In 2019, Villandry is celebrating the Renaissance...
EVENTS

MEETING IN THE GARDENS
Garden-based activities
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June

NIGHTS OF A THOUSAND LIGHTS
Gardens illuminated with 2,000 candles, projection mapping and fireworks display
Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July
Friday 2 and Saturday 3 August

“DON QUIXOTE...WELL, ALMOST”
Théâtre en Val de Luynes festival
by Francisca Rosell,
Based on the novel by Miguel de Cervantes
Thursday 11 July

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS
Artistic craftsmen fair
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September

VEGETABLE GARDEN DAYS
Meet the Villandry gardeners, exhibitors’ market and activities
Saturday, 28 and Sunday, 29 September

EXHIBITIONS

PHOTOS BY HENRI PEYRE
AND CATHERINE AUGUSTE
From 1st April to 2 June

JEAN BRETON,
THE RENAISSANCE IN VILLANDRY
The royal secretaries under Francis I,
builters of the Chateaux of the Loire
From 14 June to 1st September

SCULPTURES BY GILLES DE KERVERSEAU
Exhibition to discover in the Sun garden
From 14 June to 30 September

PAINTINGS BY MARIE-LAURENCE GAUDRAT
From 14 September to 11 November
MEETING IN THE GARDENS

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June

Villandry will again be taking part in Meeting in the Gardens, with "Animals in the Gardens" as this year's national theme. Aimed at highlighting France's many public and private parks and gardens, this event invites everyone to come and (re)discover the gardens and learn about the importance of maintaining and preserving this part of our heritage.

Activities will punctuate and enhance your visit throughout the weekend. Horse-drawn carriage rides, special guided tours and many other activities offer different opportunities to roam and appreciate the majesty of Villandry's gardens.

Usual rates
Activities included in the gardens’ entrance fee

NIGHTS OF THOUSAND LIGHTS

Friday 5 July, Saturday 6 July, Friday 2 August and Saturday 3 August

As the nights draw in the gardens are bathed in the light of over 2000 candles, with a special night-time opening perfect for a dreamy stroll. With a focus on the Renaissance, this year's Nights of a Thousand Lights will once again be the place to be for lovers of beauty and poetry. Walks in costume, shows, wall projections and fireworks will delight kids and grown-ups alike, leaving them starry-eyed at the end of the night.

Due to the great success of previous editions, for the second year in a row the Nights of a Thousand Lights will be held over two weekends.

There is limited capacity so we strongly recommend buying your tickets online from the Château de Villandry website.

Rates:
Adults: €12 - Young people: €7.50
Free for children under 8 years old
€6 extra for those who visited the château and/or gardens during the day
Online ticket office. Limited capacity.

“DON QUIXOTE...WELL, ALMOST”

Thursday 11 July

by Francisca Rosell,
based on the novel by Miguel de Cervantes
with Decal’Comédies

For its 16th edition, the Val de Luynes Theatre Festival has chosen the Château de Villandry for their opening show, performing Don Quixote...Well, Almost!

Francisca Rosell presents a hilarious and quirky adaptation of Miguel de Cervantes’ 16th century literary masterpiece.

From the château tower, the proud Don Quixote and his squire Sancho Panza fight windmills and take us on a journey through their fun-filled and barmy adventures.

An evening of theatrics and laughs, Spanish accents and the Renaissance in evocative surroundings.

Duration: 1hr - open to all
Limited capacity
Info and reservations at: www.theatre-valdeluynes.com

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September

To celebrate European Heritage Days, Villandry is showcasing the region’s artistic craftsmen. From interior decorators and decorative painters, to stone masons and cabinetmakers, many craftsmen have kept old skills and techniques alive, passing on their knowledge as guarantors of the preservation and conservation of our heritage.

During their visit to the château, visitors will be able to meet these artistic craftsmen, talk to them and discover the trades and expertise they have preserved. Visitors can even try their hand at some of the techniques!

To enhance these two days, guided tours of the gardens along with horse-drawn carriage rides will also be offered to the public.

Château and gardens rates: Adults €8.50 - Young people €6
Gardens only rates: Adults €5.50 — Young people €4
Activities included in the château’s entrance fee
A FAMILY CHRISTMAS AT VILLANDRY

From 7 December 2019 to 5 January 2020

This year, Villandry will be putting on its finest attire in a brand new display. From the warm sitting room with its wood fire to the family dining room, through the unusual oriental lounge, sumptuous decorations will sweep up young and old alike in the magic of Christmas.

