

Château de Fontainebleau

1821-2021: bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I
Cultural programme





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FONTAINEBLEAU

A JOURNEY IN THE HEART OF HISTORY

Fontainebleau, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the only palace in which every French sovereign from the 12th to the 19th century resided. A new, exclusive experience awaits visitors wishing to follow in their footsteps.

The Château de Fontainebleau is unparalleled in France. Its complex architecture and diverse settings bear witness to the different eras and the tastes of the various rulers who lived there. The journey in the heart of history includes strolling through the galleries, admiring the Renaissance frescoes and stuccoes, taking a walk through the king's or queen's row of apartments and entering the solemn Throne Room.

Every room has echoes of the memory of the rulers and their court. Following in the footsteps of François I, Henri IV, Louis XIII and Louis XV, Napoleon I wished to leave his own mark in Fontainebleau by restoring the château in the aftermath of the Revolution. His apartments and the museum dedicated to him are priceless testimonies of the imperial era. Fontainebleau simultaneously shows Renaissance masterpieces, Marie-Antoinette's refined interiors, Napoleon I's ceremonial apartment and the "comfortable" furnishings ordered by Napoleon III and Eugénie.

These monarchs were also aesthetes and they commissioned the greatest artists of their time to shape the palace to accommodate family life, court life and the exercise of power. The visits of the Sun King, the royal wedding of Louis XV and Napoleon I's iconic Farewell to the Guard on the Horseshoe Staircase are all brought back to life. One can also picture the balls in the era of Catherine de Medici, Marie-Antoinette's walks in the gardens designed by Le Nôtre, the fireworks displays on the Etang aux Carpes (Carp pond) and the water jousting on the Grand Canal.

Napoleon said that Fontainebleau was the "true home of kings". The palace, like no other, embodies both pleasure and power, intimacy and politics. Walking through the galleries and gardens, visitors can see eight hundred years of art and history unfold in front of them in one day.

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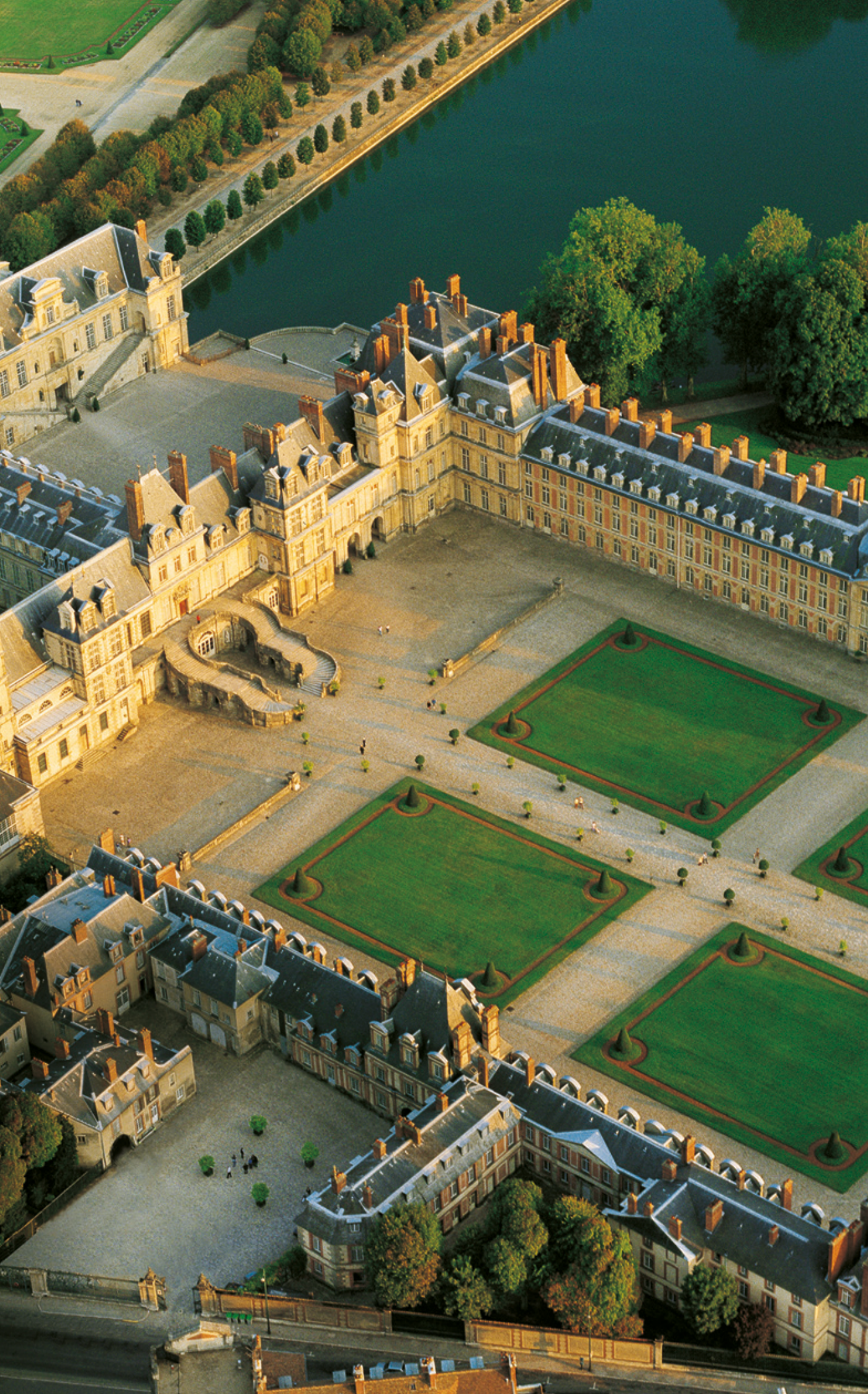
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2021: FONTAINEBLEAU COMMEMORATES THE BICENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF NAPOLEON I

