



Marignan

1515/2015

GRAND SPECTACLE HISTORIQUE INÉDIT
D'APRÈS LÉONARD DE VINCI
300 COMÉDIENS ET FIGURANTS EN COSTUMES ET EN ARMES

— 24 & 25 —
JUILLET
PARC DE BEAUVAIS
ROMORANTIN

— 26 & 27 —
JUILLET
CHÂTEAU DU CLOS LUCÉ
AMBOISE

— www.marignan2015.com —



Marignan 1515/2015

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1. The Event: *Marignano 1515/2015*

■ 1515: The famous French victory that rang in the era of Francis I

In September 1515, in Marignano, not far from Milan, in Italy, the young king Francis I and his Venetian allies fought the Swiss who were defending the Duchy of Milan. This was his first victory.

■ 1515: a symbolic date in our collective memory

This date known to all French people - schoolchildren in particular – is a popular favorite. Indeed, it is less about celebrating a French victory than about a memorial event that marked the beginning of the Francis I era, seen as the starting point of the French Renaissance.



■ 2015: a previously unseen reenactment spectacle by Leonardo da Vinci

In May 1518, in Amboise, King Francis I commissioned Leonardo da Vinci to stage a war reenactment with the seizing of a castle in order to commemorate the victory at Marignano. The ambassador of Mantua, who was on hand at this celebration, described a spectacular reenactment in which thousands of performers took part, using a castle made of wood and fabric attacked by cannons loaded with blanks: “Imagine a large square and on one side a fortification as high as a man on horseback with crenels and walls covered with canvases painted to simulate fortifications. Between the two towers the earth had been terraced as high as a man, and was covered with a wooden fence two fathoms in length. In front was a ditch five fathoms wide. Overlooking the ditch, a rampart

stretched from one turret to the next, made of painted canvas attached to wooden beams that could be easily knocked over ... Manyarquebuses were positioned on the crenels and the defensive positions; on the terrace we could see wooden mortars ringed with iron that, using gunpowder, shot, with flames and great noise, balls inflated with air that, when falling onto the square, brought down the false ramparts without the slightest resistance, to everyone’s delight: a new spectacle that was carried out ingeniously. [...] On the other side of the square was the magnanimous King, wearing the war armet, adorned with a large panache, surrounded by his soldiers, who were sitting astride with their spear on their lap; and on the left hand side was a large infantry battalion which included the Swiss and the archers of the guard armed with halberds, pikes and escopettes [...]”.

According to all of the ambassadors, the show was a great success and everyone left Amboise ready to draw their sword in honor of this powerful sovereign who had defeated the Swiss at Marignano and thus demonstrated his bravery.



■ Marignano 1515-2015: Commemoration of the 500th anniversary

This event designed to glorify the warring King Francis I will be reenacted in July 2015 at Château du Clos Lucé in Amboise and at Parc de Beauvais in Romorantin-Lanthenay. The dialog between the King and Leonardo da Vinci will be staged various phases of the battle, will be reenacted by 300 performers from around Europe. The reenactment is combined with broad historical research (by the CESR, LÉA and Musée de l’Armée) and highly specific research on Renaissance material culture, and is part of the *Intelligence des Patrimoines* (the study of natural and cultural heritage) research program. This large-scale performance will be supported by tourism professionals in the Centre-Val de Loire region (town of Romorantin, Château du Clos Lucé, Mission Val de Loire, etc.).

A major research project, funded by the Centre-Val de Loire region’s call for research projects of regional interest (APR IR) 2014, being carried out in 2015 by the University of Tours and the Centre for Advanced Renaissance Studies (www.marignan2015.fr) has enabled Leonardo da Vinci’s work to be recreated.

Château du Clos Lucé and the town of Romorantin are tightly linked with the history of France and with the personas of Francis I and Leonardo da Vinci. Indeed, Leonard had imagined for his king a vast palace in the town of Romorantin that never saw the light of

day. As for the Château du Clos Lucé, it was the engineer and artist's final dwelling.

This event is a centerpiece of the Year of Francis I, supported by Mission Val de Loire and its major sites around the region.

