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AMAZING GARDENS Series
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NEW

AMAZING GARDENS

DIRECTORS
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Timothee EBERMANN, Jean-michel
VENNEMANI

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

This collection takes an original look at contemporary gardens focusing on examples of the most recent landscaping. We learn from those who find innovative and creative solutions that provide poetic breathing spaces in an increasingly urbanised world.

Landscape architect Jean-Philippe Teyssier takes us on a discovery of the most beautiful gardens in France and elsewhere in Europe. The gardeners, landscapers, horticulturalists, architects, historians and estate managers he meets reveal the art of gardening. They show us how gardens have been designed, planted and maintained over the centuries. The exceptional gardens Jean-Philippe Teyssier visits are a myriad of passions, journeys, colours and shapes.

HD



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NEW**01 - VILLA D'ESTE - ITALY****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The Villa d'Este near Rome in Italy was a model for all Renaissance gardens that followed.

Created in the 16th century by Cardinal Hippolyte d'Este, who was descended from a wealthy family in Ferrare, the gardens are set on a hill overlooking a villa. Work on creating the gardens started in 1550, and continued for over 20 years. In the 19th century, they underwent long periods of abandon, but paradoxically, the abundant, wild vegetation attracted artists like Fragonard and Liszt, who composed "The Fountains of the Villa d'Este" there.

**HD****NEW****02 - THE VALLEE AUX LOUPS - FRANCE****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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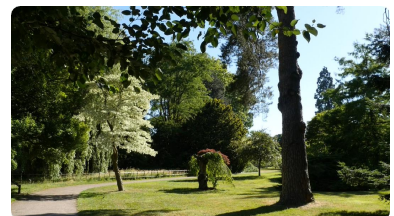
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

A few kilometres from Paris, the Vallée aux Loups spans more than 60 hectares of isolated woodland. In the 19th century, it attracted prestigious gardeners and many artists.

François-René de Chateaubriand stayed at the Vallée aux Loups for eleven years, infusing the estate with a romantic spirit. The rich and fertile lands of the neighbouring plots are now also attracting renewed interest. The local county has gradually incorporated these plots into a large park, which is open to the public.

**HD**

NEW

03 - THE BOIS DES MOUTIERS - FRANCE

AUTHOR
Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

A garden located on the Normandy Coast, in the style of an English garden. Unique in France, it was designed by a renowned English landscaper and architect.

In the 19th century, Guillaume Mallet acquired a vast area of virgin land overlooking the sea. To landscape it, Mallet, who was a passionate amateur gardener, called upon the services of Gertrude Jekyll, one of the most famous English landscapers of the early 20th century. She developed the concept of a mixed border, flowerbeds in which all flowers are mixed, and which both divide up areas and create a series of flowered tableaux.



HD

NEW

04 - EDIMBURG - UNITED KINGDOM

AUTHOR

Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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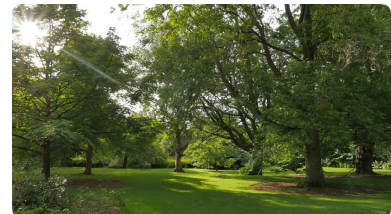
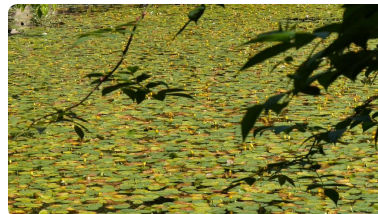
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh was established in 1670, at the time of the British Empire's major expeditions.

At the time, botanists travelled the world collecting plants, studying them, and presenting to the public, students and plant lovers. Up until the 16th century, the plants were used in treating disease or for food. Subsequently, they were collected for classification and study, and formed the foundations of botanical science.



HD

NEW**05 - MUSKAU - GERMANY / POLAND****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Aurélia MICHON

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

In 1811, Prince Hermann von Pückler, one of the leading 19th century landscape gardeners, decided to dedicate his life to creating the ideal estate, in which he experimented with new forms of landscape.

Although he was very influenced by English gardens, Hermann Von Pückler moved away from them when designing his park, which he included in his treatise on gardens so that everybody could take inspiration from it and copy it. Since the end of World War 2, the estate has been located on the border between Germany and Poland.

