



Loire Valley Gardens Press Pack

SOMMAIRE

The Loire Valley region is best known for its Châteaux which used to be the homes of the Kings of France. In recognition of the region's balance between natural environment and prestigious architecture, UNESCO has listed the Loire Valley as World Heritage for its cultural landscapes. The 25 gardens you are about to discover are all exceptional. They symbolise various traditional and contemporary artistic visions and the French way of life. You will enjoy taking the time to soak up the character of these places. And keen gardeners will discover rare species. Thanks to the various events held, you will also be able to meet the gardeners and use their ideas to create or improve your own garden.

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Jardins du Château d'Ainay le Vieil

Along the rose trail

Discover the art of garden design in the grounds of this atmospheric medieval castle in the Cher, where water has always played an important role. Originally used in the moat as part of the castle defences, the water was diverted in the 17th century to create the Grand Carré de l'île, a large square garden made up of themed plots surrounded by canals and, more recently, by tall horn-beam hedges. Water also powers the mill and supplies the wash house.

Owner Marisol de la Tour d'Auvergne grew up here at her 13th century ancestral home and has spent her life maintaining and developing the estate, creating the gardens and overseeing festivals and exhibitions. Step back in time at this haven of spiritual peace. Stroll the wonderful rose garden packed with traditional scented varieties, and enjoy The Chartreuse, an unusual formal garden composed of five individual plots. Uniform in size and linked by an arcade, they include a topiary garden and meditation garden, all set within an English-style park ■

Parc Floral d'Apremont-sur-Allier

A magic garden

Gilles de Brissac created this 4-hectare, English-style garden in the 1970s, incorporating design elements picked up on his overseas travels. Visitors wander sweeping lawns through clumps of ornamental trees from around the world and bisected with tranquil lakes and banks of seasonal flowers. Look one way and a flamboyant Chinese bridge transports you to the Orient; look another and you find an ornate Turkish Pavilion from the Ottoman Empire. Most recent addition is the Russian-style Belvedere which offers panoramic views over the Allier and the roofs of the picturesque village. In spring, the wisteria tunnel is a sensory delight, but there's something new to see here in every season ■

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LE BOURG,
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Parc et Jardins du Château d'Azay-le-Ferron

A chessboard in plants

Surrounded by the quiet countryside of the Brenne Regional Nature Park, Azay-le-Ferron offers two gardens in one over a 20-hectare site. The tranquil English-style park was laid out in 1856, the trees seemingly planted at random, but with winding paths leading to new viewpoints at every turn. Meanwhile, the formal French-style garden is famous for its topiary collection – one of the finest in France – inspired by the pieces on a chessboard, as well as for the collection of box bushes in front of the property. Follow the Discovery Trail linking all the key elements of the park and garden, and don't miss the rose garden, planted entirely with 19th century varieties, as well as the kitchen garden, scented garden and glasshouse ■

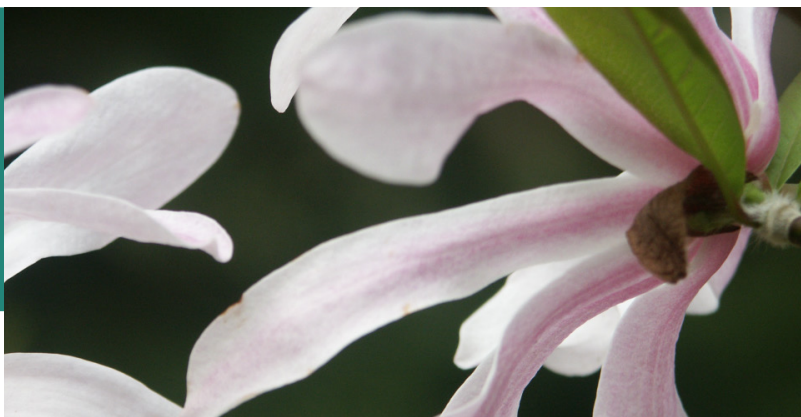


Rose [rô-ze] n.f.