Napoleon I brought Fontainebleau back to life after the French Revolution. When visiting the palace, which he restored, furnished and inhabited, one could even say invested, we learn about the statesman, the warlord, the head of household and the promoter of the arts. Fontainebleau is a key stage in the Napoleonic epic, which is highlighted by the 2021 bicentenary.

On the eve of his coronation in 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte chose the Château de Fontainebleau as one of his residences. He ordered the renovation of the palace to accommodate Pope Pius VII who had come to crown him: the palace was refurbished in just nineteen days. He would continue restoring the jewel of the Crown's possessions until the end of his reign. By taking up residence in Fontainebleau, Napoleon, a former artillery lieutenant who had reached the pinnacle of power, wished to follow in the footsteps of the monarchs before him. He saw the huge mansion as a key place for establishing his legitimacy. He redesigned the gardens, luxuriously refurbished the Grands Appartements, and re-established the etiquette of monarchical life. The former King's bedroom was turned into the Throne Room, with imperial symbols and emblems of the monarchy now standing side by side. The Emperor's private life and that of his two wives is unveiled in the Petits Appartements on the ground floor. It was here that Josephine, who couldn't give him an heir, learned about the inevitable separation. After her, Marie-Louise, who was pregnant with the future king of Rome, would wander in them. We can also encounter the tireless worker in Fontainebleau. Napoleon I was constantly busy with the administration of the Empire. His office can still be seen in the Interior flat, not far from the Salon Rouge, where he would sign his abdication in April 1814, before bidding his famous farewell to the Guard at the foot of the Horseshoe Staircase.

Nowadays, the Château de Fontainebleau also houses a museum dedicated to Napoleon I. The Coronation sword and tunic, the Emperor's famous bicorne hat, his campaign furniture and the cradle of the King of Rome are among the most significant items on display. Room after room, members of his family, dignitaries and officers of the Empire are depicted in portraits, busts and objets d'art. These were the figures to whom Napoleon distributed the thrones or entrusted the administration of the kingdoms in Europe. Over 700 works, most of which were commissioned to serve the Emperor's political project, tell the dazzling Napoleonic epic.

As part of the bicentenary, the year 2021 will feature a number of highlights: living history performances, a temporary exhibition called "Un Palais pour l'Empereur. Napoléon Ier à Fontainebleau" ("A Palace for the Emperor. Napoleon I at Fontainebleau"), as well as educational visits in the visitor circuit and outdoors. There will be specific focus on a number of outstanding items which belonged to the Emperor. Finally, the Napoleon Museum will be unveiling a great number of recent, major and previously unseen acquisitions.

NAPOLEON'S FOOTPRINT IN FONTAINEBLEAU

Nowadays, visitors of the Château de Fontainebleau can view the long rows of salons, the galleries, chapels and apartments, almost all of which are shown in their "last known historical state", that of the 1860s.

For obvious reasons, in order to remain consistent, "the home of the kings" - and of the two emperors - is mostly shown as it was at the fall of the Second Empire. It does not showcase the eras that followed, and notably the changes made during the Third Republic and President Sadi Carnot's many visits. As for the sovereigns' Grands Appartements, looking out over Diana's garden, and Napoleon I's Interior Apartment, which is an extension of the Grands Appartements, they have been restored to their First Empire configuration. This was thought out between the 1960s and the 1990s and the choice was made to convey the imperial saga which came to a tragic end with the Farewell scene at the foot of the Horseshoe Staircase. It is also the most documented historical state, with Lyons silks and large hangings which could be faithfully rewoven, as part of the planning act voted on the initiative of André Malraux.

