

Château & Gardens

Villandry

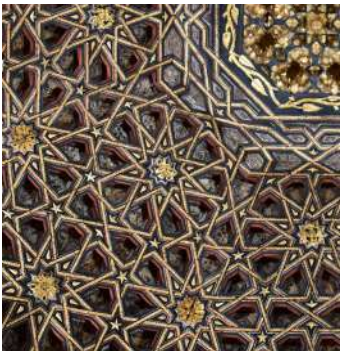
THE ART OF THE GARDENS IN LOIRE VALLEY

Press kit 2023



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VILLANDRY, CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS

Villandry, past and present : the incredible story of a rebirth

In the Middle Ages

A fortress, whose tower still remains today, was built. It was here, in the keep, that the «Paix de Colombiers» have been signed in **1189**, 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, on the site of the old fortress, built a **Renaissance château**. The architectural style of the Renaissance château 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 **comte Michel-Ange 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 château remained in the family until the French Revolution, but then had a succession of owners from a wide range of horizons, such as the prince **Jérôme Bonaparte, Napoléon's brother**, and Pierre-Laurent Hainguerlot. Some of them 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**.



Joachim Carvallo and Ann Coleman in 1899

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 château: Joachim and his wife gave up their career in science and devoted their life and 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

Today their great-grand-son, Henri Carvallo, heads Villandry.



The dining room

A family and friendly château...

Although Villandry owes its reputation to its incredible gardens, no visit is complete without a tour of the château.

The interiors of Jean Breton's Renaissance château were completely revamped by the comte de Castellane in the 18th century and kept this way by its subsequent owners.

There is a **warm and welcoming atmosphere** to this **family home**, which is now fully open to visitors. Explore its 15 rooms, including dining room, kitchen, study and bedrooms, all furnished with care and harmoniously decorated. They are further embellished with **bouquets of fresh flowers**, to the great delight of visitors.

In Villandry, you have to venture into the château to better understand the gardens. Created to be admired from above, these can be discovered from the windows of the château, with a constantly renewed point of view.

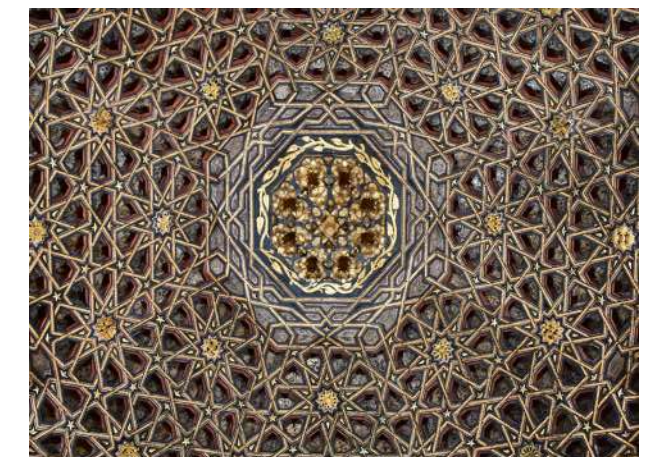
The visit of the interiors also gives access to the terrace of the medieval keep from where the view of the gardens and the Loire Valley is worth the ascent.

of this collection that made him decide to buy Villandry: he wanted to display his treasures there.

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.

The Moorish ceiling

Unexpected finds include the oriental drawing room, at the end of the gallery of Spanish paintings on the first floor. It has been fully restored, from the floor to the Mudéjar-style ceiling, which dates from the 15th century. Originally from a palace in Toledo, it is formed of 3,600 pieces of wood, all purchased and reassembled by Joachim Carvallo in the early 20th century.



The Moorish ceiling

...with Hispanic tones

The Spanish paintings collection

The chateau 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



The château at the end of the 19th century



The gardens over the centuries

The 16th century

This was when the Renaissance castle was built by **Jean 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 an 18th century blueprint which proves **the existence of two terraces, one cultivated as a vegetable garden and the other as an ornamental garden.**



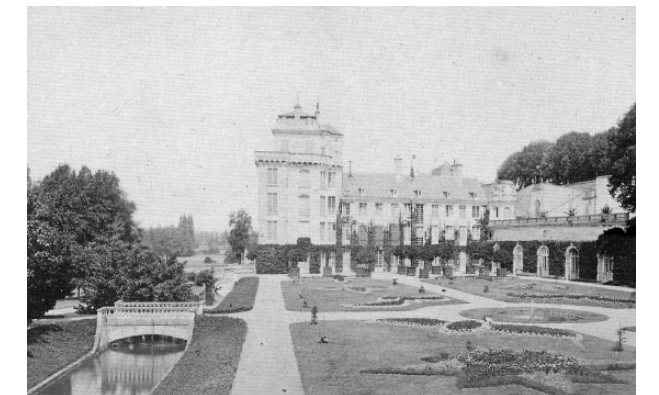
Plan of Villandry in the late 17th century

The 18th century

At this time, Villandry became the property of the **comte 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.

