



VAUX-LE-VICOMTE CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

The Magic of Vintage toys

From November 24, 2018 to January 6, 2019



The Magic of vintage toys

In 2018, the Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte will celebrate Christmas with a magnificent themed display for the 13th year running. From November 24, the 17th-century chateau will be decked with thousands of decorations to give visitors the experience of Christmas past. This year the theme is vintage toys, which will delight children and adults alike. The chateau, its courtyards, outbuildings and immaculate French gardens will be transformed into a wonder world, where twinkling lights and animations will enchant the entire family.

Dates

**NEW! Opening hours: November 24 - December 23: Wednesday to Sunday
December 23-January 6: daily, except Christmas day and New Year's Day**

Vaux-le-Vicomte was created by three of the greatest French designers of the 1600s, brought together by **Nicolas Fouquet, who was Louis XIV's Superintendent of Finance**. The three were the landscape gardener André Le Nôtre, the architect Louis Le Vau and the interior decorator Charles Le Brun. Their collaborative genius resulted in an estate of such majestic symmetry that it became **the inspiration for the Chateaux of Versailles and for stately homes all over Europe for centuries**.

Today, Vaux-le-Vicomte is the **biggest private property in France classified as a historical monument**. It is owned by the Vogüé family, who first opened it to the public 50 years ago, and it is now managed by three brothers, Ascanio, Jean-Charles and Alexandre de Vogüé.

Vaux-le-Vicomte is particularly renowned for the events it puts on throughout the year. In the summer there are candlelit evenings every Saturday, as well as an annual "Grand Siècle" Day, when everyone dresses in the costumes of the 17th-century royal French court. But above all it has become famous for its **Christmas festivities**. The decorative splendour attracted 67,000 visitors in 2017, a rise of 15% on the previous year, and every year this unique experience draws more and more people both from France and abroad. **It is now considered to be one of the unmissable experiences of Christmas in France.**

Vaux-le-Vicomte celebrates Christmas key figures

- **150** Christmas trees
- **10 000** decoration objects
- **12 000** PAPO gifts offered to children over 3
- **10 000** FOSSIER gingerbreads offered to children over 6
- **4 000** meters of Christmas garlands
- A **10m-high hot air balloon** in the Grand Salon
- A **3,5m-high luminous angel**
- A **5m-high illuminated squirrel**

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The fantastic world of toys

From the first moment you arrive, you will be plunged into a universe of **splendid Christmas display windows** at the Musée des Équipages, the kind that—when our parents and grandparents were young—lit up department stores as the holidays approached. Trains, sleds and wooden trucks shimmer under golden garlands of lights and Christmas trees, while a display of **authentic miniature trains from 1900 extends over more than 20m²!**

In the Cour des Équipages, an unusual, fun photo stand, amusing donkeys—ready to be petted—a kiosk of **sweet Christmas specialties**, complete this prelude to your discovery of the château.

On the way, you'll find trees, presents and garlands of lights decorating the Cour d'Honneur and the facade of Nicolas Fouquet's Palace, plunging you into a world of wonder, surrounded by toys from Christmases past.

(C) Collectif Image - 2017



Palace of toys

In the château, one reception room comes after the other, each one more exquisite than the last! In each room on the ground floor, there is a different world to discover with its own décors, ambiances and fragrances: **a marionette theater, snow-covered Christmas trees and stuffed bears, reconstitutions of a family Christmas Eve and Christmas morning and a wonderland of toys** for the delight of all children, large or small!

With our partners Histoire d'Ours, Villeroy & Boch and Thévenon, the staff of the estate have prepared an **intoxicatingly fabulous visit** to sumptuous banquets and Christmas trees studded with adorable stuffed animals...

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The Grand Salon, principal room of the Château, is surely the most impressively decorated for the Christmas festivities at Vaux-le-Vicomte. This year, **a 10-meter-high, hot-air balloon** floats in decorative majesty above a fairyland forest—for your delight and admiration!

The kitchens, too, will be the focus of the visit for every sweet tooth, its tables piled with **chocolate, macaroons and cakes** beautifully trimmed for the occasion by Frédéric Cas-sel, pastry chef for Relais Desserts.

After all these delicious delights, children over 6 will each be able to go home with a piece of Christmas spice bread, provided by Maison Fossier!

Throughout the château, fires will blaze in the fireplaces, as the smells of Christmas (cinnamon, honey, orange, etc.) complete the timelessness of this magic moment.

(C) Franklin Lecointre - 2017



A fairyland of illumination in the garden

In 2018, the château will surpass itself, displaying even more decorations and lights in the jardins à la française than ever before!

Illuminating woodland groves and the basin, more than 60 giant lantern-toys mark the path to follow, accompanying you on an enchanted discovery of the gardens, day or night. At the end of the lamp-lit pathway, children from ages 3 to 12 will receive a **PAPO surprise gift**, to prolong this magic day with a souvenir to take home.

The youngest of our visitors will have a chance to win one of the 2 two cuddly toy rabbits offered each day by Doudou & Compagnie.

To extend this marvelous adventure, linger on in the gardens, this time visiting them by **horse-driven carriage!** (*additional charge*)

At nightfall, the gardens light up, their boxwood and topiaries glittering by the light of thousands of strings of lights, under the watchful gaze of a giant (five-meters high!) squirrel, emblem of the first owner of the estate, Nicolas Fouquet.

(C) Conseil Départemental de la Moselle



A caring Christmas

In 2018, Vaux-le-Vicomte joins the Croix Rouge to help all children enjoy a Merry Christmas: during the holiday period, children are invited to bring a toy or other present, leaving it at the entrance to the Musée des Équipages. These gifts will be collected by the Croix Rouge de Seine et Marne, wrapped, and given to underprivileged children and their families, invited by the estate on Sunday, January 6 to enjoy their own special moment of magic!