THE SOVEREIGNS' GRANDS APPARTEMENTS

On the first floor of the palace, the official apartments of the Ancien Régime retained the same function during the Empire, the public exercise of power. Marie-Antoinette's Grand Appartement was taken over by Josephine, followed by Marie-Louise. Most of the decorations dated from the end of the 1780s, so the neo- classical style was still up to date and, with a few adjustments to the furnishings, would be retained by the new sovereign wives. The King's Grand Appartement, with its decoration mainly dating from the reign of Louis XV, underwent some changes in the allocation of each of the rooms: the Grand Cabinet would become the Council Chamber and, in 1808, the King's bedroom would be converted into the Throne Room. Napoleon I would therefore be moving in Louis XVI's Interior Apartment, which was set out in the row of the new wing built in 1785-1786 on the reverse side of the François I gallery.

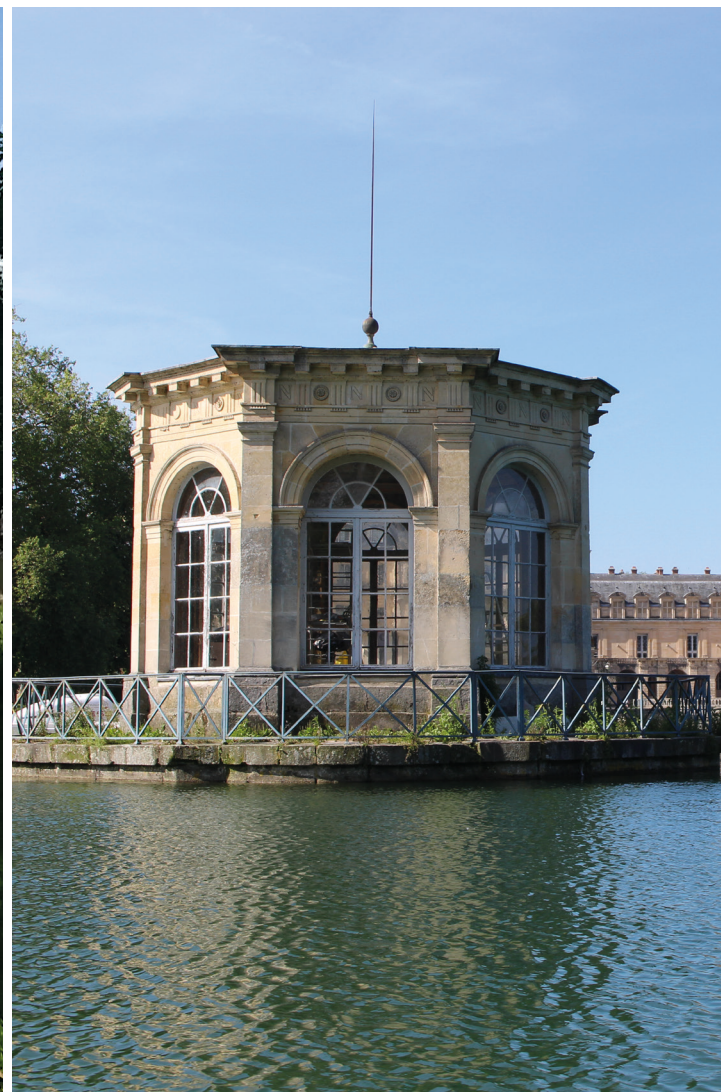
NAPOLEON I'S INTERIOR APARTMENT

The seven-room apartment, which communicated with the Council's cabinet, was made up of an antechamber, an aide-de-camp's common room, a bathroom, a passage to the bath-house, a private room (which has since been named the Abdication room), a study or small bedroom and the Emperor's bedroom. The neo- classical style chosen for Louis XVI was complemented by the decorative additions brought by architect Pierre Fontaine. Through internal passages, the apartment communicates with the Petits Appartements and the Emperor's offices, which are located on the ground floor.

THE PETITS APPARTEMENTS (SMALL APARTMENTS)

The Petits Appartements have been on the ground floor of the wing of the François I gallery since the reign of Louis XV, and they are located on the site of the former Appartement des Bains of François I, which was created in the 1530s. The gradual extension of the private offices of the Well-beloved (the nickname of Louis XV) led to the installation of two separate apartments for Napoleon and Josephine during the Empire.





They would finally extend into three parts of the building, opening onto Diana's garden and on the Fountain's courtyard. Under the Ancien Régime, the Petits Appartements were the sovereigns' actual living spaces. They would go there whenever the court ceremonial allowed them to do so, i.e. outside the daily time reserved for royal representation and the various ceremonies (the lever, the coucher...) which were dictated by etiquette. At Fontainebleau, these apartments were particularly significant as they were a formal delimitation of the private space into which the sovereigns could withdraw, with the journey to Fontainebleau already representing a break from the royal ceremonial as it unfolded in Versailles. The Petits Appartements would fulfill the same function during the Empire, except that Napoleon I also set up the offices of his secretariat there.

