# THE NIGHT FOUNTAINS SHOW IN FIGURES



# SINCE 2014, CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES SPECTACLES HAS DEVELOPED A VAST AND AMBITIOUS PROJECT TO ILLUMINATE THE NIGHT FOUNTAINS SHOW.

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After the Great Perspectiv (façade of the corps central, Terraces, Latona's Fountain and Parterre, Great Lawn...), after the North axis (from the North Parterre to the Neptune Fountain), then the façades of the North and South wings, it's the newly restored Apollo's Fountains and the South Parterre that have benefited in 2024 from an overhaul their lighting.

Fountains and pools, statues and vegetation are now illuminated through ingenious installations designed by lighting designer Laurent Fachard.

Sponsors of the Night Fountains Show:

# **GROVES & FOUNTAINS**

The groves of Versailles were designed during Louis XIV's reign as open air drawing rooms concealed at the heart of the wooded areas of the gardens. One went there for refreshments and light meals, to listen to music or dance. The King could satisfy his taste for gambling and performing arts in these venues intended solely for entertainment and celebrations. Decorated with fountains, vases and statues, accessed through discreet walks, these groves bring surprise and creativity within the Royal Garden.

# GREAT PERSPECTIVE -

In the Park of the Palace, this grandiose stretch of landscape designed by André Le Nôtre in the 1660s goes from the Palace itself (the King's Bedchamber and the Hall of Mirrors) to the extremity of the Grand Canal. Apollo, the emblematic figure of Louis XIV, is present everywhere in figurative or symbolic form.

Jean-Baptiste Lully • Le Triomphe de l'Amour : Ouverture Persée, entrée des divinités infernales : Acte III scène 10 Ballets d'Alcidiane : Ouverture Idylle sur la paix : Air pour Madame la Dauphine Marc-Antoine Charpentier • Offerte à deux chœurs Sanctus pour tous les instruments Jean-Féry Rebel • Les Eléments : Caprice, Tambourins I & II Christoph Willibald Gluck • Les Eléments : Ballo Sinfonia, Marche



# SOUTH

# ORANGERY

Built by Jules Hardouin-Mansart between 1684 and 1686, it consists of a large central vaulted gallery 150 meters long, prolonged by two side galleries located under the Hundred Steps staircase. 1 055 trees in tubs stay inside the building during winter months before being welcomed by the Orangery Parterre. From June 18<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, discover the artist Eva Jospin and her work Chambre de soie at the Eva Jospin-Versailles exhibition.

# BALLROOM GROVE -

The Ballroom Grove was built by Le Nôtre and the fountain engineers of Louis XIV. Strollers will be able to enjoy a surprising play of lights accompanying the favourite music of the King and the miracle of the water pouring in cascades down the rocaille steps of the amphitheatre.



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# MIRROR FOUNTAIN -

Louis XIV commanda ce bassin en 1702. Dans l'esprit des fontaines de Le Nôtre, mais avec les moyens techniques modernes, des jeux d'eau et de lumière musicaux y sont présentés.



# KING'S GARDEN

The King's garden stands where the former Royal Island once stood, before being filled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to house a garden planted with rare and exotic trees. Since 2025, it has also been illuminated thanks to a new lighting design imagined by Yves Caizergues.

# COLONNADE GROVE

In the circular space of the Colonnade Grove designed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart, the sculptor Girardon placed one of the white marble masterpieces of Versailles. Pluto, the God of Hell, snatches Proserpine from the Earth, her mother, and carries her up into the sky, with lasers here creating unexpected shapes in the coloured smoke clouds.

Jean-Baptiste Lully • Armide : Passacaille Les Amants magnifiques : Entrée d'Apollon Le Triomphe de l'Amour : Entrée d'Apollon, Deuxième Air

# GIRANDOLE AND DAUPHIN'S GROVES -

In these ravishing groves, let yourself be guided through a maze of winding paths where original light installations, inspired by nature are revealed.

# NORTH

# NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN

The Neptune fountain was dug out in the shape of a half-circle as in the ancient Greek theatres. Armed with his trident, Neptune, the god of the sea, sends gracious spouts of water into the sky.

> Christoph Willibald Gluck • *Les Éléments :* Marche Jean-Philippe Rameau • *Platée :* Acte I scène VI Orage

# THREE FOUNTAINS GROVE

Lights and fountains create a magical mystery in one of the favourite groves of Louis XIV (he is said to have designed it), completed by Le Nôtre in 1679. Shells and rocaille features decorate the five levels of fountains from which statues are excluded so that all the visitor's attention is concentrated on the water attractions.