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Arboretum National des Barres



Trees from five continents

Created by the Vilmorin family from trees gathered on their travels, the Arboretum is now managed by the National Office for Forests (ONF). One of the richest collections in Europe, it brings together more than 8,000 trees from 2,600 species across five continents on a 35-hectare site. Discover unusual varieties, strange seeds, and tantalising scents as you wander amongst three distinct collections – Continentalis (established 1873), Classifica (1894) and Bizarretum (1941). Take a themed tour with an expert guide; follow one of the self-guided trails; or simply chill out on the terrace and soak up the atmosphere of all these majestic species. A great place to introduce children to the wonders and varieties of the world's trees ■

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www.arboretumdesbarres.fr



Parc et Jardins du Château de Beauregard

Portraits, park and plants

Famous for its unique gallery of 327 portraits, the Château de Beauregard, not far from Blois, has brought art into the park with the beautiful Jardin des Portraits. Designed by landscape architect Gilles Clément, the 12 interlinked gardens surrounded by tall hedges have been themed to different personalities and historical periods. It's all part of a drive by castle owner Nathalie du Pavillon to attract visitors to her delightful small estate, close to the big name chateaux of the Loire Valley. Full of ideas for new ways to bring Beauregard alive, she is constantly working on new projects.

Within a 40-hectare park, enjoy one of the largest rose gardens in the Loire Valley; 400 seasonal varieties of annuals; glorious clematis; and a tranquil woodland trail that passes an old ice house and ruined chapel. Visitors are positively encouraged to walk on the grass here but children have their own special garden, whilst everyone will love the rare breeds of chickens and sheep. Add an extra dimension to your visit with an interactive tour by smartphone or tablet ■



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Jardin Médiéval de Bois Richeux

Inspired by the Middle Ages

Nestled in the heart of the ancient Carnutes Forest which once covered the north of the Loire Valley region, and not far from Chartres, the old farm of Bois Richeux takes its name from a druidess called Richeulde

and dates back to the Middle Ages. Standing beside a medieval manor house, chapel and tithe barn, the fortified farm once covered 1000 hectares and provided work for hundreds of men. Today, its courtyard garden is a 21st century interpretation of plantings described in the 14th century and laid out according to medieval custom. Aromatic medicinal and culinary plants mix with old-fashioned vegetables to nourish both body and soul in a series of symbolic plots, sheltered by the ancient stone walls of the farm buildings and by tall hedges of hornbeam ■





Parc et Jardin du Château de Bouges

Magnificent jewel in sumptuous setting

This diverse park and garden extends for 80 hectares around the Château de Bouges in the heart of the Berry. Close to the elegant 18th century chateau, the French-style garden features manicured box borders and yew trees shaped into cones, all surrounded by a double line of lime trees and revitalised in the early 20th century by landscape architect Achille Duchêne. Don't miss the exotic glasshouse and the flower garden, classified as 'Jardin Remarquable' since 2007, then relax with a walk through the informal landscaped park with its rare varieties of trees and picturesque lake ■

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Pavot [10] n.m. (lat. *papaver*)

Parc et Jardins du Château de Chamerolles

Discover perfume, outside and in

Six Renaissance-style scented gardens have been created behind the fairytale Château de Chamerolles which belongs to the Loiret Council. The castle stands in an area known as Cosmetic Valley, close to Orléans; Dior and Shiseido are just two companies with facilities nearby. Bordered by avenues shaded with vines, honeysuckle and traditional roses, each of the six symmetrical plots offers intriguing new scents. Inhale the aromas of spices, fruits and vegetables; explore the culinary plants of the kitchen garden; and discover unusual varieties imported from America and the Mediterranean. This delightful formal garden arouses all the senses with its geometric shapes, varied heights, and multiple perfumes. There's family fun too in summer with a puzzle to solve as you tour the scented plots.