THE COUR DES ADIEUX (THE FAREWELL COURT)

Previously a poultry yard under François I, the Cour du Cheval-Blanc became the main entrance to the Château de Fontainebleau from the reign of Louis XV onwards. Napoleon began to carry out development works which had been planned as early as the 18th century. The desire to open the courtyard, which was to become a court of honour, onto the town led to the destruction of the Renaissance west wing in 1808. An urban project was also planning to create a monumental square served by a network of converging avenues. Only the gate, which was the work of architect Maximilien-Joseph Hurtault, locksmith Mignon and gilder Chaise, came to life in 1810. The famous Farewell to the Guard, staged at the foot of the Horseshoe Staircase on 20th April 1814, earned it its lasting name of "Cour des Adieux" (Farewell Court).

THE "PICTURESQUE" GARDEN, KNOWN AS THE ENGLISH GARDEN

Although he was not particularly fond of English gardens, Napoleon agreed to have a garden designed by his architect at the south end of the Louis XV wing, in keeping with the fashion of the time. The same Maximilien-Joseph Hurtault was therefore in charge of designing all the "petits jardins" ("small gardens"), including the one which replaced the famous Pine Garden of Francis I. The works and plantations were carried out between 1810 and 1812. The numerous tree species (Virginia cedars, spruces, maples, plane trees, Italian poplars, lime trees...) came from the nurseries of the Châteaux de Versailles, Saint-Cloud and the neighbouring Château de La Rochette. As for the installations, apart from a few copies of ancient statues (the Borghese Gladiator, the Dying Gladiator, Telemachus sitting on the Island of Ogygia) and the digging of a river, the follies were never built.

THE POND PAVILION

The octagonal pavilion was built in 1662 by Louis Le Vau, dating back to the works on the Grand Parterre ordered by Louis XIV, and was restored and partially rebuilt by Napoleon in 1807 and 1810-1811. The interior decoration was executed by Simon-Frédéric Moench.

THE NAPOLEON I MUSEUM BUILDS ITS FUTURE

The Napoleon I Museum was set up in 1986 in the Louis XV wing of the palace, in place of the former princely apartments. The collections notably come from donations and donations in lieu by Prince and Princess Napoleon in 1979, completed in 1988. The exceptional collection compiled in Fontainebleau features portraits on paintings and sculptures, weapons, objets d'art and graphic creations, retracing the dazzling journey of the Emperor and his family. It shows how the arts were used to convey splendour during the First Empire.

The Napoleon I Museum is organised along historical lines:

- ◆ Napoleon, Emperor of the French and King of Italy
- ◆ The splendour of the imperial table
- ◆ Order and prosperity. Paris, the capital of luxury and France as a role model for Europe
- ◆ The Emperor's campaigns
- ◆ Napoleon, epicentre of his own system. The human machinery and moral face of the imperial engine
- ◆ Marie-Louise, second empress of the French
- ◆ The King of Rome. Imperial palaces for a long-awaited heir
- ◆ The King of Rome. The French childhood of the hopes of the dynasty
- ◆ Farewells and exiles. In the wake of the Empire

2021: THE NAPOLEON I MUSEUM WELCOMES PRESTIGIOUS NEW COLLECTIONS

The Napoleon I Museum was redesigned in 2018 in order to incorporate the hundred or so works acquired or donated in previous years as well as the first acquisitions following the public subscription "Des Sèvres pour Fontainebleau" (a public subscription launched in order to acquire a collection of porcelains).

In 2021, the museum will again be redesigned in order to show new items as from May 2021.

Converging efforts and generosity

The palace will benefit from Princess Napoleon renouncing her usufruct over two major works that were part of the founding donation in lieu of 1979. In addition, remarkable furniture and objets d'art dating from the First Empire will be joining Fontainebleau, thanks to an unprecedented partnership with the Mobilier national. Finally, the Napoleon I Museum will be displaying a new series of works, 7 of which were acquired (including 6 by State preemption) and 24 of which have been donated since 2018. These acquisitions and gifts will either be dispatched along the visitor circuit according to their thematic relevance, adding new touches to 5 of the rooms, or grouped together in a "Generosity" showcase set up for this purpose. Among these gifts is a collection of porcelains from the manufactures of Berlin, Vienna and Naples.

An exceptional family donation

The descendants of a general from the Empire, endowed with historical awareness and anxious to preserve the memory of their ancestor, have generously decided to offer historical objects of family origin to the Napoleon I Museum.

