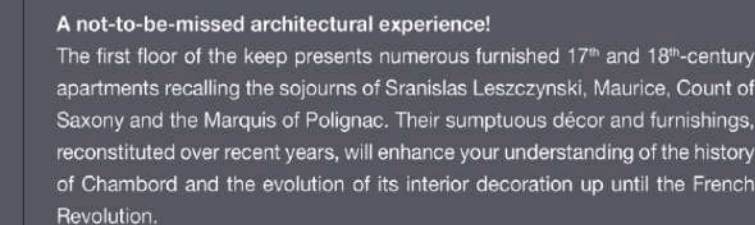
1997 The estate in its entirety is listed as a historic monument.

2005 Creation of the public establishment known as the National Estate of Chambord.

2016-2017 Restoration of the 18th-century French garden.

2019 Chambord celebrates the 500th anniversary of the outset of its construction.





Relive the premier of Molière's *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*

During the 17th century, comedies were among the diversions highlighting King Louis XIV's evenings in Chambord. A small theater was set up on the château's first floor, just opposite the grand staircase. That was where Molière premiered two of his celebrated comédies-ballets, set to music by Jean-Baptiste Lully: *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac* (1669), and *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* (1670). Wishing to recall these milestone events, the decorator Jacques Garcia has put together an evocation of the ancient court, as though the curtain were about to be raised on a new show...

Enjoy the panoramic view from the terraces

At the culminating point of the grand staircase (at the top of the keep), the terraces offer ample space for strolls as well as a panoramic view of the surrounding park and gardens. You will be immersed in an abounding spectacle represented by multiple clusters of chimneys, dormer windows and staircase turrets crisscrossing the château rooftops and endowing the structure with an unduplicable silhouette. The center of the terraces is spectacularly dominated by the celebrated lantern tower, capped by a fleur-de-lis royal crown pointing toward the sky.