This reenactment of the celebrated Battle of Marignano in the Parc du Château du Clos Lucé and in Romorantin in July 2015 is expected to attract large numbers of tourists to the area, as this is to be France's only commemoration of the type of a date that is well-known to all French people. It should also generate significant media coverage. The theatrical staging, to be adapted for a two-hour performance, will include all of the key characters: Francis I and Leonardo da Vinci; Giulio Tedesco, the Tuscan master's assistant; Louise of Savoy, Claude of France, Madeleine de la Tour d'Auvergne and the ambassador of Mantua.



All of the historical information on the event itself and on its material aspects (costumes, weapons, food, decors and music) have been brought together for the occasion.

This event is unique in that it associates scientists with a historically informed performance: though there are reenactment shows throughout France, they are very rarely designed as part of an academic collaboration. This cooperation brings not only the guarantee of accuracy in the costumes and equipment, but also contextualization that helps to highlight the wealth of past events that give meaning to the present.

■ A joint project

The town of Romorantin and the Château du Clos Lucé are providing locations for the encampments and the performances. Several troupes of French, Italian, English and German reenactors will bring the event to life. Their participation will help to guarantee the historical accuracy of the costumes and weapons of the first part of the 16th century. During this four-day period, life will be lived at the pace of the Renaissance, the meals served to the soldiers will be cooked as they were in the 16th century, using ingredients identified as already existing in 1518 as part of the local culinary heritage (intangible heritage of the Centre-Val de Loire region) and served by costumed attendants. The scenario was developed by Jean-Louis Dumont, the renowned scriptwriter from Tours, and Pascal Briost, a Leonardo da Vinci specialist and Scientific Advisor to Château du Clos Lucé. Tourism industry professionals including Mission Val de Loire, regional tourism offices and Atout France offices will promote the event throughout France and internationally.

This project is thus entirely consistent with one of the Region's top priorities - tourism and culture - and aims to combine research with a spectacular historical reenactment that recounts the celebration of victorious Francis I after Marignano before ambassadors from

everywhere in Europe. The project is highly interdisciplinary in nature.

First of all, it focuses on visual cultures. The elements that have visually shaped the cultures of societies throughout history are addressed in their diverse tangible (works of art, objects, artifacts, signs, still and animated images, etc.) and intangible (virtual and imaginary imaging, for example) forms as well as in literary translations of the visual impressions they have left.

The Lille IRHIS (Isabelle Paresys) will replicate the clothing styles of the era, recreating some of the costumes worn by the court at the 1518 festivities.

History and art history are brought together in research on the material aspect of Renaissance celebrations (by Marion Boudon-Machuel, David Rivaud), exploring depictions of festivals and tournaments (such as the paintings of Jean Fouquet, King René's Tournement Book and miniatures as in Pierre Gringore's *De la réception et entrée de la très illustrissime princesse Marie d'Angleterre dans la ville de Paris*, 1514, BL, MS Cotton Vespasian B II etc.) and local archives (namely town accounting records).

Romorantin is also a memorial site as the banks of the Sauldre, not far from the château of Louise of Savoy, saw the building of the foundations of a future palace Leonardo designed for Francis I between 1517 and 1518. This project, abandoned and then forgotten, was the subject of a large exhibition, curated by Pascal Briost, Romano Nanni and Martine Vallon, as well as a colloquium, in 2010-2011. This involved publicizing the important results of the research carried out by the Centre for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR). Today, the Romorantin municipal government has encouraged the creation of an association, R2V2 - Rêve de Ville (with President Didier Guénin and Scientific Director Pascal Briost), to develop the riverbanks, organize events and mark the urban landscape with imprints of Romorantin's glorious past. This helps both to promote the town and offset the negative image it is sometimes attributed.

This staging of the Marignano celebration on the banks of the Sauldre takes on a special meaning when we remember that it is from this town that Francis I left for Italy. It is also here that his mother, Louise of Savoy, wrote in her diary, at her château in Romorantin, of the daydream she had of her son's victory.

2015 is the anniversary of a symbolic date known to and popular with all French people. Indeed, it is less about celebrating a French victory than about a memorial event that marked the beginning of the Francis I era, seen as the starting point of the French Renaissance.



2- The Scientific Committee

Pascal Briost, Professor of Modern History at Center for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR), Université François-Rabelais de Tours, a specialist in Leonardo da Vinci, fencing and Renaissance warfare, and project Coordinator.