**HD****NEW****06 - COURANCES - FRANCE****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Francois CHAYE

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Water is omnipresent in Courances, and it structures the landscape. The area's trees give it a highly romantic character.

The estate stretches over 75 hectares of gardens and 500 hectares of farmland. In the 16th century, the owner Côme Clausse installed a revolutionary hydraulic system there. Whereas many gardens remain turned towards the past, the Courances estate, which is inhabited and open to modernity, is constantly reinventing itself.

**HD****NEW****07 - INVERWE - SCOTLAND****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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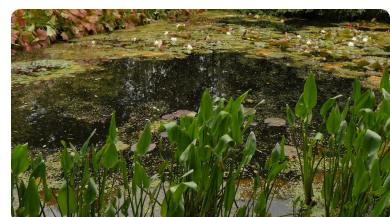
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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

At the end of the 19th century, in the north west of the Highlands, Scottish aristocrat Osgood Mackenzie decided to create an oasis of exotic plants on his windswept land.

Loch Ewe is an arm of sea, where the influence of the Gulf Stream has enabled numerous plants from Chile, Nepal and South Africa to adapt. These 25 hectares of vegetable-growing land, forest and gardens are a veritable exception in this latitude, close to that of southern Greenland.

**HD**

NEW

08 - GRAVETYE - UNITED KINGDOM

AUTHOR
Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

This garden, located in the south of England, reveals a wild side of nature, with its abundance of flowering perennials. It was designed by champion of the "wild garden" William Robinson.

At the end of the 19th century, Robinson, an Irishman, launched a war on regular and geometrical gardens. Close to the Arts and Crafts movement, an artistic movement born in England in the 1860s, he considered that art should intervene everywhere and that beauty should be useful. As a result, his garden was also designed so that the orchard and vegetable garden could supply both decoration and food for the house.



HD

NEW

09 - HET LOO - NETHERLANDS

AUTHOR

Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Jean-michel VENNEMANI

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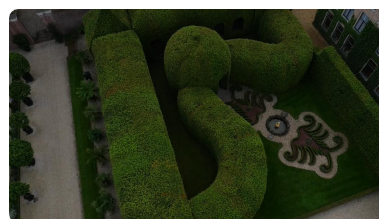
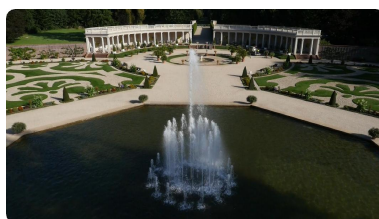
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

In the 17th century, William III of Orange and his wife Mary II acquired the estate of Het Loo, creating over 650 hectares of woodland and parkland, in an outstanding garden inspired by the French baroque gardens of the time.

The flowerbeds are not merely decorative elements designed to attract the eye. They are also intended to be a display power and glory. In the 19th century, the royal garden was transformed into a romantic style park. In 1970, the Dutch State decided to restore the garden's original appearance. The garden, which is the pride of the Dutch people, has been open to the public since 1984.



HD

NEW**10 - FREYR - BELGIUM****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Jean-michel VENNEMANI

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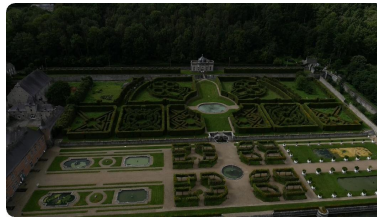
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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Freÿr Castle and its timeless gardens stand in the heart of a natural site, in which a vast forest surrounds a series of breathtaking rocks and a river that sculpts the valley.

The same family has owned the castle since it was acquired by Jacques de Beaufort in 1410. During the French Revolution, the estate narrowly escaped being destroyed. It owes its survival to its outstanding orange trees. Since then, every generation of owners has protected them.

**HD****NEW****11 - LE RAYOL - FRANCE****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Lelio MOEHR

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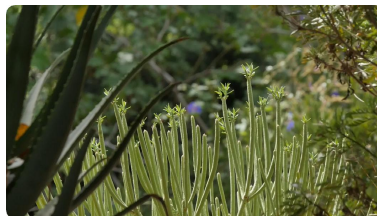
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The Domaine du Rayol is a surprising 20-hectare garden in which exotic plants live in harmony with Mediterranean scrubland.

