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**CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ - PARC LEONARDO DA VINCI INAUGURATES  
A NEW IMMERSIVE CULTURAL SPACE IN SPRING 2021:  
THE "GALLERIES LEONARDO DA VINCI PAINTER AND ARCHITECT".**

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Press release,  
February 2021



## A NEW IMMERSIVE SPACE FOR A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Discover the world of Leonardo da Vinci, painter and architect, all in one place

The Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci inaugurates new galleries for an immersive experience thanks to digital technologies. These 500m<sup>2</sup> of galleries are dedicated to the work of Leonardo da Vinci as a painter and architect. An ideal museum presenting the 17 masterpieces of the painter. Educational walking tour, models, 3D animations, and video games will take both the young and the old into the creative process of the master of Renaissance.

### GALLERIES LEONARDO DE VINCI PAINTER, AN IMAGINARY MUSEUM

On the ground floor, the public is thrown into an immersive show where Leonardo da Vinci's 17 masterpieces are brought together in a single space. The show offers the keys to understanding the pictorial process, from the preparatory drawing to the final painting.

From this imaginary museum, the scenario of the show unfolds and offers an original vision to perfect our knowledge of Leonardo da Vinci's painting. In a single glance, the whole of the master's pictorial heritage is offered to our eyes.

Bringing together in a single gallery the treasures of the Louvre, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, the Vatican Museums, the National Gallery in London, the Pinacoteca in Munich, the National Museum in Cracow, the Hermitage in St Petersburg and the National Gallery in Washington, constitutes a new approach and a new immersion into the painted work of Leonardo da Vinci. Placed at the center of the projection device, the visitor is invited on an immersive journey to contemplate the artist's pictorial and aesthetic legacy. The similarity of faces, smiles and hands, the perspectives, the sfumato, the Last Supper and the landscapes' bluish horizons are combined together in a poetic and fascinating circle.



Immersive show - computer-generated images © Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci. Arc-en-Scène / Drôle de Trame



Galleries Leonardo da Vinci painter and architect © Architecture studio Chaix & Morel & associates / Arc-en-Scène

### GALLERY LEONARDO DA VINCI ARCHITECT: A PIONEERING INTERPRETATION

In the upper gallery, an educational and entertaining walking tour gives a better understanding of the whole world of Leonardo da Vinci - civil, religious and military architect, town planner and director of ephemeral shows. This gallery highlights his passion for mathematics and geometry in space. Life-size models, digital tables, 3D animations, video games... mark out the trail. The second wing of the building offers scientific and technical workshops on the ground floor, dedicated to school groups.

These workshops were originally designed in partnership with the Cité des Sciences and the Palais de la Découverte. Museum staff help the students manipulate Leonardo da Vinci's inventions.

On the first floor, an experimental multimedia room, using VR technologies, augmented reality, motion design and video games, offers a flight over the flying machines of the Palais Royal de Romorantin reconstituted in 3D.

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Leonardo da Vinci, deep and dark mirror,  
Where charming angels, with a sweet mouse,  
All charged with mystery, appear in the shade  
Glaciers and pines that close their country.

Charles Baudelaire, « Les Phares »,  
Les Fleurs du mal

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## THE CHOICE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Technology is omnipresent throughout the domain. The Château du Clos Lucé has for several years established a partnership with IBM and Dassault Systèmes.

In the basement of the castle, the collection of historical models, created by IBM based on the Leonardo da Vinci's original drawings, is built with the materials of the time. 3D animations help to understand how Leonardo's inventions worked by putting them into motion in a virtual universe.

Leonardo da Vinci is the father of inventions as modern as the aeroplane, the helicopter, the submarine and the automobile.

In Leonardo's workshops, the visitor is thrown into an immersive experience. He witnesses the historical meeting between the Cardinal of Aragon and the master, who presents his three masterpieces: the Mona Lisa, Saint John the Baptist and Saint Anne. An audiovisual production using ghost technology or "optical theatre" is projected. The visitor thus becomes the spectator of this exceptional encounter, as if Leonardo da Vinci himself were present.

In the 7-hectare Leonardo da Vinci Cultural Park, machines of Leonardo da Vinci's fabulous inventions, giant translucent canvases and sound bollards complete the discovery of the domain.