Carlo Pedretti, Professor at UCLA, a specialist in the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci

Frank Labrasca, Emeritus Professor of Italian Literature at Center for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR), Université François-Rabelais de Tours

Marjorie Meiss-Even, MCF Lille3, a specialist in Renaissance material culture

Isabelle Paresys, MCF Lille3, a specialist in the history of clothing in the 16th century and replica clothing

Anne Marie Foucher, Head of the costume workshop at the Opéra Bastille

Benjamin Deruelle, MCF Lille3, a specialist in the history of wars in Italy

Sylvie Leluc, Curator at the Musée de l'Armée and artillery specialist

Emmanuel de Crouy Channel, Artillery specialist

Olivier Renaudeau, Curator at the Musée de l'Armée, armor and knife specialist

David Rivaud, A specialist in royal entries and municipal and royal celebrations during the Renaissance

Fabrice Cognot, PhD, Université de Paris 1, a specialist in blacksmithing and historical fencing

Carlo Vecce, Professor at the University of Naples, Leonardo da Vinci specialist

Anna Sconza, MCF Paris 3, a specialist in Leonardo da Vinci's *Treatise on Painting*



3- The 3 project leads

This event brings together three types of know-how: researchers from the Center for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR), Château du Clos Lucé's culture and tourism network and various local associations supported by the town of Romorantin-Lanthenay.

■ The Centre for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR)

(Université François-Rabelais de Tours – CNRS)



The Centre for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR) is both a training center for Master's and PhD students (UFR) and an interdisciplinary research center on the Renaissance organized as a Mixed Research Unit (UMR). Founded in 1956, it today falls under the threefold authority of the French National Scientific Research Center (CNRS), Université François-Rabelais de Tours and the French Ministry of Culture and

Communication. The CESR is one of Europe's most active centers for interdisciplinary studies on the Renaissance, working in diverse fields such as history, art history, the history of science, French and ancient literature, European literature, musicology and philosophy. It focuses on studying Renaissance civilization in the broadest chronological sense, "from Petrarch to Descartes."

around 200 publications a year and also directs a half dozen collections by several French and European publishing houses (PUFR, Brepols, Champion, Droz, Beauchesne and others).

There are several research projects focusing on, among others, digital humanities (*Bibliothèques Virtuelles Humanistes*, *Ricercar*), scientific humanities (*Architectura*, *Savoirs scientifiques et techniques*) and heritage (*Intelligence des Patrimoines*).



Since 2013, the Centre for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR) has coordinated an innovative research and promotional program, *Intelligence des Patrimoines* (study of natural and cultural heritage), focusing on the promotion of natural, cultural,

gastronomical, artisanal and agricultural heritage. This program, which brings together all of the Centre-Val de Loire Region's research and training organizations, offers a unique approach to promoting natural and cultural heritage that combines research and the socioeconomic world.

Through the study of various topics (Chambord-Châteaux, Vines and Wine, etc.), it aims to:

- Initiate collaborative projects with socioeconomic and institutional partners,
- Create new research momentum,
- Originate innovative development prospects that foster the emergence of new digital products and services for heritage tourism.

Intelligence des Patrimoines is part of a regional context in which natural and cultural heritage plays a leading role and is of strategic importance for the Centre-Val de Loire Region in its Horizon 2020 plan.



Today, the Centre for Advanced Renaissance Studies (CESR) is renowned worldwide and has become one of Europe's leaders in the field. Nearly 90 teacher-researchers, researchers and administrative staff work at

the Center (including 20% from the CNRS) alongside 150 Master's and PhD students. Every year, some one hundred researchers from around the world come to the Center to speak at scientific events or work on specific projects. The Center produces



Château du Clos Lucé - Parc Leonardo da Vinci Leonardo da Vinci's dwelling in Amboise

It is at Château du Clos Lucé, at the invitation of Francis I, that Leonardo da Vinci spent the final three years of his life and devoted himself to the completion of his inventions. The estate was designated as a Historical Monument in 1854. One century later, in 1954, Hubert and Agnès Saint Bris opened Leonardo da Vinci's home to the public so that the largest possible number of visitors could discover the place.

In his leather bags, Leonardo had brought from Rome three of his major works - *Saint John the Baptist*, *The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne* and the renowned *Mona Lisa* - as well as all of his notebooks and sketches that testify to the wealth and diversity of his work.