Contemporary landscape gardener Gilles Clément gave the garden its current diversity. With his concept of "planetary garden", he revolutionised the way gardens are perceived. Certain species have adapted to the Mediterranean environment thanks to age-old strategies revealing the incredible intelligence of the vegetal world.

**HD**

NEW

12 - TETE D'OR - FRANCE

AUTHOR
Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR
Lelio MOEHR

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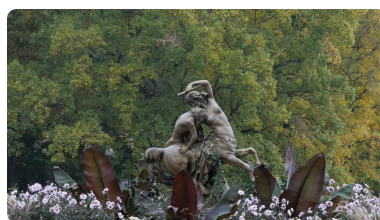
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Opened in 1857 before the works were completed, the park was designed by the Bulher brothers, who came up with the smart idea of digging out a lake to sanitize the swampland.

Hausmann was busy transforming Paris at the time, and Lyon did not want to be left behind. Thanks to the area's soil quality, a favourable climate and a wealthy bourgeoisie, which started to develop rapidly in the mid-19th century, roses became hugely popular, and rose breeders in Lyon were among the best in the world. In 1978 a rose competition was launched in Lyon. It was initially a national competition, before becoming European, and is now international.



HD

NEW

13 - LA ROCHE GUYON - FRANCE

AUTHOR
Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR
Hugo BENAMOZIG

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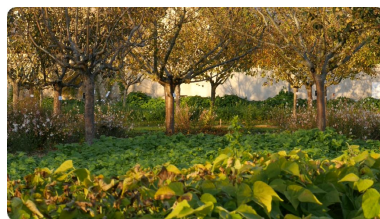
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Partly dug out in the chalk cliffs along a bend in the River Seine, the castle of La Roche Guyon overlooks an outstanding vegetable and fruit garden.

Developed by Duke Alexandre de la Rochefoucauld in the early 18th century, this garden, which as well as being a place of production and experiment is also a pleasure garden, reflects the spirit of the Enlightenment. Still today, alongside the garden's strict geometrical lines there is an innovative approach to the choice of plantations and gardening techniques.



HD

NEW**14 - EPHRUSSI DE ROTHSCHILD ET
SERRE DE LA MADONE - FRANCE****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH
DIRECTOR

Hugo BENAMOZIG

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

In the early 20th century, those among Europe's largest fortunes took advantage of the mild climate from Nice to Menton to create magnificent gardens.

The discreet and elegant gardens of the Madonna's Greenhouse are in the image of their creator, Major Johnston, an Englishman who was passionate about botany. A few kilometres away, Baroness Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild had her gardens landscaped into a place dedicated to worldly pleasures. These two gardens are now open to the public.

**HD****NEW****15 - VALSANZIBIO - ITALY****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH
DIRECTOR

Timothee EBERMANN

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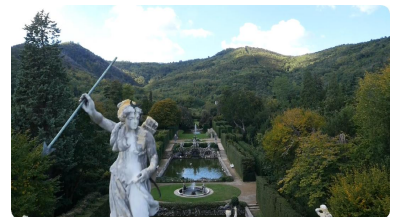
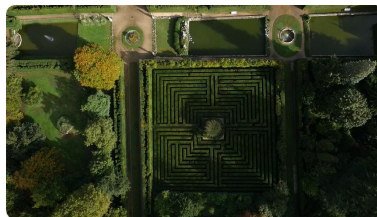
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The Valsanzibio gardens, located in the heart of the Southern Padua hills, span eight hectares. The gardens are the work of the Barbarigo family, who were wealthy 17th century Venetian traders.

They are thought to have been created as a sign of gratitude to God for having spared the family from the plague in 1631. The design of the Valsanzibio gardens is attributed to Luigi Bernini, brother of the famous sculptor Bernini. The garden's architecture is based on large boxwood hedges, and the place invites strollers on a spiritual journey.

