



*Le Bois des Moutiers*



# WELCOME TO LE BOIS DES MOUTIERS

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*Le Bois des Moutiers*

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## GARDENS

# GUEST HOUSE GARDEN

Built in 1870, the former stables have been converted and extended over the years to provide guest accommodation. The east façade is heavily inspired by an English cottage style. Climbing roses grow up the walls and alongside evergreen plants and boxwood

topiary, as well as flowers that are reminiscent of country gardens (bush roses, hollyhocks, irises, etc.). The north gable has been planted with numerous varieties of Camellia to soften its appearance.

*Rosa 'Caroline Testout', Rosa 'The Lady of the Lake', Rosa 'Mme Abel Chatenay', Hydrangea 'Petiolaris', Hydrangea semanii, Rhododendrons roseum, Osmanthus heterophyllus, Camelia 'Hogomoro', Camelia 'Lady Vansittart'.*

Planted during the restoration period :

*Magnolia stellata, Iris 'Into the Blue', Alcea rosea, Paeonia suffruticosa 'A Bo Kyu', Aster pringlei 'Monte Cassino', Anemone japonica 'Hapsden Abundance'.*

*Camellia collection: Camellia japonica 'K Sawada', Camellia japonica 'Henri Cormerais', Camellia hiemalis 'Paradise Caroline', Camellia cuspidata 'Spring Festival', Camellia japonica 'Magali', Camellia japonica 'La Psallette', Camellia sasanqua 'Paradise Hilda'.*



## GARDENS

# WHITE GARDEN

This garden is located on the major East-West axis linking each of the formally designed gardens. It is the first «green room» created by Sir Edwin Lutyens and is known as «the garden of the nine chequerboards». Miss Gertrude Jekyll had planted Cape Hyacinth, Gladioli, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Heliotropes... in these gardens.

The Mallet family chose the white plant theme in the 1950s, inspired by the famous white garden created by Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst in the 1930s. This theme was revived when the garden was restored.

White blooms and shades of grey and silver emerge from the boxwood borders. Perennials, annuals and bulb plants mingle with shrubbery and flower alongside clematis and climbing roses (*Clematis montana* 'Alba', *Rosa* 'Mme Abel Chatenay', etc.)





## GARDENS

# MIXED BORDER GARDEN

Leading from the main gate to the entrance, this plant-lined path was walled in by Sir Edwin Lutyens since it was first designed. This garden is divided into two distinct atmospheres.

In the area furthest from the house, Miss

Gertrude Jekyll, the famous English landscape gardener of the last century, developed the «Mixed borders» principle, the first to be created in France. These mixed borders are veritable tableaux vivants, or living pictures, combining gradations of colour, shape and texture in a continuum of flowers from May to the end of October.

The yew (*Taxus baccata*) buttresses divide up the space, forming little «green rooms» in which the flowers stand out against contrasting backgrounds.

The second part is closer to the house and is called «The Round Courtyard». It lies at the intersection of the two main axes that dictate the overall geometry of the gardens. Sir Edwin Luytens designed a layout of bricks and stones with complex symbolism. The Mediterranean atmosphere developed here by Miss Gertrude Jekyll reflected the desires of Marie-Adelaïde Grunelius, who had spent her childhood in Genoa, Italy. A remarkable example of *Magnolia grandiflora* planted in 1899 has been carefully protected during the restoration work, which began in 2020.



The southern style that Marie-Adélaïde Grunelius and Guillaume Mallet dreamed of was the guiding principle behind the restoration work. Italian cypresses once again frame the courtyard, where the plant palette plays on shades of grey and green.





## GARDENS

# PERGOLA

The pergola, a favourite of Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, is a prominent feature in many of the gardens they designed together. Placed on the main axis that runs parallel to the house, in the heart of Le Bois des Moutiers, the pergola was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. It consists of 7 bays of Varengeville brick

supporting oak beams. The pergola creates a link between the house and the gardens.