The 19th century

The property then fell into the hands of **Pierre-Laurent Hainguerlot**, and the gardens underwent considerable change: they were **transformed into a romantic English style park**. This type of grounds became fashionable in the late 19th century under the impulse of the Romantic Movement, and required much less maintenance than a French style garden. It was presumably for both these reasons that the Hainguerlot family decided to change to a landscape of winding paths, curves and clusters of trees and shrubs.



The ornamental garden in the end of the 19th century

Early 20th century

Between 1908 and 1918, the new owner of Villandry, Joachim Carvallo devoted himself to restoring the Renaissance gardens. 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 comte de Castellane and the Napoleonic land registry, which helped him in his quest.

And today...

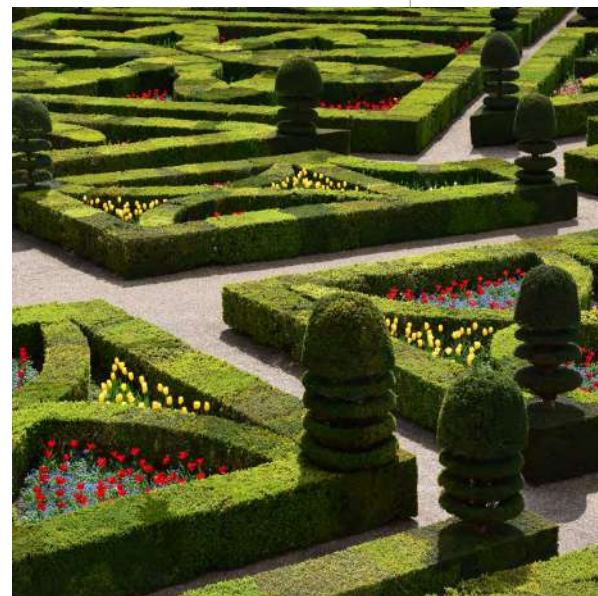
The gardens have once again been extended with **the creation of the Sun Garden in 2008**. This was created on a fourth terrace, from a sketch left by Joachim Carvallo.



The geometry of the decorative vegetable garden



The purple pigeon cabbages



Blooming tulips in the ornamental gardens



In the sun garden, the cloud chamber



The water garden

Six gardens in Villandry

There are a total of six gardens at Villandry. The Villandry gardens are laid out in a succession of four 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 more than one hectare. There are two planting schemes per year: the spring scheme from March to June and the summer one from July to October.

Designed as an extension of the reception rooms on the ground floor of the chateau, **THE ORNAMENTAL GARDENS** are located on the second terrace. Planted with high boxwoods and flowers with symbolic motifs and colours, they form two green salons on either side of the moat.

Adjacent to the south façade of the chateau is the first salon, composed of the Garden of Crosses (Basque, Languedoc and Maltese) and the Love Garden, with its evocative squares (tender, passionate, fickle and tragic love). They are

home to the bright colours of the tulips in spring and the begonias in summer. The second salon, with its stylised lyres and musical notes, is called the Music Room.

On the same level, **THE HERB GARDEN** is a utilitarian garden inherited from the Middle Ages. Today, around thirty aromatic and medicinal herbs are grown there.

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 MAZE, with its long, winding paths, but containing no difficult pitfalls, symbolises man progressing serenely and smoothly towards God. This type of maze is characteristic of Renaissance gardens.

On the fourth level, **THE SUN GARDEN** transports the visitor to a place that is both at odds with and in harmony with the other gardens. Eighty-five years after the completion of the gardens, Henri Carvallo entrusted the design of this modern garden to landscape architects Louis Benech and Alix de Saint-Venant in 2008, based on the designs of Joachim Carvallo. In this garden, where the plants are arranged in a charming and skilful disorder, three universes stand out: the Cloud Chamber with its grassy paths, the Sun Chamber with its orange hues, and the Children's Chamber, a play area for the youngest visitors.

Villandry has the particularity of having one of the rare **LAWN TENNIS COURTS** in France. The old tennis court 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.

A FOREST overlooks the gardens to the east. A path allows you to cross it and explore the intricacies of the gardens from an elevated viewpoint. Until the 19th century, this hillside was planted with vines.

At the southern end of the gardens, near the Pavillon de l'Audience, are the Villandry **GREENHOUSES** where more than 60,000 flower and vegetable plants are nurtured each year before being planted.



The gardens, a living heritage

Like other art forms, garden architecture has never ceased to evolve, offering a variety of styles and designs, which today form a historical heritage in the heart of nature. Such heritage cannot be frozen in time in order to preserve, contemplate and pass on. Life is at the very heart of the garden. It emanates from the flora, fauna and water that flows through them, as well as from those who come to stroll through them. The landscaper and gardener work with nature, imagination, patience and constant renewal. The work is never finished, it is a constantly evolving creation.