Ce fonds cohérent reflète la trajectoire biographique d'un homme This cohesive collection reflects the biographical trajectory of a volunteer serviceman who became a brigadier general, reveals the meritocracy promoted during the Empire and features a European aspect (with a sword linked to the Prussian campaign of 1806, a painting linked to the Austrian campaign of 1809, decorations from Germanic orders received on this occasion, silver tableware collected in Spain and then completed by orders in France) and raises the question of the "aftermath of the Empire".

The two museum reorganisations in 2018 and 2021, and the constant efforts from the Château to enrich its Napoleonic collections, are part of a project to completely redeploy the Napoleon I museum on two floors by 2030.

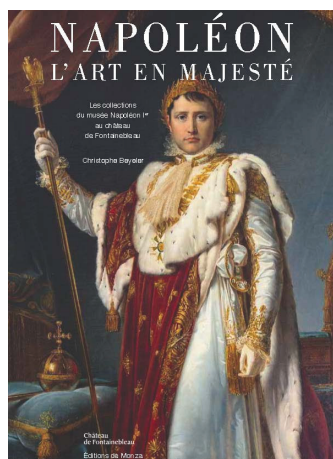
TOWARDS A NEW NAPOLEON MUSEUM

As part of the master plan for the renovation of the Château de Fontainebleau, the extension of the Napoleon Museum to the second floor of the Louis XV wing will make it possible to redeploy the current collections and future acquisitions by doubling the museum's surface area.

The project is based on deliberations carried out over the last few years by Christophe Beyeler, General Curator in charge of the Napoleon I Museum, and by a scientific and cultural committee chaired by Professor Hans Ottomeyer and composed of prominent figures chosen for their knowledge of the Empire as well as for their acquaintance with the world of museums and their most recent developments.

The working group, which got together for the first time in February 2020, works on making suggestions on the type of museum envisaged, the different themes to be considered, their links and evolution. The notion of "Napoleonic system" and the European aspect are at the heart of the museum's redesign. The committee will be backed up by a technical committee, responsible for analysing the feasibility of the renovation works and of the scenography designed to stage the works of art according to the guidelines of the cultural and scientific council. Public studies have been initiated and a visitors' committee has been set up to analyse visitors' expectations, ensuring the two committees are in touch with the public, whether French or foreign.

This should lead to an ambitious preliminary programme in 2021 for the initial studies prior to the museum redeployment.



Napoléon. l'art en majesté (Napoleon. Majestic arts)
Les collections du musée Napoléon I^{er} au château de Fontainebleau (The collections of the Napoleon I Museum at the Château de Fontainebleau)

Author: Christophe Beyeler, General Curator at the Château de Fontainebleau

Photographs: Marc Walter

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 PROGRAMME

In 2021, the Château de Fontainebleau will commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I through exhibitions, historical reenactments, tours and concerts.

EXHIBITION

- ◆ "Un Palais pour l'Empereur. Napoléon Ier à Fontainebleau" ("A Palace for the Emperor. Napoleon I at Fontainebleau")
From 14th September 2021 to 4th January 2022

SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM

- ◆ "La Seine-et-Marne et Napoléon : intimité, pouvoirs, mémoires" ("Seine-et-Marne and Napoleon: intimacy, powers, memories")
18th, 19th and 20th May

TOURS AND THEMED VISITS

- ◆ A revamped, enriched Napoleon I museum: discovering new acquisitions and gifts
May 2020
- ◆ "Le Fontainebleau de Napoléon" ("Napoleon's Fontainebleau") tour as part of the visitor circuit and in the gardens, to discover the arrangements ordered by the Emperor
May to December
- ◆ "Un destin, huit œuvres" ("One destiny, eight works") tour (digital format)
May to December
- ◆ "In the footsteps of Napoleon at Fontainebleau" tour application
January to December

LIVING HISTORY

- ◆ Historical reenactments weekend
Over 300 professionals will be reenacting the Fontainebleau Farewell of 20th April 1814
17th and 18th April
- ◆ Saint Hubert du château: imperial hunting
October

MUSIC IN THE PALACE

- ◆ European Artistic Residency of Thomas Hengelbrock and the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble and Choir
From 17th to 26th September: "Napoléon et la musique" ("Napoleon and Music") concerts
- ◆ Centenary of the American Art Schools of Fontainebleau
15th July: Schoenberg, "Ode to Napoleon"
21st July: Fauré, 2nd sonata for cello and piano written in 1921 for the centenary of the death of Napoleon

RESTORATIONS

- ◆ Reopening of the restored Emperor's Library
May
- ◆ Restoration of the Horseshoe Staircase

EXHIBITION **UN PALAIS POUR L'EMPEREUR**
(A PALACE FOR THE EMPEROR)
NAPOLEON I^{ER} À FONTAINEBLEAU
(NAPOLEON I AT FONTAINEBLEAU)

