



Press release



CHÂTEAU *Louise* DE LA VALLIÈRE

*Country getaway, history,
and a riot of the senses*



Fancy a truly regal stay at a historical chateau-hotel in the heart of France's 'Valley of Kings'?

A new gem in the Relais & Châteaux collection, **Château Louise de La Vallière** is a hotel offering 5-star services and a gastronomic restaurant, nestled within a forest in the heart of Touraine, one of France's loveliest provinces and near the royal town of Amboise. This 16th-century chateau served as the first holiday residence of the young Louise, future Duchess of La Vallière and the Sun King's great love.

A few centuries later, thanks to the passion of its current owner, Mira Grebenstein, this wonder of the Renaissance has regained all its original splendour and nobility. This exceptional hotel will offer guests a **unique opportunity to immerse themselves in French history**. This experience is possible through the singular vision of its interior designer **Jacques Garcia**. The hotel has twenty rooms and suites, a gourmet restaurant, and a spa will each offer an incomparable setting for an exceptional stay.

The staff, entirely dedicated to surpassing travellers' needs, is in period dress and recreates the historical era's rituals and customs. An atmosphere of elegance and refinement reigns throughout the hotel, with its period furnishings, paintings, tapestries, and objets d'art expertly assembled from France's most prestigious auction houses.



The **gourmet restaurant** will prolong this exceptional experience. Named after the legendary comedy by Molière, Louis XIV's preferred playwright, *L'Amphitryon* becomes the theatre of lavish and delicious multi-course meals.

The décor and table settings, inspired by the pomp and pageantry of the 17th and 18th centuries, exalt an enchanting ambience illuminated by flickering candles in the evening and when bathed by subdued sunlight during the day.

During the warmer months, meals are served on the terrace, boasting a splendid panoramic view of the Brenne River Valley. Chef **Maxime Lesobre** (previously of Le Royal Monceau, La Grande Cascade, Michel Rostand), hired and trained by the three-starred Yannick Alléno and assisted by the culinary historian Jean-Claude Ribaut, pays tribute to the past by faithfully reproducing Grand Siècle dishes. A subtle culinary poem which is worthy of France's most resplendent and Europe's most refined monarch. Travellers will discover a menu faithful to this period and spirit, lending centre stage to roasted meats, poultry and fish, and vegetables then savoured at court—asparagus, skirrets, black salsify—not to mention the most delicate desserts—darioles, benoiles, sorbets.

To titillate discerning tastebuds, the Chef has already concocted a 'Duchesse Louise de la Vallière Menu'. It features crispy langoustines, jelly consommé, basil-flavoured mayonnaise, veal sweetbreads marinated in churned milk, caviar, rocket salad with turtle herbs sauce, roasted whole pigeon with garrigue herbs, cherry condiment...

The hustle and bustle of everyday life comes to a blessed stop at the hotel's spa, **La Rosée**. La Rosée name is inspired by the evocative nickname of Louise de La Vallière, which she gained because of her grace, beauty, and pure complexion. Located on the edge of the wood, the spa comprises five dedicated treatment rooms, a jacuzzi, a sensory shower and a halotherapy space. Guests can benefit from the sublimating expertise of the heirs to cellular cosmetics, La Maison Valmont, and special tailor-made treatments created by the experts at Biologique Recherche. In addition, the château will offer personalized detox stays, an on-site fitness course through the park, and a luxurious swimming pool heated all year round. La Rosée spa provides a cosy, comforting cocoon, allowing guests' bodies and souls to attain a deep state of absolute relaxation.

The **47-acre park** is home to majestic two-century-old trees, a Fig Conservatory in honour of Louis XIV's favourite fruit, and a plantation of Madame de La Vallière roses scattered about the park for peaceful, serene strolls. The château grounds are also home to a veritable nature reserve, where the local flora and fauna flourish from season to season. The estate's ten beehives maintain a healthy population of pollinators for the park's many flowers. No less than thirty species of birds shelter amongst the age-old oaks and cedars, while roe deer and hares thrive in the protected forest free of hunting. Furthermore, a resting area for animals has been created in partnership with the League for the Protection of Birds with the installation of platforms and birdhouses around the buildings.



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Jacques Garcia

The internationally renowned designer Jacques Garcia has ingeniously recreated all the elegance and sensuality of centuries past through his unique décors for the hotel, bar, restaurant and spa.

The soft lighting, the Cordoba leathers, the Ahimsa silks from Prella, Lelièvre and Tassinari & Chatel, as well as the unique furnishings and period artworks, all reflect Jacques Garcia's inimitable style.

At Château Louise de La Vallière, the designer celebrates the great royal favourites of French history. His passion for the 17th and 18th centuries and his unbridled imagination have allowed him to create a truly immersive, timeless décor.

'Château Louise de La Vallière is first and foremost a magnificent refuge. It's indeed wonderfully charming, but the château also presents a very beautiful example of layered architectures, of which I myself am particularly fond. Elements dating back to the 13th, 14th, 15th centuries, which have agglomerated and mingled... It's fascinating! This Château de la Vallière is precisely a house of distinct layers that have constantly been complemented. And such a layered approach makes everything possible. It allows for evolution while retaining the existent charm and it allows for self expression. Ultimately, it's not huge, it's a boutique hotel with some twenty rooms. Today, this hotel constitutes an experience-rich resort, a real change of scenery... It also embodies sensuality, lent to the estate by all these women. And, of course, it's also a château steeped in history, where the history of – but also by – these women is told.' — Jacques Garcia



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Pictures on request





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