**HD**

NEW

16 - PADUA - ITALY

AUTHOR
Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Timothee EBERMANN

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Located in North East of Italy, in the heart of Veneto, the garden of Padua is the oldest botanical garden in the world. Founded in 1545, it dates back to the origin of botanical science.

With its plants from all over the world and its ancient trees from Asia, the garden of Padua takes us on a journey back in time. The botanical garden's library contains a great many works that retrace the evolution of the science of plants, from the Middle Ages to the present day.



HD

NEW

17 - ALCAZAR - SPAIN

AUTHOR
Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Simon VATEL

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The gardens of the palace of the Alcazar in Seville were built in the 9th century by a succession of monarchs, both Muslim and Christian, who created a place of rare beauty.

Here Moor, Gothic and Renaissance influences blend. The gardens, located on the edge of the Guadalquivir river - which enabled river trade with the whole of Europe - are a superposition of influences and styles that followed the whims of the kings that established residency there. The various styles ended up blending together. The palace and gardens are descended from Mediterranean culture, and are still today the home of the Kings of Spain, who occupy part of them.



HD

NEW**18 - MARIA LUISA PARK - SPAIN****AUTHOR**
Sylvie STEINEBACH**DIRECTOR**

Simon VATEL

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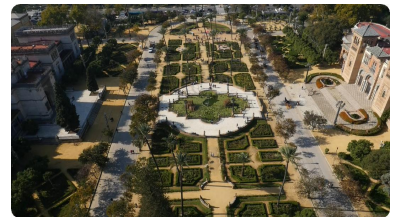
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Spanning 34 hectares, the Maria Luisa Park, which is a mosaic of gardens, constitutes the lungs of the city of Seville. It was opened to the public in 1914.

The park illustrates the landscape theories of town planner and botanist Jean Nicolas Forestier, who was convinced of the need for green spaces in cities, at the start of the 20th century. The French architect / landscape gardener arrived in Spain having spent part of his career in Morocco, where he discovered the Arab culture of gardens. He adapted this culture to Seville's largest public park, where he established the basis of the neo-Arab style.

**HD****NEW****19 - QUINTA DA REGALEIRA - PORTUGAL****AUTHOR**

Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Jean-michel VENNEMANI

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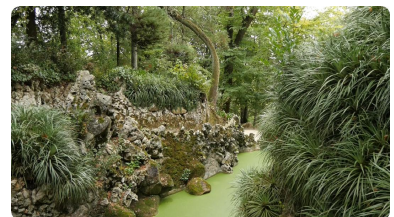
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Created in the 16th century in Sinta, 40 km from Lisbon, the Quinta da Regaleira was a garden for the acclimatization of exotic plants that the Portuguese navigators brought back from their travels to Asia and the Americas.

In the 19th century, a famous owner, Antonio Augusto Carvalho Monteiro, was to make his mark on the place. He added various symbols, mysteries and enigmas for visitors to the 4-hectare garden. The resulting singular atmosphere of disconcerting strangeness makes this garden one of the most surprising places in the area around Lisbon.

**HD**

NEW

20 - PALAIS DES MARQUESE DE FRONTEIRA - PORTUGAL

AUTHOR

Sylvie STEINEBACH

DIRECTOR

Jean-michel VENNEMANI

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TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

This baroque garden is decorated with thousands of small mosaic tiles, the famous "Azulejos" that recount the glory of the re-conquest of the independence of Portugal in the 16th century.

Despite its regular appearance, the garden evokes the Moor palaces with their refreshing fountains, thanks to a hydraulic system from Arab culture. Since the 17th century, the palace and its garden have been handed down from generation to generation within the same family.



HD

NEW

21 - THE AGDAL GARDENS - MOROCCO

DIRECTOR

Alois-marie LE NOAN

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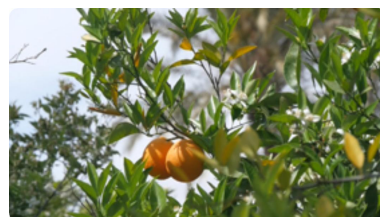
German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Between the snowy peaks of the Atlas Mountains and the Jebilet desert, the Agdal Gardens adjoining the Medina - the old traditional city of Marrakech - are a 515 - hectare oasis, surrounded by 9 kilometres of ramparts. They constitute a veritable technical feat.