The gardens will also be putting on their winter attire: mosaics of ornamental cabbages and leeks, box tree lacework and the outlines of yew tree topiary, and long avenues of sleepy lime trees are yours to roam and admire.

Storytelling walks and activities await the whole family throughout the holidays!

Château and gardens rates: Adults €9 - Young people €6
Gardens only rates: Adults €6 - Young people €4
Activities included in the château’s entrance fee

VEGETABLE GARDEN DAYS

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September

While the vegetable garden and the gardens are at their best, Villandry’s gardeners will go to meet visitors and share their know-how and tips with them. Novice or seasoned gardeners will no doubt leave with lots of ideas in their head and vegetables in their basket.

Some exhibitors will also present their products and creations inspired by the world of gardens: plants, local produce, decorations, gardening essentials... there will be something for everyone!

The Vegetable Garden Days will be an opportunity to have a fun family time, taking part in lots of activities and guided tours or strolling through the gardens.

Usual rates
Activities included in the gardens’ entrance fee
Food and refreshments available on site throughout the day
In 2019, the Centre Val de Loire region is commemorating 500 years since the Renaissance, marking the anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci’s death, the birth of Catherine de Medicis and the start of construction at Chambord castle, three major events of 1519.

The last of the large châteaux built on the banks of the Loire during the Renaissance, the Château de Villandry will of course play a role in a year full of projects and events. The Renaissance theme will take centre stage during “Jean Breton, the Renaissance at Villandry”, a major historical exhibition presented throughout the summer, as well as during the Thousand Lights evening events and through projected images of paintings from this historical period, among other plans.

This Renaissance year is the chance to discover the 16th century estate of Jean Breton, Finance Minister to Francis I and patron of the new Château de Villandry in the 1530s. A partnership with the CESR (Centre for Further Renaissance Studies) has been established as part of the Heritage Intelligence Programme and in time for the summer exhibition. This has allowed researchers to gain much deeper knowledge of this great servant and financier of the king, and a better understanding of the architectural transformation of Villandry and its gardens during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Almost 90 species of birds spotted on the site and its surroundings bear witness to its enriched biodiversity. Keen to preserve the fauna and flora of the site, Château de Villandry has been working with the Touraine LPO (League for the Protection of Birds), becoming an “LPO Refuge” in 2012.

In 2009, Villandry gambled on a move towards organic farming. A ban on the use of pesticides and chemical insecticides led head gardener Laurent Portuguez and his team to rethink the way they worked, the tools they used and their methods of organisation. Ten years later, their efforts have paid off: the ecological management of a site such as Villandry has proved well and truly possible. In man-made gardens where several hundreds of plants are meticulously and rigorously maintained and planted each year, nature enjoys its freedom. An incredibly rich biodiversity has once again taken hold, flourishing and even contributing to the preservation of the gardens. The plant diversity, encouraged by the environment Villandry finds itself in, is ideal for those little helper species that fight in the shadows against pests and parasites.
In 1515, Francis I was crowned King of France, winning the famous Battle of Marignano in the same year. While Leonardo da Vinci moved to the Val de Loire in 1516, the year 1519 saw the start of construction at Chambord. This year, the Centre Val de Loire region is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Renaissance. So 2019 is the ideal year for Villandry to release its new book One Thousands Years at Villandry, A Château at the Heart of French History.

Author Edouard de Vienne is Chairman of the Friends of Villandry Château and Gardens association. Working alongside historian Pierre Audin, his book traces the history of the site 1000 years ago to the present day. The result of lengthy and passionate research, this book helps us discover the estate and its château during the Middle Ages, Renaissance and 18th century.

MAINTAINING AND ENRICHING OUR HERITAGE

Each year, Château de Villandry carries out a number of works or acquisitions aimed at maintaining its heritage and enriching its collections, seeking to improve the visitor experience as a result. During the winter months when the doors of the château are closed to visitors, different tradesmen work busily away inside and in the gardens. From carpenters and painters, to upholsterers and restorers, everyone gets involved to prepare for the reopening.

