

NOUVELLES
**RENAIS
SANCE(S)!**
EN CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE
2023
FRANCE



THE LOIRE VALLEY'S NEW RENAISSANCE



The Loire Valley: Where nature and culture meet... Recognized by UNESCO since 2000 for its living cultural landscapes, the exceptional Loire Valley region is imbued with an indelible historical heritage that truly comes alive for the visitor through encounters with its living artistic legacy of art (both centuries-old and contemporary), creation and the French notion of *art de vivre*. This land of inspiration, creativity and inventiveness has long inspired the greatest of artists – not the least of which was Leonardo da Vinci, who spent the last years of his life in the Loire Valley, but also includes such literary and artistic luminaries as Honoré de Balzac, George Sand, Max Ernst and Alexander Calder. And then, of course, there are the French royalty who chose the Loire Valley as the ideal place to build a group of remarkable Renaissance châteaux that still line the banks of its royal river, the Loire, to this day.

The Renaissance, a long period of upheaval, was a crucible of creative proliferation – and the châteaux and gardens of the Loire Valley bear unparalleled witness to this artistic and cultural legacy. The Loire Valley is dotted with an incredible number of large and small castles and famous residences. One extraordinary example of this is the Château du Clos-Lucé, where Leonardo da Vinci lived for the last three years of his life, at the invitation of King Francis I, whose royal castle of Amboise is located just a few hundred meters away, home to the great Leonardo's grave. The regional estate of Chaumont-sur-Loire is, in itself, a synthesis of the greatest assets of the Loire Valley: a castle that was the setting for the history of such illustrious women as Catherine de Medici and Diane de Poitiers; truly exceptional gardens (the château is home to an annual international festival of about 30 new avant-garde garden displays each year), an expansive park and vegetable gardens; and finally, a place of artistic innovation that welcomes countless artists each year to take advantage of this setting to exhibit their works or create new ones on the theme of nature.



Finally, the Loire Valley is the cradle of the French *art de vivre*: the purest language in France is spoken there; many perfumers, jewels of French heritage, are based in the Loire Valley; the region

abounds with healthy, fresh fruits, vegetables and fish from the Loire river, all creatively interpreted by the region's many Michelin-starred chefs. And it was in Tours that "the French gastronomic meal" was born, now classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And finally, Loire Valley wines are increasingly trendy and perfectly match the tastes of new consumers. To discover this wine tourism heritage, numerous activities - cycling in the vineyards, escape games, tastings in the troglodyte cellars – all allow visitors to "live" the experience of the wines of the Loire Valley.

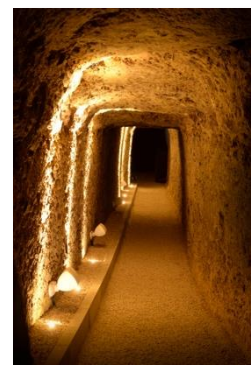


THREE UNIQUE WAYS TO DISCOVER THE LOIRE VALLEY:

- Via bicycle with Loire à Vélo: Explore 900 kilometers from Sancerre to the ocean, along the Loire river and amidst the famous châteaux of the Loire Valley.
- See the Loire Valley through the lens of its more contemporary art, from the streets of Orléans, Tours and Blois, to the collections of some of the region's châteaux, to such museums as the Olivier Debré Contemporary Creation Center (CCCOD) in Tours.
- Explore the magic of Christmas in the castles of the Loire: Chenonceau, Chambord, Azay-le-Rideau, Blois, Langeais, Villandry and more... About 20 of the region's most famous castles come alive with festive decorations and activities from the first week of December through the first of January.

THREE HIGHLIGHT EVENTS OF 2024:

- Partnership with Centre Pompidou in the Loire Valley and the AR(t)CHIPEL Festival.
- Release of Jim Capobianco's new animated film, *The Inventor*, based on the life of Leonardo da Vinci, including some iconic scenes in the Loire Valley and its iconic châteaux.
- The legendary Michelin Guide announcement to take place in Tours in March 2024



WHAT'S NEW IN THE LOIRE VALLEY?