Château de Fontainebleau

Exhibition from 14th September 2021 to 4th January 2022

Salle de la Belle Cheminée (Beautiful Chimney room) and palace visitor circuit

Curator: Jean Vittet, Chief Conservator of cultural heritage

During the First Empire (1804-1815), Fontainebleau experienced a particularly sumptuous period, with a new lease of life brought to the palace, which had been left vacant and stripped of its furnishings in the wake of the Revolution, and the glorious life taking place. It was the start of a second renaissance. Over the course of his stays in the palace (1804, 1807, 1809, 1810), which were high in political and family events, the Emperor's deep attachment to the palace was evident. By having the former house of the kings of France restored at great expense, under the leadership of architects Charles Percier and Pierre-François-Léonard Fontaine, the Emperor showed how much he wished to restore the site to its eminent place among the other imperial residences, such as the Tuileries, Saint Cloud, Compiègne and Rambouillet. The roofs were rebuilt, the interior decorations were restored, the apartments were extensively refurbished, the theatre was renovated, the Louis XV wing was fitted out for the princes, the gardens were redesigned in contemporary taste. Despite this constant activity, his work as a restorer, which was carried out with great respect for the palace, is still hard to define, especially since his contributions were partly erased during successive regimes, particularly during the Bourbon Restoration.

The aim of the exhibition is to highlight Napoleon's work at Fontainebleau and to analyse how the Emperor invested the château. Over 200 pieces from the Fontainebleau collection (collections, libraries and archives), and from French and foreign public collections, reveal Josephine's sumptuous arrangements, the luxurious palace furniture, the Emperor's extraordinary library, the transformation of the François I gallery and the major projects which were abandoned after the fall of the regime.

The exhibition will be built around varied subjects such as architecture, painting, sculpture, gardens, decorative arts, libraries, and will also illustrate the "great history of France".

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220 illustrations



SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM

« **La Seine-et-Marne et Napoléon : intimité, pouvoirs, mémoires** »
 ("The Seine-et- Marne and Napoleon: intimacy, powers, memories")

18th, 19th and 20th May

The colloquium will address a range of issues relating to court life, the practices of imperial power, local authorities established in Seine-et-Marne (prefecture, diocese, local assemblies) as well as the relations of the Fontainebleau "centre" with French political life and international diplomacy. It will bring a new look onto these issues, in a very open historiographical context.



TOUR

- ◆ "Le Fontainebleau de Napoléon" ("Napoleon's Fontainebleau") tour as part of the visitor circuit and in the gardens, to discover the arrangements ordered by the Emperor
May to December

Napoleon's mark on the layout of the palace and in the gardens is obvious even today. It underlines the Emperor's dedication to Fontainebleau, as he used the arts, both for political and dynastic purposes, to add his name to the long line of French sovereigns who preceded him during the Ancien Régime. Based on these marks, which are still visible today, and based on the many memorialists who have written about him, the story of Napoleon I's first visit to Fontainebleau in 1803 until his abdication in April 1814 will be staged in the rooms of the Château using panels as well as a digital device. His vision of the ancestral home will be highlighted through the works carried out, the developments and the furniture chosen during his reign. There will be special focus on the Petits Appartements, with visitors being able to appreciate the restorations of the last few years on textiles and furniture, as well as the restoration of the furniture and the works in the Emperor's famous library, all of which contribute to giving an accurate picture of the state of the First Empire. Napoleon's work can also clearly be seen in the gardens. Thanks to an insightful digital device designed around a specific tour, visitors can view, both on site and on line, the gate of the Farewell Courtyard and the English Garden designed by Hurlault, the Sénarmont riding arena, a Palladian-style building housing an early example of metal framework, which was recently completed restored.

- ◆ "Eight pieces, one destiny" tour (digital format)
May to December

In addition to the palace collection itself, the Château holds the largest collection of objects either directly linked to the Emperor or connoting his actions, since a large part of Prince and Princess Napoleon's collection was acquired in 1979, leading to the creation of a museum of the same name within the Château de Fontainebleau. While some of them are truly iconic, such as his frock coat and the sword known as the Coronation Sword, others are fairly unknown. A selection of 8 iconic pieces, which were chosen in chronological order of the reign of Napoleon I, help draw the portrait of a multi-faceted man, soldier and emperor. These pieces will be specifically displayed within the palace and will be shown on line on the website. Among these, the famous globe from Napoleon's study at the Tuileries will have a special place.

- ◆ "In the footsteps of Napoleon at Fontainebleau" tour application

The Château has launched a tour application to learn about the life of the Emperor at Fontainebleau. Visitors are guided throughout the palace by two virtual heroes. A fun journey which includes cartoon explanations, games, family quizzes and digital postcards.