Visitors can continue their sensory adventure inside the castle with exhibitions devoted to the history of scent from the 16th century to the present day, for medicinal and for seductive purposes. Explore period room sets, see the unique collection of exquisite perfume bottles, and just breathe in those iconic aromas of past and present ■

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Pagode de Chanteloup

Picnic in the Orient

Built in 1775 by the Duke of Choiseul in the grounds of the Château de Choiseul, the Pagode de Chanteloup brings a touch of the Orient to the Loire Valley. Located on the edge of the Amboise Forest, this 18th century folly is a monument to friendship, dedicated to all the Duke's friends who supported him after his exile from the court of Louis XV. Standing 44 metres above a 14-hectare park, it offers magnificent verdant views from the summit. Nothing remains today of the 18th century château, but the Pagoda is a reminder of another age. Wander the Fû Hsi Chinese garden, take a boat ride on the half-moon lake, and test your skill on the wooden games. In summer, buy a picnic hamper and relax on the grass for the ultimate Chinese chill-out ■



Domaine Régional de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Garden festival to inspire and amuse

The annual Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire has been delighting amateur and professional gardeners since 1992. Every year from the end of April to late October, around 30 temporary gardens are created by artists from across the world according to a chosen theme, sometimes unusual or futuristic, challenging or amusing, but always creative. So visitors may find themselves walking through a magical forest of blue trees or a spiral garden dominated by tomatoes. From the simplest design to the most fantastic, each plot is maintained throughout the festival, and guaranteed to surprise, entertain and inspire. In addition, the spacious park high above the Loire is dotted with contemporary works of art and beds of colour-coordinated flowers, dominated by the white, turreted castle – a centre for art and nature that is guaranteed to delight ■



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Parc et Jardins du Château de Cheverny

*Traditional, contemporary and ...
Tintin!*

Inspiration for Captain Haddock's ancestral home in the cartoon adventure of boy detective Tintin, Château de Cheverny offers something for everyone. The castle has been occupied by the same family for generations and the current marchioness, Constance de Vibraye, oversees the development and maintenance of the glorious gardens – three themed areas in an extensive park planted with fine trees. The traditional Kitchen Garden is a mass of vibrant colour, supplying seasonal blooms to the house, whilst the Apprentices' Garden behind the property showcases contemporary plantings in geometric designs. The Tulip Lawn is a ribbon of 10 metres wide, where 100,000 bulbs in graduated colour schemes have been planted. It flowers from mid-March to April. The laurel maze, designed by owner Charles-Antoine de Vibraye is very much appreciated by the younger visitors (but not forgetting the older ones too!) to have fun finding and hiding from friends. And in high season, visitors can explore the park and canal in quiet electric cars and boats. Don't miss the kennels near the Kitchen Garden, home to a pack of 100 hounds ■

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Jardins Artistiques de Drulon

Art gallery in a garden

In 1998, Piet and Nanou Hendriks fell in love with the rundown estate at Château de Drulon in the Berry countryside, the ideal location for their dream garden which would combine fabulous flowers with contemporary artworks. Just three years later, Les Jardins de Drulon were classified 'Jardin d'Exception' and, in 2006, 'Jardin Remarquable'. Today the 17-hectare garden is in constant evolution, split into six distinct areas. Highlights include 6,000 hardy perennials, 1400 rose bushes, and 300 varieties of peonies, the whole garden dotted with sculptures and installations to form an impressive outdoor art gallery that changes with the seasons ■



LES JARDINS DE DRULON,
18170 LOYE-SUR-ARNON

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Jardins du Domaine de George Sand

Beloved garden of romantic writer

Celebrated 19th century novelist George Sand adored the garden around her elegant country home in the Berry, surrounding it with rose-filled flowerbeds to create an open-air masterpiece. Humble country dwellers always took centre stage in her romantic novels about rural life, and the atmosphere of her stories is reflected in her garden through the avenue of hardy plants that leads to a meadow planted with fruit trees and a large kitchen garden. A pretty, scented path through the trees brings visitors to a tranquil natural clearing round a pond. You can almost feel the presence of Chopin, her lover for many years, as you walk through this peaceful and intimate plot which played such a key part in the author's life ■



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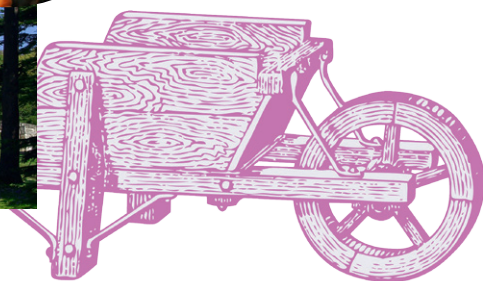
Parc et Jardins du Château de la Bourdaisière

Let's hear it for biodiversity...

