



## The Châteaux of Île de France : The Château of Compiègne



**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

A documentary of 52'

*French version*  
*English version*

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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First royal then imperial, the Chateau de Compiègne stands out due to the simplicity of its neo-Classic architecture. The estate was used by the monarchy and its beginnings date back to the Merovingian dynasty.

After having changed locations many times, the crown decided on its final location in 1380: King Charles V built a fortress which underwent successive expansions.

In the XVIIIth century, Louis XV decided to rebuild the entire chateau.

From 1751 to 1788, the architect Ange-Jacques Gabriel, then his disciple Le Dreux de la Châtre, created one of the most sober monuments of French neo-Classic architecture.

After the Revolution, Napoleon Ist charged the architect Berthault with renovating the château. Napoleon welcomed his second wife here, the archduchess Marie-Louise of Austria, in 1810.

After having been used during the Restauration, the chateau became the summer residence of Napoleon III. He came here often with the Empress and would hunt in the neighboring forest.

Works continued with the construction of the Neuve Gallery and the great Imperial Theatre.

After the fall of the Imperial regime in 1870, the Chateau de Compiègne became a national museum.

A policy for the restitution of historic states has been applied here since 1945, and one can visit the Apartments of the Emperor and Empress, the ball room, the park, the Museum of Automobiles and Tourism, the Museum of the Second Empire...