For more than a hundred years, the gardeners of Villandry have watched over a unique example of Renaissance-style gardens nestled in the heart of the Loire Valley. The passion for beauty and a job well done that so inspired their creator is still present in each member of the team today. Past and present are combined to preserve this heritage and keep it alive.

Going organic in the gardens

Since 15 years, Villandry gambled on a move towards organic farming. A ban on the use of chemical insecticides and herbicides led the gardeners to rethink the way they worked, the tools they used and their methods of organisation. From fighting disease to withstanding unpredictable weather, managing gardens requires constant attention and an ability to regularly solve problems and come up with new ideas. Balancing heritage preservation, modern day concerns and biodiversity management, the maintenance of the gardens at Villandry is a year-round challenge.

A few concrete examples of what has been done in the gardens :

Stop pesticides

In the face of pests, auxiliaries (parasitoids, predators, or

nematodes) are introduced to replace chemical insecticides. Since the implementation of these new practices, many insects have returned to the vegetable garden. Many natural enemies of aphids or cabbage flies, for example, are now present and lead the counterattack on their own.

The natural fungicides

In order to combat foliage diseases caused by fungi, the natural defences of roses, vines and fruit trees are boosted with treatments based on mineral elements, trace elements, essential oils, manure and decoctions. Only boxwoods require chemical fungicide treatment to combat potential diseases, as no biological alternative currently exists. This is why we have decided to gradually replace all of the boxwoods with a resistant species so that they no longer need to be treated.

The organic fertilization

Chemical fertilisation has been replaced by organic fertilisation, in the form of compost comprising a variety of granules supplying nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. To accompany this new practice, several changes have also been made. Multi-tined spades are now used to preserve the activity of the bacteria contained in the soil and avoids, unlike a conventional spade, burying this microscopic life. On the other hand, hoeing is more frequent in order to make watering more efficient

The weeding

The whole site is weeded traditionally with tools such as wheel-mounted hoes and harrows... and some very patient gardeners! 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.



THE GARDENS IN A FEW FIGURES

7 HECTARES OF GARDENS in the heart of a 15 hectares estate.

10 GARDENERS 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.

115000 FLOWER AND VEGETABLE PLANTS are planted out in the vegetable garden or the gardens rooms. About half the plants are prepared by the gardeners in the castle glasshouses (seeds are sown and seedlings planted out, etc.)

30 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.

2 KM OF HORNBEAM form natural partitions, especially in the maze.

1016 LIME TREES spread all over the property are pruned every winter. This takes a team of four gardeners 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.

144 PEAR TREES pruned into whips stand alongside more than 1km of apple trees pruned into cordons.

324 ROSEBUSHES, 21 different varieties, in the Vegetable Garden.



The box tree question

Planted by Joachim Carvallo over a hundred years ago, the box tree is a fundamental aspect of Villandry. Easy to prune, its evergreen foliage makes it a guardian of the gardens, maintaining the emblematic lines and motifs season after season. As with any plant, box is affected by variations in weather, disease and more, and while the plants at Villandry are very resistant, **the chateau's owner, Henri Carvallo, has decided to take preventive measures by gradually replacing the box trees.**

The first campaign began a few years ago, replanting 5 of the 9 beds in the Ornamental Kitchen Garden with *Faulkner Microphylla* box, a more resistant variety. Henri Carvallo remains very mindful, closely following scientific developments relating to box, particularly the work of the company Herplant in Belgium, in partnership with the University of Ghent. The latter has recently obtained a boxwood variety that is **resistant to fungal diseases through natural hybridisation**. Through close collaboration with these professionals, in November 2019 Villandry became the world's first historic garden to plant these new species of box. As smaller box trees are the most fragile, the gardeners at Villandry first replaced those in the Herb and Sun Gardens. The boxwood pattern of the 9 squares of the vegetable garden have been completely replaced. It is painstaking work, given that each bed alone contains 8,000 plants. **In these three gardens, almost 100,000 box trees have been replanted.**

In the ornamental gardens, the box trees are taller and more robust. Nevertheless, **2022 marked the launch of a new progressive replacement campaign with the planting of larger individuals in these gardens, which continues in 2023.**

AND THE BOX TREE MOTH?

It is rare to talk about box, particularly in historic gardens, without mentioning the box tree moth. It causes no damage at Villandry, however, principally due to the heightened vigilance of the gardening team, which uses *Bacillus Thuringiensis* as a biological treatment. This bacteria is sprayed onto the foliage from March to October and is ingested by the caterpillar, putting an end to the life cycle and proliferation of these moths.

A haven for biodiversity

The birdsong, the buzzing of bees, these sounds make the walk more pleasant and testify to a welcoming home for wildlife.

Since the return of organic farming practices, biodiversity has flourished on the site and its surroundings. Nearly 90 species of birds, for example, have been recorded. A colony of greater mouse-eared bats has also made the chateau's attic their summer home. These bats receive particular attention. Keen to preserve the fauna and flora of the site, Chateau de Villandry has been working with the Touraine LPO (League for the Protection of Birds), becoming an "LPO Refuge" in 2012.