The Loire Valley region – home to some of France’s most iconic châteaux, including the Royal Château of Amboise, the Château du Clos-Lucé, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire and the castles at Chenonceau and Chambord – is gearing up for an exciting year of special events, commemorative celebrations and openings in 2024 and beyond.



Recently opened in theaters across the US (and premiering in Europe in early 2024), the new animated film *The Inventor* (or *Leo*, in Europe) imaginatively retraces the last three years of the life of Leonardo da Vinci, from his departure from Italy to his final days and death in Amboise in the Loire Valley. As many of the animated scenes capture important sites and castles in the Loire Valley, some of the featured châteaux are offering visitors the unique, exclusive opportunity to go “behind the scenes” of the creation of this extraordinary film through special exhibitions through 2024. This year and next also marks the beginning of an exciting collaboration between the Loire Valley and the renowned Centre Pompidou, through which numerous major works of art from the iconic Parisian modern art museum (considered one of the most important in the world) will be on display. As part of this new Nouvelles Renaissance(S) program, the AR(t)CHIPEL Festival, beginning this year, will take place starting each October for the next four years.

On the culinary front in the Loire Valley (considered the “Garden of France”), the highly anticipated event to announce the 2024 Michelin Guide France, recognizing the finest restaurants throughout the country, will take place in the historic city of Tours on March 18, 2024.



And finally, 2024 will also bring the arrival of some exciting new hotel openings to the Loire Region region – most notably, the Maison Rabelais in Amboise, a new 4-star hotel that is set to open in spring/summer 2024, and the [Château du Rondon](#), a 17th-century castle set amidst gardens designed by Le Notre, which has been extensively renovated and reopened as a charming bed and breakfast. These new hotels will join a panoply of new 4- and 5-star hotels that have opened in the Loire Valley in recent years.

For eco-conscious travelers and art aficionados, [Le Bois des Chambres](#) at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire is the place to be! And farther south, [Château de Noizay](#) (near Amboise) invites guests to discover “château life” amid authentic 16th-century furniture, while [Les Trésorières](#) is the only five-star hotel located in Tours. [La Borde en Sologne](#), located in Vernou-en-Sologne just 15 minutes from the well-known Château of Chambord, is an authentic, restored château whose stables have been turned into guestrooms. [Les Sources de Cheverny](#) offers

rooms both in the château and “in the garden,” as well as a Spa By Caudalie. Nestled in a forest just outside of Tours, the 16th-century [Château Louise de la Vallière](#) has been restored to its former glory and reopened as a 20-room luxury hotel and restaurant, featuring interiors designed by world-renowned designer Jacques Garcia and staff wearing period attire and recreating the castle’s historic rituals and customs.



ROYAL CHATEAU OF AMBOISE



Imagine a palace on a promontory above the Loire and imagine the hanging gardens between heaven and earth ... Amboise was one of the favorite sites of the kings of France when they transformed their country during the Renaissance period. Queen Anne of Brittany, King Francis I and Leonardo da Vinci (who is buried in the chapel of the castle) are among the familiar faces that we rediscover through the HistoPad here. A living castle open to nature, a haven of peace for more than 90 species of birds, Amboise also offers a 360 ° view of landscapes listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. The burial site of Leonardo Da Vinci, the castle used to be the palace of the kings of France during the Renaissance and remains one of the most beautiful panoramas in the Loire Valley.

**** NEW FOR 2024:**

***The Inventor* at Amboise – January 1 through April 4, 2024**

Directed by Jim Capobianco (*Ratatouille*, *The Lion King*) and Pierre-Luc Granjon, and featuring the voices of Marion Cotillard, Stephen Fry and Daisy Riley, *The Inventor* traces the final years of Leonardo da Vinci's life in the Loire Valley through the extraordinary artistry of the French animation studio FOLIASCOPE. As the Royal Château of Amboise (along with the neighboring Château du Clos-Lucé) features prominently in the film, visitors to the castle can now experience an exclusive behind-the-scenes peek at the making of the film. Ten elements of XXL models produced by the FOLIASCOPE studios are presented, including a 100-square-foot model of the château and the city of Amboise, and reproductions of some of the castle's most iconic interiors, including the Saint Hubert chapel, the council room and the cavalier tower.