In the 12th century, the Almohad Dynasty channelled and stored the mountain water, creating the orchards of the Agdal, meaning "closed prairie" in the Berber language. The area's orange groves, pomegranate trees and apricot trees supplied their expanding city. Between the 12th and 13th centuries, the Almohads dominated North Africa and Spain. To protect their garden from the winds and their enemies, they erected a high wall. The Agdal Gardens remain an unequalled ancestral model to this day.



HD

NEW**22 - THE FIN GARDEN - IRAN****COPRODUCERS**
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Located 250 km from Tehran, the city of Kashan is surrounded by a desert landscape. Shah Abbas I of Persia ordered the Fin Garden to be built in 1587 around his residence, in the image of the gardens described in the Koran, as an allegory of paradise.

The Fin Garden, in the south of the city, is an oasis, a mirage of water and greenery. It is the oldest Persian garden still in existence today. Its layout has served as a model for the creation of numerous landscaped areas in the Muslim world. In 2012, this treasure of Iranian history was classified as a UNESCO world heritage site.

HD**NEW****23 - BOGOR BOTANICAL GARDENS - INDONESIA (THE)****DIRECTOR**
Timothee EBERMANN**COPRODUCERS**
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

The Bogor gardens, on the island of Java, are Indonesia's oldest botanical gardens. They were created at the start of the 19th century by the Dutch, who controlled the archipelago at the time.

These gardens, which stretch for over 80 hectares, are located in the heart of the city of Bogor and house the presidential palace. They are also a public park, where the inhabitants of the capital come to stroll, far from the suffocating heat of Jakarta. One of the garden's treasures is its tropical rainforest.

HD

NEW

24 - CHAHAR-BAGH - ISPAHAN

FORMAT

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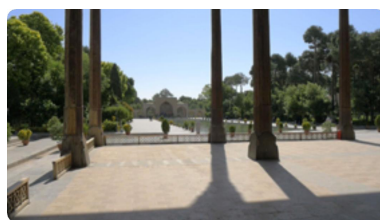
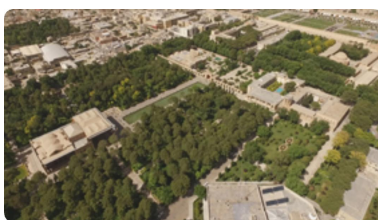
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Ispahan, in the heart of Iran, stretches out at the foot of Mount Karkas. Enjoying an exceptional geographical situation, over time the city has become one of the jewels of the Middle East.

Its centre was designed in the 17th century by members of the Safavid dynasty, inspired by the model of the ancestral Persian garden described in the Koran. In the 18th century, the gardens were gradually destroyed, having become too costly to maintain. Today, only the double row of trees along the avenue, as well as the Hesht-Behesht and Chehel Sotoun gardens, still bear witness to the Safavid's reign.

HD



NEW

25 - JNAN SBIL - MOROCCO

DIRECTOR

Simon WATEL

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ARTE FRANCE, BO TRAVAIL !

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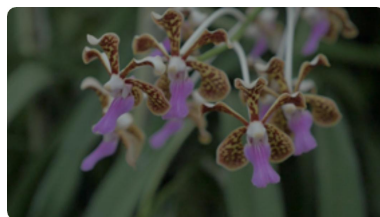
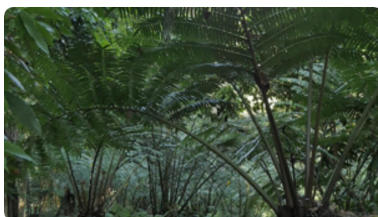
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The city of Fez, in the North of Morocco, possesses the world's largest Medina. At the intersection of the old city and the vast new city, the garden of Jnan Sbil, meaning "paradise" in Arabic, stretches for over 7 hectares.

In the 18th century, it was created by Sultan Moulay Abdallah and became a public garden last century. Its outstanding vegetation is made up of numerous varieties such as eucalyptus, pine and palm, all over a century old. An atmosphere of balminess and peace reigns in the middle of the city centre. A veritable place of memory, the garden bears witness to human and botanical history, as well as to its associated uses in the city's growth.