The brick pillars are planted with climbing plants with delicate textures of foliage and fragrant flowers (*Wisteria floribunda* 'Alba', *Rosa* 'Francis Lester', *Rosa* 'Abraham Darby', *Rosa* 'Sally Holmes', *Clematis viticella* 'Purple Velour', *Rosa Moyesii* var. *fargesii*, *Rosa* 'Lykkefund', etc.) and a *Viburnum carlesii*, 'Aurora' at the entrance. Great care was taken during the restoration of the pergola to preserve these climbing plants, some of which have been there since the very beginning.

## CROQUET GARDEN

This small alcove-shaped garden was originally a children's croquet lawn. Here, the house and pergola provide support for climbing plants, with mixed borders at ground level. The colour palette of these beds ranges from blues to whites (*Ceanothus impressus* 'Puget Blue', *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Blue Bird', *Viburnum carlesii*, *Eriobotrya japonica*, *Rhododendron* x 'Cunningham White'). When the house was restored, new plants replaced those that had disappeared over the years :

*a large Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Skylark',  
Eleagnus 'Quicksilver', Magnolia grandiflora  
'Goliath', Eucryphia intermedia 'Rostrevor',  
Milletia japonica, Lupinus x 'Noble Dame',  
Amsonia tabernaemontana salicifolia.*

## ROSE GARDEN

The original rose garden site created by Miss Gertrude Jekyll was destroyed during the Second World War. Sophie Seydoux, Jérôme Seydoux and Madison Cox wanted to recreate the original atmosphere. The massive quarter-circles surrounding the sundial are a tribute to the gardens that Miss Gertrude Jekyll designed. Sophie Seydoux's selection criteria included old roses with a similar colour palette (deep pink, apricot, orange and pale pink).

On the walls: *Rosa 'Wedding Day', Rosa 'Gentiliana', Rosa 'Hugonis', Rosa 'Ballerina',  
Camelia japonica 'High Fragrance', Actinidia kolomikta, Escalania Langleysensis, Sassafras 'Tzumu', Thujopsis dolabrata 'Hongdae'.*

In the flowerbeds : *R. 'Princess Anne', R. 'Baron de Gossard', R. 'Petite de Hollande', R. 'brother Cadfael', R. 'Belle au bois dormant', R. 'Princess Alexandra de Kent', R. 'Salet', R. 'Olivia',*

R. 'Eustacia Vye', R. 'Souvenir de la Malmaison',  
R. 'Jacques Cartier', R. 'Monsieur de Morand',  
R. 'Louise Catherine Breslau', R. 'Irene watts', R.  
'Emily Bronte', R. 'Jacques Cartier', R. 'The Lady  
Gardener', R. 'Jardin d'Enteoulet', R. 'Summer  
Song', R. 'Dame Judi Dench', R. 'Sunshine', R.  
'Westerland'.



## GARDENS

# THE TEA HOUSE

The «tea house» is the culmination of the great east-west axis that starts at the white garden. It is also a link that leads to the path to the kitchen garden. This folly, designed by Lutyens, uses the same style of brick post as those of pergola to support a conical flat-tile roof.

A majestic *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Treyviensis' planted in 1963 provides shade for the lush vegetation: *Ulmus x elegantissima* 'Jacqueline Hillier', *Kerria japonica* 'Variegata', *Berberis* 'Valdiviana', *Berberis amurensis latifolia* BS WJ 8539, *Spirea* 'Henryi', *Rosa* 'Mrs Oakley Fisher', *Rosa* 'Buff beauty', *Vitis vinifera* 'Rubra' ...



## MAGNOLIA GARDEN

The «Magnolia Garden» was planted by Mrs André Mallet in 1975 after some very old cedars had fallen. This spring collection (March-April) of Asian magnolias is very impressive with its simultaneous flowering, most of which are a very pure white. In winter it reveals a Japanese-style architecture of trunks and branches: *M. stellata*, *M. cylindrica* 'Pegasus', *M. Soulangeana* 'Lennei Alba', *M. loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' and 'Loebneri Merrill', *M. Kobus*, *M. x kewensis* 'Wada's Memory', *M. grandiflora* 'Treyviensis' ...

