

PRESS RELEASE
2017 PROGRAMME
CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ

500^{ÈME}
ANNIVERSAIRE



1516-1519

Leonardo da Vinci

au

Château du Clos Lucé
à Amboise



2016 - 2019

CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEONARDO DA VINCI'S YEARS AT CLOS LUCÉ IN AMBOISE

The French chapter in Leonardo da Vinci's life - and of his masterpieces, including the Mona Lisa - started at Château du Clos Lucé. At the age of 64, he crossed the Alps with his apprentice Francesco Melzi and loyal Milanese servant Battista de Villanis. From 1516 to 1519, he lived at Château du Clos Lucé and worked tirelessly until his death in his bedroom there.

Château du Clos Lucé, led by the Saint Bris family since 1954, has taken on the task of sharing the heritage and legacy of this artist, scientist, engineer and Renaissance great with as many people as possible. This 500th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to honour the French history of Leonardo da Vinci's works and to refresh his visionary ideas and humane values.

2017 PROGRAMME

LEONARDO DA VINCI: ORGANISER OF ROYAL EXTRAVAGANZAS AND CELEBRATIONS

Some 500 years ago, King Francis I appointed his guest Leonardo da Vinci as the "Master of Entertainment" and ordered him to prepare royal celebrations. The "First painter, engineer and architect to the King" reintroduced Italian splendour, costumes, lighting effects, clever mechanisms and automation to Amboise. This artist became the creator of extravaganzas designed to showcase the King of France's power and greatness.

In 2017, Château du Clos Lucé invites you to learn about this little-known aspect of Leonardo da Vinci's talents. Throughout the year there will be unique party costumes made from his drawings, summer nights imbuing a party ambience on Clos Lucé and the European Renaissance Music Festival so you can relive the extravaganzas put on by Leonardo da Vinci at the court of Francis I.

PARTIES HELD FROM 1516 TO 1519

- **Party at Argentan given by Marguerite d'Angoulême**, sister of the King François I. Leonardo da Vinci showed himself to be an ingenious inventor with theatre set mechanisms and a mobile clockwork lion which, when struck in the chest by the king, released the symbol of French royalty: the fleur de lys.
- **Dual celebration of the heir Francis of France's baptism and his niece's wedding**, the future mother of Catherine de' Medici. For this event, Leonardo da Vinci built a triumphal arch topped with a column.
- **Re-enactment of the legendary Battle of Marignano (1515)** which is etched in the collective memory of the French. Da Vinci recreated a huge set including a wooden castle and directed a re-enactment of the battle using 10,000 extras - a huge achievement!
- **Paradise Party:** Leonardo da Vinci put on a night-time extravaganza with 400 two-arm candelabras and simulated the starry heavens in an open air setting.

EXHIBITION: LEONARDO DA VINCI AND FRANCE

LEONARDO DA VINCI: ORGANISER OF ROYAL EXTRAVAGANZAS AND CELEBRATIONS

Exhibition curators:

François Saint Bris, President - Château du Clos Lucé

Catherine Simon Marion, Deputy Director of Château du Clos Lucé

Scientific committee: Professor Carlo Pedretti [Armand Hammer Center Director, University of California, Los Angeles], Laure Fagnart [University of Liège, FNRS], Pascal Brioist [Senior Lecturer at CESR (Centre for University Studies on the Renaissance) in Tours], Romano Nanni [Director of Biblioteca Leonardiana and Museo Leonardiano, Vinci (Leonardo da Vinci Museum and Bookshop)], and Laure Albert [University of Aix and Marseille].

The exhibition showcases the results of the work and research done on his Milan (1507-1513) and French (1516-1519) periods. **Leonardo da Vinci's remarkable ties with France**, supported by Charles VIII, Louis XII and Francis I, were a cornerstone of the Renaissance movement which took shape in the Val de Loire region. The "Leonardo da Vinci and France" scientific project aimed to encourage new research into Leonardo da Vinci's close relationship with French culture and all his work as an artist, engineer and architect. This year, the project is further enriched by Laure Albert's work on Renaissance celebrations in her 2012 thesis: "Recherches sur l'iconographie des fêtes de cour en France (1515-1589)" (Research on iconography in celebrations at the French court, 1515-1518).