The "Little Globe Trotter in Fontainebleau" application can be downloaded on smartphones and tablets. It was designed by the Château's educational team in collaboration with French start-up Little Globe Trotter.

LIVING HISTORY

Historical reenactments weekend 16th and 17th October

Every year, for a weekend, the Château opens its doors to historical reenactment professionals. Selected for the occasion, these professionals wear very high quality costumes designed in accordance with historical designs. They are passionate and magnificently embody a variety of historical characters. The weekend aims at offering a journey back in time, so that visitors can experience the palace and its gardens just as the imperial couple and their courtiers knew them during their stays there.

The bicentenary celebrated in 2021 will give the public the opportunity to relive the great epic of Napoleon I's Farewell to his Guard. 300 reenactors will be invited to retrace this historical fresco.



Saint Hubert du château : imperial hunting October

Saint-Hubert du Château has been an annual event for the last 10 years. The event includes various activities for the public: arrival of the hunters, hunting horn concert, colloquia, return of hunting and cold quarry, falconry shows and display of the Appartement des Chasses (the Hunting Apartment).



MUSIC IN THE PALACE

European Artistic Residency of Thomas Hengelbrock and the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble and Choir

The ambition of the Château de Fontainebleau is to restore the arts to the former glory that they have always occupied throughout its history when the court was in residence, in order to revive its age-old tradition as a centre for artistic creation in a new, contemporary form. Giving a free hand to the arts and to creation, through a varied artistic programme in symbiosis with the rich history of Fontainebleau, such is the ambition of the year-round residency that the Château has decided to entrust to German conductor Thomas Hengelbrock and the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble. The decidedly European residency is highly educational on artistic and cultural levels and is aimed at a wide audience, in a spirit of broadening and democratisation.

The autumn residency from 17th to 26th September will heavily feature the Emperor's favourite repertoire, with concerts and public rehearsals. They will be performing the works of three composers: Cherubini, Beethoven and Méhul.



Centenaire des Écoles d'art américaines de Fontainebleau

In 2021, the American Art Schools of Fontainebleau will be celebrating their centenary. As part of the July music festival, two concerts will be especially dedicated to Napoleon I:

- ◆ Schoenberg, « Ode to Napoléon »
15th July
- ◆ Fauré, 2nd sonata for cello and piano written in 1921 for the centenary of the death of Napoleon
21st July

RESTORATIONS

THE HORSESHOE STAIRCASE

An architectural masterpiece and a witness to the great court ceremonies at Fontainebleau, the staircase is a "place of memory" in the words of Pierre Nora, in that neither its initial construction nor its current state (which dates back to Louis XIII) dates from the Empire. However, it is indisputably linked to this era, through the memory of Napoleon's Farewell to his Guard, on 20th April 1814, which Horace Vernet immortalised in his famous painting.

The alarming state of conservation of the staircase has prompted the Château de Fontainebleau Public Establishment to carry out a major appeal for donations to launch its restoration. The campaign, called #UnGesteHistorique (a historical gesture), has succeeded in raising the €2,200,000 needed for the works.

The works are divided into three phases over a total period of two years. The first phase began in September 2019 and focused on restoring the badly damaged carved ornaments of the central staircase pavilion. The second phase, scheduled for 2020, began works on the terrace, on the upper balustrade and the gallery below the building. Finally, the third phase, which is to last for a year, will complete the spectacular renovation by restoring the two flights of stairs to their original splendour. Throughout the works, restorers and sculptors will bring their know-how and specialised companies will implement innovative and tailored techniques.



RESTORATIONS

THE EMPEROR'S LIBRARY

The Château launched the restoration of the famous Emperor's library located in the Petits Appartements. The restoration includes both the furniture and the books which are kept there.

Napoleon I had a private library in each of his residences. They were all designed and classified identically, in order to make them easy to use.

The classification into 15 categories identified by a letter of the alphabet and the list of some 5,000 books that made it up are known thanks to the inventory carried out in 1810 which is still present in the library.

It holds a great number of books on history, geography and military art, as he used his library as a working tool above all. Napoleon was also an avid reader who was keen on literature, theatre, ancient and classical authors and philosophy. He wished to keep up with French and European intellectual life and expected his librarian to provide him with the latest releases.

The library will reopen to the public in May 2021.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS

The palace is open every day except Tuesdays, 1st January, 1st May and 25th December.

From October to March: 9.30 am - 5 pm (access until 4.15 pm).

From April to September: 9.30 am - 6 pm (access until 5.15 pm).

The courtyards and gardens are open every day.

From November to February: 9 am – 5 pm

In March, April and October: 9 am – 6 pm

From May to September: 9 am – 7 pm

The Garden of Diana and the English Garden close respectively 30 minutes and 1 hour before the times specified.

