

## Press release - Château du Clos Lucé

### WORLD PREMIERE : LEONARDO DA VINCI'S WORKSHOPS

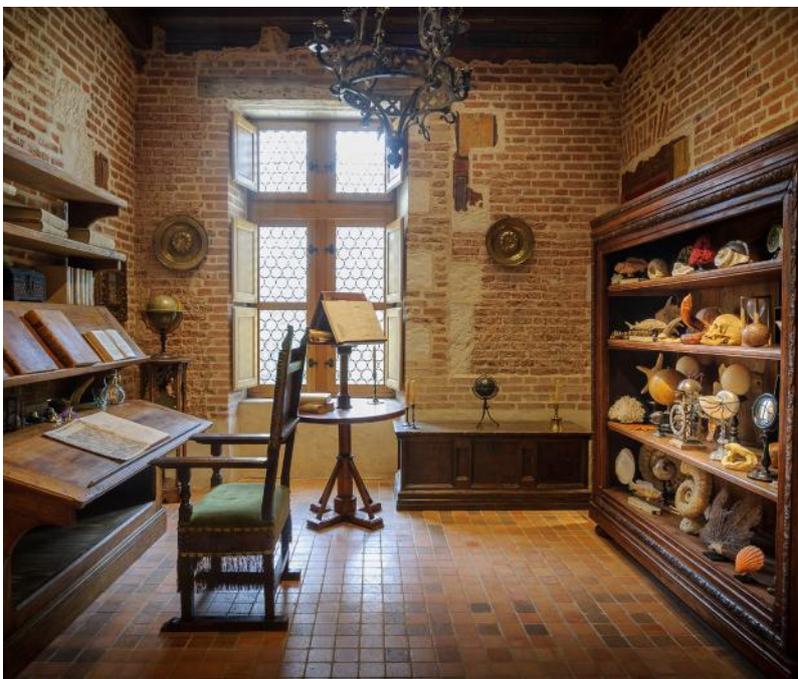
In order to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's arrival in France, at the Château du Clos Lucé, his restored workshops are opened to the public.

It put the final touch on the immense restoration project, engaged by the Saint Bris family more than 60 years ago.



### A workday of Leonardo da Vinci

In the first area, visitors discover the ambiance of the bottegas that were typical of the Renaissance, those craft workshops, as Verrochio's, where Leonardo da Vinci took his first steps in Florence. For this occasion, the Musée de Chambéry agreed to a special loan of a St. Anne from 1855. In the library, facsimiles from the Institut de France and ancient texts are aligned alongside an astonishing cabinet of curiosities. Swept away, an audiovisual production that uses "ghost technology" or "optical theatre" is projected. The visitors become spectators of this extraordinary, immersive and emotional encounter with Leonardo da Vinci in his workshop... as if he were just as present today as he was 500 years ago.





Located in a 100 m<sup>2</sup> space on the ground floor of the building, these three rooms – previously closed to the public – have been restored with the aim of immersing visitors in the abundant creativity and the work environment that reigned at the time.

Shadow and light, a recurring theme for Leonardo da Vinci (and theorized in his *Treatise on Painting*), guide each guest through a day in the life of the Master, from morning to night.

In each room, the décor has been recreated with incredible attention to detail: original frescoes repainted in pigments used during the Renaissance, furniture produced from plans from the era and stained glass with small circular panes that bathe the rooms in the captivating atmosphere of shadow and light beloved by the Master.

Two years of research and renovation, 30 people and 15 trades were required to restore Leonardo da Vinci's workshops, library and study at Le Clos Lucé.

*"Le Clos Lucé was a space of work and inspiration for Leonardo the painter"*

*"Visitors go through these spaces over the equivalent of a workday. They first discover the Master's workshops and library and then find him again at dusk in his study, to which he liked to withdraw."*

François Saint Bris, président du Château du Clos Lucé

## 2016 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's arrival at the Château du Clos Lucé in Amboise (1516-1519).

After François Ist's invitation, Leonardo da Vinci settles in Amboise during the autumn of 1516. Aged 64 years old, he crossed the Alps with two disciples, Francesco Melzi and his faithful Milanese servant Batista de Vilanis. He lived and worked there until his death, in his Clos Lucé's room on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1519.

The Château du Clos Lucé's mission, led by the Saint Bris family since 1954, is to transmit to the larger public the legacy and the patrimony of this Renaissance genius. The five-centenary is a perfect occasion to retrieve the Mona Lisa's living workshop, to celebrate Leonardo's masterpieces and works realized in France. This anniversary is also a strong readjustment of his visionary and humanist values.

2016 will be marked by an exceptional program: A major exhibition, the end of 60 years of restoration works, novel shows and the Leonardo da Vinci award.

**Château du Clos Lucé**  
[www.vinci-closluce.com](http://www.vinci-closluce.com)

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