Leonardo's Spring at the Saint Hubert Chapel

After a meticulous, 2.5-year restoration process by expert craftsmen from ten different artistic specialties, the Saint Hubert chapel at the Royal Château of Amboise will reopen to visitors in spring 2024. This architectural jewel, which was built by the kings of France during the Renaissance and houses the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci, has undergone a major restoration, on a scale not seen in nearly 150 years. The restoration process included: the reinstallation of more than 200 decorative stone elements in the chapel's interior spaces of the building; restoration of the gilding on the chapel's ridge spikes and spire; restoration of the magnificent lead decorations on the roof: and even the activation of the bell. The 3.5-million-euro restoration project was a joint public/private initiative with the Saint-Louis Foundation (owner of the monument).

CHATEAU DU CLOS-LUCE

In 1516, Leonardo da Vinci accepted the invitation of King Francis I to join him in Amboise and received the title of “first painter, engineer and architect of the king.” He lived at Château du Clos-Lucé, a few steps from the royal castle, where he also studied and worked on more than 1,000 projects. He died three years later. Today, visitors discover his bedroom, the large reception room in which he received his guests, and his studio. Easels, brushes, notebooks but also the replicas of the works he brought with him from Italy (*Mona Lisa*, *Saint John the Baptist* and *The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne*) form an ensemble that recalls the *botteghe* of Renaissance artists. In the basement, about 40 models of his inventions are exhibited.



**** NEW FOR 2024:**

“The Inventor, Behind the Scenes of the Animated Film” - February 3 through May 12, 2024

To coincide with the theatrical release of Jim Capobianco’s animated film *The Inventor*, about the last years of Leonardo da Vinci’s life in Amboise, Clos Lucé, partner of the film, is exhibiting a large part of its sets, including the castle and the artist’s bedroom, as well as some of the historic characters featured in the making of the film: Francis I, Louise of Savoy, Margaret of Navarre. The exhibition takes visitors behind the scenes of the creation of a stop-motion animated film, highlighting the work of the storyboard artists, set and prop designers, editors and animators at the Foliascope animation studio in this titanic task (only 4 seconds of film footage are produced per day of work). Giant reproductions of images from the film, models, multimedia content, photos and videos from the making of the film punctuate this immersive journey.

“Leonardo da Vinci and the Perfumes of the Renaissance” - June 8 through September 15, 2024

Leonardo da Vinci invented many recipes using *enfleurage* and distillation techniques. The exhibition recreates a sensory journey in his footsteps, incorporating the legacy of his mother Caterina, who came from the Black Sea and was sold as a slave in Constantinople and Venice before ending up in Florence. In the markets of Constantinople, visitors can detect the mingled scents of aromatic perfumes and spices, or the heady scent of church incense, musk and amber. Original drawings by Leonardo are complemented by manuscripts from the Institut de France to demonstrate Leonardo's interest in the most diverse scents, defining the thresholds of the pleasant, the unpleasant and even the disgusting. The exhibition features objects related to the world of perfumes during the Renaissance – including pomanders, perfume burners, incense burners, pharmacy jars, bottles, boxes, perfumed gloves, perfumed shoes, rosaries and *cassones* – as well as paintings and statues from museum collections evoking scents: portraits of Mary-Magdalene associated with unguents, of Catherine Sforza associated with jasmine, court portraits, and women in the bath. Objects designed by Leonardo have been recreated by researchers: a functional still, odoriferous elements from the painter's studio, the amber necklace from the “La Dame à l’hermine” (*Lady with an Ermine*), the “Oiselet de Chypre” (Cyprus birdy) depicted in the *Codex Atlanticus*.