The park is open every day, 24 hours a day

Tickets can be purchased at the Château's ticket office or at **www.chateaufontainebleau.fr**

FEES

€13 / €11

ACCESS

By road: Porte d'Orléans or Porte d'Italie, then A6 Fontainebleau exit.

SNCF: Gare de Lyon (main lines), in direction of Montargis, Montereau, or Laroche- Migennes, Fontainebleau/Avon station then bus line 1 in direction of Château.

With the Pass Navigo dezoning system, holders of a season ticket may travel by train to Fontainebleau and take the bus there at weekends at no extra charge.



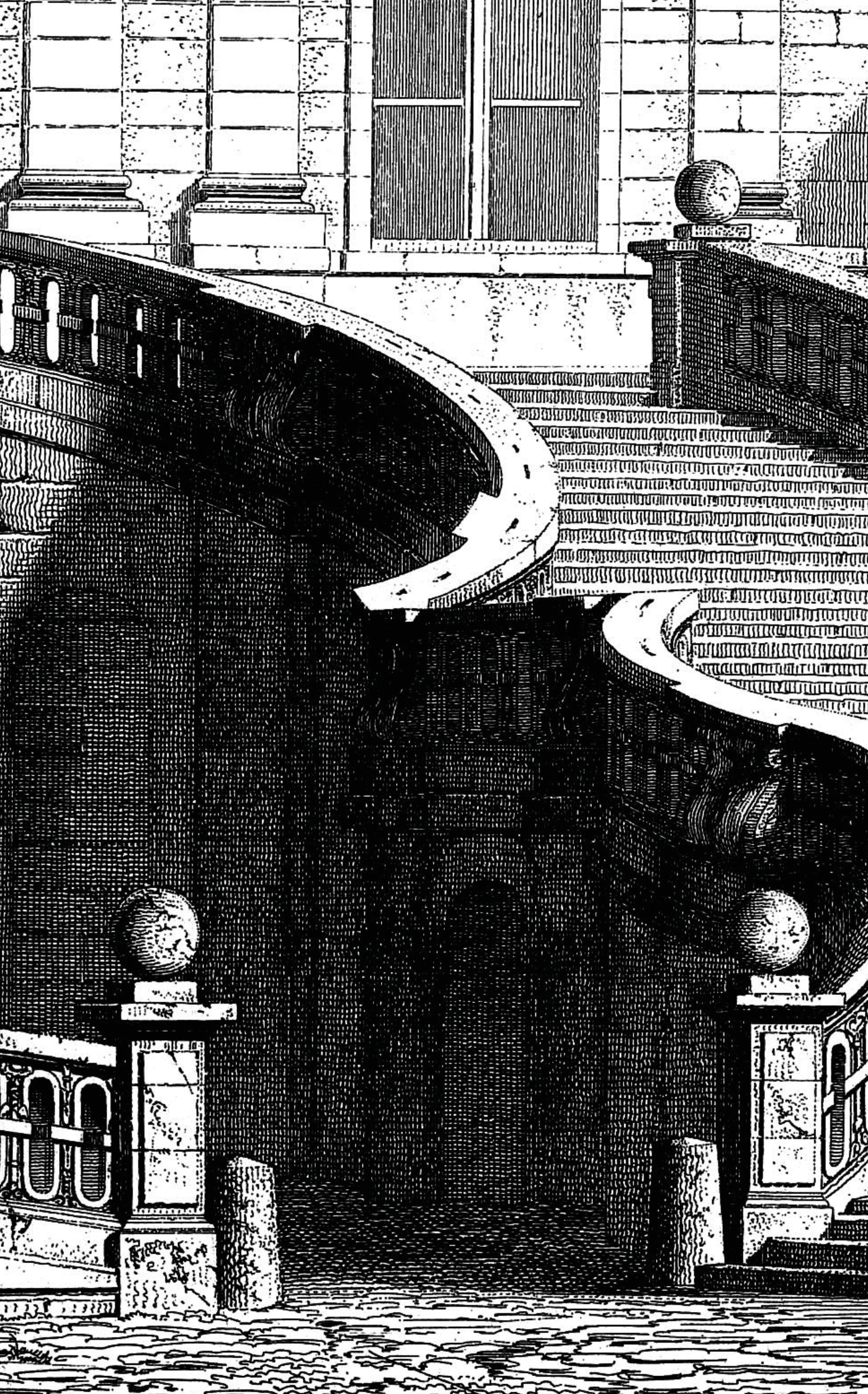
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The Château de Fontainebleau and its estate are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Inscription on this list enshrines the exceptional universal value of a cultural or natural property so that it may be protected for the benefit of humanity.



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Palais et
parc de Fontainebleau
inscrits sur la Liste du
patrimoine mondial en 1981