Elegant living goes hand-in-hand with sustainability at Château de la Bourdaisière on the banks of the river at Montlouis-sur-Loire, between Tours and Amboise. Estate owner, Prince Louis Albert de Broglie, has been affectionately dubbed The Gardener Prince. One of his most eye-catching projects has been to restore the 19th century kitchen garden and create a unique collection of 650 tomato varieties in every shape and colour. There's colour of a different kind in Dahliacolor, a contemporary garden planted out in 2008 and stocked with more than 180 varieties; at its centre is a bed of medicinal plants. Relax in the 55-hectare park, planted with a wide variety of scented trees, and featuring a magnificent avenue, a box garden in the shape of a fleur-de-lis, and an ornate gateway attributed to Leonardo da Vinci. To experience the full Bourdaisière effect, stay over in the 'Château Hôtel de charme' with its 29 romantic bedrooms, all recently refurbished ■



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Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères

Heather and international trees in the Forest of Orléans

Grassy avenues wind between dense banks of heather in shades of pink, white and mauve at the Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères, a 'Jardin Remarquable' in the Orléans Forest. Created over a period of 40 years, this unique garden is also home to two stunning arboreturns of Chinese and American trees, as well as magnificent old trees native to the Loire Valley. Wander through eight themed gardens that include a hidden zen garden with lily pond, an extensive rose garden, and organic kitchen garden. From the spring magnolias to the autumn foliage, this glorious arboretum offers something new in every season and a surprise round every bend in the path ■

ARBORETUM DES GRANDES BRUYÈRES,

45450 INGRANNES

+ 33 (0)2 38 57 28 24

www.arboretumdesgrandesbruyeres.fr



Le Jardin de Marie

Landscaping ideas for private gardens

Just a short drive from the vineyards of Sancerre, this 2-hectare garden offers inspiration on a realistic scale. No inch of soil is wasted with nearly 500 varieties of rose bushes and a mass of viburnum, not to mention a mixed border, kitchen garden and pond. Walk through pergola tunnels laden with scented roses; along rustic paths bordered with iris and ornamental grasses; and between tall hedges splashed with colourful climbers. Wander at will, stopping to relax on one of the many benches and soak up ideas for your own garden. Marie also offers guided visits to enthusiasts and weekend courses aimed at people planning their own garden layout ■

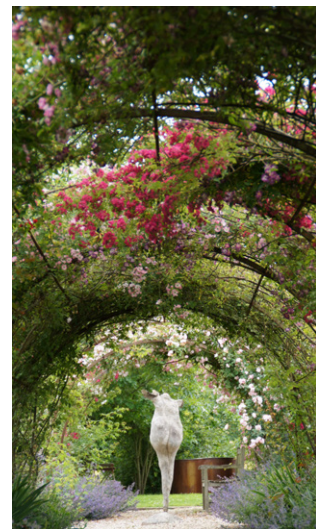
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www.lejardindemarie.com





Jardins du Prieuré Notre Dame d'Orsan

Contemporary gardens with medieval touch

Founded in 1107, the former monastery of Priory of Notre Dame d'Orsan has been painstakingly restored by its current owner, architectural and landscape consultant Patrice Taravella. Nestled in a wood at Maisonnais in the Berry, this listed historic monument is home to a spectacular contemporary garden inspired by plantings from the Middle Ages. Fringed on three sides by the historic priory buildings, this enclosed garden is split into garden rooms and 'cloisters' bordered by tall hedges punctuated with 'windows' that offer viewpoints on the adjacent areas. Wicker gazebos and arbours are covered with climbing plants to provide shade in summer as well as quiet corners to sit and absorb the tranquil setting and fun elements of this inspirational plot. Explore the kitchen garden and orchard, the rose garden and raised beds, and enjoy

a unique horticultural experience that has turned this medieval priory into a place of pilgrimage for 21st century garden-lovers. Guests who chose to stay over in La Maison d'Orsan – part of Relais & Châteaux Hotels – can enjoy the gardens outside public opening hours ■

