



The Châteaux of Île de France : The Royal Château of Fontainebleau



So much has been written about the Chateau de Fontainebleau and its forest. Ronsard, Malherbe, Flaubert have celebrated the magnificence of the domain.

It has to be said, it is a landmark of France's history. The Chateau de Fontainebleau has been the king of France's residence from Francis the first (who made it his favourite) to Napoléon the third.

Several kings have influenced the chateau's construction and history, becoming a legacy/heritage of the different periods of French history since the Middle Ages.

Its architecture and interior design and decorations combine Italian art and French tradition.

Its monumental size gives it a first class architectural scale and holds one of the greatest collections of ancient French furniture. Made of several buildings built during the 16th and 17th centuries, its current aspect is Francis the first's doing.

With innumerable rooms, one can chiefly remember the magnificent ball room, the Assiettes (plates) gallery, the chamber known as the Empress's, and the Throne's room/hall.

One can admire the chateau from many points in the huge park surrounding it, as in Diane's garden or the English garden.

The Parterre (or flower bed), designed by André le Nôtre, Louis the XIVth's and the Chateau de Versailles' gardener, is an impressive feat adding nobility and elegance to the Chateau de Fontainebleau.

Directed by Jacques VICHET A documentary of 52'

French version
English version

High Definition
Digital Betacam 16/9