Further planting took place during the restoration period: *Magnolia 'Loebneri Merrill'*, *Magnolias proctoriana 'Gloster Form'*, *Magnolias stellata 'Rosea'*, *magnolias grandiflora 'Goliath'*, *Magnolias virginiana*, *Magnolias 'Yellow Lantern'*, *Magnolias cylindrica 'Albatros'*, *Magnolia soulangeana*, *Magnolias 'Elisabeth' ...*

Alongside this garden, two mixed borders run alongside a brick path that leads to the 'Maze Garden', where impressively tall '*Penelope*' roses and *Hydrangea paniculata 'Grandiflora'* bloom, along with magnificent white wisteria.







## GARDENS

# MAZE

The house's former kitchen garden, extending over an area of 3,700 m<sup>2</sup>, is surrounded on one side by two brick walls (west and north) built in a right-angle to protect the crops from the wind. The other two sides were planted with yew hedges by Guillaume Mallet.

The restoration of this garden gave Madison Cox the opportunity to create a maze with fruit trees. The two main axes, formed by yew hedges and a central pool, form four labyrinthine compartments planted with different varieties of berry bushes (redcurrant, raspberry, blueberry, etc.). Espaliered apple and pear trees have been planted along the walls, interspersed with columns of climbing roses. The fruit varieties selected come from old plants: *Mespilus germanica*, *Cydonia oblonga*, *Diospyros Kaki 'Fuyu'*, *Malus 'Gravenstein'*, *Malus 'Belle Fleur Jaune'*, *Malus 'Querina'*, *Rubus idaeus 'Autumn Bliss'*, *Rubus idaeus 'Heritage'*, *Ribes nigrum 'Titania'*, *Ribes nigrum 'Ben Nevis'*, *Rosa 'Narrow Water'*, *Narcissus 'Petrel'*, *Narcissus 'Thalia'*, *Narcissus 'Misty Glen'*, *Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'*...

The kitchen garden and the greenhouse garden are currently being restored.





## THE PARK

# PATIS

To the east of the park, an ancient pasture stretches across the only flat part of the park. This heathland is known as «le pâtis» and boasts a unique biodiversity that is characteristic of Varengueville. The natural Scots pine plantations that make up the park serve as a backdrop to a collection of rare

plants : *Rhododendron augustinii*, *R. Alison John-stone* and *R. 'Blue Diamond'*. (April-May).  
The walk around the pâtis begins in a shady clearing.

The white, fragrant flowers of *Rhododendron 'Polar Bear'* surprise visitors with their late appearance in July. Further on, an azalea plantation with delicate colours and fragrances (*Azalea mollis*, *Rhododendron luteum*), is extended with old rhododendron hybrids. In a nearby clearing, *Camellia x williamsii* hybrids are grouped together and showcased by the dark backgrounds of holly and laurel (April-May).





THE PARK

# FLAMBOYANT COPSE

This ancient wood was completely devastated by the storm of 1978. After it was drained, it was replanted with Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra subsp. laricio*) and *Calocedrus decurrens*. A planting programme put in place by the new team has been extended to include new varieties of Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worsplesdon', *Liquidambar formosana*, *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Lane Robert') and *Nyssa sylvatica*.





## THE PARK

# SECRET VALLEY (VIEW OF THE CHURCH)

From this promontory, we can admire the secret valley planted with Japanese maples by Madison Cox in 2023. Thanks to careful pruning, the view of the church overlooking the sea is now bordered by the foliage of these trees.