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www.prieuredorsan.com



Jardin du Plessis Sasnières

Country garden round a lake

Time stands still in this tranquil park belonging to the Henrion family, where lawns and flowerbeds surround a large lake with waterfall. Landscaped in informal English style, this delightful garden is the brainchild of Rosamée Henrion, offering new viewpoints at every turn and with paths leading out from her picturesque family home. Follow the grassy avenues up the gentle wooded hillside to look down on flowers and foliage that change with the passing seasons. Walk along broad paths lined with densely packed borders of roses, tall perennials, and colourful herbaceous plants, and admire the seasonal fruit and veg in the well-stocked kitchen garden. Or just relax by the lake to enjoy the sights and sounds of the garden ■

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Camélia [mé-li-a] n.m.





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Jardins du Château du Rivau

Fairytales come to life

Restoration of the dilapidated Château de Rivau, near Chinon, has been an all-consuming passion for Mr and Mme Laignau. Today the white stone walls and lofty turrets of the chateau personify everyone's idea of a fairytale castle, so there could be no better spot for a selection of magical gardens – a project driven tirelessly by Mme Laignau. Each of the 14 plots evokes the atmosphere of a popular tale, appealing on several levels and offering different perspectives to adults and children, plant lovers and garden novices alike. Feel small in Tom Thumb's garden; walk amongst giant vegetables in the Gargantua Garden; and find your way out of Alice in Wonderland's maze. Fall under the spell of the Love Potions and discover the garden of Princess Rapunzel beneath the castle tower. In true fairytale style, fabulous scented roses (great collection of 450 varieties labelled conservatory of the fragrant rose) spill from arbours and gateways to create a magical garden where fantasy becomes reality. Challenge your perceptions with modern sculptures in the courtyard and don't miss the equestrian films in the former stable block ■



JARDINS DE ROQUELIN,
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+33 (0)6 70 95 37 70

www.lesjardinsderoquelin.com

Les Jardins de Roquelin

The old-fashioned charm of roses

On the outskirts of Meung-sur-Loire, on the Loire-à-Vélo cycle route, Les Jardins de Roquelin have been created by Stéphane Chassine, a rose enthusiast who has transformed a rough field into a traditional cottage-style garden. Roses tumble from trees, spill from pergolas, and pack the flowerbeds in one glorious scented plot which blooms throughout the growing season. Wander the winding paths patrolled by Stéphane's colourful cockerels and discover old-fashioned rose varieties with romantic names such as Cuisse de Nymphe, Guirlande d'Amour, and Aimable Amie. Visitors are welcome to picnic in the garden and you can even take some Roquelin roses home for your own garden – home-grown plants are always on sale in the nursery ■



Parc Floral de La Source - Orléans

Floral oasis in regional capital

There's something for all the family at this 35-hectare park in the centre of Orléans, which takes its name from the Loiret river that bubbles gently to the surface from an underground spring. Children will make straight for the butterfly house, aviary and playground, whilst adults will love the collections of roses, iris and dahlia; the kitchen garden; and woodland areas. Enjoy a different perspective on summer evenings, when the park stays open on designated evenings until 23h for picnics and special entertainment. A floral oasis in the heart of the Loire Valley region's main town ■



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Jardins du Château de Talcy

Fabulous fruits in conservation orchard

With sweeping views over the Beauce plain, the Talcy estate features a large farm complex which was renowned for its fruit production in the 18th century. Restoration of the farm garden and orchard began in 1996 and the garden now includes plums, medlar, and red fruit varieties, many of them emerging from huge banks of colourful flowers. But apple and pears are the focus here, with many old-fashioned varieties cultivated in the orchard and skilfully trained into unusual forms by traditional horticultural methods. A courtyard well, fruit press, dovecot and barns complete the period atmosphere. Lovers of French literature will be captivated by Talcy's associations with love poetry; two daughters of 16th century owners inspired thousands of verses from poets Ronsard and Agrippa d'Aubigné ■



