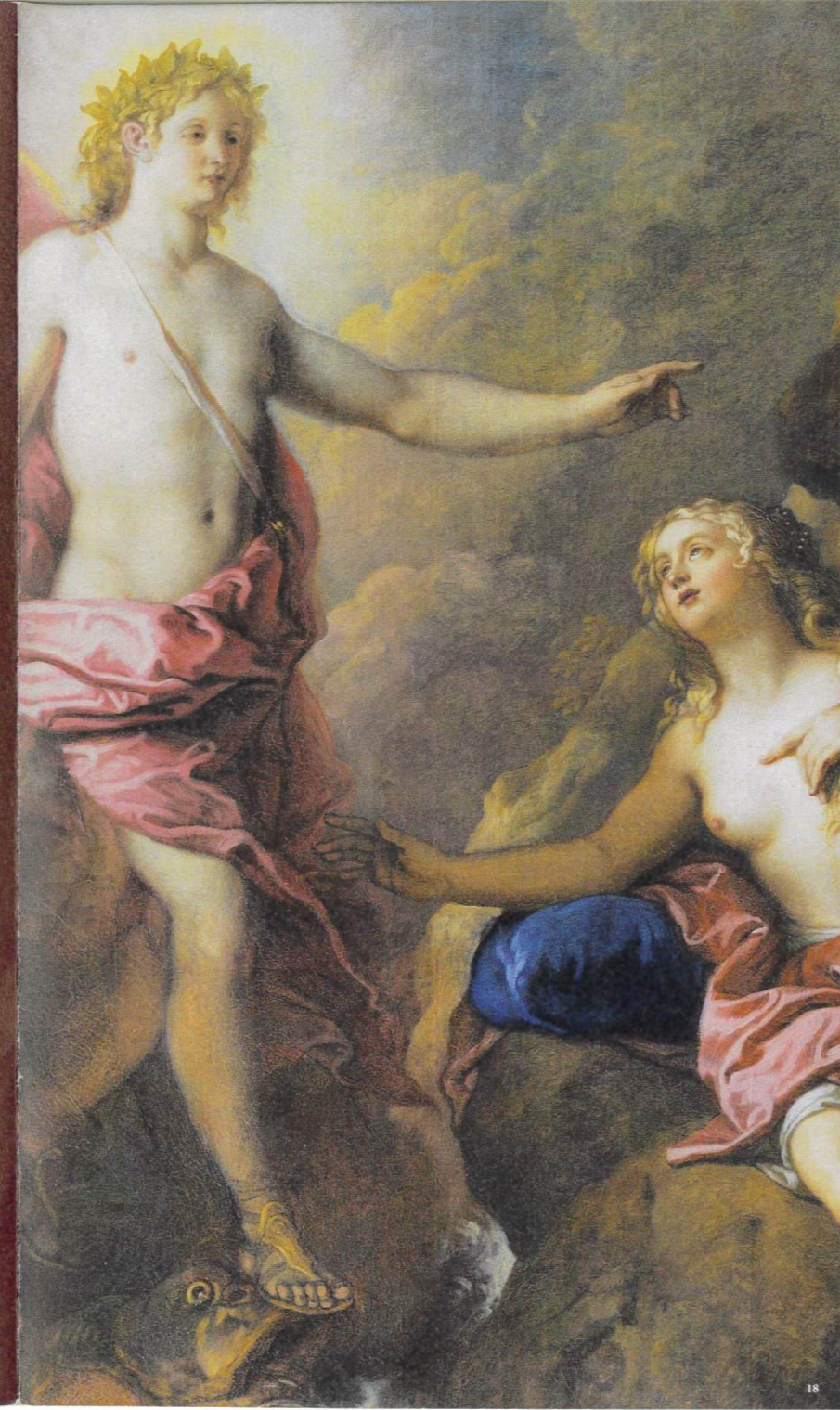


THE GRAND TRIANON WAS BUILT BY JULES HARDOUIN-MANSART IN 1687 ON THE LOCATION OF THE "PORCELAIN TRIANON" THAT LOUIS XIV HAD BUILT FOR HIM IN 1670 TO ESCAPE FROM THE POMP AND CEREMONY OF THE COURT AND BE THE SETTING OF HIS LOVE AFFAIR WITH MADAME DE MONTESPAN. THE GRAND TRIANON IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST REFINED SET OF BUILDINGS OF ALL THE ESTATE OF VERSAILLES: "A SMALL PALACE OF PINK MARBLE AND PORPHYRY WITH DELICIOUS GARDENS" ACCORDING TO THE DESCRIPTION BY JULES HARDOUIN-MANSART (WHO FOLLOWED TO THE LETTER THE INDICATIONS GIVEN BY LOUIS XIV WHO WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN ITS CONSTRUCTION). ONE CANNOT HELP BUT FALL UNDER THE CHARM OF THIS BUILDING WITH ITS ELEGANT PROPORTIONS IMBUE WITH INTIMACY, GENTLENESS AND GRANDEUR. HIGHLY INFLUENCED BY ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE, THIS PALACE IS BUILT ON A SINGLE LEVEL BETWEEN THE COURTYARD AND THE GARDEN, COVERED WITH A FLAT ROOF DISSIMULATED BY A BALUSTRADE THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY ADORNED WITH GROUPS OF CHILDREN, VASES AND SCULPTED FIGURES.

FAMED FOR ITS FRENCH FORMAL GARDENS DESIGNED IN GEOMETRICAL PATTERNS, "FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF FLOWERS, ORANGE TREES AND GREEN SHRUBS," REPORTS FELIBIEN, THE "MARBLE TRIANON" WAS SURROUNDED BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HARDY AND TUBEROUS PLANTS. PLANTED IN POTS