This exhibition is the fruit of scientific research carried out by two eminent curators, Carlo Vecce, Professor of Italian Literature at the University of Naples L'Orientale, and Pascal Brioiist, Professor of Modern History at the University of Tours and member of the Centre d'études supérieures de la Renaissance.

DOMAINE DE CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE

Overlooking the river and surrounded by greenery, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire is at the heart of the cultural landscape of the Loire Valley, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. More than a castle, Chaumont-sur-Loire's Centre for Arts and Nature has been a unique place for multidisciplinary cultural exchange, especially in the fields of art and garden design, since 2008. The Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire was founded around the year 1000, and had



several owners, including Catherine de Médici and, in the Age of Enlightenment, Jacques-Donatien Leray, financier and steward to King Louis XVI. He used his personal assets to finance the American Revolution, of which he is considered one of the fathers, along with Lafayette and Benjamin Constant. At the end of the 19th century, Chaumont became the property of the Princesse de Broglie.

UPCOMING IN 2024:

Art Season - March 30 through October 27, 2024

Each year, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire invites 15 contemporary artists from all over the world to create specific works linked to the site and its history, including digital creations.

International Garden Festival - April 24 through November 3, 2024

The International Garden Festival, from April to November, presents 30 new gardens created by multidisciplinary design teams around a brand-new theme each year. American teams regularly take part in the International Garden Festival, as in 2023 with *Le Chant du Sel*, a resilient garden designed to adapt to rising water levels due to climate change, using salt-resistant plants.

Chaumont-Photo-sur-Loire - November 16, 2024 through February 23, 2025

From November through March, the Domaine presents solo shows by nature-related photographers (last year's exhibition featured the work of American photographer Michael Kenna).

Among the contemporary artists exhibited at Chaumont-sur-Loire, major American artists such as Sheila Hicks, Jeffrey Blomster, Andy Goldsworthy, John Grade and Alison Stigora present permanent installations in the castle and in its historic grounds. Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire also offers guests the unique option to stay on site – at the hotel [Le Bois des Chambres](#), the result of the restoration of a former farmhouse and an original, ecological architectural creation. Its gastronomic restaurant, Le Grand Chaume, offers exceptional dinners based on Loire products. *Travel+Leisure* magazine named the hotel one of the 100 Best New Hotels in the World in 2023, and one of the 20 Best New Affordable Luxury Hotels of 2023.

[ART DE VIVRE IN THE LOIRE VALLEY](#)



The Unique Gastronomy of the Loire Valley

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, the Loire Valley, with its exceptional heritage of scenery and historical buildings, is one of France's main wine-producing regions, and, as one of its most productive horticultural regions, has earned the title of the "Garden of France." It is this legacy of abundant natural, cultural and culinary riches that beckons visitors from around the world to sample the best tastes of the Loire Valley – from its award-winning cheeses to its artisanal specialty products to its heritage dishes.

In the Loire Valley, first and foremost, space on the table must always be reserved for cheese. Of only 15 goat cheese varieties in France that have received the coveted AOC (*appellation d'origine contrôlée*) designation, five are produced exclusively in the Loire Valley! One of the most prized varieties in the Loire Valley is the Valençay, which is characterized by its truncated pyramid shape and can be enjoyed creamy or firm, best paired with a red Valençay wine, another AOC.

There is also delicious poultry to be enjoyed here, as well as rillons of Touraine (small pieces of confit pork), fried fish of the Loire Valley and several unique specialties, such as Orléans Cotignac (thick quince jelly) and Martin Pouret mustards and vinegars. For dessert, a visit to the Loire Valley would not be complete without a taste of the well-known Tarte Tatin – or you can recreate the iconic sweet treat by sampling the region's famed Monin syrup in the Tarte Tatin flavor.

Art de Vivre Experiences

[An immersive French Art de Vivre - Going to a local market](#): The market of Amboise was voted "France's favorite market" in 2015. It is known for its exceptional setting on the edge of the Loire River. Every Fridays and Sunday morning, locals and visitors alike gather for a moment of conviviality amid the smells of regional specialties: rillons, rillettes, goat's cheeses and more from throughout the Loire Valley.

