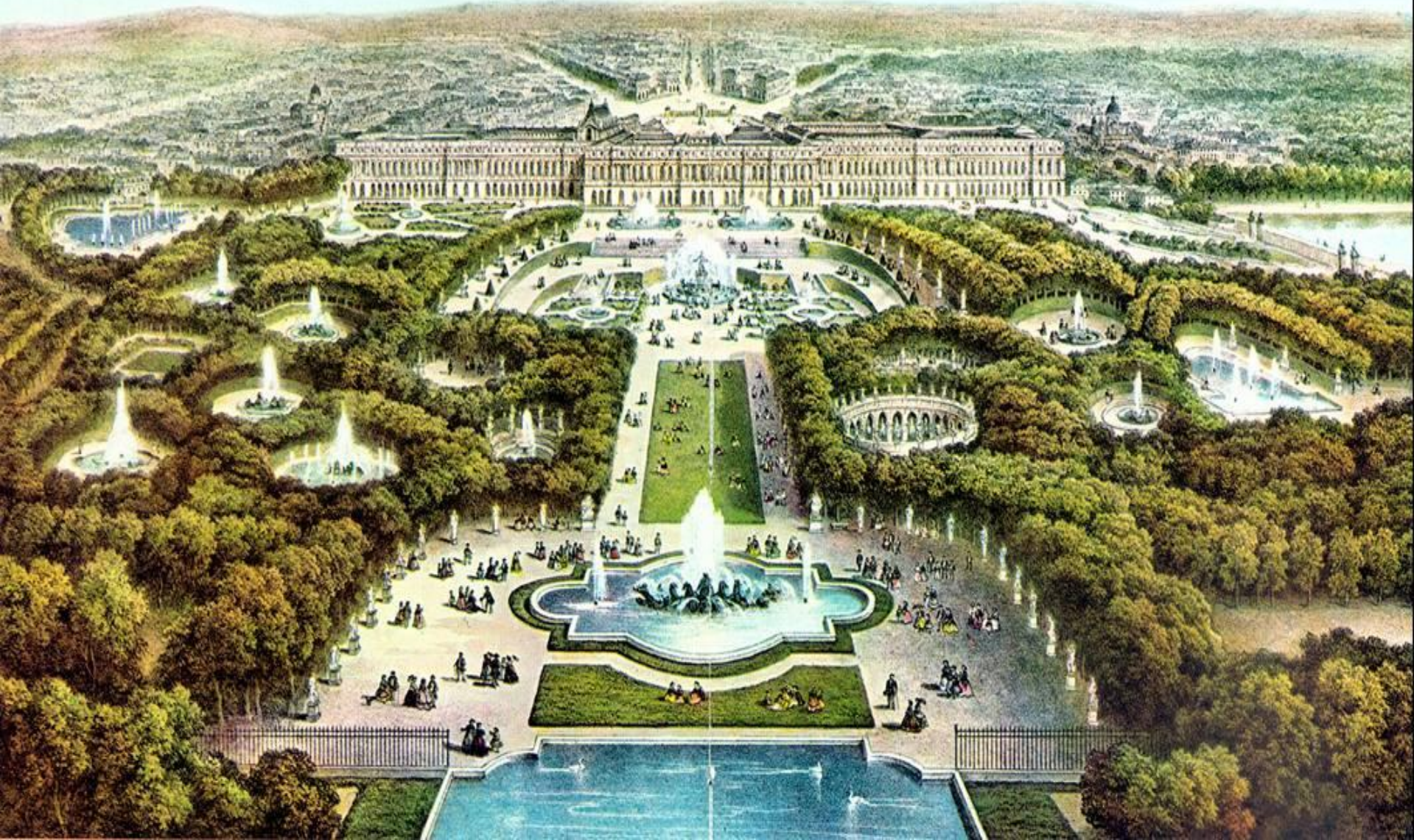


THE ART OF
Versailles



Immerse yourself in the
lifestyle of...