From February onwards, visitors will be able to discover the new refurbished garden room on the first floor, a bright 18th century style room with a spectacular view over the gardens. The vegetable garden has now been extended into the château’s west-wing corridor, in the form of an exhibition of vegetable prints from the Vilmorin collection, a famous family of seed merchants.

The collection of Spanish artwork put together by Joachim and Ann Carvallo in the early 20th century also draws the eye. A 16th century tabernacle has rediscovered its colours thanks to the precise scientific techniques of a polychrome wood artwork restorer, while another tabernacle and tableau from the 16th century will once again feature in the collection after restoration works.

ONE THOUSANDS YEARS AT VILLANDRY
HENRI PEYRE AND CATHERINE AUGUSTE

Photography - Painting

From 1st April to 2 June

We create new vintage still life masterpieces. The twist? They’re photographs...

Photos or paintings? Newly created and in perfect condition, the works of Henri Peyre and Catherine Auguste look like old masterpieces. But none of them are copies of old works. Every composition is original and has never previously existed. Beyond this innovation, their works raise the major questions of still life masterpieces, showing only objects and revealing very little. But in reality they are about man, whose presence is everywhere. They show objects in disorder.

But if you look closely, does it not begin to seem like disorder is always a part of a superior order that opposes it, that of composition? Depending on where you’re looking from, can you not see the small amount of disorder begin to transform into good order? Still life works aren’t meant to be sacred objects. But is the absence they describe only that of man? Don’t still lifes describe only his disappearance, and the force of reality once man is uninhabited and left to himself?

JEAN BRETON, THE RENAISSANCE IN VILLANDRY

THE ROYAL SECRETARIES UNDER FRANCIS I,
BUILDERS OF THE CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE

From 14 June to 1st September

Exhibition Curator: Alix de Vienne
Co-curator: Jérôme Salmon, PhD Student at the CESR

During the Renaissance, royal secretaries cemented their professional position and ensured their social ascension by building châteaux in new and audacious styles, at a time when the classical French architectural style was in its infancy. This exhibition tells the story of these new noblemen who built four of the most remarkable residences of the Val de Loire region: Florimond Robertet and his Château de Bury, Gilles Berthelot at Azay-le-Rideau, Thomas Bohier at Chenonceau and Jean Breton at Villandry.

Visitors can also discover a 3D model that traces the architectural transformation of Château de Villandry through the years, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

GILLES DE KERVERSAU

Sculptures

From 14 June to 30 September

Throughout the summer, the Villandry gardens will play host to modern art. Four works by artist Gilles de Kerversau will take centre stage in the pathways of the Sun Garden, up on the estate’s highest terrace.

The sculptor has a passion for animal art, with works currently exhibited throughout the world. Here we are forced to reflect on the way animal imitates man...or man imitates animal. The Philosopher Frog, the Travelling Pigeon, the Opera Rat and the Dancing Chicken all provoke discussion and introspection.

These works are particularly reflective of this year’s Meeting in the Gardens theme “Animals in the Gardens”, from 8 to 9 June.

MARIE-LAURENCE GAUDRAT

Paintings

From 14 September to 11 November

“Marie-Laurence evokes a life where scents breathe and sounds hear. The smell of earth and vegetation penetrates through us, straw crackles in the heat, the church bells begin to chime and the distant sounds of a fox hunt emanate from the woods of the Versailles parkland.” Bruno Gousset

Exhibiting for the second time at Château de Villandry, this artist portrays and captures all the sensations and brilliance of nature, man and life. In scenes bathed in shadow and light, time seems suspended yet vibrant and full of truth. Her view of the world and the colours she gives it come together to produce compositions whose contemplation imposes a moment of fulfilment, serenity and life.
IN THE MIDDLE AGE a fortress was built. It was here in the keep in 1189 that the «Paix de Colom- bier » was signed, in which Henry II Plantagenet, King of England, came before the King of France, Philippe Auguste, to acknowledge defeat.

DURING THE RENAISSANCE Jean Breton, Finance minister under King Francis I, bought the estate in 1532 and in 1536, on the site of the old fortress, built a Renaissance castle, although the keep remained. The architectural style of the Renaissance castle was a precursor of Anet and Fontainebleau and later became the Henri IV style.