Cooking with a two-Michelin-starred chef in the Loire Valley:

Every Saturday, the two-Michelin-starred Chef Christophe Hay opens the doors to his exclusive kitchen and allows guests to cook with him as part of a special series of cooking classes, each with a different theme. The most recent class was dedicated to the region's heirloom vegetables, local fish of the Loire River, foie gras and other delicacies.



From the product to the plate - at the Martin-Pouret Boutique: The history of Orléans' connection with vinegar goes back to the Middle Ages. In the 18th century, the city was home to between 200 and 300 vinegar makers. Today, Martin-Pouret is the only company remaining that still produces its famous vinegar, as it has done since 1797, alongside house-made mustard, gherkins and other vinegar-pickled treats. They're offering to cook a plate and a dessert with their products with a chef!

The Michelin Guide Comes to the Loire Valley

On March 18, 2024, the esteemed MICHELIN Guide Ceremony will take place in the historic city of Tours in the Loire Valley. Known as the "City of the Gastronomy," Tours will play host to this highly anticipated event, where the featured MICHELIN Starred restaurants throughout France will be announced for the 2024 MICHELIN Guide France. With such a renowned gastronomic event – to which all the chefs running MICHELIN Starred and Green Starred restaurants in France will be invited - coming to the Loire Valley, the Ceremony will also help highlight the extraordinary diversity of culinary products, local food specialties and the wealth of top-rated chefs throughout the region.



The Wines of the Loire Valley

The kings and lords who built magnificent homes and castles in the Loire Valley observed that the Loire and its tributaries created microclimates and hilly areas that were uniquely suited to the production of quality wines. For that reason, in the Touraine region, they planted and cultivated vineyards that today produce more than twenty high-quality and reasonably priced, protected AOP products, including the five main grape

varietals of Sauvignon blanc , Chenin, Cabernet franc, Gamay and Pinot noir.

The AOP wines produced along the Loire River, as much on the right bank as on the left bank, continue to get better and better, frequently rivaling the very best wines from such renowned wine regions as Burgundy and Bordeaux. The Loire Valley wines of Sancerre, Coteaux du Giennois, Orléanais, Cheverny, Montlouis, Vouvray, Touraine, Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil, Bourgueil and Chinon are found on the wine lists of some of the world's finest restaurants.

The Loire Valley is known for its spectacular wine caves, built of the region's unique *tuffeau* stone. Some highlights include the [Caves Monmousseau](#) and [Caves Ambacia](#), which offer visitors the opportunity to tour the caves, learn about the extraordinary history of winemaking in the region, and end with a tasting of some of the best wines of the Loire Valley.



In a region renowned for its incredible natural beauty and cultural treasures, it should come as no surprise that some of the most famed *domaines* (or vineyards) of the Loire Valley also boast spectacular views and even historic castles right alongside the vines. The [Château of Nitray](#) and the [Château de La Grille](#) both sit nestled amid vineyards, while the [Domaine Henri Bourgeois](#) and the [Domaine de la Noblaie](#) offer particularly noteworthy views of the surrounding region.

Some of the most historic winemakers in the Loire Valley include [Joseph Mellot](#) (which dates back to 1513), [Plou and Fils](#) (since 1508) and [Le Clos des Quarterons – Amirault](#) (producing wine in the region for six generations) – which together have passed down the tradition and *savoir faire* of Loire Valley winemaking for six centuries.

Other unique wine experiences in the Loire Valley include: guided walking tours of the region's vineyards; picnics prepared with local food specialties of the region and set up amid the vines in one of the area's top vineyards; meeting owners of area wineries; a wine-making escape game; and exclusive wine tasting set up under the Cave des Dômes of Chenonceau; and taking a segway, electric scooter or e-bike to explore the wine region.