SO THAT THEY COULD BE CHANGED EVERY DAY AND THUS CREATE A COLOURFUL AND SCENTED SPECTACLE, THESE PLANTS PROVIDE A LIVING SETTING THAT ENLIVENS TO PERFECTION THIS ARCHITECTURE TOTALLY OPENING ON THE GARDENS. OCCUPIED BY LOUIS XIV WHO ACCOMMODATED HERE HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, THE DUCHESSE DE BOURGOGNE, THE MOTHER OF LOUIS XV, HIS SISTER-IN-LAW, THE PRINCESS PALATINE, AND HIS DAUGHTER THE DUCHESSE DE BOURBON, THE GRAND TRIANON WAS LATER APPRECIATED BY MARIE LESZCZINSKA WHO LIVED HERE IN THE SUMMER. LOUIS XV HAD HIS SMALL APARTMENTS FITTED OUT HERE WHICH HE SOON LEFT WHEN THE PETIT TRIANON WAS BUILT.

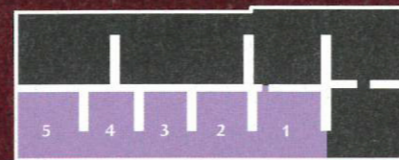
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, AFTER ORGANISING ITS RESTORATION, STAYED HERE NUMEROUS TIMES WITH HIS WIFE THE EMPRESS MARIE-LOUISE, AS DID KING LOUIS-PHILIPPE WHO HOUSED HIS LARGE FAMILY HERE FROM 1837 ON. IN 1963, GENERAL DE GAULLE TOOK THE INITIATIVE OF RESTORING ITS ROOMS TO HOST THE GUESTS OF THE REPUBLIC AND ORGANISED IN THE NORTH WING KNOWN AS THE "TRIANON-SOUS-BOIS", A RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. AS FELIBIEN WROTE: "THE GRACES AND CUPIDS FORMED WHAT IS MOST PERFECT IN THE FINEST AND MOST MAGNIFICENT WORKS OF ART." AS THE ORIGINAL FURNITURE OF TRIANON WAS DISPERSED DURING THE REVOLUTION, THE CURRENT FURNITURE IS FIRST EMPIRE, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS. BUT THE PAINTINGS ARE THOSE OF THE COMMISSION OF 1688.