FROM THE CLASSICAL PERIOD TO THE 20th CENTURY In the 18th century, the property came into the hands of the Marquis de Castellane who wished to bring it up to the levels of comfort in vogue at the time and therefore had a number of modifications made to both the interior and the exterior. The castle remained in the family until the Revolution, but then had a succession of owners from a wide range of horizons, who took little interest in its future, or indeed its upkeep. At the same time, the gardens were also altered in line with the current trend for all things English: the Renaissance kitchen garden was destroyed to transform the whole estate into a large, English-style park.

VERY EARLY IN THE 20th CENTURY Everything changed in 1906. Joachim Carvallo, of Spanish origin, and his American wife Ann Coleman bought the site. This marked a turning point, for them and for the castle: Joachim and his wife gave up their career in science, converted to the Catholic faith and devoted their fortune to restoring the monument.

Joachim was a cultivated man, with a passion for botany, architecture and Spanish art. In the first few years, the couple concentrated on restoring the stones, and gradually the place recovered its soul... But very soon (in around 1908), Joachim Carvallo began to restore the castle to its Renaissance style, which meant bringing back the Renaissance garden in the place of the romantic English park. And so began the great adventure of restoring the grounds by recreating the four levels of terraces and each of the gardens: the decorative vegetable garden, the garden rooms and the water garden.

Today his great-grand-son, Henri Carvallo, heads Villandry.
A LIVING AND FURNISHED CASTLE

The castle often suffers in the shadow of its magnificent gardens... And yet it is really worth a visit! The castle is a friendly, welcoming family place, in which visitors can easily see themselves, and where it is pleasant to just wander round.

Today there are some fifteen rooms to visit, each one different from the next, furnished in a harmonious style and decorated with taste. Visitors will no doubt enjoy the fact that fresh flowers are placed in all the rooms.

The tour ends with the Oriental room, which leaves no one indifferent for the beauty of its imposing ceiling. The Oriental room was restored from floor to ceiling. The latter, in Mudejar style, dates back to the 15th century. Originating from Toledo, it is made up of over 3,600 pieces of wood. In addition to the aesthetic and technical prowess that it represents, the ceiling is a magnificent testimony to the cultural and religious syncretism in Spain after the restoration of Christianity which lasted from 718 to 1492: you can see the famous scallop shells, Franciscan knot and the eight-pointed Arabic star.

The Spanish painting collection

The château de Villandry presents a magnificent collection of mainly Spanish works dating from the 17th century, the golden age of Iberian painting. This collection was initially compiled by Joachim Carvallo. Incidentally, it was the scope of this collection that made him decide to buy Villandry: he wanted to display his treasures there. Following donations and settlements, certain paintings in the collection have left Villandry, particularly for national museums such as the Louvre or the Prado.

The current owner, Henri Carvallo, is keen to rebuild this collection by repurchasing works that were part of Joachim Carvallo and Ann Coleman's original collection, such as Young shepherd with his goats, a painting by Monsù Bernardo dating from the 17th century, acquired in 2017.

16th CENTURY This was when the Renaissance castle was built by Jean le Breton. Thanks to archaeological digs, we know today that there was a decorative vegetable garden at the time, right next to the castle, such as those you can see in the illustrations of the Plus Excellents bâtiments de France, a work by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau, a brilliant Renaissance architect. This conviction was consolidated by the recent discovery of an 18th century blueprint which proves the existence of two terraces, one cultivated as a vegetable garden and the other as an ornamental garden.

18th CENTURY At this time, Villandry became the property of the Marquis de Castellane who, from 1760 onwards, extended the gardens begun in the 16th century. For this, he bought plots of land from the villagers extending right up to the church. He thus created a fine classic French style garden. A third level of terraces was added to the vegetable garden – situated between the church and the castle, and the ornamental garden.

On this last terrace, he created a pond in the shape of a Louis XV looking glass.

EARLY 20th CENTURY Between 1908 and 1918, the new owner of Villandry, Joachim Carvallo devoted himself to restoring the Renaissance gardens. Why did he do this? Because he believed that the Renaissance castle – which he restored to its original beauty – should have the right gardens.

