



# CHENONCEAU, "THE CHÂTEAU OF THE LADIES"



Diane de Poitiers



Catherine de Médici



Katherine Briçonnet



Louise de Lorraine



Louise Dupin



Marguerite Pelouze



Simonne Menier

The sight of Chenonceau evokes the idea of a perfect harmony between nature, composed of water, air and greenery, and a unique architecture, renowned worldwide. The château offers its "guests for a day", from all five continents, an invitation to grace...to abandon themselves to the gentle beauty of the location... Chenonceau unlocked the passions of its successive owners, all caught up in the whirlwind of French history. A Royal residence, it is also exceptional for its singular destiny: built, loved, managed and protected by remarkable women. Diane de Poitiers, Henri II's favourite, gave Chenonceau gardens that are among the most spectacular of the era and... its unique

architecture, by endowing it with the famous bridge that crosses the Cher. Catherine de Médici, the King's widow, banished Diane from Chenonceau and gave the château its two-storey gallery where she organised sumptuous parties during her regency. On the death of her husband Henri III, as dictated by etiquette, Louise de Lorraine went into the white of regal mourning and devoted herself to prayer. Her death marked the end of Chenonceau's Royal history.

Louise Dupin, the exquisite representative of the Age of Enlightenment, brought celebrations back to the château where she held a brilliant salon, surrounded by philosophers, such as Montesquieu, Voltaire

and Rousseau. She preserved Chenonceau during the Revolution. A product of the industrial middle class, Marguerite Pelouze decided to make the monument and its park the theatre of her success. She spent a fortune on its restoration, to the point of her own ruin. Simone Menier, a nursing matron, ran the hospital installed, at her family's expense, in the château's two galleries. More than 2,000 war wounded were treated there, up to 1918.

# CHENONCEAU, AN INVITATION TO DISCOVER THE EXCEPTIONAL



19th century Neuilly Tapestry. "Chenonceau and the allegory of the Cher". Walmez



Portrait of Henri III. François Clouet

The monument houses many works of art: an admirable collection of tapestries, paintings and furniture: François Clouet, Murillo, Tintoretto, Nicolas Poussin, Correggio, Rubens, Primaticcio, "Les Trois Grâces" (The Three Graces) by Van Loo...

These exceptional paintings, signed by the greatest European masters from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, echo Chenonceau's very rich history and the predominant role played by women. From the Renaissance to today, Chenonceau has, throughout time, cultivated the art of encounters and events...

# CHENONCEAU, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL REFLECTION OF REFINEMENT



The floral kitchen garden provides more than a hundred varieties of “cut” flowers, chosen to decorate the château’s different bedrooms and rooms. The floral workshop in the courtyard of the farm, a superb collection of 16th

century buildings, opens its doors to visitors who wish to see it. There, the florists create sublime bouquets, with different themes for each season, and particularly for the end of year celebrations...

Majestic Christmas trees and decorations in traditional colours add a touch of beauty to each of the rooms.

# CHENONCEAU, THE EXPRESSION OF THE DESIRE FOR PERFECTION



The Ponte Vecchio directly inspired the Renaissance work of art that is Chenonceau. Thanks to the leading role played by the “Ladies”, the feminine touch is present throughout...

Catherine de Medici's and Diane de Poitiers' gardens represent an ideal vegetal architecture, of infinite grace. From the Jardin Vert (Green Garden), designed by Bernard Palissy, to the Italian maze...

HERE THE GARDENS ARE THE EARTHLY INCARNATION OF A DREAMED OF PARADISE

# CHENONCEAU UNVEILS ITS HIDDEN TREASURES



The “Galerie des Dômes” (Dômes Gallery) pays homage to all those who made it possible for the war wounded from the Great War to be cared for at Chenonceau. From 1914 to 1918, the Château de Chenonceau housed a military hospital. Gaston Menier, then owner of Chenonceau and the Seine et Marne member of parliament, suggested to the War Ministry that he bear the costs of setting up a temporary military hospital in the château and meet all its operational costs. So,

120 beds were installed in Catherine de Medici’s great galleries that rise up over the river Cher. On the ground floor, a state-of-the-art operating theatre was equipped with one of the first X-ray machines. His daughter-in-law, Simone Menier, wife of his son George and a nursing matron, ran the hospital. Until the hospital closed, she cared for the injured and actively worked alongside the doctors and surgeons seconded here.

Up until 31st December 1918, 2,254 injured soldiers, mostly very seriously wounded, were cared for here.