Prolific and visionary, he worked as an engineer, architect and stage director, organizing sumptuous celebrations for the Court.

In his dwelling located 300 meters from the Château Royal, he drew up the plans for an ideal château for Francis I in Romorantin and designed the double helix staircase for Chambord.



Today, the small family company employs 60 people during the peak season, welcoming the 350,000 visitors who come to discover the place where Leonardo da Vinci lived, the landscaped park and the collections of models based upon drawings by da Vinci. The "Leonardo da Vinci and France"

and "Leonardo da Vinci, the Engineer" exhibits round out the visit. Every year, 100 companies choose to associate their image with that of the Renaissance genius.



10 years of creation and restoration

Work carried out at the site over the past 10 years:

In 2003

The exterior facades of the chapel and the corner turret housing the spiral staircase were restored. The Leonardo da Vinci Cultural Park was created, featuring 20 life-sized models of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions, 40 giant canvasses illustrating the artist's drawings and paintings and 8 audio guide stations in a 7-hectare, tree-lined park listed as a Historical Monument.

From 2004 to 2007

A large-scale restoration campaign directed by Arnaud de Saint Jouan, Chief Architect for Historical Monuments, was carried out in four phases over four years to restore the Château's facades and the facades of the 15th- century Priory that houses the Renaissance theme-based restaurant.

2008

The Château du Clos Lucé created a new space, the *Le Jardin de Léonard* ("Leonardo's Garden") dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci and to nature, embodying the values of sustainable development.

2010 – 2016

A full campaign was undertaken to restore the interior of Leonardo da Vinci's dwelling to its original state at the time he lived there. In the first phase, from 2010 to 2011, da Vinci's bedroom and the adjoining bedroom of Marguerite de Navarre were restored. In the second phase, from 2012 to 2014, the monumental cut stone staircase was restored. In the third phase, from 2014 to 2016, work is being carried out to faithfully restore da Vinci's workshop (*studiolo*).

From 2015 to 2025



Following the acquisition of a 3-hectare former industrial plant neighboring the estate, the Château du Clos Lucé cultural project involves refurbishing this space and these buildings to turn them into cultural and scientific facilities.

Romorantin: The ideal city of Francis I and Leonardo da Vinci

In Romorantin, the project is supported by a group of non-profit associations alongside the *Romorantin Ville Rêvée de Leonardo da Vinci* association. This project is also supported by the town of Romorantin-Lanthenay, the sub-prefecture of Loir-et-Cher. The town and its associations are working to make this event a festive time of sharing and culture.



Originally the property of the Counts of Blois, Romorantin was granted autonomy by charter in 1196. The dungeon called “the Big Tower” was attacked by the English in 1356. At the end of the 15th century, under the protection of Jean of Angoulême, the grandfather of Francis I, the town grew. The bridge was moved upstream and new fortifications protected the northern part of the town.

Louise of Savoy, the widow of Charles of Angoulême, liked his Romorantin estate. During the year 1499, she hosted Louis XII and Anne of Brittany - who were fleeing the plague in Blois - at the estate. During this stay, on 13 October, the queen gave birth to a girl she named Claude, who would later marry Francis of Angoulême, the future King Francis I. The royal couple had a predilection for Romorantin, as each of the spouses had ties to the town. In an edict of 1515, the king points out that it was here that “his beloved companion the queen was born, has her lineage and was nurtured.”

In her diary, in 1514, Louise of Savoy revealed her vision of the battle of Marignano during a stroll in her park. “On 28 August 1514, I began to foresee by celestial projection that my son would be in great danger against the Swiss; after supper, when I was in my wood at Romorantin between 7 & 8 o’clock, a dreadful celestial impression in the shape of a Comet appeared in the sky towards the Occident.”

Then, in September 1515 she proclaimed her pride in her victorious son:

“On Thursday September 13 1515, my son vanquished & defeated the Swiss near Milan... the fighting began at 5 in the afternoon, lasting all night and the next day until 11 o’clock, before noon; this

same day I left Amboise to go to Notre-Dame de Fontaines on foot, to recommend what I love more than myself; my glorious & triumphant son, Cesar, conqueror of the Helvetians.”

From the beginning of his reign, Francis I and his mother entrusted Leonardo da Vinci with a major project: building a palace in Romorantin, a city for the Court, at the center of a powerful network of roads and canals. This grand design also included an octagonal hunting lodge in the heart of a forest located near the town that was to be turned into a royal game park.