Since the spring of 2021, five beehives have been installed.

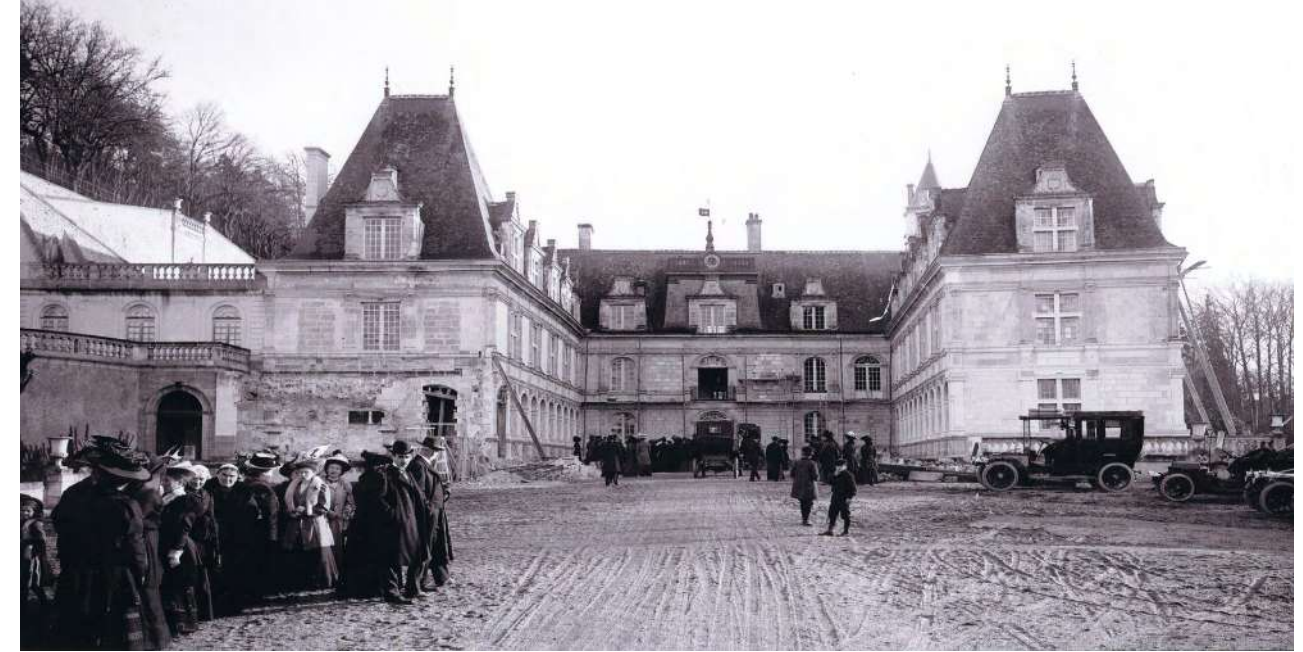


Life in the chateau for the bees!

In the spring of 2021, five beehives were installed in the gardens of Villandry, on a terrace on the edge of the forest, by beekeeper Michael Preteseille (Le Rucher de la Dame Blanche). This is not the first time he has set up his beehives in the grounds of stately homes.

The first harvest from Villandry came at the start of autumn and joined the collection of «Miels des châteaux de la Loire». While we are delighted to enjoy this exceptional honey and offer it for sale in the shop, our objective is not a commercial one. Animal well-being is at the heart of the beekeeper's concerns; only honey that the bees do not need is harvested. Michael Preteseille ensures his colonies live well with passion and patience. He has chosen to rear organically and only does so on sites that share his values. In a location where responsible farming practices have been in use for over ten years and where biodiversity flourishes, the association was obvious. The gardens of Villandry and the forest that borders them are a choice setting for the colonies. The variety of crops, from early spring to late autumn, provides a real larder for the bees.

The first harvests were promising and we are sure those that follow will be just as tasty, and that we will see thousands of bees foraging in the chateau gardens for a long time!



Villandry, a place to visit

With both historical and natural heritage, Villandry is a link between the past and the present, a moment frozen in time for visitors to explore. Opening up and sharing this heritage with the public is a mission that has guided its custodians for over a century.

Joachim Carvallo was a pioneer in opening private monuments to the public, opening his museum of ancient Spanish art to visitors in 1908 and then his garden in 1920. In 1924, imbued with the same spirit, this Spaniard with a French heart founded the Demeure Historique, an association that today brings together several thousand owners of private monuments. Anticipating the rise of cultural tourism, he worked to make it an instrument for the promotion and preservation of French heritage and its artistic wealth.

In 1934, the chateau and its gardens were classified as Historic Monuments. In addition to this national heritage accolade, international recognition came with the classification of the Loire Valley as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 2000, with Villandry as one of the ambassadors.

Over the years, new rooms have been opened in the chateau and new activities and tools have been put in place to offer all

visitors the best possible experience. Every year, restitution work, restoration projects and acquisitions are carried out to preserve the site, make it more attractive and improve the quality of the visit.