## The Medici gallery

The Medici Gallery, on the building’s first floor, invites visitors to enrich their historical knowledge thanks to a previously unseen collection of works of art, paintings, tapestries, furniture and decorative objects.



## Carriage Gallery

The superb stable, in the 16th century farm, houses a collection of horse-drawn vehicles.



# CHENONCEAU

CHÂTEAU DE

## CHENONCEAU, EVERY DAY, ALL YEAR ROUND...

### Shop

The Château's shop is free to enter and open to the public every day, all year. A large choice of refined and original gifts, on sale here exclusively or in limited editions. Souvenirs, postcards and areas dedicated to: "little princes and princesses", books and beautiful works, decorative objects and jewellery. Themed according to the seasons and the Château's event programme.



### Audio-guide visit

A visionary château, from the Renaissance to the Age of Enlightenment, Chenonceau was perpetually fuelled by innovation. Its guests, from around the world, discover today the quality of its visitor experience either through a free visit or an audio-guided visit with iPod video in 11 languages. Its high-resolution colour screen allows guests to see all the château's "bonus features". Thanks to the video, visitors with reduced mobility can also access all the rooms, the stunning kitchens and the image archives, with previously unseen architectural details of the château, in all seasons.



### iPhone, iPad and iPod touch App

The visit is available at the Apple Store in 11 languages.





## CHENONCEAU, WINE CELLAR OF THE DÔMES

Discovering a culture, a history, a patrimony only has value if it can be shared. Here, the quest for quality never ceases. The new AOC Touraine-Chenonceaux offers us a perfect blend, a heartfelt alchemy, between the land and an exceptional château. And gives us, today, between know-how and passion... the "taste of the place".

Tasting	Individual rate	Groupe rate (+ 20 people)
Different wines tasting AOC Touraine-Chenonceaux	€4 / person	€3 / person
Different wines tasting AOC served with savoury and sweet "petits fours" and local specialties <b>Upon reservation only</b>	€10 / person	€8 / person



Situated near the Former Royal Stables and the Galerie des Dômes, the "Cave des Dômes" opens its doors to all visitors curious to find out more about this vineyard.  
(Groups are welcome upon reservation)





## CHENONCEAU, RESTAURANTS

GOURMET RESTAURANT

SELF SERVICE

TEA ROOM

The château's restaurants are open every day from mid-March to mid-November. With a capacity to seat 300 people for a lunch or buffet, the gourmet restaurant l'Orangerie (The Orangery), welcomes visitors in a large comfortable dining room in front of the Jardin Vert (green garden), designed by Bernard Palissy. Experience a moment of sheer delight enjoying gourmet recipes. Since the sumptuous festivities of Renaissance times, the art of hosting has been a tradition at the Château of Chenonceau. Its gastronomic restaurant l'Orangerie (The Orangery) keeps this spirit alive with Christophe Canati, its new chef, trained under Georges Blanc, Bernard Loiseau and Eric Briffard.

l'Orangerie can also be booked for prestigious private receptions, meetings or family events, as well as seminars.

The Salon de Thé is open every day from 3pm to 5pm.

For a quick lunch, the Self Service, situated in the Bâtiment des Dômes (Domes Building), has a shaded terrace and a large dining room.



*Entrance fee obligatory.*

Additional Information

Château de Chenonceau

Service de l'Orangerie

37150 Chenonceaux

Telephone: 00 +33 (0)2 47 23 91 97

Fax: 00 +33 (0)2 47 23 90 41

Contact: [restaurants@chenonceau.com](mailto:restaurants@chenonceau.com)

Payment: Cheque, bank cards, cash



## SITE MAP

- |                             |  |  |                       |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>1</b> Ticket office/Shop | <b>7</b> Catherine's Garden            | <b>13</b> 16th century farm                          | <b>P</b> Free parking |
| <b>2</b> Maze               | <b>8</b> Self-service                  | <b>14</b> Vegetable & flower garden - Musical Garden | Free toilets          |
| <b>3</b> Caryatids          | <b>9</b> Dômes Gallery                 | <b>15</b> Donkey park                                | Free left luggage     |
| <b>4</b> Chancellery        | <b>10</b> Wine cellar of the Dômes     | <b>16</b> Picnic area                                |                       |
| <b>5</b> Diane's Garden     | <b>11</b> Gourmet rest. - Green Garden | <b>17</b> Covered picnic area                        |                       |
| <b>6</b> Château            | <b>12</b> Carriage Gallery             | <b>18</b> Crêperie                                   |                       |



**For more information**  
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