

Traveler

THE STYLE ISSUE — HARBOUR ISLAND — KASHMIR — PORTUGAL — YUCATAN



The Style Issue

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Pilgrimage Tomas Maier campaigns to preserve modern architecture in Tokyo.



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Quick Trip An hour's drive from Paris (or an easy train ride from Charles de Gaulle Airport), Chantilly has a fairy-tale chateau, Michelin-starred restaurants, and one of the best art collections in Europe.



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Souvenir A bracelet decorated with charms from trips past sparks a lasting family tradition.



video

Travel Uniform In our new video series, our favorite travelers tell us what they wear on board. Tune in at cntraveler.com/video.

TOP ROW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT HRANEK (2); SECOND ROW, FROM LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENOIT PEVERELLI/COURTESY CHANEL; TETSUYA ITO. THIRD ROW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT HRANEK; GETTY IMAGES; DIMORE STUDIO. FOURTH ROW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY YOLANDA EDWARDS; DEWEY NICKS; YOLANDA EDWARDS

Besides Chantilly cream, the lyrics “Chantilly lace and a pretty face” might be the only association some of us have with the City of Light’s most overlooked nearby cousin. Next time you fly through Charles de Gaulle, pray for a long layover.

Paris Match

Castle, no crowds: The Château de Chantilly.



ON A MAP, Chantilly appears at first glance a mere suburb, a tiny enclave just an hour’s drive from Paris or 30 minutes by train—often overlooked by visitors and even Parisians themselves as they make their way to marquee destinations like Versailles, Deauville, and the Loire Valley. But contributing editor and photographer Matt Hranek spent an afternoon there last fall and

came back gushing about this Renaissance gem with its magnificent chateau, renowned horse-racing track, superb restaurants, and one of the finest art collections in France—in fact, all the beauty and elegance of Paris without the crowds and headaches.

“The chateau and gardens, the phenomenal stables, the walks in the forest that abuts the town—it’s all divine,” he

says. “And the fact that it’s so close to Paris and Charles de Gaulle is amazing.”

Hranek visited the town when he attended the inaugural Chantilly Arts & Elegance classic car show, which was held on the grounds of the elegant nineteenth-century chateau. A turreted confection in pale stone, the Château de Chantilly is perched on a moat whose serene waters offer fairy-tale reflections



1



2



3

1 Chantilly is known as France's horse capital; here, a performance at the Hippodrome.

2 Jockeys awaiting their race.

3 The stables overlooking the Hippodrome. It's most thrilling to watch the daily races right on the edge of the track.

of the ornate building. Home to French noble families for centuries, it was partially destroyed during the French Revolution and reconstructed in the 1870s in faux-Renaissance splendor. The princes of Condé used it as a hunting lodge, and today its ornate rooms are adorned with their spoils and trophies: mounted stag's heads and statues of hunting dogs—a very masculine decor. The last owner also left behind works by Fra Angelico, Raphael, Ingres, and others in 1897; the result is one of France's most extensive art collections, considered by historians to be second only to the Louvre's.

Outside, the extravagance extends to the formal gardens—designed in the seventeenth century by André Le Nôtre and bedecked with fountains, clipped shrubbery, and the rustic *hameau*, or mock village, that inspired Marie-Antoinette's milkmaid folly at Versailles. Nestled between the miniature half-timber cottages stands an outdoor tea salon

SEE
Château de Chantilly
 You could spend an entire day within the castle walls, viewing the apartments, the artworks—its endowment states that the art is not to leave the premises—and the library, which has its own celebrated collection of illustrated manuscripts. Clear your head afterward with a stroll

through the 115-acre grounds (Domaine de Chantilly).
Henson Equestrian Center
 If you're yearning for a good trot, the center offers guided tours of the town's monuments—on horseback, of course—and the Chantilly forest (Domaine de Chantilly).
Musée du Cheval-Grandes Écuries