The quality of the site and the quality of the visit are at the heart of our concerns and have been recognised with the award of various labels such as «Jardin Remarquable», «Refuge LPO», «Qualité Tourisme», «Loire à vélo», etc.

In 2022, the château and gardens of Villandry welcomed 360,000 visitors, including more than 35%* from abroad. 60% of these visitors from all over the world have walked through the rooms of the château, a proportion that grows a little more each year, testifying to the interest of this route and rewarding the efforts made to maintain and embellish the interior spaces.



Committed to making its château and gardens accessible and to ensuring a quality welcome for as many people as possible, the Château de Villandry obtained the renewal of the Tourism and Handicap label in 2022, for mental and psychological, motor and visual disabilities.

*40% before the health crisis



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

Meeting in the Gardens

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June

Guided tours, horse-drawn carriage rides ...
Discover Villandry's gardens in a different way.

Nights of Thousand Lights

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July, Friday 4 and Saturday 5 August

gardens lit by over 2,000 candles, activities, water and light show

European Heritage Days

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September

Meeting with master craftsmen and artists.

Vegetable Garden Days

Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1st October

Come and meet Villandry's gardeners and enjoy activities as a family.

Night at the châteaux

Saturday 28 October

Explore the château at nightfall on a theatrical tour...

At Christsmas, Nature comes into the château !

From 2 December 2023 to 7 January 2024

Winter opening of the castle with decorations and entertainment

The Château de Villandry participates in the "Christmas magic in the Land of Châteaux" operation.

EXHIBITIONS

Renata Prada Vitry, *Volare Cantare*,

From 18 March to 4 June

Robins, chickadees and butterflies... An aerial and floral ballet in watercolor and pastels.

Akira Inumaru, *Mon dear garden*

From 16 June to 27 August

Botanical and solar creations inspired by the very essence of the gardens of Villandry and this vital and poetic link which unites the plant to the light.

Brigitte Chappaz-Bourroux, *Jardins enchantés*

With Touraine Embroidery and Lace

From 9 September to 29 October

Stories told from gardens, hand-embroidered



VILLANDRY EVENTS

National events or unmissable events in Villandry, the château and the gardens live to the rhythm of the entertainment throughout the season.

Saturday 3 and 4 June

Meeting in the Gardens

Villandry is once again taking part in the Rendez-vous aux jardins, whose national theme is "Garden music".

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. Without reservation.

Animations included in the entrance fee to the gardens.

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July,
Friday 4 and Saturday 5 August

Nights of Thousand Lights

As the day wanes and the gardens are adorned with light under the flames of more than 2,000 candles, this exceptional opening at night invites you to stroll and dream. The Night of Thousand Lights will once again be the meeting place for lovers of beauty and poetry. Animations and water and light show will delight young and old.

Due to recurring summer droughts, the evenings of this 2023 edition will not end with fireworks. This will be replaced by a water and light show in the water garden.

The number of places being limited and the demand high, the purchase of tickets online, on the Château de Villandry website, is essential for those who only come in the evening.

Prices:

Adults: €14 - Young people: €8 - Supplement*: €7

Free for children under 8

*For visitors who come to discover the castle and/or the gardens during the day



Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September

European Heritage Days

To celebrate European Heritage Days, the Chateau de Villandry is showcasing the region's artistic craftsmen. Interior decorators and decorative painters, 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.

Reduced rates

Animations included in the entrance fee of the château

Saturday 30 September
and Sunday 1st October

Vegetable Garden Days

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

Animations included in the entrance fee of the gardens

Saturday 28 October

Night at the châteaux

Who has never dreamed of strolling through a castle at nightfall? Villandry is taking part this year in the fifth edition of the Nuit des Châteaux. For one evening, the castle comes alive and lights up. From the dining room to the bedrooms, via the library and the kitchen, a theatrical visit takes you on a journey through time and discovers the history of Villandry and its occupants.

Theatrical visit in French - By reservation only
Online ticketing : www.nuitdeschateaux.com

From 2 December 2023 to 7 January 2024

At Christmas, Nature comes into the château!

Christmas magic in the land of châteaux

In the heart of the gardens, the Château de Villandry invites children and adults alike to spend Christmas in a family home with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. While each room is filled with a festive ambiance, nature comes into the château itself. From the dining room to the bedrooms, as well as the kitchen where the Christmas festivities are prepared, it filters through the walls of the château in an extension of the gardens that give Villandry its unique aura. Reindeer, fawns, owls and squirrels...in the plant decorations designed for this occasion in the castle, the inhabitants are waiting for you to celebrate Christmas!

From the windows, you can admire the gardens, which have also put 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 that promise enchanting winter strolls.



The Château de Villandry participates in the "Christmas magic in the Land of Châteaux" operation.



Night at the châteaux



At Christmas, Nature comes into the château!



At Christmas, Nature comes into the château!