He therefore set about gathering the necessary information: first he led archaeological digs in the gardens and found the vestiges of base walls and pipes which enabled him to re-site the decorative vegetable garden. Then he consulted two important literary sources in particular: Les Plus Excellents bâtiments de France and the Monasticon Gallicanum which gave him an idea of what Renaissance gardens were like. He also consulted old blueprints, like that of the Marquis de Castellane and the Napoleonic land registry, which helped him in his quest.

AND TODAY...

The gardens have once again been extended with the creation of the Sun Garden in 2008. This was created on a fourth terrace, from a sketch left by Joachim Carvallo.
THE SIX GARDENS AT VILLANDRY

There are a total of six gardens at Villandry. The Villandry gardens are laid out in a succession of terraces, and each garden has its own strong identity and aesthetic principles:

At the lowest level is THE DECORATIVE VEGETABLE GARDEN, which has to feed the household, but not just in any old manner: it has to be quite simply magnificent as it is situated just next to the castle. Made up of nine squares of identical size but with different motifs inside, it covers an area of almost one hectare. There are two planting schemes per year: the spring scheme from March to June and the summer one from July to October.

On the intermediary level are THE ORNAMENTAL ROOMS designed as outside reception rooms: these are a natural extension of the castle rooms and are planted with tall boxwoods and flowers whose motifs are the timeless subjects of conversation: love, music and religion.

On the third level are the water garden, the herb garden and the maze.

THE WATER GARDEN, surrounding a fine pond intended to be the mirror reflecting the sky, is designed as a place for meditation. It is also a marvellous water reserve for watering the gardens.

THE HERB GARDEN, just like the vegetable garden, supplies all the plants necessary for family life: medicinal plants, aromatic plants and herbs.

THE MAZE, with its long, winding paths, but containing no difficult pitfalls, symbolises man progressing serenely and smoothly towards God.

Finally, on the last level, you can enjoy THE SUN GARDEN. The most recent of the gardens, the sun garden, is a place to dream and get away from it all. The plants are cleverly placed in a delightful impression of disorder, which of course is only an impression. 80 years after the completion of the gardens, Henri Carvallo made news at Villandry in 2008 by creating the Sun Garden. He commissioned the design – from a sketch by his ancestor Joachim – and the creation to Louis Benech and Alix de Saint-Venant.

The Sun Garden observes the same general principles of organisation in all the gardens at Villandry and forms a cloister of greenery, with lime trees and hornbeam, and comprises three chambers:

- The sun chamber, the central part of the garden, where there is a pond in the shape of the sun, the eight-point star designed by Joachim Carvallo, and beds of perennials in various hues of orange.
- The clouds chamber where the grassy paths form triangles winding in and out of the roses and blue-hued shrubs.
- The children’s chamber with open-air games and crab apple trees.

LAWN TENNIS WIMBLEDON STYLE

The old tennis court in the gardens of Villandry was renovated in the spring of 2010 in the pure Wimbledon style. The gardeners have once again shown proof of their skill and today you can admire an almost unique spot in France: a splendid ‘high tech’ lawn tennis court, which every month, is de-thatched, reseeded, mown and relined. In addition to the joy it gives to tennis players of all levels, the spot also reveals another aspect of the gardens: as a place for games and competition, with a sporting attitude to boot. The spot is visible to the public and is open to experienced and amateur players during some of our events.
A TURNING POINT: GOING ORGANIC IN THE GARDENS

Since his arrival at Villandry in 2009, the head gardener, Laurent Portuguez, has had one thing in mind: to make the magnificent Villandry gardens organic.

The first efforts focussed on the kitchen gardens, where the working methods have been entirely rethought, with the motto “observe to anticipate and anticipate to avoid using chemical treatments”. For the team of gardeners, this is no mean task: in addition to a new work organisation, certain tools have appeared in the sheds, and each gardener has to keep a close watch on all the plants to prevent pests and diseases.

STOP PESTICIDES

All pesticides have been eliminated from the gardens and replaced either by parasitic or predatory auxiliaries or by nematodes, which feed on diptera larvae (flies, etc.).

For example, native predators of the lime might have been introduced following the recommendations of the university technology and skills transfer unit Innophyt specialising in organic methods of preventing the spread of lime mite, which cause discoloration and leaf fall in the lime trees in the Villandry gardens. These natural predators are being introduced in controlled conditions so that they eventually become permanent residents of the gardens.