InterLoire is the official professional body for Loire Valley wines, created by winegrowers and wine merchants in Touraine, Chinon and in the Loire Atlantic region to promote and develop the region's 34 appellations, denominations and protected geographical indications (PGIs).
<https://www.vinsvaldeloire.fr/en/>

A NEW RENAISSANCE - CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN THE LOIRE VALLEY



In 2019, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the death of the Italian Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci in the region, the Centre-Val de Loire Region celebrated the arts of the Renaissance with a season of more 500 events.

Following this important commemorative year, the region designated the next chapter for the Loire Valley as a time of “[Nouvelles Renaissance](#),” in order to promote the historical, cultural and natural masterpieces of the region, alongside its more contemporary and modern art treasures. If, as George Sand once said, “Art is a demonstration of which nature is the proof,” the Loire Valley can be seen as a giant artist’s workshop with a thousand facets and palettes to inspire the senses.

As part of the Nouvelles Renaissance(S) program, the AR(t)CHIPEL Festival will take place every October for the next four years and marks the start of an unprecedented partnership between the Loire Valley region and Paris’s world-famous Centre Pompidou. This first edition was an introduction to this partnership, whereby several different venues across the Loire Valley hosted important works from the Centre Pompidou. Visitors to the Loire Valley now have the pleasure of getting up close and personal with the creative process, discovering artists’ studios, writers’ houses, places of creation and residences that are specifically open to the public in order to mark this special occasion.

<https://www.nouvelles-renaissances.com/>



[The Saint-Roch Museum](#)

The Saint-Roch Museum, located in a former Hôtel-Dieu, houses a unique collection of pharmacy furniture from the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as a lapidary collection from the sculptures representing the Tree of Jesse in its 15th century chapel. The contemporary sculpture park presents around 20 works by artists from the 20th and 21st centuries, including César, Max Ernst, Cécile Le Talec, Maria Papa Rostkowska or Zao Wou-Ki to illustrate a few. Currently on display (through December 30, 2023) is an exhibition of the engraved work of Franco-Chinese painter Zao Wou-Ki

(marking the third donation to the museum from the artist and his family in less than 10 years).

[CCCOD in Tours](#)

In the center of Tours, the Olivier Debré Center of Contemporary Creation (CCCOD) is a prestigious artistic venue with an international scope, named for a lyrical abstract painter whose studios were in the Touraine region. The building, designed by the Aires Mateus brothers, houses four large spaces dedicated to contemporary art, of which the museum hosts ten or more exhibitions each year. Educational officers are on hand to help, and each exhibition provides a customized experience with fun workshops, guided tours, conferences and a wide range of other events.

[Contemporary Museum of Eguzon-sur-Creuse in the “Valley of Impressionist Painters”](#)

The valley of Berry (also known as the “valley of impressionist painters”) is renowned for one of its most famous former residents, the impressionist master Claude Monet, who lived there for several years and created a series of paintings in the valley, including the renowned *Torrent de la Petite Creuse*, which is now displayed in New York’s Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and was the first step toward his now legendary creation of *Les Nymphéas*. The



Museum of Eguzon-sur-Creuse is a prime example of the way in which the valley of Berry now aims to blend its storied history in art with the work of more contemporary artists. Each season, the museum organizes three temporary exhibitions, on display from March through November, along with educational workshops and conferences. The museum’s forthcoming exhibition will be dedicated to the work of Christian Sorg, friend of Gérard Titus-Carmel.



[The Museum of Fine Arts, Orléans](#)

One of the most esteemed fine arts museums in the region, the Musée des Beaux-Arts d’Orléans (Museum of Fine Arts) features a large collection of paintings, drawings, stamps, sculptures and art objects, spanning from the 15th to the 20th centuries. For this first edition of the AR(t)CHIPEL Festival, the museum hosts exhibitions of the work of two contemporary 20th-century artists – the Italian architect and designer Ettore Sottsass and the Venezuelan kinetic artist and sculptor Jesús Rafael Soto. Both shows play up the contrast

and counterpoint between the artists’ 20th-century creations and the museum’s older collections, particular of 18th- and 19th-century ceramics and paintings. Ettore Sottsass’s work is part of an ongoing quest to enhance the value of ceramics (leading to partnerships with the Ecole Supérieure d’Art et de Design d’Orléans), while Jesús Rafael Soto’s installation provides a counterpoint to the museum’s Lyrical Abstraction room. Works by Ettore Sottsass will be on view through March 3, 2024; works by Jesús Rafael Soto will be on view through June 16, 2024.