GUIDED TOURS



SMALL APARTMENTS OF THE EMPEROR



- 1 SECRETARY OFFICE
- 2 THE EMPEROR'S PRIVATE OFFICE
- 3 THE EMPEROR'S BATHROOM
- 4 THE EMPEROR'S BEDROOM
- 5 LUNCH ROOM

Guided tours without reservation (information at the Grand Trianon reception desk)

TRIANON-SOUS-BOIS



- 1 CHAPEL
- 2 GENERAL DE GAULLE'S OFFICE

Guided tours without reservation (information at the Grand Trianon reception desk)

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- 1 NATURE AND MYTHOLOGY IN THE PAINTINGS
- 2 FROM LOUIS XIV TO NAPOLEON I
- 3 A DAY IN THE EMPEROR'S LIFE
- 4 THE IMPERIAL FURNITURE
- 5 PAINTINGS IN THE GRAND TRIANON: "THE COTELLE GALLERY"
- 6 TRIANON-SOUS-BOIS
- 7 THE SMALL APARTMENTS

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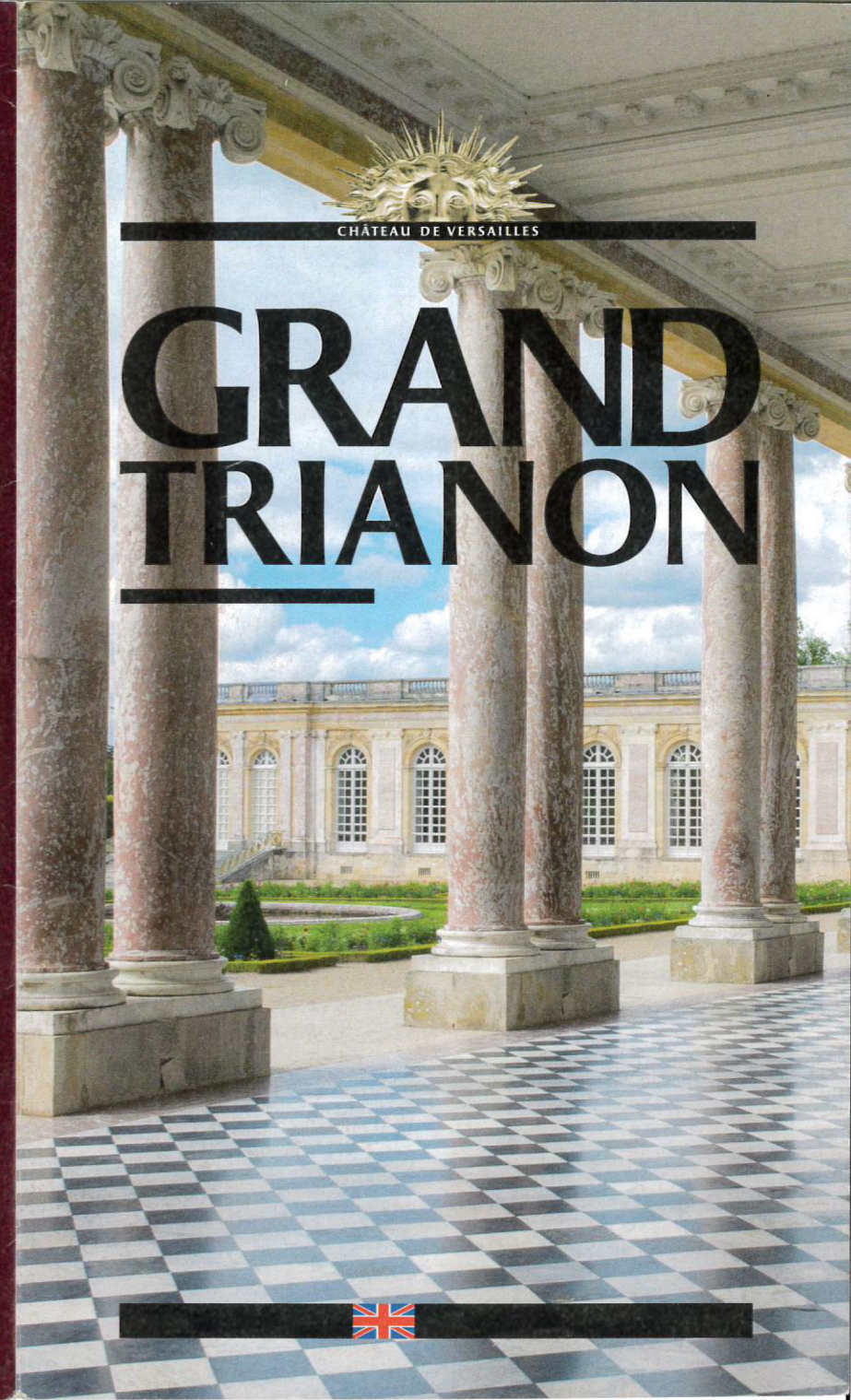