EXHIBITIONS

From 18 March to 4 June

Volare Cantare Renata Prada Vitry

In spring, the air feels lighter – a sense of renewal, of rebirth, is carried on the breeze. The dull tones of winter give way to tender yet vibrant colours. Nature reawakens, life begins again. To take a stroll through the avenues of the gardens of Villandry is to enjoy a moment of grace unique to this season, when we are surprised by birdsong, the flight of butterflies, the sound of footsteps on the gravel, water flowing in the fountains... This is just how Joachim Carvallo intended it in the early 20th century: an invitation to experience beauty, to contemplate, to meditate. This is something that Renata Prada Vitry has successfully captured, allowing her paintbrushes to gently recreate the very essence of the gardens. A painter as well as a yoga instructor, she sees it as a source of inspiration: a perfect connection with her work, which also offers up a space for meditation.

After graduating from the Swiss Italian School of Art, Sisa Lugano, in her native country, Prada Vitry continued her studies at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the city where she now lives and creates. She exhibits individually and collectively, in France and abroad, and makes regular appearances at the Salon du Dessin et de la Peinture à l'Eau as part of Art Capital at the Grand Palais in Paris – including in February 2023, when she is exhibiting at the Grand Palais Ephémère. *Volare Cantare* is her second exhibition at the Château de Villandry.



From 16 June to 27 August

My dear garden Akira Inumaru

Taming the light, touching the rainbow... A poetic, metaphorical approach that has guided Akira Inumaru in his creative process. In light he sees the origin of colour, the origin of life, which he constantly explores through different processes. His signature solar distillation process consists of inviting the sun to make colour appear, to create life, using a magnifying glass to burn different layers of coloured sheets. Disappearance gives rise to revelation – revelations that he also explores through drawing, painting and more. Nature is the obvious object of this gaze, through which light is seen as a source of life and colour. Plants have been central to his work for over ten years. What better source of inspiration, then, than a garden, where every spring nature is reborn for a life cycle, and where the light is never truly the same, playing at his leisure with the perceptions of those who walk the avenues... During his spring residence at Villandry, Inumaru will capture the essence of these century-old gardens, their structures and planting, taming the light of day here, the light of the night, the shadows, to present Mon Cher Jardin



[My Beloved Garden] at the château this summer.

A visual artist and graduate of Suidobata Academy of Fine Arts and Musashino Art University in Japan, Akira Inumaru continued his training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Rouen, followed by the École Supérieure d'Art et Design Le Havre/Rouen. He has lived in Normandy for nearly ten years, and regularly presents his solar and botanical work to the public. His recent exhibitions include: "Botanique" at the Orangerie de Sénat in Paris (2018), "L'arc-en-ciel des plantes" ["The Rainbow of Plants"] at La Fabrique des Savoirs in Elbeuf (2018), "Jardins flottants" ["Floating Gardens"] at the Musée Michel Ciry in Varengeville-sur-mer (2022) and "Cimes et racines" ["Tops and Roots"] at the Saint-Ouen de Rouen abbatial church (2022).

From 9 September to 30 October

Enchanted gardens Brigitte Chappaz-Bourroux with Touraine Embroidery and Lace

In the gardens of Villandry, passion and dedication come together to foster and uphold extraordinary creativity with plants – two elements essential to the art of embroidery. One need simply set eyes on one of her works to know that Brigitte Chappaz-Bourroux has both. A passionate collector, for many years she has been patiently unearthing antique silks and lace, which she skilfully embroiders, creating motifs, large-scale tapestries, small tableaux or even bound books. For this new exhibition at the Château de Villandry, the gardens come alive under her needle, as she imagines an enchanted universe, a botanical fairytale.

The exhibition sees her surround herself with embroiderers and lacemakers from Touraine who will also be presenting their creations, their expertise second to none.

To celebrate European Heritage Days on 16 and 17 September, as well as different meeting and demonstration sessions, embroiderers and lacemakers will introduce and share their craft with visitors, a craft to be preserved... and reclaimed.





DISCOVER VILLANDRY

An ever-changing spectacle... Villandry's appearance changes with the seasons and the time of day. From April to October, the gardens are in full bloom and at their most colourful, but the beautiful winter days can be just as spectacular as the flamboyant lights of autumn or the soft colours of spring.

At the heart of this unique set of Renaissance gardens, let yourself be tempted by a visit to the chateau with its warm, family atmosphere... The windows and terrace of the keep offer incredible views of the gardens, which were designed to be admired from above.


Entrance fees 2023

	CHÂTEAU & GARDENS (2h minimum)	GARDENS ONLY (1h minimum)
ADULTS	13€	8€
YOUTH aged 8 to 18 years old and students -26, with up to date card	7,50€	5,50€
GROUPS 15 paying visitors min.	9,50€	6€

FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 8 YEARS OLD

Visit options

To help you best explore and enjoy the château and gardens of Villandry, discover its history and unravel its mysteries, several options are available:




VISITOR GUIDES FOR THE CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS to discover Villandry at your own pace.