[Contemporary Ceramics Center, La Borne](#)

Located between Bourges and Sancerre in the southeast of the Loire Valley, the Contemporary Ceramics Center is in the heart of a village of ceramists. Since the 13th century, pottery has been a central art form to the villages around La Borne. Today, around 100 ceramists live and work in this area and their workshops are open to the public. In the new gallery that opened in 2010, exhibitions are displayed in a contemporary and bright setting, while workshops allow visitors to practice a variety of ceramics techniques.

Châteaux of Loire Valley and Contemporary Arts

Beyond the museums of the Loire Valley, several of the region's iconic châteaux also feature regular exhibitions of contemporary art, displayed against the backdrop (and within the walls) of these historic castles. At [Château du Rivau](#), the idyllic gardens have been dotted with contemporary sculptures and art installations since 1999, and the castle hosts a different contemporary art exhibition each year. Several other Loire Valley châteaux also feature contemporary art displays in their palatial gardens, including Russell Page's Garden at [Château de Chenonceau](#), which is dotted with works by such well-known artists as François-Xavier Lalanne and Manolo Valdés. Through March 17, 2024, the [Château de Chambord](#) has an exhibition on view of the work of the Chinese contemporary sculptor Wang Keping. And at the [Château of Beaugency](#), the on-site contemporary art takes the form of a fully immersive digital art and multimedia experience.



****UP NEXT:** 2026 will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the legendary artists Alexander Calder and Max Ernst in the Loire Valley.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

WEBSITES:

Nouvelles Renaissance: <https://www.nouvelles-renaissances.com/>

Centre Pompidou: <https://www.centrepompidou.fr/en/>

Loire Valley Tourism: <https://www.loirevalley-france.co.uk/>

Michelin: <https://guide.michelin.com/fr/fr>

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Page 2 (from top): Château de Chambord; Château du Clos-Lucé (credit: Léonard de Serres) / Page 3 (top row, from left): "Tartare de maigre" at Jardin Secret at Château du Rivau (credit: Aurore Nguyen); Valençay goat cheese (credit: French Wanderers); "Retour de Cuiellette" at Jardin Secret at Château du Rivau (credit: Aurore Nguyen); (bottom row, from left): Caves Ambacia; amid the vines in the Loire Valley (credit: D. Darrault); Caves Duhard (credit: Léonard de Serres) / Page 4 (from top): The Jardins Lumière at Château de Chenonceau; poster for the new animated film Léo (released as The Inventor in the US) / Page 5 (from top): Spa des Sources at Les Sources de Cheverny (credit: MP Morel); Les Bois des Chambres at Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire (credit: Eric Sander) / Page 6: Royal Château of Amboise / Page 7: Château du Clos-Lucé / Page 8: Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire / Page 9: Goat cheese varieties of the Loire Valley (credit: M. Perreau) / Page 10 (from top): Fleur de Loire Restaurant (credit: Alexandre Moulard); Caves Duhard (credit: Léonard de Serres) / Page 11 (from top): Caves Monmousseau / Page 12 (top, from left): Saint-Roch Museum (credit: J. Bernard); art in Russell Page's Garden at Château de Chenonceau (credit: A. Verger); (bottom) Saint-Roch Museum (credit: J. Bernard) / Page 13 (from top): Contemporary Museum of Eguzon-sur-Creuse; Museum of Fine Arts, Orléans / Page 14 (from left) Château de Chenonceau (credit: Didier Ronflard); art at Château du Rivau (credit: M. Jacquet)