



The Châteaux of Île de France : The Château of Vaux-le-Vicomte

HD



Directed by Jacques VICHET

French version
English version

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A documentary of 52'

High Definition
Digital Betacam 16/9

Vaux-le-Vicomte , the chateau which inspired Versailles.

A Product of the ambition of Nicolas Fouquet, the financial advisor of King Louis XIV, the construction of Vaux-le-Vicomte was entrusted to the greatest artists of the Kingdom: Louis Le Vau, the Kings chief architect, Charles le Brun, founder of the Academie de Peinture, and André La Nôtre, the Royal landscape artist.

Divided into two parts: chateau and farm, Vaux-le-Vicomte is strategically placed between two royal residences: the Chateau de Vincennes and the Chateau de Fontainebleau.

It harbours a number of architectural masterpieces, and legend has it that King Louis XIV was so overwhelmed by the Chateau when he attended the Nicolas Fouquet's grand party on the 17th August 1661, that he became quite jealous.

The lay-out of Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte was very innovative for its day. The interior space, for example is laid out in two rows of parallel rooms.

This was the first time that this sort of lay-out had been used for a chateau.

This chateau was to serve as a trial for Louis Le Vau before he went on to create the sumptuous chateau de Versailles.

The gardens of Vaux-le-Vicomte are equally impressive. Spread over three kilometres, this garden is testament to the innovative spirit of Fouquet and Le Nôtre.

This was the first French formal garden, where architecture and the environment come together in perfect harmony.

Many of the great personalities of the period visited the chateau: Nicolas Fouquet obviously, but also Molière, Jean de la Fontaine, Corneille, Voltaire and Madame de Sévigné.