Equine lovers will adore the "Horse Museum—Grand Stables," including the beautiful and surprisingly moving horse show. "I got really choked up watching it," Hranek says. The renovated Hippodrome now hosts races year-round, which are especially thrilling when you're "right on the edge of the

track," he says (Domaine de Chantilly).
Musée du Patrimoine et de la Dentelle
 Chantilly lace isn't just the name of a 1950s pop song—the town did in fact produce the delicate handiwork for a brief period in the seventeenth century. Though production eventually moved west to Bayeux, the quaint "Museum

of Heritage and Lace" still celebrates the town's history of craftsmanship with drawings, sculptures, artifacts, and ephemera (34 rue d'Aumale).

SHOP
English Shop
 This eclectic store on Chantilly's main street is a holdover from the nineteenth-century Anglophone

community. Its shelves are stocked with British products, from Marmite to marmalade, as well as equestrian souvenirs. The shop serves a proper afternoon tea as well (96 rue de Connétable).
Maison de la Porcelaine
 Chantilly is known for its porcelain, which the town has been producing since



1

1 Ask for a Classic room—done up in crisp sheets and toile—at the Auberge du Jeu de Paume.

3 A pastoral view: Looking out onto the grounds of the Château de Chantilly from the Auberge du Jeu de Paume.

2 The beloved French bistro Le Goutillon.



2



3

...serving heaping clouds of the château's most delicious legacy: its lightly sweetened whipped cream. According to local legend, Louis II de Bourbon-Condé's maître d'hôtel, François Vatel, invented crème chantilly here in the seventeenth century, and the château is still known today as the "cradle of whipped cream."

Of course, no hunting lodge would be complete without stables, and the château's are considered a masterpiece of eighteenth-century architecture. These days, the grand building, which once accommodated hundreds of hounds and horses, houses the Musée du Cheval—a collection of equine art, paraphernalia, and 31 horses of various breeds that perform daily dressage shows.

Finally, if art, architecture, and all things equestrian aren't enough of a draw, the town's excellent restaurants, Hranek says, "get it right in every way—from food to decor." Who needs Paris when you've got all this? —Ann Mah

the 1700s. This boutique atelier sells reproductions of the eighteenth-century hand-painted "Kakiemon" style (delicate designs inspired by Japanese patterns) as well as modern styles, all handmade (2 Pl. Omer Vallon).

Sporting Tailor
Vincent Dumoutier creates made-to-measure hunting jackets, skirts,

jodhpurs, and jockey silks in this century-old shop (36 ave. du Maréchal).

EAT
Auberge du Jeu de Paume
First, enjoy a drink before dinner at this Relais & Châteaux hotel's bar; next, proceed to its two-Michelin-starred restaurant, La Table de Connétable, which

continues Chantilly's tradition of sumptuous feasts. Chef Arnaud Faye celebrates local produce with a creative twist—standouts include turbot braised in seaweed butter, and roasted partridge dusted with coffee—which he serves in a serene dining room decorated in shades of beige and burgundy (4 rue Conné-

table; from \$385).

Le Goutillon
With its vintage posters, black-and-white-checked floors, and patrons squeezed elbow to elbow on the red-vinyl banquettes, this Chantilly institution ("the classic French bistro of your dreams," Hranek says) offers traditional French fare, flawlessly prepared.

The chalkboard menu changes daily, but he recommends the *steak frites* and the *sole meunière* (61 rue Connétable).

Restaurant du Parc-le Hameau
This family-run restaurant in the Château de Chantilly's garden is accessible only on foot. The shady alfresco dining area is the perfect spot to while away

a lazy summer afternoon, and the menu offers dishes like duck confit, gratin potatoes, and salads studded with rich bits of sautéed chicken liver. Desserts of fresh berries or house-made apple tarts are deliberately served plain—all the better to showcase the lavish dollops of crème chantilly (Domaine de Chantilly).