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Jardins Thématiques de l'Abbaye de Thiron Gardais

Modern slant on ancient garden

Located at the edge of the Perche Regional Nature Park, the contemporary plantings of this 4-hectare abbey garden evoke the work of the 12th century Benedictine monks who once worked this land. Follow the clues and signposts along a discovery trail that winds through ten themed plots including a rose garden and floral borders, an orchard terrace and rhododendron corner. The kitchen garden is stocked with annual flowers and traditional vegetables, whilst the Jardin des Simples is an Aladdin's cave of medicinal plants. And don't miss the scented splendour of the Potager des Aromates with its mint and rosemary, lavender and oregano ■

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www.perchethironnais.com



Parc et Jardins du Château de Valmer

Kitchen garden with attitude

In the heart of the Vouvray vineyards, the wide Italian-style terraces of Château de Valmer tumble down the hillside offering new delights at every level. Beneath the fountains, sculptures and flower beds, discover different varieties of fig trees along the north wall and a myriad of different plants in the dry moat. The fabulous walled kitchen garden is composed of four big squares around a central pond, all planted with a mix of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Here owner Alix de Saint-Venant and her team of gardeners are continually propagating the seeds of unusual fruits, wild flowers and forgotten vegetables to create a garden in constant evolution. Seeds are exchanged with gardens in other parts of the world in order to perpetuate species of rare vegetables. The estate vineyard is managed by her son ■



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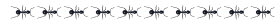


Les Jardins du Château de Villandry

A model for garden design

Last major chateau to be built on the banks of the Loire, Château de Villandry is world famous for its Renaissance-style garden and is one of the horticultural highlights of the Loire Valley. The restoration project was launched in the early 20th century by the Carvallo family and today owner Henri Carvallo continues to enhance and enlarge the garden.

Villandry is all about plant perfection, laid out in geometric shapes with not a plant out of place. Experience the full effect from the high level terrace and the castle tower, then explore at ground level. Wander through the six distinct areas and prepare to be stunned by the immaculate topiary and the symbolic plantings; the decorative vegetable garden; the rose trees; and water gardens. Seasonal plants are replaced every six months to ensure that this feast for the senses is impressive throughout the year. And what's easy on the eye is also easy on the environment – Villandry's kitchen garden is now fully organic, and the whole garden, plus adjacent woods and river bank, is a haven for bird life ■

