



The Châteaux of Île de France : The Château of Ecouen



Built on the foundations of a medieval fortress, the Château d'Ecouen was the work of Anne de Montmorency, a Master of the French armies.

Inspired by the transalpine palaces which he discovered during his war campaigns in Italy, Anne de Montmorency designed the Château d'Ecouen with the help of Jean Bullant, the architect behind the Palais des Tuileries and the Hôtel de le Reine.

Ecouen fast became one of King Henri II's favourite leisure spots.

The chateau was confiscated during the French Revolution and used, first as a hospital, and then as a military prison and as a meeting house for a patriotic society.

In 1905, Napoleon opened a school here for the daughters of the chevaliers of the Légion d'Honneur.

The school left the chateau in 1962. And Ecouen became the property of the Malraux Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

It was at that moment that the Château d'Ecouen was transformed into the National Museum of the Renaissance, with a collection of renaissance masterpieces: gold work, Ottoman ceramics, terracotta and tapestries.

Even without taking its history of the Château d'Ecouen into account, the building alone is a perfect example of French Renaissance architecture.

Built in various stages, the chateau combines a number of different styles: from the first Renaissance (similar to the Loire Valley Chateaux), the second Renaissance (more ostentatious) and Classicism.

Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French version
English version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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