Leonardo da Vinci's workshops © Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci / Photo : Léonard de Serres

The Virgin and Child with St. Anne, Leonardo da Vinci © RMN (Louvre Museum) / René-Gabriel Ojéda





# THE REHABILITATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, A FORMER TEXTILE FACTORY

Built in 1847 by Armand Moisant, an engineer-constructor who made a name for himself in major metal construction projects such as the Bon Marché, the Grand Palais and the Menier chocolate factory in Noisiel, the building consists of a large porch with a semicircular arch surmounted by a pediment of brick and stone. It is flanked by two wings, one old that has just been renovated, the other contemporary, treated in concrete, steel and transparent glass.

Its renovation was entrusted to the prestigious architecture studio Chaix & Morel et Associés following an architectural contest. The architecture offers an architecture of sober and transparent elegance, pure and transparent writing and resolutely contemporary lighting.

A restored steel structure supports a large glass roof in sheds, typical of the former industrial workshops of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, facing north-east, which allows natural light to penetrate.

Under the artistic direction of the Clos Lucé, the scenography, designed by Arc-en-Scène, uses digital technologies, immersive experiences and virtual and augmented reality devices to bring a fresh look at Leonardo's creations and to bring them to life virtually.



## A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MISSION, INSTITUTED BY THE SAINT BRIS FAMILY

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### Between heritage valorisation and innovation

Owned by the Saint Bris family since 1855, Le Clos Lucé has become a cultural and tourist enterprise which mission is to transmit the heritage, memory and knowledge of Leonardo da Vinci. With the opening of the new "Galleries Leonardo da Vinci painter and architect", the Château du Clos Lucé has entered a new stage in its development, offering the general public the opportunity to experience the first complete place about Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance.

The mission of the Saint Bris family has remained the same as the initial family project as it started over 65 years ago: to bring the whole world of Leonardo da Vinci to the largest audience in a single space.

After the celebrations of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Tuscan master, this new space dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, painter and architect, enriches and completes the place of memory where Leonardo da Vinci lived and died and the Leonardo da Vinci Cultural Park. It consolidates the desire for cultural mediation focused on innovation, initiated in 1955 when the IBM models, dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci as an inventor, were acquired and created for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

The launch of the "Galleries Leonardo da Vinci painter and architect" is a major cultural and heritage challenge for the regional, national and international influence of the Château du Clos Lucé.

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*Le Clos Lucé is a castle for the future. Faithful to its vision, it continues its mission of interpreting Leonardo da Vinci's entire universe. A former industrial building is being completely transformed into a new cultural and museographic space to complement the existing offer. Rendez-vous for an experimental and immersive journey into the universe of Leonardo da Vinci, painter and architect.*

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**François SAINT BRIS,**  
Chairman of SAS Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci





## INFORMATION

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### Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci

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Phone Number: + 33 (0)2 47 57 00 73  
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www.vinci-closluce.com

### OPENING HOURS

Open all year round  
(except on December 25 & January 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Jan: 10am-6pm, Feb-June: 9am-7pm, July-August:  
9am-8pm, Sept.-Oct.: 9am-7pm, Nov.-Dec.: 9am-6pm

Outdoor gardens are opened from April 1<sup>st</sup> to November  
15, 2021. Access to the boats: July-August from 1pm to  
7pm.

### ENTRANCE FEE

Full price:  
14.50 € (Jan.-March & mid Nov.-Dec.) / 17.50 € (Apr.-mid Nov.)  
Reduced price:  
12.50 € (Jan.-March & mid Nov.-Dec.) / 15.50 € (Apr.-mid Nov.)  
Children, 7-18 years old:  
11.50 € (Jan.-March & mid Nov.-Dec.) / 12 € (Apr.-mid Nov.)  
Students, 18-25 years old:  
11.50 € (Jan.-March & mid Nov.-Dec.) / 12.50 € (Apr.-mid Nov.)  
Free under 7 years old  
Family package (2 adults and 2 children):  
37 € (Jan.-March & mid Nov.-Dec.) / 47 € (Apr.-mid Nov.)

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