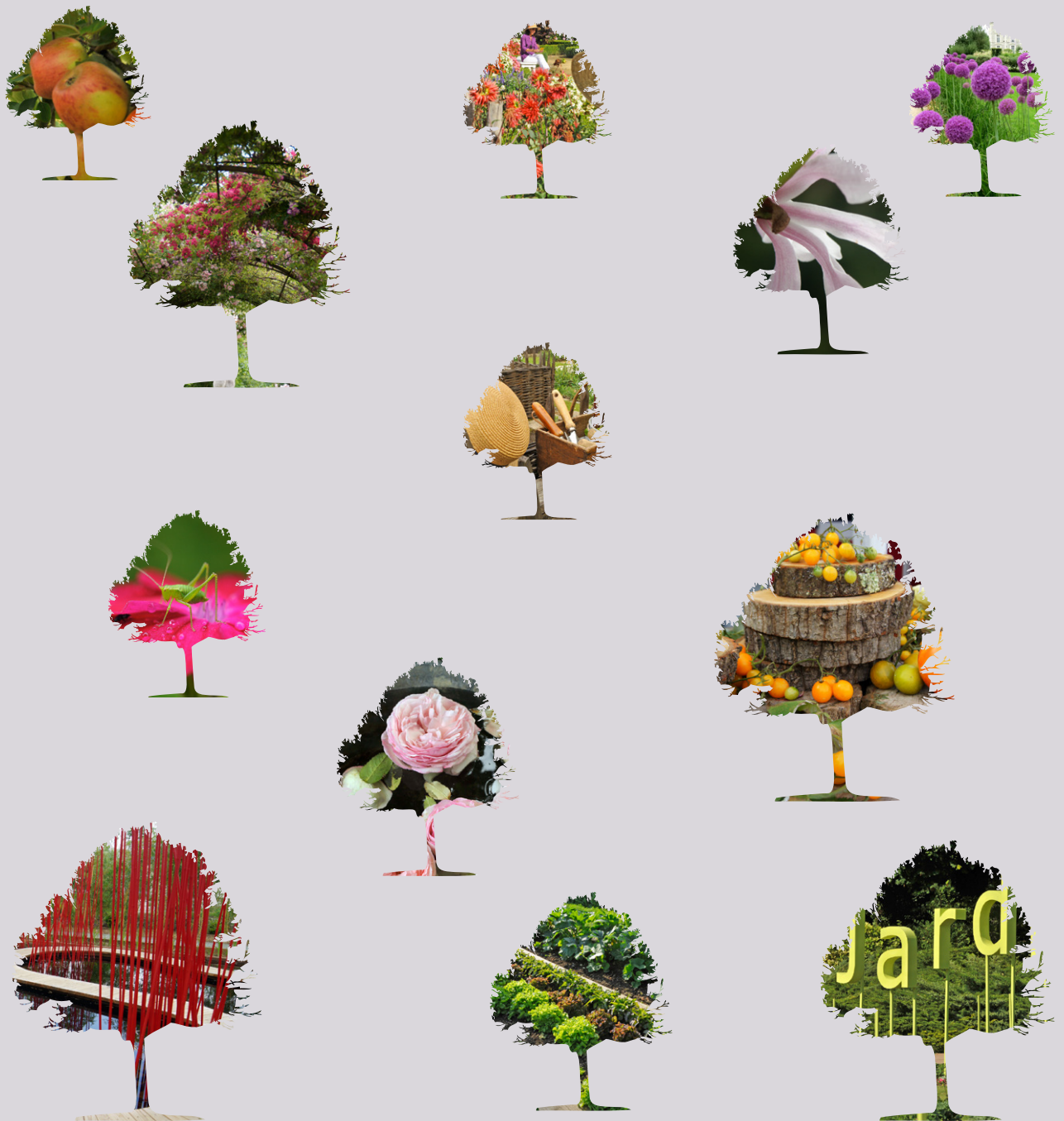


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Photos :

- P. 4 :** Jardins du Château d'Ainay le Vieil : V. Treney - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Parc Floral d'Apremont-sur-Allier : P. Forget - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 5 :** Parc et Jardins du Château d'Azay-le-Ferron : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Arboretum National des Barres - Arbofolia : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, C. Vermillard - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 6 :** Parc et Jardins du Château de Beauregard : beauregard-loire.com; Jardin Médiéval de Bois Richeux : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 7 :** Parc et Jardin du Château de Bouges : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Parc et Jardins du Château de Chamerolles : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, C. Mouton - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 8 :** Pagode de Chanteloup : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, M. Frémont - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Domaine Régional de Chaumont-sur-Loire : C. Mouton - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, V. Treney - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 9 :** Parc et Jardins du Château de Cheverny : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, C. Mouton - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Jardins Artistiques de Drulon : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, I. Mathie - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 10 :** Jardins du Domaine de George Sand : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Parc et Jardins du Château de la Bourdaisière : F. Colin - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, Château de la Bourdaisière
- P. 11 :** Arboretum des Grandes Bruyères : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Le Jardin de Marie : Le Jardin de Marie
- P. 12 :** Jardins du Prieuré Notre Dame d'Orsan : F. Berraldacci - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Jardin du Plessis Sasnières : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 13 :** Jardins du Château du Rivau : V. Treney - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, Château du Rivau - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Les Jardins de Roquelin : M. Jeschke - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, H. Vaningen - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 14 :** Parc Floral de La Source - Orléans : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, I. Mathie - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Jardins du Château de Talcy : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 15 :** Jardins Thématiques de l'Abbaye de Thiron Gardais : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire; Parc et Jardins du Château de Valmer : J. Damase - CRT Centre-Val de Loire
- P. 16 :** Les Jardins du Château de Villandry : I. Mathie - CRT Centre-Val de Loire, Château de Villandry, G. Girard - CRT Centre-Val de Loire.

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