

Le Comte et la Comtesse de Vendevre

« Collectors and lovers of art »

Heirs to the Counts of Flanders, the Le Forestiers Settled in Normandy in succession to their cousin, Queen Mathilda, the daughter of the Count of Flanders.

The current Château was built in 1750, by Alexandre de Vendevre, Engineer to the King. He employed the services of a famous contemporary architect, Jacques-Francois Blondel, who designed a residence in keeping with the latest fashion of the day.

This refined architectural vision has been handed down from father to son and the Château is now occupied by Count Guy de Vendevre his wife and their son Alexandre.

The Château stands in the middle of an extensive estate that is organized into three gardens. It is the Count's passion for gardens of the Italian Renaissance that has inspired the aesthetics and originality of his landscaping. The smallest details have not been overlooked and the gardens have an enchanting dreamlike quality.

Vendevre is a rare example of a country home from the Age of Enlightenment. The building, with its exceptionally pure architecture, is surrounded by classical style grounds to the front and Italianate gardens to the rear.



The south gardens have unusual water features that « surprise »; to the north are mazes and a grotto decorated with 200.000 shells.

Viscount Alexandre de Vendevre, is now the owner and guardian of the family heritage. It is with pleasure and deep affection that he protects this rare stately home, where his family has resided for so many hundreds years.

« Curiosity is not a liking for what is beautiful but for what is rare...it is not entertainment but a passion, and one that is often so violent that it can only give way to love and ambition through the minuteness of its object. »

Countess de Vendevre collects miniature furniture. At the age of seven, Elyane admired a miniature 18th century secretary at the home of an elderly aunt. Touched by the little girl's passion for the masterpiece, her aunt gave it to her for eighteenth birthday.

It was the start of her collection. As a child, she adored all that was rare, unusual and rich in detail. Her collection is now displayed in the museum that opened in 1983.



It holds almost 1,000 small items of furniture and thousands of Lilliputian objects.

Even in the 21st century their family motto still stands :
« Neither regret the past nor fear the future »

