



## History of royal residences : The Châteaux of Louis XIV



**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

A documentary of 52'

French Version  
English Version

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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Versailles, the symbol of both absolute monarchy and the Revolution which destroyed it, was the main residence of Louis XIV.

An art and culture enthusiast, he applied his desire for grandeur and cultural development to architecture.

This gave rise to the colonnade at the Louvre, the Hôtel des Invalides, Place Vendôme and, of course, the Château de Versailles.

In 1682, with his court and his government, the King settled into the Château de Versailles, a better symbol of his power and influence in Europe.

He decided to transform the estate to reflect his idea of royal power.

Le Vau and Mansart were charged with the major architectural works. The interior works were headed by Le Brun. Decorators then created Louis XIV style.

During the first Versailles, from 1660 to 1670, it was a time for gardens, festivities and celebrations, organised by the landscape architect Le Nôtre.

Louis XIV liked his gardens, to such a point that he devised a manual to learn how to enjoy them, understand them and appreciate them.

In his work « *Manière de Montrer les Jardins de Versailles* », Louis XIV guides us through the groves and ponds around his château. Six versions were written, some handwritten by the king.

In the end, the life of this unusual king was nothing but a huge play, to be played out on this wonderful stage that is the Château de Versailles.

The « Sun King », the absolute great monarch, left a trace of a radiant time, as can be seen in the splendid Château de Versailles.