Plan around 2 hours to visit the chateau and gardens
French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Czech
Français, anglais, allemand, italien, espagnol, néerlandais, polonais, portugais, japonais, chinois, russe et tchèque




GUIDED TOURS OF THE CHÂTEAU are available for visitors from 18 March to 12 November (except Sundays and long weekend).

Only in French – approximately 1 hr 15
Groups can enjoy guided tours in English on reservation.



AUDIO GUIDES FOR THE CHÂTEAU AND GARDENS are available for individual visitors and groups ; 4€ / per audioguide

Adults: French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian, Dutch, Russian
Children: French



The visit to the château begins with **AN 18-MINUTE FILM** played in a screening room. With the history of Villandry and an introduction to the gardens and interiors, enhanced with stunning aerial views, this video perfectly complements the visit and provides an insight into the upper levels of the château for those unable to reach them.

In French – subtitles in French or English

To get there

Take the castles route!
Villandry is just 2 hours from Paris by car, 15 minutes from the castles of Azay-le Rideau and Langeais, and 40 minutes from the Château de Chenonceau!

From Paris

By car (240 Km): A10 junction 24 (Joué-lès-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)

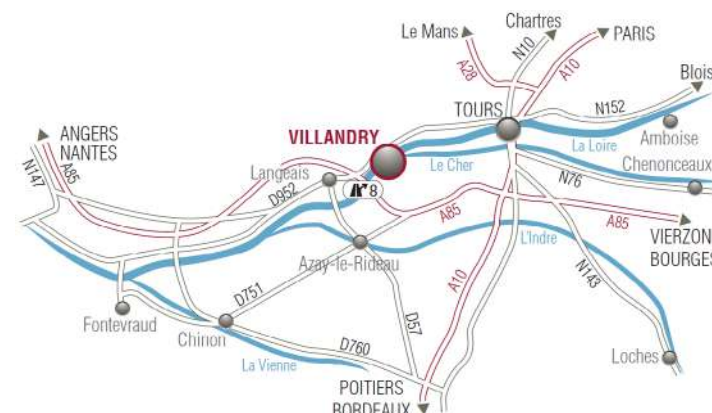
From Tours

By public transport : the «Fil Bleu» shuttle (www.fibleu.fr)

From Nantes

By car: A11 then A85 junction (Villandry)

By train: TER (90min) then take a taxi from Tours or Saint-Pierre-des-Corps station (20min)



P Cars, coaches, RVs, bikes... A **free parking area** close to the entrance to the site is available to all visitors.



by bike ! Follow the « Loire à Vélo » route (15 Km) from Tours

Opening times 2023

THE CHÂTEAU

Open every day from 4 February to 12 November 2023, and from 2 December 2022 to 7 January 2024.

*Last entry to the château 1/2h before closing

On 1st and 2nd January	09:30am - 05:30pm*
From 3 January to 3 February	Closed
From 4 to 28 February	09:00am – 05:00pm*
From 1st to 31 March	09:00am – 05:30pm*
From 1st April to 30 June	09:00am – 06:00pm*
From 1st July to 30 Sept.	09:00am – 06:30pm*
From 1st to 28 Oct.	09:00am - 06:00pm*
From 29 Oct.to 12 Nov.	09:00am - 05:00pm*
From 13 Nov. to 1st Dec.	Closed
On 2 and 3, 9 and 10, 16 and 17 Dec.	09:30am – 05:30pm*
From 4 to 8, from 11 to 15	09:30am – 05:00pm*
and from 18 to 22 December	
From 23 to 31 December	09:30am – 05:30pm*

THE GARDENS

Gardens are open every day, all year round, from 09:00am, or 09:30am in December.

** Last ticket sold	
On 1st and 2nd January	09:30am - 05:30pm**
From 3 January to 3 February	09:00am - 05:00pm**
From 4 to 28 February	09:00am - 05:30pm**
From 1st to 31 March	09:00am - 06:00pm**
From 1st April to 30 Sept.	09:00am - 07:00pm**
From 1st to 28 Oct.	09:00am - 06:30pm**
From 29 October 12 Nov.	09:00am - 05:30pm**
From 13 Nov. to 1st Dec.	09:00am - 05:00pm**
On 2 and 3, 9 and 10, 16 and 17 Dec.	09:30am - 05:30pm**
From 4 to 8, from 11 to 15	09:30am - 05:00pm**
and from 18 to 22 Dec.	
From 23 to 31 Dec.	09:30am - 05:30pm**

La Douce Terrasse, restaurant and tea room

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

All the menu is prepared from regional produce, accompanied by the wines of the Loire Valley.

On the terrace or inside, come and discover menus that change with the seasons and vegetables from the garden: seasonal starters, meat, fish or vegetarian dishes, cheese plates and desserts...