VERSAILLES

The ART of Versailles

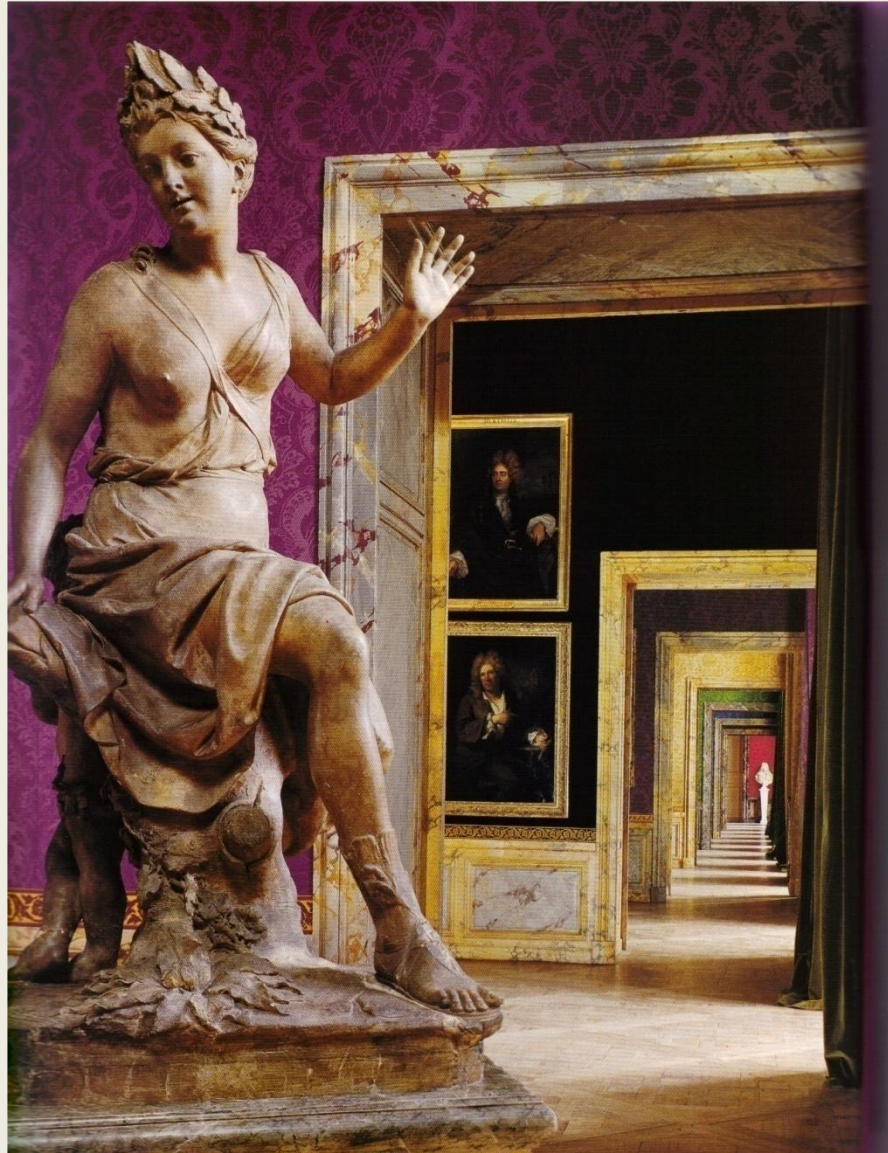
- Versailles is a palace known for its luxury
- Every inch of the palace was covered with decadent materials like silk and gold gilt
- The art of Versailles includes everything from sculptures, paintings, and tapestries to plants, gardens, and fountains

INTERIOR

Sculptures and paintings filled every room

Because of the Renaissance, art in many different forms was in abundance...

