



A visit to Vauvert Park in Clamecy



Located at the gates of the medieval town of Clamecy, Vauvert Park nowadays covers an area of 7,65 ha (about 19 acres). Its name comes from ‘Val vert’, meaning green meadow, scrub.

① The path and rocks invite you to take a stroll through the park, reminiscent of an **English country garden**. In stark contrast, the style of the flowerbeds and the apparent symmetry at the front of the manor house are typical of a **French-style garden**.

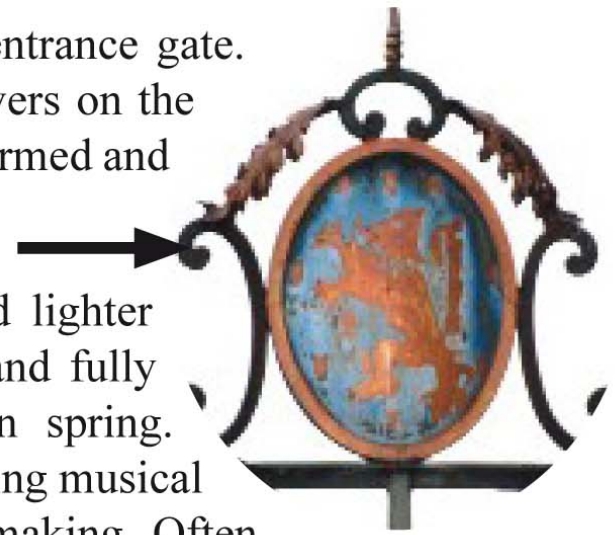
② In the 16th century, a smallholding called La Coulemelle (parasol mushroom), with its barn and its lodge was set along the rue de Druyes (Druyes street) (point⑧ son the map). The park consisted then of pieces of land belonging to several landlords.

On November 10th 1697, the smallholding was sold by Sir Grasset to Rioult de Douilly, master of requests and councillor at the Parliament of Paris. From 1700 to 1702, he bought several pieces of land and designed a leisure park. He planted lime trees and yews to create a French-style garden.

③ **The classic-style manor house** was built at the beginning of the 18th century, with its stables and store sheds which now host the “maison de la formation” (training house). In 1754, Philiberte Lamy, wife of the marquis of Argence, Baron of Saint Pierre du Mont, inherited the manor. The park was then named *Parc d’Argence*.

In 1800, Guingat, a wood trader in Clamecy, acquired the site. He sold the trees which had been planted in 1700 and replaced them with fruit trees. Flowerbeds and flowers disappeared... Millelot, the following owner, added the monumental stone staircase in 1828 and re-planted many trees.

④ Note the coat of **arms of Clamecy** above the entrance gate. It is reminiscent of the influence of the earls of Nevers on the town: "Azure billetty or a lion rampant of the same, armed and langued gules".



⑤ **Boxwood** has oval leaves which are green and lighter coloured on the reverse. It is evergreen, aromatic and fully hardy. It bears fragrant, creamy white flowers in spring. Yellow and dense, its wood is specially used for making musical instruments and measuring tools, but also for printmaking. Often used for hedging, boxwood is resistant to trimming and drought. It has depurative and febrifugal properties. It may live for up to 600 years.

⑥ **The weeping ash** is shorter than the common one (8 m high vs 30 m). It blooms in spring. It is cultivated for its decorative features with its twisted branches and twigs weeping to the ground. It has a longevity of 150 to 200 years.

⑦ **This Colorado spruce** was planted in 1980. Also called Blue Diamond, and native to North America, Colorado spruce is highly valued for its ornamental look. It withstands high temperatures and pollution. It gives off a nice smell of pine and bears sharp needle-like leaves.

⑧ 16th century smallholding.



⑨ **The Arizona Cypress**, or blue cypress, has a conical and regular shape. It can grow to a height of 20m and has short and quite sturdy branches. Its flowers are loaded with allergenic pollen. Its wood is used for lumber and combustible material. When planted singly, it is an ornamental tree for large parks and gardens.

⑩ **Vaulted icehouse** where ice collected from the lake in winter was stored.



⑪ Théodore Tenaille-Saligny, a city councillor in Paris and former prefect, called upon a landscape architect who took advantage of the natural rocks to design a winding landscape, inviting visitors to wander.

⑫ **The terraces** inviting you to take a wander are supported by **the wall** which marks the boundary with the undergrowth while creating a theatre of greenery.

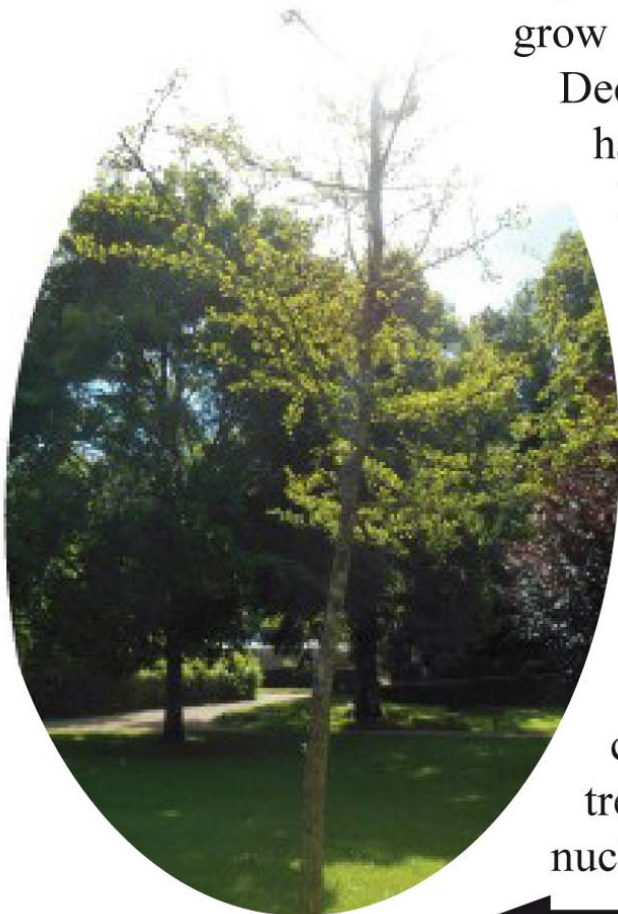
⑬ **The crescent once** offered a view over the Manor and the lake. The size of the latter was reduced and an island removed to allow for the building of the stadium.