After the death of the Tuscan master in 1519, the work was stopped and Francis I rechanneled his visions to Chambord. Nonetheless, the king frequently came to stay with his mother in Romorantin. During the Epiphany on 6 January 1521, he was injured in the face in front of Hôtel Saint-Pol. The Court stayed in the town for several months while he healed. According to tradition, he decided to grow a beard in order to hide his scars. “On the 6th day of January 1521, the Epiphany, at around four o’clock in the afternoon, my son was hit by an ember falling from the highest of his buildings, which greatly upset me, for had he died, I would have been a lost woman.”

In 1522, The King showed his love for the town by granting it the rare privilege of using the Royal Salamander in its coat of arms.



4- The reenactors

The Marignano 1515/2015 historical performance is built upon the passion of troupes of reenactors coming from all over Europe.

History enthusiasts, reenactors craft the clothing and all of the accouterments specific to the period they are interested in. During an event, they push their attention to detail to the extreme, even living in an encampment in the same comfort and conditions as their ancestors did.



Romorantin-Lanthenay will be hosting a hundred members of *Bund Oberschwäbischer Landsknechten* (The Federation of Lansquenets of High Swabia) from Bavaria in southern Germany. The Swabian League (1488 - 1534), dedicated to defending against outside attacks, brought together a federal army of 12,000 infantrymen and 1,200 cavalymen. There were around 8,000 in the army of Francis I. One of their captains, Wolfgang Eberhardt von Lupfen, was made Lord of Tremblevif (today known as Saint-Viâtre, in Loir-et-Cher).

Reproducing an army of such a scale is obviously no longer possible. Thus, today the association enables us to see the count's aristocracy, with his hunters, all the way down to the modest footman, and everything that travelled in a military camp with lansquenets and their cortege.

The reenactors' encampment is run by thirty members of Forges de la Brume, a non-profit association from the Seine-et-Marne region of France. Artisanal know-how from the period will be presented in fifteen tents. The forge is the centerpiece of this attraction. Visitors will discover events and presentations on blacksmithing, leather, writing with goose quills, embroidery, bookbinding, herbal medicine, the creation of wax candles, hippocras tastings, or simply the life of a village accompanying a war lord on his campaign.

The *Compagnia della Fenice*, from Ferrara in northern Italy, specializes in the period 1480-1530 and reenacts the life of a typical *Fähnlein* (a company of imperial lansquenets) operating in Italy during the turbulent years at the beginning of the 16th century. This troupe is composed of 40 performers.



Also participating will be a hundred Florentines from *Corteo Storico Fiorenza* in Florence Italy and the *Ecuyers de l'Histoire*, armored horsemen who clash during a tournament reenactment. There will also be fencers, artillery, a colorful, authentic military hospital and horses from *l'Ecurie d'Arcadie* ("Arcadie Stables").



5. Events and spectacle programme

■ Events at Romorantin

Thursday 23 July 2015

City Centre

From 6 pm: parade, dining and dancing

Friday, 24 July 2015 from 10 am to 9 pm

On the Parc de Beauvais site

- Encampment of re-enactors and Renaissance market
- Activities and entertainment on-site:
 - A hunting-dog handler for Francis 1.
 - The engineers' workshop with its mechanical lion, odometer and mathematical instruments.
 - The forge des Brumes with its forge and craftsmen's workshops.
 - The barber surgeon's tent and his amputation session.
 - At the weapon-master's: a lesson in swordsmanship.
- With the Antre des Jeux association: action-figure games and boardgames on the theme of the Renaissance and Entertainment theatre workshop with the Atelier 360.
- Show from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.



Staging plan in the Parc de Beauvais at Romorantin.

Saturday, 25 July from 10 am to 9 pm

City Centre

10.30 am: Start of the parade from Place de l'église to the Parc de Beauvais.

2.30 pm: Saint-Etienne church, concert by the vocal and instrumental ensemble the *Sorbonnes Scholars* (free entry).

10 am to 5 pm: Market, animations theatre, jugglers and musicians in the streets of the city centre.