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CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

GRAND TRIANON





LEFT WING

The **Boudoir of the Empress** was previously that of Madame Mère, Napoleon's mother. It was later included in the apartment of Louis-Philippe.

With its view over the Grand Canal and its splendid mirrors, the **Mirrors Salon** is the finest room in the Left Wing. It was the last room of the apartment that Louis XIV occupied in this part of the palace from 1692 to 1703, where his Council met. Like most of the rooms of Trianon, it has kept its original decoration but not its furniture, sold off during the Revolution and replaced by furniture made by Jacob-Desmalter in Napoleon's time. From 1810 to 1814 it was used as the grand cabinet of the empress Marie-Louise, grand-niece of Marie-Antoinette.

The former bedroom of Louis XIV, the **bedroom of the empress Marie-Louise** has retained its decor characterised by the presence of Corinthian columns dividing up the room and by its admirably carved wood panelling. During the Empire, it was divided up to form a smaller bedroom and drawing-room for the Empress. The furniture by Marcion dates from this period. The only exception is the bed which was Napoleon's in the Tuileries and in which his successor Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI, died in 1824. The painting by Le Brun, *Saint John on Patmos*, decorates the drawing-room.



The **Lords Antechamber**, which has retained its original rectangular windows, belonged to the second apartment of Louis XIV. A Guards Room, it has kept its royal red marble fireplace surmounted by a sculpted helmet and weapons. It later became a dining room, also called the Ushers Salon. The large table by Rémond supports a tray carved from a single piece of wood. Paintings by Verdier and Houasse decorate the walls.

The **Chapel Salon**, transformed into an antechamber in 1692 when Louis XIV moved into this part of the palace, continued to keep its original function: the rear doors opened on a recess housing an altar; after the mass, the doors were closed again. The decor recalls this use: the cornice with alternating bunches of grapes and ears of wheat evokes the Eucharistic wine and bread, and paintings depict the Evangelists *Saint Mark* and *Saint Luke*. The portraits of *Louis XV* and *Marie Leszczynska* recall the Queen's stays in Trianon.

RIGHT WING

The **Round Salon** was an antechamber to the first apartment of Louis XIV (from 1688 to 1691). Its decor of Corinthian columns and the paintings date from this period. On the right of the fireplace, a revolving wood-panelled door hid a recess where Louis XV installed a chapel, and it still dissimulates a staircase used by the musicians to go up to the gallery in the following room where the King's supper was served.

A door opens on to the 3rd apartment of Louis XIV, which used to be a theatre, destroyed in 1703, where Lully's music was played. The present apartment contains the **Emperor's Family Drawing-Room**, formerly the Games Room of Louis XV. The mantelpiece holds a bust of the empress Marie-Louise.