⑭ In 1943, the town of Clamecy acquired the site with the aim of housing museum collections and building an outdoors-style lycee. This project was eventually abandoned. Only the sports part of it has been completed: football pitch, tennis courts, bowling pitch and playground. The manor now hosts the social centre.

⑮ Planted in around 1955, this **giant sequoia** is recognisable by its regular and conical shape. Its bark is very thick and flexible, and its leaves are small, pointed and dark green. It is fast growing and can live for up to 3000 years. Quite resilient, although an endangered species, giant sequoias are popular for their impressive size.



⑯ Icon of the State of Louisiana and native to the United States, **bald cypress** or Louisiana cypress, can grow to heights of 50 m and live from 300 to 500 years. Deciduous, its foliage is light, elegant and flexible. It has unusual aerial roots and grows best in sunny but humid sites, which explains why its branches often dip in water.



⑰ Presented to Clamecy in 1999 by Englishman Fred Friedman, a lover of the town and the Vauvert Park, this **ginkgo biloba** has short and long shoots and can reach a height of 30m. Slow growing, ginkgo biloba can live up to 2000 years. Its yellowy green leaves, turning gold in autumn, give it an elegant look. In China, it is planted close to Buddhist temples and viewed as a sacred tree. Hardy and resistant to pollution, it survived the nuclear blast of Hiroshima.



⑮ Native to North America, this **tulip tree from Virginia** was planted in 1991. Tulip trees can reach a height of 40 m and live up to 500 years. When young, it has smooth bark which then develops a network of fissures. Its foliage is made of four-lobed leaf blades, with the appearance of a notched tip. Its large flowers are bisexual and resemble tulips, giving it a highly ornamental quality. Its light coloured, shiny and very light wood is used for carpentry and woodworking.



⑯ **Weeping willows** can reach a height of 20 m. Its bark and branches are arched with long hanging twigs.

⑰ **Silver maple** is native to Eastern North America and can grow up to 20 m high. It is a highly decorative tree with hanging branches and yellow gold foliage in autumn. The sugar content of silver maple sap is lower than that of other maple species. This one was planted in 1982.

⑱ **Common yew** bears poisonous, long and flat dark green leaves. With a maximum height of 15 m, it can reach 1000 years of age. It withstands pruning and is therefore used for hedging.

⑳ An underground stone aqueduct dating back to 1700 supplies **the ponds of Vauvert park** with water from the Beuvron. Water flows back to the river at the exit of the stadium.

... Audio-guided versions are available with the free application **GUIDIGO** for **Clamecy**, **Varzy** (16 km away), **Entrains-sur-Nohain** (23 km away) and for the geological site of the **Basseville Rocks** (20.6 km away).

... "**Heritage Thursdays**": guided tours of Clamecy available every Thursday in summer at 10 am or at 3 pm (3 different themes). Information and registration at Clamecy Tourist Office.

... "**Clamecy by night**": 3 guided walks are organised in July and August at 9 h 45 pm on Fridays

... July/August: **guided tours of Varzy and some local villages are organised.**

... **Child-friendly: Randoland**: free recreational activity booklets are available at Clamecy Tourist Office.

Continue the experience by visiting Clamecy with your smartphone :



Guidigo

**Tourist Office of
Clamecy Haut Nivernais**
03 86 27 02 51



FLOTTEURS FM 91Mhz

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- 1 Les jardins à l'anglaise et à la française
- 2 Historique
- 3 Le château
- 4 Armoiries de la Ville de Clamecy
- 5 Le buis
- 6 Le frêne pleureur
- 7 L'épicéa du Colorado
- 8 La métairie du XVI^e siècle
- 9 Le cyprès de l'Arizona
- 10 La glacière
- 11 Le paysage sinueux
- 12 Le théâtre de verdure
- 13 La demi-lune
- 14 Les espaces sportifs
- 15 Le séquoia géant
- 16 Le cyprès chauve
- 17 Le ginkgo biloba
- 18 Le tulipier de Virginie
- 19 Le saule pleureur
- 20 L'érable lacinié
- 21 L'if commun
- 22 Alimentation des pièces d'eau

... Retrouvez des circuits **audioguidés** avec l'application gratuite **GUIDIGO**. Disponible aussi pour **Varzy** (à 16 km), **Entrains-sur-Nohain** (à 23 km) et le site géologique des **roches de Basseville** (à 4,6 km).

... « **Jourdis du patrimoine** » : en période estivale, des **visites guidées** de Clamecy vous sont proposées tous les jeudis à 15h (3 thèmes différents).

... « **Clamecy, la nuit** » : 3 balades commentées sont programmées en juillet-août, vendredi à 21h45.

... Juillet / août : des **visites guidées de Varzy** et de villages de la communauté de communes sont organisées.

... **Spécial enfant** : *Randoland* : livret de visite ludique de Clamecy à retirer gratuitement à l'Office de tourisme.



Rue des 43 Tirailleurs

Office de tourisme Clamecy Haut Nivernais
03 86 27 02 51
www.clamecyhautnivernais-tourisme.fr

CLAMECY

Le parc Vauvert