

## SIGNING OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DOMAINE NATIONAL DE CHAMBORD AND MATSUMOTO CASTLE

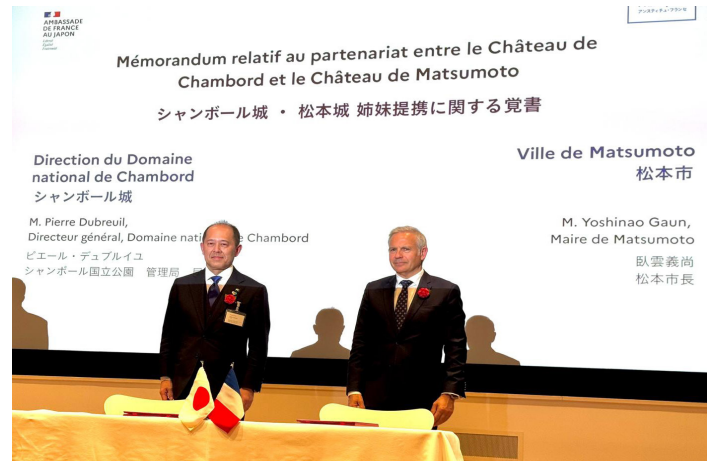
In Tokyo, on April 1, 2026, in the presence of Ms Catherine Pégard, French Minister for Culture, and Mr Yohei Matsumoto, Japanese Minister for Culture, a partnership agreement between the Domaine national de Chambord and the City of Matsumoto was signed by Pierre Dubreuil, CEO of the Domaine national de Chambord, and Yoshinao Gaun, Mayor of the City of Matsumoto.

Signed for a five-year period, this partnership aims to develop joint projects between Chambord and Matsumoto, particularly through the sharing of expertise in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, the implementation of joint projects in the field of contemporary arts, and the cross-promotion of these two destinations.

Set amidst stunning natural surroundings, these two monuments share many similarities. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, they each reflect the architectural style of their time and symbolise the political power of their rulers. Their significance as heritage sites is also widely recognized: the Château de Chambord features on the first list of French historic monuments, whilst Matsumoto Castle is designated a National Treasure in Japan.

“Matsumoto Castle is among the best-preserved castles in Japan. Its iconic black keep is now recognized well beyond Japan’s borders. As true architectural masterpieces closely linked to an exceptional natural environment, our two sites share common characteristics and challenges. This partnership provides an opportunity to strengthen exchanges between our institutions and to support the development of tourism in both our destinations.”

**Pierre Dubreuil,**  
CEO  
Domaine national de Chambord



Mr Yoshinao Gaun, Mayor of Matsumoto and Mr Pierre Dubreuil, CEO of Domaine national de Chambord, in Tokyo on April 1, 2026.



From left to right: Mr Pierre Dubreuil, CEO of Domaine national de Chambord, Mrs Catherine Pégard, French Minister of Culture and Mr Yoshinao Gaun, Mayor of Matsumoto, in Tokyo on April 1, 2026.

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## ABOUT

### Matsumoto Castle

Matsumoto Castle is distinguished by its deep black keep, which stands majestically against the backdrop of the Japanese Alps. Like the castles of Himeji, Hikone, Inuyama and Matsue, it is designated a National Treasure. Built during the Sengoku period (Warring States period) in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, it houses the oldest surviving keep. The keep was built in times of war, whilst the moon-viewing tower (Tsukimi Yagura) was added in times of peace. These architectural styles from different eras coexist in harmony. Matsumoto Castle is a symbol of the city of the same name.



Matsumoto Castle © All rights reserved

### Domaine national de Chambord

Chambord Castle, built from 1519 onwards and preserved in its original state ever since, is a major symbol of the French Renaissance and an architectural masterpiece, notably embodied by a double-helix staircase inspired by the work of Leonardo da Vinci. The castle and its vast 5,440-hectare forest estate belong to the French State, which is responsible for their conservation and restoration. The estate, a national wildlife reserve, is home to rare habitats and protected species. Chambord was included on the first list of French historic monuments in 1840 and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981.



Domaine national de Chambord © Valentin Pacaut, The explorers

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