On the site of the Parc de Beauvais

- Encampment of re-enactors and Renaissance Market
- Activities and entertainment on-site:
 - A hunting-dog handler for Francis 1.
 - The engineers' workshop with its mechanical lion, odometer and mathematical instruments.
 - The forge des Brumes with its forge and its craftsmen's workshops.
 - The barber-surgeon's tent and his amputation session.
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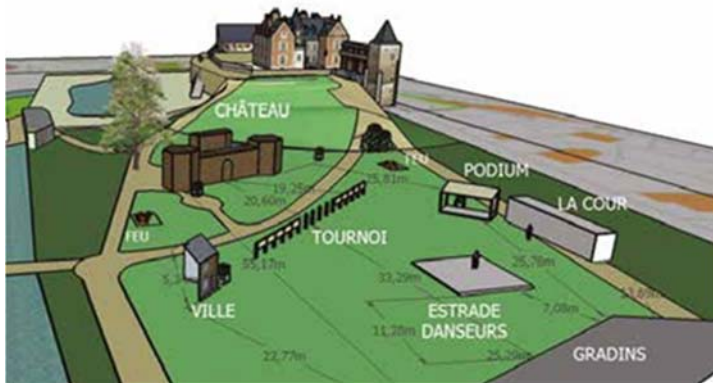
Events at Amboise

Marignan 1515/2015 : July 26-27 at the Chateau du Clos Luce

The Chateau du Clos Luce, where Leonardo da Vinci lived from 1516 to 1519, welcomes 500 years later, in a new, legitimate and natural way, the spectacular show Marignan 1515/2015, which brings together more than 300 re-enactors who come from various countries.

As part of the national commemorations of the advent of Francis 1, the Chateau du Clos Luce, in co-producing and welcoming the show Marignan 1515/2015, recalls the close link which was established between Francis 1 and Leonardo de Vinci during his years in Amboise.

Francis 1, who grew up at Clos Lucé, along with his sister Marguerite of Navarre and their mother Louise of Savoy, invited Leonardo da Vinci to come from Rome. He placed his confidence in Leonardo and put his talents to the service of his own glory. In the three years spent at the Clos Luce, ties of friendship were established between the young monarch and Leonardo da Vinci, who was then 64 years old. Francis I called him "my Father" and entrusted him with many projects. Leonardo drew up the plans of a model castle for Francis 1 at Romorantin and designed the double-helix staircase at Chambord. Before the Marignan 1515/2015 spectacle and throughout the day, festivities are organised in the 7-hectare park.



*Stage plan
in the Leonardo da Vinci park at the Clos Luce in Amboise*

Saturday, 25 July, Sunday, 26 July and Monday, 27 July from 10 am to 11 am and from 3 pm to 4 pm

Medieval cuisine and tasting workshops

Sieur Sausin, historical re-enactment caterer, proposes to explore the medieval kitchen through fun workshops in order to learn more about the evolution of the kitchen in France and in Europe, as well as the art and morals of the table codified by the Renaissance.

Through activities both for adults and children and tastings of sweet-savouries accompanied by "fouaces" (focaccia-style breads), visitors can discover the spices, herbs and other dishes from the time of Francis 1.

Over these three days, the Auberge du Prieuré will be open to the public for Renaissance-styled lunches and dinners.

Sunday, 26 July and Monday, 27 July

In the Clos Luce Château park, the public is invited to go and meet the re-enactment troupes:

- Presence of a mobile field hospital, guided by Olivier Renaudeau, Curator at the Musée de l'armée, (army museum), and his troupe: responsible for the injured during the big battles, including that of Marignan, equipment and surgical instruments, etc.
- Les Forges de la Brume company: demonstration of a forge operation, of kitchen materials and of daily life in an artisans' encampment in the 16th century.
- Presentation of Knights from History: eight knights in armour and their horses, set up in their paddock located in the park, will share their knowledge of civilian and military horsemanship with the public.
- Michel La Campana, the workshop of the engineer: Leonardo's famous mechanical lion "fleurs-de-lys eater"; introduction to simple machines and to their combination.
- Jean-Louis Pironio, Andrea Bernardoni and Alexander Neuwahl, the measurers: activities with the measurement instruments used by Leonardo Da Vinci (odometer, archipendolo (plumb rule), and triple rule).
- Meet ten Lansquenets (mercenary foot soldiers) from the Lothringen Landsknechten, and see their equipment, weapons and tents.





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