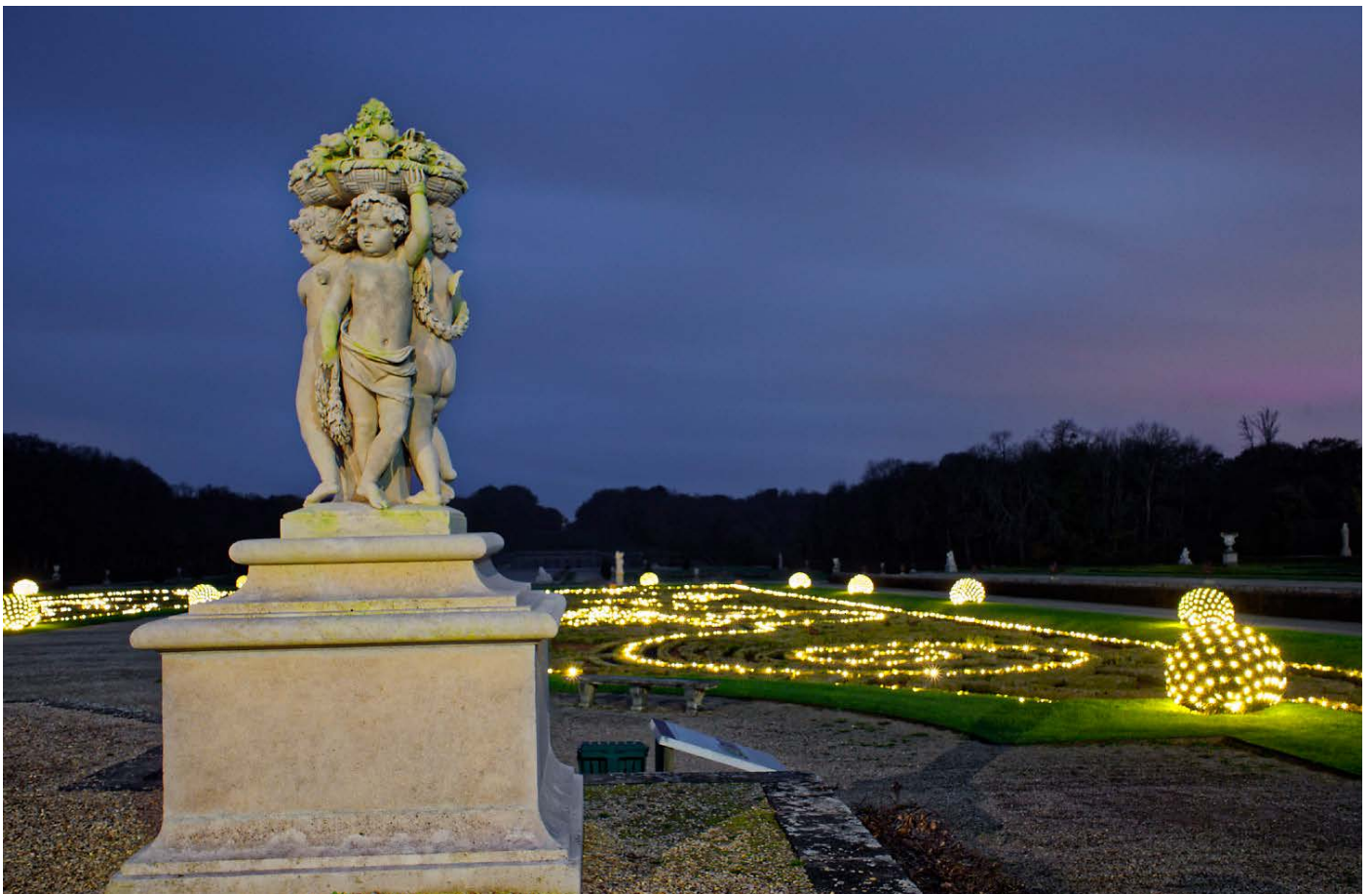
Visit during the week before school vacation: a great idea

NEW: Vaux-le-Vicomte opens during the week (Wednesday to Friday) before December 22. To celebrate these new opening hours, the château will offer **free costume rental to all children** under the age of 18 who visit during the week (Wednesday to Friday) from November 28 to December 21!

After Christmas, Twelfth Night

From 2 to 6 January 2019, Vaux-le-Vicomte invites you to celebrate the Festival of the Magi. **All children will receive a piece of *couronne des rois briochée*** (Three-Kings Brioche) furnished by Pasquier, with the chance of being **crowned King or Queen** if they find the favor hidden inside!

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Press contacts

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Useful information

Chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte, 77950 Maincy www.vaux-le-vicomte.com
Coming from Paris: By train from the Gare de l'Est (50 minutes), then shuttle bus
www.vaux-le-vicomte.com

Dates and opening hours

24 November-23 December: Wednesday to Sunday, 11 AM to 5.45 PM
(6.45 PM on Saturdays and Sundays)

24 December to 6 January : Daily, 11 AM to 6.45 PM
(closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day)

Please note that on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve the last entry is at 4.45 PM

Tarifs

Chateau and exhibitions: Adults (over 18): €19.50

Children (6-17 years): €13.50 Free for children under 6


Gardens only: €15. Supplement for horse-drawn carriage rides

Online booking on:

www.vaux-le-vicomte.com/en/vaux-le-vicomte-celebrate-christmas



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