Colors were splashed from floor to ceiling and wall to wall



The King's State Apartment

- Paintings adorn both the walls and the ceiling
- Tapestries and furniture are covered with allegories
- This art was called Royal Propaganda



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The King's Bedchamber

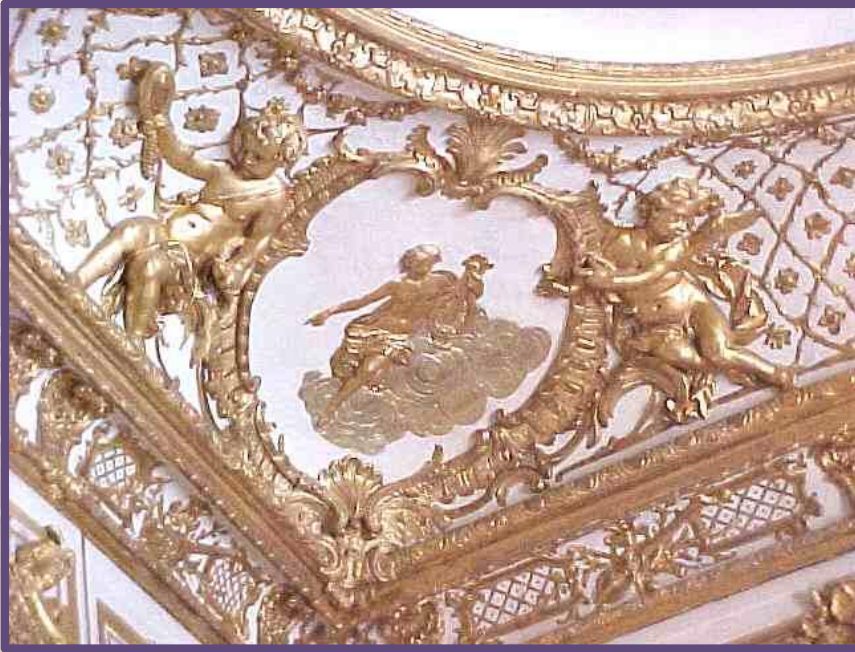


- This room was made Louis XIV's bedchamber in 1701
- Nicolas Coustou made the gilded carvings above the elaborately dressed bed
- In 1715 The Sun King died in this bed

The Drawing Rooms

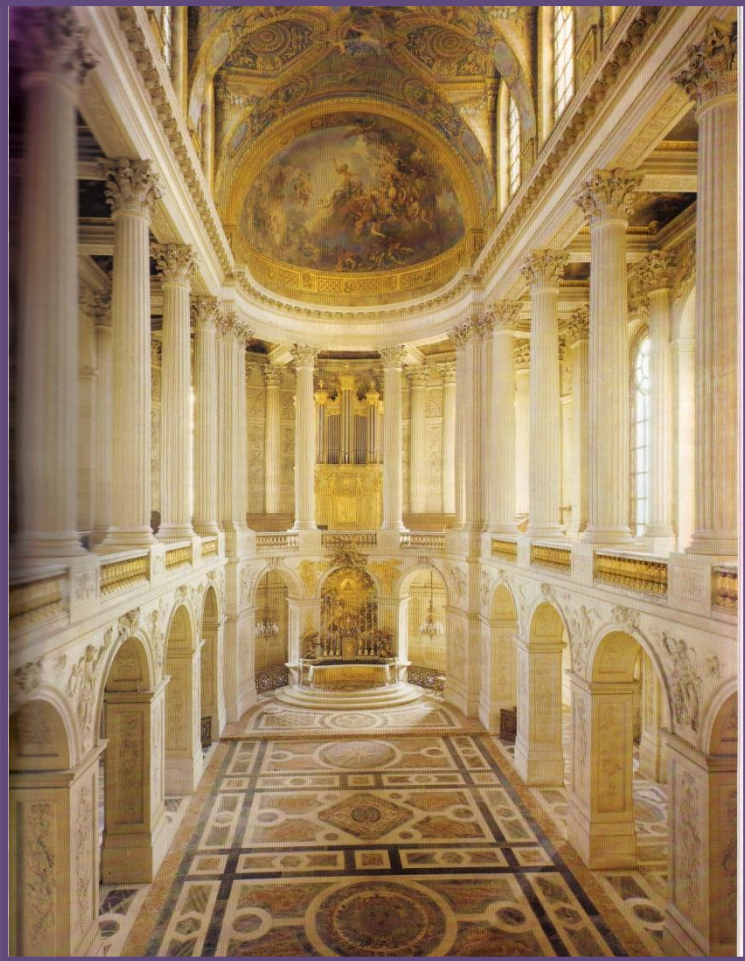
- Many of the Drawing Rooms consisted of a theme relating to Greek Mythology
- These include:
 - The Hercules Drawing Room
 - The Venus Drawing Room
 - And The Diana Drawing Room
- These rooms were used for playing cards, billiards, eating, or just talking