Jean-Féry Rebel • Les Eléments : Air pour les violons, Chaconne Pierre Montan-Berton l'Ainé • Nouvelle Chaconne in E minor

# WATER THEATER GROVE

The grove designed by Le Nôtre was restored in 2015 by landscape architect Louis Benech and artist Jean-Michel Othoniel. The Bassin des Enfants Dorés, near the Water Theater Grove, was created by Jules Hardouin-Mansart in 1709.

GREAT LAWN -

The Great Lawn, a vast lawn surrounded by an impressive cortege of marble statues, will be adorned with majestic flames from Groupe F, rhythmically punctuating the festive music and offering an astonishing perspective view of the Royal Garden.

## LATONA'S FOUNTAIN

From the top of the steps of the Latona's Fountain, the visitor can look out over the Grand Perspective and admire, from the king's viewing point, a constellation of bubbles reflecting the day's last rays of sunshine. The statues of this recently restored fountain illustrate the legend of Diana and Apollo's mother protecting her children against the insults of the peasants of Lycia and demanding vengeance from Jupiter who changed them into frogs.

### APOLLO'S FOUNTAIN

Newly restored

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At 10:13pm, look up - 500 drones rise into the sky to light your way. At 10:50pm, Groupe F presents a grand finale visible from the entire Grand Perspective, combining fireworks launched at the head of the Grand Canal, flames soaring from the Great Lawn and pyrotechnic drones.

Jean-Baptiste Lully • *Te Deum* : Symphonie *Phaéton* : Ouverture Ballet de la Nuit *Xerxès* : Air pour les esclaves et singes dansants *Armide* : Prélude et Passacaille *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* : Marche pour la Cérémonie des Turcs Jean-Philippe Rameau • *Platée* : Acte I scène VI Orage Marc-Antoine Charpentier • Marche de Triomphe pour les violons, trompettes, timbales, flûtes et hautbois Berlioz • *La Marseillaise*, Overture To Benvenuto Cellini



**EXCEPTIONAL DATES** 

THE FIRE NIGHT FOUNTAINS SHOW • August 15th

# THE ROYAL SERENADE OF THE HALL OF MIRRORS

Do not miss this amazing tour and performances in the exceptional environment of Château de Versailles' royal residence!

Saturdays from June 7<sup>th</sup> to September 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday July 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.

5 shows from 6:30pm to 7:50pm

# **MUSICAL SEASON**

Every year the Royal Opera and the Royal Chapel of Château de Versailles welcome the greatest international artists for an exceptional program of concerts, operas and ballets.

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Administrative address: Château de Versailles Spectacle CS 10509 - 78008 Versailles Cedex







#### APOLLO'S BATH GROVE -

Designed by Hubert Robert from 1776, this grove features a pre-romantic style with a remarkable rock sheltering sculptures of Apollo and the Muses by Marsy, Guérin, Girardon and Regnaudin, recovered from Louis XIV's Grotte de Thétis.

# **OBELISK GROVE** -

The grove features a large two-level rectangular pool with water jets forming a liquid obelisk, and is animated by four water staircases. From July 13, a duo of fire artists from the Cercle de Feu company will perform in this grove.

### ENCELADUS GROVE

The grove designed by Le Nôtre in 1675 is home to a marvel of French Baroque sculpture: the giant Enceladus, a work in gilded lead by Marsy. It depicts Enceladus buried under rocks, punished by the gods of Olympus, in the style of the Lyrical Tragedy during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

> Jean-Féry Rebel • Les Eléments : Le Chaos Jean-Baptiste Lully • Armide : Prélude Acte II scène V



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# THE DOMES GROVE -

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The basin countains small fountains, from which water gushes. The water flows into the channel in the parapet and then as a thin sheet of water into the basin.







display over the Apollo's Chariot fountain from 10:50pm to 11:10pm.

La Marseillaise will rise as 700 drones perform an aerial ballet for a dazzling finale!



Neptune Fountain Every 15 minutes

**ILLUMINATED AND PYROTECHNIC DRONES** 10:13pm

FINAL FIREWORKS AND DRONES from 10:50pm to 11:10pm

# **NOTICE TO VISITORS**

### No readmission after leaving the site.

No picnics are allowed inside the paying area.It is forbidden to walk or sit on lawns or to lean on or touch statues.

The fountains' water is non-drinkable. Bathing is prohibited.

Please observe instructions given by hospitality staff.