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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

The 8 Most Beautiful Castle Gardens in Europe

Literally flourishing since the reign of Louis XIV, these sprawling, pristine green spaces are worth traveling for

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Gardens in Europe have evolved over centuries, spanning from monasteries where monks carefully their specifically-chosen blossoms, to castles with demure shrubs and roses. The idea of elaborate castle gardens flourished during Louis XIV in mid-17th-century Europe, when elaborate parterres and large-scale design were envisioned and encouraged. Louis XIV, too, was one of the first to fuse the grandeur of castle architecture, landscape, and interior design. Here are some of the most beautiful European castles with equally stunning gardens.
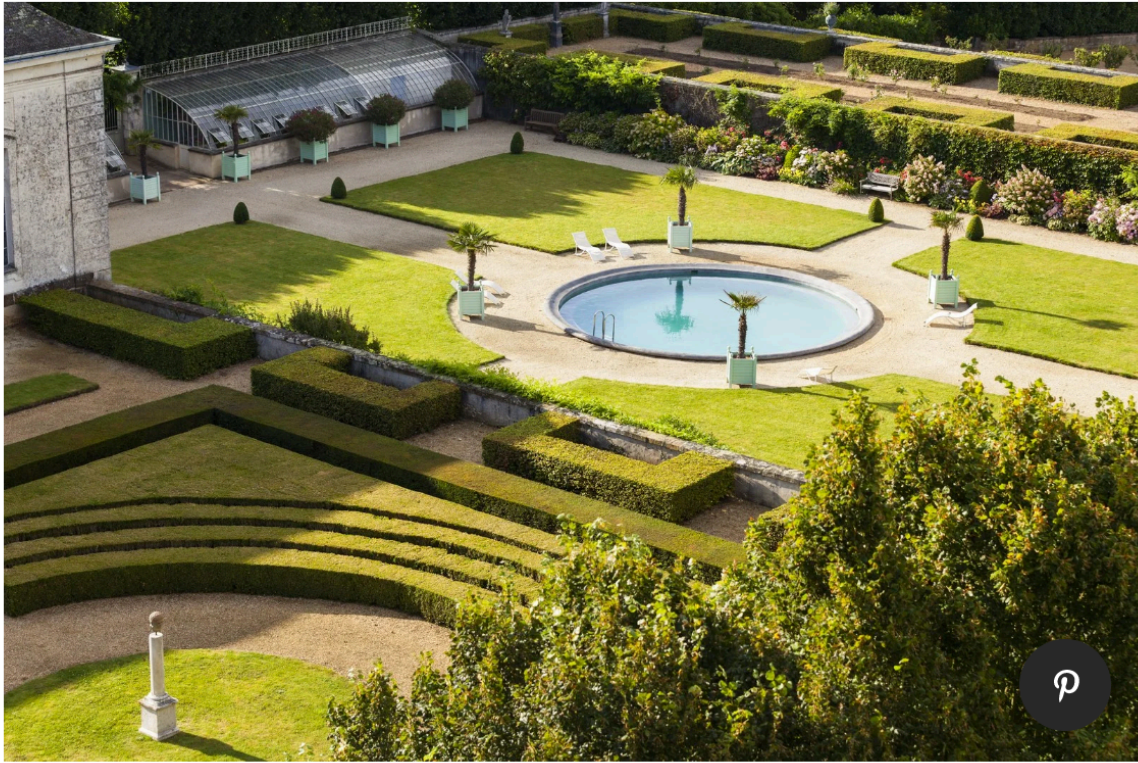
Photo: Courtesy of Chateau du Grand-Luce

Hotel Château du Grand-Lucé, Loire Valley, France

This neoclassical-style 45,000-square-foot castle sits in the Loire Valley of France (just an hour by train from Paris). Apart from the sumptuousness of the limestone chateau are the stunning gardens, with elegant parterres, a lovely circular pool, a hothouse, and some of the finest oak trees in France. The estate was recently purchased by Marcy Holthus, owner of Washington School House, and the interiors recently underwent a restoration supervised by Paul Allen Design. chateaugrandluce.com