The King's Library



- King Louis XIV used the Baroque style full of gold and pastel colors when it came to the interior design of the Palace of Versailles

The Royal Chapel



- The Chapel took 9 years to build. The artist Jules Hardouin-Mansart worked on this chapel until his death
- The decoration is a marriage between the Old and New Testament

The Porcelain Dining Room

- Louis XV and XVI both had strong preferences for porcelain during their reigns
- Every year between December 21st and January 4th the dining room was converted into an exhibition and members of the Court were allowed to come purchase the manufactures of the Royal Manufactory



Sculpture



- This equestrian statue is of Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre
- Based on models by Bernini and Girardon

Furniture

- The Art of Versailles definitely includes furniture!
- Everything was to be completely functional and utterly beautiful
- Many different materials were used to build furniture like this...
 - Tortoiseshell, brass, painted horns, mother of pearl, tin, and of course, trees

Furniture



Tapestries

- Artists like Charles Le Brun did the artwork for tapestries covering the floors and walls and beds of Versailles
- Manufactories like the Savonnerie and Gobelins worked together to accomplish something fit for a king



Elisabeth Vigee LeBrun

- 1787
- Still hangs in the Palace of Versailles
- Female artist
 - ❖ Marie Antoinette et ses enfants



Charles Le Brun



- Was the favorite artist of King Louis XIV

- Did a lot of the decoration for Versailles



- Painted all of the royalty at this time

- Executed large murals, battle pieces, and altar pieces

The Hall of Battles



- Also done by Jules Hardouin-Mansart between 1678 and 1682
- 394 feet by 43 feet
- Gallery depicting the great military events of French History
- 14 centuries



The Hall of Mirrors

BRINGING THE OUTSIDE ... IN



Galerie des Glaces

The Hall of Mirrors

- Under the direction of Charles Le Brun from 1679 to 1686
- Brings the light from the gardens inside, bouncing off of the mirrors and glass
- 24 candelabras
- 20 chandeliers with Bohemian crystal
- Used for masked balls and official festivities

Rapper Jay-Z refers to the Hall of Mirrors in the song titled "Sweet," from his album American Gangster. "I can walk down the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, and be so satisfied when I look myself in the eyes."

