

# Christmas at Chambord: Decorations, Lights, a New Show, and Activities

From November 30, 2024, to January 5, 2025



Starting Saturday, November 30, the Domaine national de Chambord embraces the magic of Christmas and celebrates French craftsmanship with enchanting decorations created by students of the École Nationale des Fleuristes de Paris.

Visitors can enjoy a new Christmas show, workshops, and activities every weekend from November 30 and throughout the school holidays.

The exhibition *Botticelli: Two Madonnas at Chambord* will also be open throughout the Christmas festivities.

## Decorations under the Theme of Light and Craftsmanship

From November 30, 2024, to January 5, 2025

For the fourth consecutive year, the Domaine national de Chambord and the École Nationale des Fleuristes de Paris are collaborating on the chateau's decorations under the theme «Prism of Light.» Thirty-seven apprentices from the École Nationale des Fleuristes worked over four days to decorate the chateau's various rooms under the guidance of three instructors: Garry Taffin, Cathy Cossec, and Émilie Douard. This large-scale, hands-on learning experience allows students to apply professional floral design techniques and, for many, experience large-scale installation for the first time.

The apprentices from the horticultural high school and the CFA in Blois have been contributing to the beautification of the chateau for over ten years, making this highlight of their year a source of wonder and genuine pride for these young people from the region.

- For the first time, decorations have been added to the cross wings on the chateau's second floor.
- The chateau and gardens are adorned with Christmas trees provided by Pépinières Naudet, illuminated from 3 p.m. to midnight and from 6 a.m. until sunrise.

## The Christmas Show: *The Prince and the Hunchback*

From December 21, 2024, to January 4, 2025

Two performances daily: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (except December 24 and 31 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

In collaboration with the Midnight Première company, Chambord presents a new, original show for all ages titled *The Prince and the Hunchback*. This production combines epic action scenes (featuring two fencing duels at the beginning and end), Baroque music, comedy, and historical references. The costumes, inspired by 18<sup>th</sup>-century French styles, are specially designed for the show. This theatrical adaptation of Paul Féval's renowned novel was written by Thierry Péteau, a specialist in French Baroque theater. The musical score, composed by Philippe d'Orléans, will be performed by the Baroque ensemble Giourdina under the direction of Fabien Armengaud.

- Director | Jean-Paul Bouron
- Adaptation | Thierry Péteau
- Music | Philippe d'Orléans

NEW

## Activities Starting November 30

Details available at [chambord.org](http://chambord.org)

The Domaine national de Chambord offers activities every December weekend and during school holidays:

- Christmas-themed guided tours (1 hour): Discover the origins of year-end celebrations through the chateau's history, especially its golden age during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Renaissance walks and demonstrations with Cléry Sound and Light.
- Chocolate painting workshops with chocolatier Max Vauché.
- Nature workshops: Before Christmas, create tree decorations; after Christmas, make greeting cards using materials from Chambord's forest.
- Traditional games, meet Santa Claus, and storytelling sessions in the chateau.
- Artistic fencing workshops and demonstrations with Midnight Première.
- Bird of prey presentations and free-flight demonstrations in the gardens by Passion de Roy.

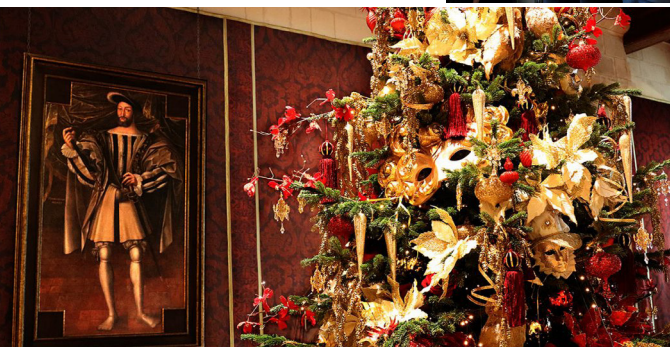
## Exhibition: *Botticelli: Two Madonnas at Chambord*

Until January 19, 2025

A hidden treasure from the Saint-Félix Church in Champigny-en-Beauce, *The Virgin and Child with the Young Saint John the Baptist*, initially dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was recently authenticated as an original 16<sup>th</sup>-century work from the workshop of Italian painter Sandro Botticelli (1445–1510).

The piece is displayed in the chateau's chapel from October 20, 2024, to January 19, 2025, alongside its model, preserved at the Pitti Palace in Florence, thanks to an exceptional loan from the Uffizi Galleries.





## About the Domaine national de Chambord

For over 500 years, Chambord has inspired admiration and fascination worldwide. Listed as a historic monument in France since 1840 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981, it is one of the Renaissance's most remarkable constructions and the largest enclosed park in Europe, covering 5,440 hectares.

As the second most-visited château in France, Chambord attracts over one million visitors annually.

Owned by the French state since 1930, the Domaine national de Chambord operates as a public institution under the supervision of the Ministries of Culture, Agriculture, and Environment, with the patronage of the President of the Republic. The public institution, led by Pierre Dubreuil since January 2023, also manages the Grand Parc de Rambouillet.

## À propos de l'École Nationale des Fleuristes de Paris

Founded in 1957 and managed by the Chamber of Trade, now known as the UNF (National Union of Florists), the École des Fleuristes de Paris has maintained its status as the leading European training center for floristry year after year. It offers apprenticeship programs leading to CAP and Professional Certificate diplomas while also providing professional retraining courses open to everyone. Each year, it welcomes around 500 apprentices and trainees, including students from all over France as well as participants from abroad who come to refine their mastery of floral art.

## Partners of *Christmas at Chambord*



Domaine national de Chambord

Press Contacts

Mathilde Fennebresque: Head of Communications and Sponsorship [mathilde.fennebresque@chambord.org](mailto:mathilde.fennebresque@chambord.org)

Irina Metz: Communications Officer, Tel. +33(0)6 82 02 89 94 [irina.metzl@chambord.org](mailto:irina.metzl@chambord.org)

Visit [www.chambord.org](http://www.chambord.org)

Château de Chambord

41250 Chambord