THE NATURAL FUNGICIDES

At the same time, we are fighting against fungus borne leaf diseases without using synthetic treatments: by stimulating the natural defences of roses, vines and fruit trees with treatments using minerals, trace elements, essential oils, slurry and decoctions to strengthen the plants and make them more resistant to disease.

THE ORGANIC FERTILIZATION

Chemical fertilisation has been eliminated and has now been replaced by organic fertilisation, in the form of compost comprising a variety of granules supplying nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. All the fertilisers can be used in organic farming but require several targeted applications as and when needed to avoid the soil becoming impoverished.

The elimination of the chemical fertilization was with few changes:

- Changes in growing methods: multi-tined spades are now used to preserve the activity of the bacteria contained in the top 10 to 15 centimetres of soil. Unlike ordinary digging, it avoids burying this microscopic life 30cm under the surface. Hoeing is also done more frequently to make the watering more efficient.
- Changes in the choice of plants: introduction of plants, seeds and growing composts with “organic farming” certification. So the spring and summer planting schemes are now fully organic.

Here are a few concrete examples of what has been done since 2009 in the gardens:

10 gardens work full time to maintain the gardens; an apprentice Compagnon du devoir artisan completes the team. It is strengthened in the summer by interns to undertake, among other things, the manual weeding work. Young people with disability service company regularly take part in the garden work.

52 kms of boxwood are pruned twice a year; in May and August. About 300 hours are required just to prune the small box hedges in the kitchen gardens.

115 000 flower and vegetable plants are planted out in the kitchen gardens or the gardens rooms. About half the plants are prepared by the gardeners int the castle glasshouses (seeds are sown and seedlings planted out, etc.)

2 planting schemes each year, established aesthetic and agronomic criterias : one from March to June and the other from July to September.

1016 lime trees spread all over the property are pruned every winter. This takes a team of four men two months to complete, i.e. 1,100 hours of work, in addition to the 400 hours of work to prune the vines, roses bushes, pear and apple trees.

162 topiary yews, pruned twice a year, in June for the first ornamental room, and in October for the second one.

THE WEEDING

We no longer use glyphosate or any other anti-germinating treatment. The whole site is weeded traditionally with tools such as wheel-mounted hoes and harrows… and some very patient gardeners! This year we are experimenting with thermal weed control and a natural weedkiller based on acetic acid. For lawns: scarification removes straggly growth and the use of Verti-drain aerates the soil, improving the quality of the lawns and encouraging faster growth without chemical treatment.

The green waste management is outsourced to a specialised company which has a composting centre.
DISCOVER VILLANDRY

VISITOR GUIDES FOR THE CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS allow you to discover Villandry at your own pace.
French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Czech

AUDIOGUIDES FOR THE CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS are available for individual visitors and groups;
Adults: French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian, Dutch, Russian
Children: French

GUIDED TOURS OF THE CHÂTEAU are available for individual visitors from 9 March to 11 November 2019 (except for Sundays from May to September and during certain weekend events).
In French only – approximately 1 hr 15
Groups can enjoy guided tours in English and Polish on reservation.

The VILLANDRY SMARTPHONE APPLICATION can be downloaded free from the AppleStore and Playstore. It offers additional content during the visit or quite simply allows you to discover Villandry at home.
French, English, German and Spanish.

VILLANDRY AS A FAMILY

Keen to offer the best welcome to all visitors, Villandry pays particular attention to family visits.

- **Interpretation stations** In the gardens, seven interpretation stations allow children and parents alike to gain a better understanding of plants, gardens, and water management in gardens, as well as how the site and landscape have evolved over the centuries.

- **«Le sortilège de Jean le Breton» games booklet** Notebook in hand, children set forth into the gardens, go through the forest, get lost in the maze, explore the vegetable garden and the love gardens to free the château de Villandry’s builder from an evil spell!
  *In French – for 7 to 12 year olds*

- **The maze** of charms, created at the beginning of the 20th century, will amuse families who are not looking to find the exit but reach the central lookout point.

- **A children’s play area** Continuing on from the Sun garden, this space dedicated to children offers a moment of relaxation for young and old. A well-deserved rest after the visit!

- **Various storytelling walks and activities** are also offered during certain events and holidays.