Exterior

- The gardens of Versailles are just as magnificent as the interior



- Louis XIV hired landscape architect, Andre LeNotre to embellish the gardens

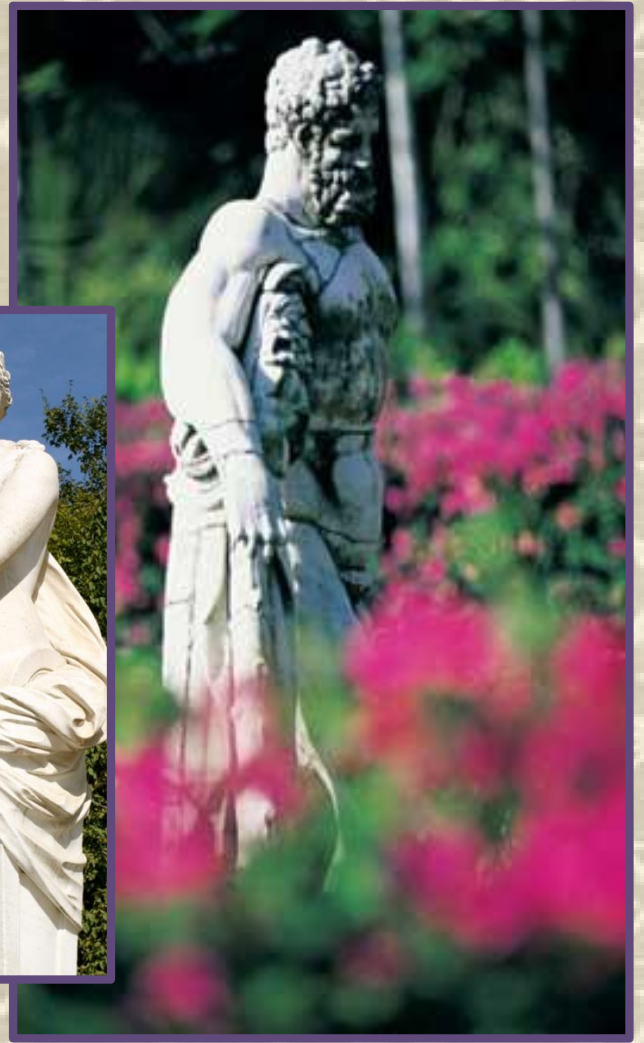


- Fountains and ornate landscaping fill the gardens





- View of gardens from Southwest



- There are numerous statues that add to the elegant décor



- [Fountains of Versailles](#)

- During the reign of Louis the XIV, the garden was made up of 15 groves, each with its own layout and décor



The Orangery

- The Orangery is a 504 foot long gallery beneath the Stairways of the Hundred Steps
- During the warmer months, the orange trees, palm trees, and oleanders are placed outside



Entertainment

- Louis XIV commonly used the gardens as the scene for lavish parties. After the completion of a majority of the gardens, he hosted the Pleasures of the Enchanted Island



- In each reflection pool there are four statues representing the Rivers of France, along with four groups of children and four nymphs



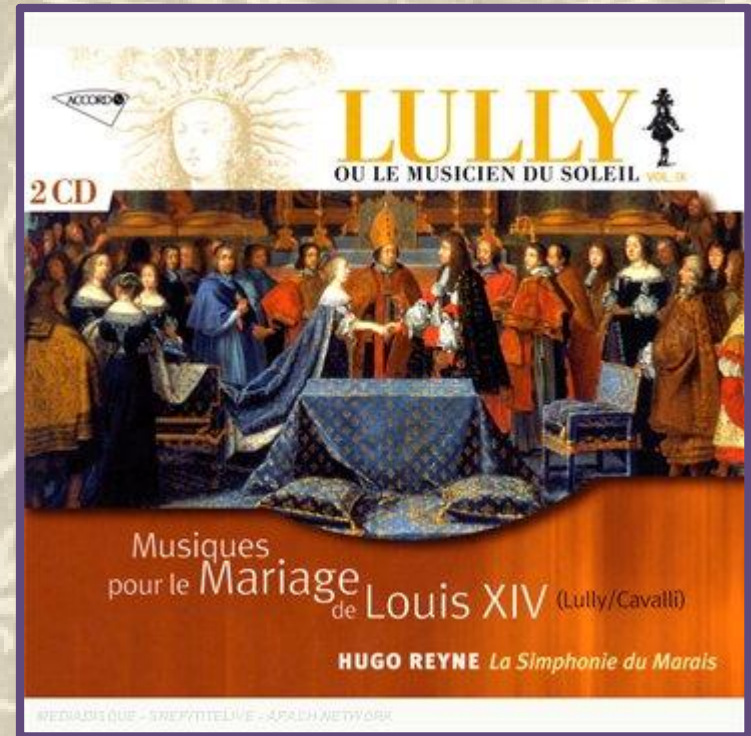
The Green Carpe

- The Green Carpet, or Royal Avenue stretches 1099 feet long and 210 feet wide down to the Grand Canal
- Twelve statues and twelve vases adorn the avenue



L'Opéra of the Palace of Versailles

- Louis XIV initiated a permanent theatre in Versailles
- The first Opera to herald the stage was Lully's *Persée*



Performing Arts at Versailles

- In 1988 on June 21 and 22, its courtyard played host to Pink Floyd during their "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" European tour, which was filmed. Footage from the show was used on the *Delicate Sound of Thunder* DVD.
- On July 2, 2005, the French Live 8 was held in the courtyard of Versailles.



Any questions?