LEONARDO DA VINCI, PARTY COSTUME DESIGNER

In Amboise, Leonardo da Vinci dreamed up and designed a number of stage costumes. The original drawings are currently held by the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. Now, 500 years later, Château du Clos Lucé has commissioned Bas et Hauts (a specialist costume-making workshop) to make accurate reproductions of these magnificent celebration outfits.



2017 EVENTS

NIGHTS AT CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ

21 JULY, 4 & 11 AUGUST - 9PM

Château du Clos Lucé has commissioned stage director Didier Girauldon to put on a brand new play called "**La fête secrète**" (**The Secret Party**) and Banquet du Roy, a musical ensemble directed by Olivier Gladhofer, to organise a **Renaissance ball** to recapture the ambience of Italian splendour and Leonardo da Vinci's festive spirit.

At the start of the evening, visitors will discover and taste food and drinks from that period prepared by **Sieur Sausin**, a specialist in Renaissance cuisine.

EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE MUSIC FESTIVAL

12th edition - 22, 23 & 24 September 2017

Each year, the Château du Clos Lucé organises the European Renaissance Music Festival. Leonardo da Vinci was a great musician who also designed instruments, including the famous Lira da Braccio with its animal head. He also designed the viola organista, a combination of harpsichord, organ and viola da gamba. For the first time in France, Polish pianist Sławomir Zubrzycki will give a 30 minute recital on the viola organista before every performance. The instrument has been reconstructed using Leonardo da Vinci's drawings and sketches.

22 september

Il Festino Ensemble
dir. Manuel de Grange
« *In taverna ou le triomphe de Bacchus* »

23 september

Céladon Ensemble
dir. Paulin Bündgen
« *De Venise à Ottawa* »

24 september

Les Frères Bouclier
Dimitri et Julien Bouclier
Accordion and violin programme

Information and bookings: vinci-closluce.com





CLOS LUCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

THE CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ

The spirit of Leonardo da Vinci is alive and well at Château du Clos Lucé in Amboise, mingling with the memory of the other famous guests who enriched life there.

New: Leonardo da Vinci's restored workshops

Leonardo da Vinci Park

A leading cultural park, the Château du Clos Lucé's landscaped grounds in Amboise take you on a journey of discovery through the history of this visionary genius. This is a unique open air museum of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions

Leonardo's Garden

Covering a hectare of land, Leonardo's Garden is a wonderful open air museum whose landscaping and planting has been inspired by da Vinci's paintings and drawings. It offers a sensory experience and sheds light on Leonardo's relationship with nature, a nature that made him say: "Everything is here."

EXHIBITIONS

Leonardo da Vinci: engineer

Fifty models made from Leonardo da Vinci's drawings show his various talents as an engineer: aeronautics, industrial machines, marine engineering, measuring instruments, mechanisms, civil engineering, architecture and military engineering. The collection has mostly been made in solid beech wood, with some pieces in hornbeam.

Leonardo da Vinci's gardens

Open air exhibition and kids discovery path. From 1 April

In 2017, as part of the Val de Loire Gardens theme, this exhibition will retrace Leonardo da Vinci's relationship with nature through his botanical studies, the place gardens held in his works and the role of gardens in the Renaissance.

THE WORLD OF CREATION - 10TH EDITION - FROM 29 APRIL TO 21 MAY

France & South Korea: Knowledge sharing between art masters

This 10th edition continues the tradition of masters passing down knowledge to students so dear to Yi Hwang* and Leonardo da Vinci. With past years honouring Russia, Japan and China, this year Château du Clos Lucé is inviting South Korean art masters and their French counterparts to share their knowledge.

You are invited to meet these exceptionally talented artists: varnishers, ceramicists, costume designers, traditional object creators and more. All embody fundamental values and form a living heritage which provides an essential link between our collective memory and a future that they reinvent every day.

**Yi Hwang (1501-1570) was a prominent Korean figure of the Neo-Confucian literati and a learned man searching for wisdom. His focus on respecting nature and people marked him as a modern man in the Joseon Dynasty.*

MEDIA INFORMATION

Deputy Director Catherine Simon Marion

For more information, image requests, filming requests and tours, please contact the communication department:

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Drawings

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10^e édition
L'UNIVERS DE LA CRÉATION
29 AVRIL
21 MAI 2017

DIALOGUE D'EXCELLENCE ENTRE MAÎTRES D'ART
CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ

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