A storytelling walk in the gardens

A storytelling walk in the gardens
WITH A SCHOOL GROUP

To discover Villandry with their pupils, teachers can choose to visit the château and gardens on their own or enjoy a guided tour of the gardens given by a guide/leader.

According to school year, workshops are also offered to become familiar with herbs, learn about symmetry or get acquainted with gardening techniques and managing a garden in an eco-friendly way.

Workshops to discover Villandry’s bat colony are also available, led by a guide from LPO Touraine, along with illuminated manuscript workshops supervised by professionals from the Institut Européen d’Enluminures in Angers.

To prepare their visit, teachers can download an educational file and pupil worksheets from the website.

Informations and reservations : +33 (0)2 47 50 02 09 – info@chateauvillandry.com

SERVICES

ONLINE TICKET OFFICE

Villandry opened an online ticket office during the 2016 season for easier access to the site. Entrance tickets to the gardens and château can be purchased online directly from Villandry’s website.

Tickets for certain events can be bought online. The Nights of a Thousand Lights is one of these, and we strongly recommend buying your tickets in advance online or from the shop.

THE SHOPS

At Villandry, visitors can take advantage of two shops:

- The gardener’s shop offers products more focused on the garden: decorative objects, books, plants, clothing, gardening tools, etc.

- The château shop allows you to find lots of souvenirs of your visit to Villandry: cards, books and guides, souvenir objects and gifts, children’s games, etc.

DISCOVER VILLANDRY

To discover Villandry with their pupils, teachers can choose to visit the château and gardens on their own or enjoy a guided tour of the gardens given by a guide/leader.

THE MENU offers a choice between three seasonal starters, meat or fish from the local market, a vegetarian dish, a platter of goat’s cheeses of varying ripeness, and a choice of three desserts.

THE LA CARTE MENU offers a choice between three seasonal starters, meat or fish from the local market, a vegetarian dish, a platter of goat’s cheeses of varying ripeness, and a choice of three desserts.

THE DÉJÀ VU BAR offers a choice between three seasonal starters, meat or fish from the local market, a vegetarian dish, a platter of goat’s cheeses of varying ripeness, and a choice of three desserts.

LA DOULCE TERRASSE

Restaurant and tearoom

Ideally located at the entrance to the château, La Doulce Terrasse offers seasonal cuisine inspired by the kitchen garden.

All the menu is prepared from regional produce, accompanied by the wines of the Loire Valley. An inviting menu in which the presence of spices and culinary or aromatic plants will surprise you!

From THE A LA CARTE MENU, visitors can enjoy tartines served with a beautiful salad of edible herbs and flowers, quiches, pastries and home-made desserts.

La Doulce Terrasse also has a children’s menu and a baby menu.

Visitors in a hurry can try our TAKEAWAY SNACK BAR, for a tasty meal on the go! In addition to a wide range of homemade ice creams, traditional, original sandwiches, crêpes and fresh drinks are served at all times of the day.

Visitors can also purchase an all-inclusive package, comprising entry to the site and a meal (reservation only).

Non-stop service from 9:30am to 7pm
Open from 23 March to 11 November
Booking/Informations :
+33 (0)2 47 50 02 10
restaurantladoulceterasse@gmail.com

Room rental and caterer

Seminars, cocktails, lunches, dinners, picnics... The Doulce Terrasse invites professionals and non-professionals alike to enjoy a unique culinary experience, offering food inspired by the château’s vegetable garden, enhanced with regional produce and accompanied by Val de Loire wines.

Several spaces are available for hire, including the cloister of greenery, the Michel-Ange de Castellane room in the 18th century outbuildings and the troglodyte orangeries that open onto the Garden of Love.