HD



NEW**26 - SACRO BOSCO - ITALY**

DIRECTOR
Simon WATEL
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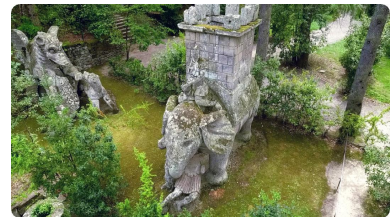
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VERSIONS

German - French
TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

The Sacred Grove, a mysterious garden to the North East of Rome, was created in the 1550s by Vicino Orsini, Lord of Bomarzo, who worked on beautifying it until his death in 1584.

He drew inspiration from the Etruscan civilisation but in a style that was closer to Mannerism, a trend at the end of the Italian Renaissance that refused the traditional rules of harmony and imitation of nature. After Vicino Orsini's death, the garden was abandoned for nearly 350 years. In the mid 20th century it was rediscovered, thanks in particular to Salvador Dali. Still today, Sacro Bosco remains a source of inspiration for artists.

HD**NEW****27 - TAMAN UJUNG - INDONESIA**

DIRECTOR
Timothee EBERMANN
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Built between 1912 and 1921, the floating gardens of Taman Ujung are the work of King Anak Agung, the last king to govern the region of East Bali.

Although Indonesia was then under Dutch rule, the kings of the provinces continued to exercise local power. The place was carefully chosen for the presence of sacred water sources beneath a lake that opens onto the sea. It was the king's duty to transmit spiritual values to his people, and the design of his garden illustrates this approach.

HD

NEW

28 - LEVENS HALL - GREAT BRITAIN

DIRECTOR
Timothee EBERMANN
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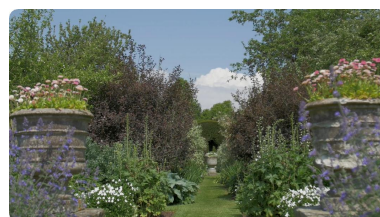
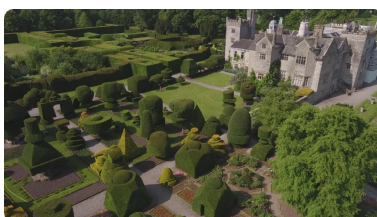
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VERSIONS

German - French
TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Levens Hall, in the north of England, has belonged to the same family for 800 years. Its garden was laid out in the seventeenth century by a French garden designer, Guillaume Beaumont, who trained with André Le Nôtre at Versailles.

Since then, it has withstood the vagaries of fashion, remaining essentially unchanged over the centuries. The topiary gardens are its crowning glory. The oldest in England and probably in Europe, their trees and shrubs have been painstakingly clipped by generations of gardeners.



HD

NEW

29 - BLENHEIM - GREAT BRITAIN

DIRECTOR
Timothee EBERMANN
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German - French
TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

In 1705, the architect John Vanbrugh and the gardener Henry Wise designed the grounds of Blenheim Palace as a formal garden intended to symbolize the political and military stature of its owners, the dukes of Marlborough.

Blenheim's grounds have been through numerous changes as successive owners and gardeners sought to make their mark. Brown famously designed gardens to mimic the landscapes in Romantic paintings. He completely remodeled the grounds of Blenheim Palace some 60 years after their creation.



NEW

30 - MOUNT STEWART - IRELAND

DIRECTOR
Hugo BENAMOZIG
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Made in the 1920s by the English society hostess Edith Vane-Tempest-Stewart, Marchioness of Londonderry, who played a major organizational role in World War I, this Northern Irish garden defies categorization.

The garden is traditional in structure, but its exuberant planting reflects its creator's strong personality and sense of humour. In the turbulent period between the wars, Mount Stewart provided Lady Londonderry with a peaceful retreat and an outlet for her creativity. Here, she could express her highly individual taste and engage in all manner of experiments.

HD

NEW**31 - KENROKU-EN - JAPAN**

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VERSIONS
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TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

Kenroku-en, meaning the garden of six virtues, is in the city of Kanazawa. With its lake, its waterfalls and its 8000 trees belonging to 18 different species, this vast garden is one of the most beautiful in Japan.