The **bedroom of the Queen of Belgians** was fitted out to replace the 3rd bedroom of Louis XIV for Louise-Marie, daughter of king Louis-Philippe. The former furniture of the empress Josephine in the Tuileries, its bed and the seats of its large salon made by Jacob-Desmalter, was then covered in red silk. Beyond it, the former cabinet of Louis XIV houses the furniture of queen Marie-Amélie.



The **Music Room** is the former antechamber of the first apartment of Louis XIV, where his supper was served. The wood panelling is among the oldest of the palace, and you will notice over the doors the shutters of the galleries where the musicians played during the meal. Napoleon made this room into an Officers Room, and Louis-Philippe had it fitted out as a billiards room for his sons.

In 1838, Louis-Philippe formed the **Family Drawing-Room** by merging two rooms: the Senior Officers Room and the Princes of the Emperor Room (1st antechamber of Louis XIV). The paintings are by Bon de Boulogne and François Verdier; the furniture is by Brion. The family tables, in whose drawers the princesses could store their needlework, are by Jacob-Desmalter.

The **Malachite Salon** is the largest room of the palace. It was the evening office of Louis XIV, the bedroom of the Duchesse de Bourgogne and then the Grand Salon of the Emperor. The three paintings by Charles de la Fosse, *Apollo and Thetis*, *Diana and her Nymphs*, and *Clytia Changed into a Sunflower* are the masterpieces of Trianon.

The furniture is by Jacob-Desmalter. A set of furniture carved from malachite from the Urals, a gift of tsar Alexander I of Russia to Napoleon, was placed here in 1811 and gave its name to the room.



The **Cool Salon** got its name from its northern exposure. It was used as the Council Room of Napoleon, and Charles X held his last council here in 1830. The wood panelling dates from the time of Louis XIV. The painting over the fireplace, *Zephyr and Flora*, is by Jean Jouvenet. The walls are decorated with four views of Versailles by Jean-Baptiste Martin.



Originally, the **Emperor's Topographical Office** opened on the Sources Grove, a small grove with streams winding between the trees, the last creation of Le Nôtre which was eliminated in the reign of Louis XVI. It then led to the apartment of Madame de Maintenon and its wood panels dating from 1713 framed views of the gardens of Versailles showing the old Louis XIV going about in his "chariot". In 1810, Napoleon made this room his library and used the adjoining rooms as his small apartment.

1. Boudoir of the Empress with her weaving loom by Maigret
2. Mirrors Salon
3. Bedroom of the Empress
4. Music Room
5. Emperor's Family Drawing-Room
6. Bust of the Empress Marie-Louise by Giacomo Spalla (1776-1834), Italian sculptor
7. Marble slabs of the Round Salon, re-laid during the restoration of the palace by General de Gaulle
8. Bronze decoration of the Billiards Room
9. Bedroom of the Queen of Belgians
10. Malachite Salon
11. Numbered drawer of the family table by Jacob-Desmalter (1770-1841)
12. Cool Salon with the Emperor's document cabinet
13. The Emperor's Topographical Office with Napoleon's desk
14. Cotelle Gallery
15. Gardens Salon
16. Office of General de Gaulle
17. The Emperor's bedroom in the small apartments
18. *Apollo and Thetis* by Charles de la Fosse (1636-1716), French painter



Rightly built to shelter the parterres of Trianon from the rigours of winter, the **Cotelle Gallery** has eleven "French" windows along the southern side, and just five on the northern side. It is decorated with twenty-four paintings (twenty-one by Jean Cotelle) which depict the groves of Versailles and Trianon when they were commissioned in 1687, precious witnesses to the state of the gardens in the 17th century. The niches originally held sofas, and Louis-Philippe placed here the two coolers in Languedoc marble from the buffets stands of Louis XV. After the First World War, it was here on 4 June 1920 that the peace treaty with Hungary was signed.

The **Gardens Salon** replaced the Perfumes Cabinet of the Porcelain Trianon. The furniture, taken from the Tuileries, was used by General de Gaulle for prestigious receptions.

MAP



TRIANON-SOUS-BOIS