Menus and quotes on request
Contact : Emmanuelle Roublin, La Doulce Terrasse Restaurant Manager
+33 (0)2 47 50 02 10 – restaurantladoulceterasse@gmail.com
**PRATICAL INFORMATION**

**RATES**

- Free for children under 8 years
- (*) Young people aged 8 to 18, students under 26 years with up to date cards
- (**) Group : minimum of 15 paying visitors / 2 free tickets per group

Pass gardens one year : € 25

**OPENING TIMES**

**GARDENS**

Open every day, all year long

* Last ticket sold

- From 1st January to 8 February............ 9:00am - 5:00pm*
- From 9 to 28 February...................... 9:00am - 5:30pm*
- From 1st to 31 March....................... 9:00am - 6:00pm*
- From 1st April to 30 September.......... 9:00am - 7:00pm*
- From 1st to 26 October.................... 9:00am - 6:30pm*
- From 27 Oct. to 11 Nov.................... 9:00am - 5:30pm*
- From 12 Nov. to 20 Dec.................... 9:00am - 5:00pm*
- From 21 to 31 Dec......................... 9:00am - 5:30pm*

**CHATEAU**

Open every day from 9 February to 11 November and from 7 December 2019 to 5 January 2020

Last ticket «chateau» sold 1/2 hour before closing

- From 1st to 6 January..................... 9:30am - 5:00pm
- From 7 January to 8 February............ Closed
- From 9 to 28 February..................... 9:00am - 5:00pm
- From 1st to 31 March...................... 9:00am - 5:30pm
- From 1st April to 30 June................ 9:00am - 6:00pm
- From 1st July to 31 August.............. 9:00am - 6:30pm
- From 1st Sept. to 26 Oct.................. 9:00am - 6:00pm
- From 27 Oct. to 11 Nov................... 9:00am - 5:00pm
- From 12 Nov. to 6 Dec.................... Closed
- From 7 to 31 Dec......................... 9:30am - 5:00pm

**CHATEAU & GARDENS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>(2h minimum)</th>
<th>(1h minimum)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADULTS</td>
<td>€ 11</td>
<td>€ 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOUTH*</td>
<td>€ 7</td>
<td>€ 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>GROUPS**</td>
<td>€ 8,50</td>
<td>€ 5,50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GARDENS ONLY**

Free for children under 8 years
(* ) Young people aged 8 to 18, students under 26 years with up to date cards
(**) Group : minimum of 15 paying visitors / 2 free tickets per group

**TO GET THERE**

To get here: now, with the A85 motorway, Villandry is just half an hour from Chenonceau!

- If you’re coming from Paris :
  - By car : A10 junction 24 (Joué-les-Tours) then A85, towards Saumur, junction 8 (Villandry)
  - By train : from Montparnasse station (55mn) then take a taxi from Tours or Saint-Pierre-des-Corps station(20mn)

- If you’re coming from Nantes :
  - By car : A11 then A85 junction 8 (Villandry)
  - By train : TER (90mn) then take a taxi from Tours or Saint-Pierre-des-Corps station(20mn)

- If you’re coming from Tours :
  - By public transport : the « Fil Bleu » shuttle runs every day
  - And...by bike ! Follow the « Loire à Vélo » route (15 Km)
The «Qualité Tourisme» Accreditation

Since 2006, Villandry had been part of a discussion on quality in the Loire Valley, conducted together with a number of tourist sites in the region and the Touraine Departmental Tourist Board. Villandry Castle and two other sites in Indre-et-Loire received their certification at the end of 2009. Since then a number of other sites have joined us... Quality accreditations are progressing and becoming well established in the Loire Valley!

In January 2019, the Château de Villandry was awarded a renewal of the Qualité Tourisme accreditation for five years.

Others Distinctions and Certifications

With the help of the Touraine Departmental Tourist Board, Villandry has been working hard since 2009 to make its château and gardens accessible to all members of the public. In recognition of its efforts to welcome people with mental, physical and visual disabilities, it was awarded “Tourisme & Handicap” status in 2015.

The gardens have been awarded the «Refuge LPO» certification by the League for the Protection of Birds in 2013. Villandry is the first castle to obtain this label.

The gardens were acknowledged by the «Loire à Vélo» association in 2009.

In 2006 the gardens were designated by UNESCO as an «Ambassador Site» for the Loire Valley, and placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In 2004 the gardens were awarded the «Jardin Remarquable» certification by the Culture and Communication Ministry.

TripAdvisor is the greatest travel review site listing no less than 35 million different points of views about hotels, restaurants, attractions, museums... In 2015, Villandry was awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2015. It ranks second among the castles of the Loire just behind Chenonceau.

The chateau and the gardens were listed as a «Historic Monument» in 1934 and are founder members of the «Demeure Historique», an association of the owners of private listed monuments.