As Kanazawa's harsh winter approaches, the gardeners engage in a curious airborne ballet. They are putting up Yuki-tsuri - giant bamboo and rope umbrellas designed to keep the weight of the snow off the big trees.

**HD****NEW****32 - QUINTA DO PALHEIRO - PORTUGAL**

DIRECTOR
Lelio MOEHR
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FORMAT
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VERSIONS
German - French

TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

In 1420, Portuguese explorers discovered the uninhabited island of Madeira.

It became a favourite stopover for travellers, and sailors, missionaries and botanists docked there with exotic plants brought back from distant places. In the nineteenth century, many parks, gardens and "quintas" - great agricultural estates - were founded on the Garden Island of Madeira. One such was Quinta do Palheiro, created in 1804 by the Count of Carvalhal.

HD**NEW****33 - CASA DE MATEUS - PORTUGAL**

DIRECTOR
Lelio MOEHR
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FORMAT
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VERSIONS
German - French

TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

The Casa de Mateus baroque palace and grounds, nestle among vineyards near the Douro valley, in northern Portugal.

The Casa de Mateus estate has belonged to the counts of Albuquerque for over three centuries. Its wealth stems from cereals and wine production. Its crowning splendour is the impeccably maintained, constantly changing formal gardens, but the buildings, gardens, vineyards and orchards form a perfect whole, making this one of the finest and most historic gardens in Portugal and indeed in Europe.

HD

NEW

34 - LONGWOOD GARDENS - USA

DIRECTOR

Timothee EBERMANN

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FORMAT

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VERSIONS

German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Longwood Gardens, in Pennsylvania, is famous for its European architectural style and the diversity of its flower beds.

In the early 20th century, a director of General Motors created a garden that reflects both his love of plants and the American industrial might. He was inspired by his travels and the architectural style of Europe's loveliest gardens. Today, the Longwood park is considered to be the largest in the United States.



HD

NEW

35 - DUMBARTON OAKS - USA

DIRECTOR

Timothee EBERMANN

COPRODUCERS

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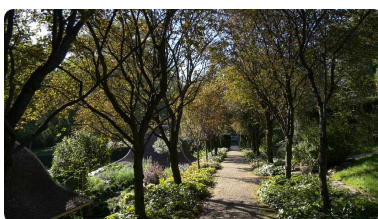
German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Dumbarton Oaks was designed in the 1920s by Beatrix Farrand, who pioneered landscape gardening in the USA. It comprises four hectares of gardens and eleven hectares of grounds and woodland, set in a wealthy neighbourhood on the heights of Washington DC.

The estate was purchased in 1920 by the diplomat Robert Woods Bliss and his wife Mildred. The Blisses wanted to create a haven of green in the heart of the city. The hillside gardens are laid out in terraces, following the lie of the land. In the 1940s, Ruth Havey, one of Beatrix Farrand's pupils, redesigned parts of the gardens, giving them a more baroque feel. The gardens now belong to Harvard University and are open to the public.



HD

NEW**36 - MURIN-AN - JAPAN****DIRECTOR**

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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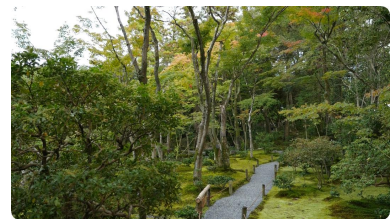
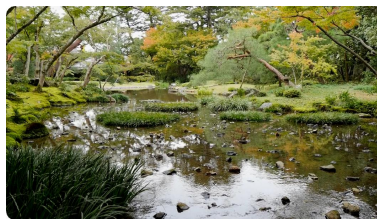
German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The garden of Murin-An, in central Kyoto, was made in the late nineteenth century by Aritomo Yamagata, a wealthy statesman.

He acquired a 3000-square metre plot that then belonged to the monks of the temple Nanzen ji, one of the most influential in Kyoto. The garden represents the surrounding landscape according to the *shakkei* principle of "borrowed scenery". Stones feature prominently. They are used for paths, as stepping stones and to make little beaches. Above all, they are host to a wide range of mosses, for which the garden of Murin-An is famous.