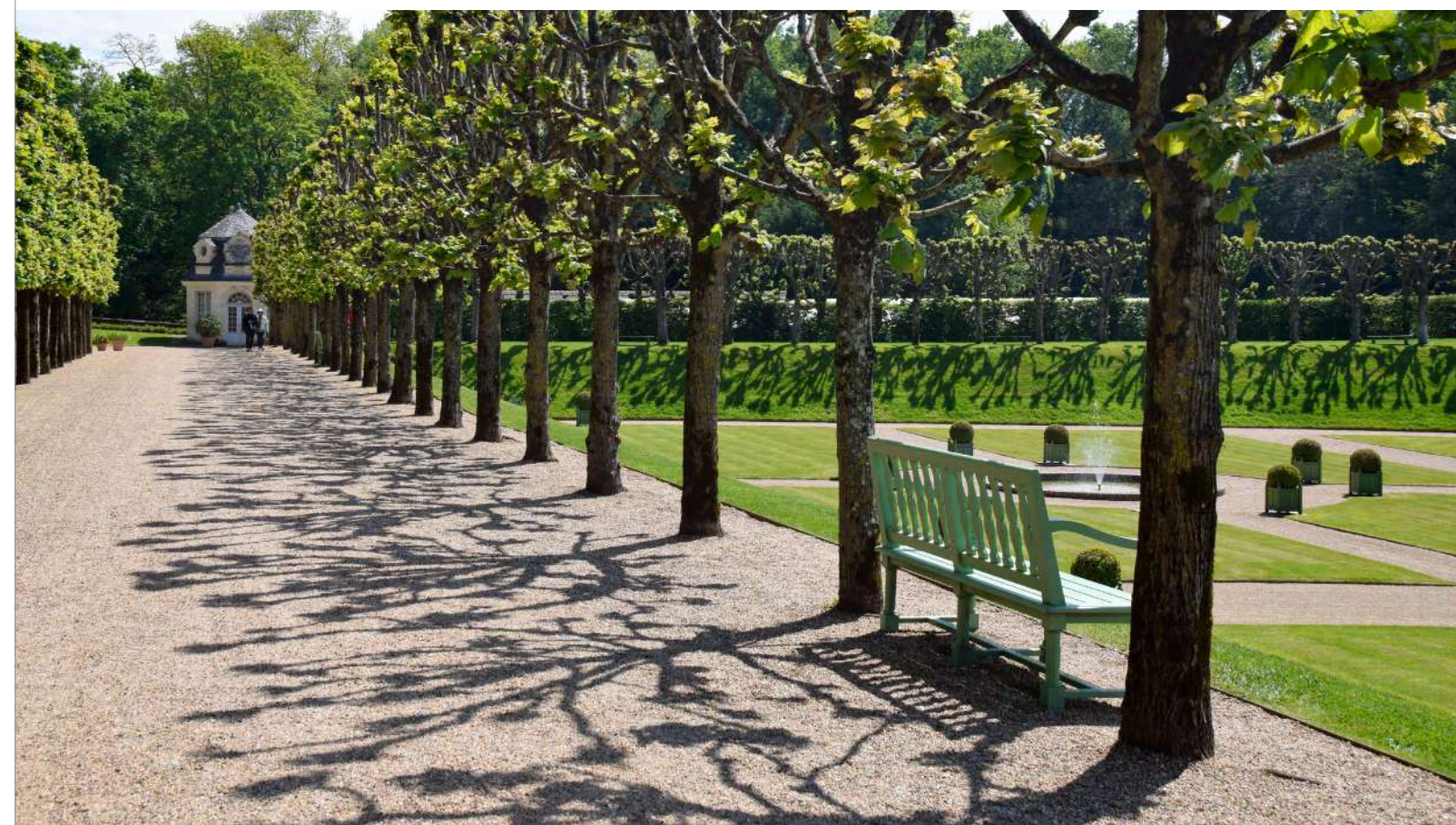
You can also opt for our à la carte dishes: "tartines from the vegetable garden", tasting plates, "homemade" pies or even homemade ice creams...

Located at the entrance to the site, just before the ticket office, the Douce Terrasse kiosk offers traditional and original sandwiches, crêpes and cold or hot drinks, as well as a wide range of homemade ice creams with surprising fruit flavours and flowers!



Open from 1st April to 12 November 2023

Informations and booking :
+33 (0)2 47 50 02 10
restaurantladoulceterrasse@gmail.com





PRESS AND FILMING

At the crossroads of historical and natural heritage, the chateau and gardens of Villandry offer both an incredible setting and a variety of themes.

Our teams are at your disposal for any request relating to the organization of filming (reportage, broadcast, fiction, photo shoots, etc.), information, visuals and interviews.

In the “Press and Filming” section of our website, find all the press releases and photos, and follow Villandry throughout the season.

In 2022, the American series “Serpent Queen” was broadcast on Queen Catherine de Médicis, for which the Château de Villandry and its gardens served as sets during filming in 2021.

PRESS AND COMMUNICATION CONTACT:

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Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter



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VILLANDRY THROUGHTOUT THE SEASONS!

@chateauvillandry



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