



## History of royal residences : The Châteaux of François Ier



**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

*French Version*  
*English Version*

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A documentary of 52'

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

The Château de Saint-Germain was a truly royal residence since the time of François 1<sup>st</sup>, who built the city's trade boom, used by a court in constant effervescence.

After having married Claude de France in the chateau's chapel, the site became his favorite residence.

He commissioned the architect Pierre Chambiges with transforming the chateau and rebuilding it in Renaissance style, which it still has to this day after having been restored.

He used original designs to rebuild it: the courtyard is an irregular pentagon, that corresponds to the foundations of the former fortress, its pink brick and stone walls, its terraced roof surrounded by handrailings topped with pilasters bearing the salamander and the letter « F », for François 1<sup>st</sup>.

A hunting enthusiast, he also decided to organize the forest for hunting.

Still today, we can see the personal marks of the sovereign, notably the « F » and the salamander on the railings and chimneys of the chateau.

After having discovered Italian art during his military expeditions, François 1<sup>st</sup> decided to transform the Château de Blois into a Renaissance residence, with higher ceilings and large windows.

He also had new châteaux built in Val de Loire, like Azay le Rideau, Bonnavet, Chambord.

In 1516, he invited Leonardo da Vinci to Amboise to design the Château de Chambord.