HD**NEW****37 - DAITOKU-JI - JAPAN****DIRECTOR**

Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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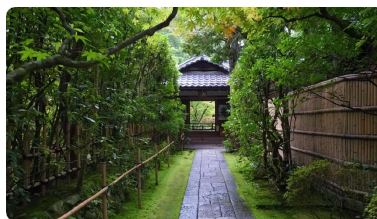
German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

Silence, minimalism and symbolic meaning reign in the Japanese Zen garden. Stone lanterns, purifying basins and white rocks and pebbles are meticulously designed and laid out.

The monastery of Daitoku-ji consists of a main temple surrounded by 23 sub-temples, separated from the city by an encircling wall. It is entered via one of three great portals. Its dry gardens embody the principles of Zen abstract philosophy: colour, plants and minerals are kept to a minimum. The paths take one on a journey in which the body is cleansed prior to the self-perfecting ritual of the tea ceremony.

HD

38 - PETERHOFF - RUSSIA

DIRECTOR
Emmanuel DESCOMBES

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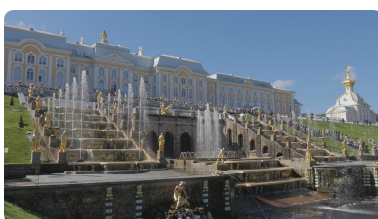
VERSIONS
English - German - French

TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

The gardens of Peterhof Palace, on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland, with their gilded and marble statues and their dazzling waterfalls and fountains, were created for the eighteenth-century Tsar Peter the Great, Emperor of All Russia, for political reasons.

Peter the Great was fascinated by Louis XIV's gardens at Versailles, which he visited in 1717. He commissioned prints of the estate and hired one of Le Nôtre's pupils, the architect Le Blond, to design a palace and grounds that would equal and even surpass Versailles. His aim was to place Russia on an equal footing with the great European powers. Making a French-style garden in Russia's harsh northern climate represented a considerable challenge.



NEW

39 - POWERS COURT - IRELAND

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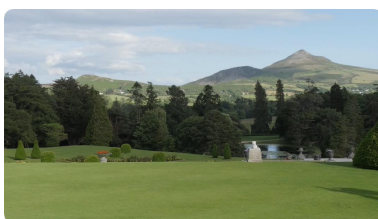
TERRITORY(IES)

Worldwide.

This Irish garden has witnessed four centuries of history. Initially designed for the Wingfield family in the eighteenth century, the grounds of Powerscourt were the creation of the English architect and landscape designer Daniel Robertson.

Although Powerscourt is still privately owned, the Irish are justly proud of this historic garden with its splendid trees and statues, which incorporates superb panoramic views of the landscape. Until the nineteenth century, with the exception of the Italian garden, the grounds contained very few trees. But the seventh Viscount of Powerscourt wanted to have wooded grounds. His additions include an outstanding arboretum and an imposing redwood walk that stretches as far as the estate boundary.

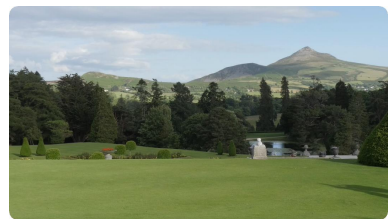
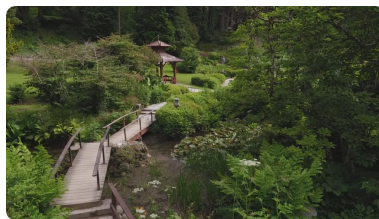
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NEW**40 - NINFA - ITALIA****COPRODUCERS**
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Internet**VERSIONS**
German - French
TERRITORY(IES)
Worldwide.

By the twelfth century, the ancient settlement of Ninfa had become a sizeable town with a castle. The noble Caetani family were granted the fiefdom. But the town's population was decimated by civil wars in the fourteenth century, then driven out by malaria.

Ninfa lay abandoned until the twentieth century, when three generations of Caetani women - Ada, Marguerite and Lelia - became fascinated with it and made a garden in the ruins of the old town. Wild and cultivated plants twine through the ruins in a riot of colour that somehow achieves a consummate elegance.

HD

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