*Palmatum 'Scolopendrifolium', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Ornatum', A. palmatum 'Arakawa', A. japonicum 'Vilifolium', A. palmatum 'Aureum', A. palmatum 'Osakasuki', A. palmatum 'Summer gold', A. palmatum 'Deshojo', A. palmatum 'Ueno Yama', A. palmatum 'Senkaki', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Green Globe', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Lion Heart', A. japonicum 'Vitifolium', A. palmatum 'Tsukasa Silhouette'<sup>®</sup>, A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Fire cracker', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Flavescens', A. palmatum var.*

*Dissectum 'Inaba shidare', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Paul garnet', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Shinonome', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'T amukeyama', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Viridis', A. palmatum var. dissectum 'Crimson queen' ...*





## THE PARK

# HIMALAYAN RHODODENDRON ALLEY

The Himalayan Rhododendron Alley was created by Guillaume Mallet and has been enhanced over the years. The winding alley has a wide variety of species that intermingle on either side of the path. The silhouettes



and foliage of Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*, '*Dissectum Atropurpureum*', '*Seiryu*', '*Linearifolium*') offset the more structured blooms of rhododendrons (*R. yakushimanum*, *R. 'Bow Bells'*, *R. 'Temple Bell'*, *R. 'King Georges Loderi'*, *R. 'griffithianum'*), which are native to the Himalayas and impress with their fragrant cascades of huge bouquets of pink or white flowers in May. A layering programme undertaken by the gardening team is under way to perpetuate and further enhance this atmosphere.





## THE PARK

# ARIANE'S WAY (RHODODENDRONS X 'HALOPEANUM')

Running under holm oaks bordered by various old 'rhododendron hybrids', Ariane's Way begins with a surprise. An immense plantation of giant white rhododendrons extending over 50 metres in length (*Rhododendron x*

*Halopeanum*') and more than 10 metres high set against a backdrop of Blue Atlas Cedars.

Further on, carpets of wild Narcissus bloom en masse in the undergrowth, taking over from the bluish blooms of the expanses of wild bluebells. These endemic bulbous plants are preserved and renewed because they are an essential part of the «*woodland garden*» atmosphere so dear to the «*Arts and Crafts*» movement, of which Le Bois des Moutiers is an integral part.

In winter, the naturally wide-branched Hamamelis, or witch-hazel, capture the light in the undergrowth. With bright yellow or very pale colours, deep oranges or reds, its flowers have a delicate orange blossom fragrance. In 2022, Sophie Seydoux launched a campaign to plant new trees to complement the existing plantations in the undergrowth areas: *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Harry', *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena', *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Westerstede'...



## THE PARK

# GUNNERA CLEARING

In the hollow of a humid valley, surrounded by red and white rhododendrons, liquidambar and Atlas cedars, a massive plantation of *Gunnera manicata* or Giant Brazilian Rhubarb, contributes to a certain change of scenery thanks to its unexpected appearance.

These imposing perennials were first introduced to Le Bois des Moutiers following a donation in the 1950s from Jean Delacour, a Franco-American ornithologist and creator of the nearby Parc de Clères.

The leaves are spectacularly large, sometimes reaching 2 metres in diameter.





## THE PARK

# DARJEELING

The charm and vegetation of this town perched on the slopes of the Himalayas inspired this humid clearing bordered by elegant clumps of royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) and evergreen Gaultheria shallon. Under the dappled shade of the Japanese maples, the *Hydrangea* 'Seafoam' and

'*Mme Mouillière*' stand out against the immense wall of rhododendrons that borders the clearing (*Rhododendron Halopeanum*).

Further on, visitors can enjoy the huge flowers of the American azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*), standing over 4-5 metres tall. Flowering is late (July) and the flowers are white and very fragrant.





## THE PARK

# VALE OF GHENT

In the centre of the park, a large group of fine varieties of azaleas, hybridised by horticulturists from the city of Ghent, was planted in the last century by Guillaume Mallet and has expanded over the last few decades. These hybrids are no longer found in gardens



today, despite their exceptionally beautiful colours (early June). *R. 'Cadmium'*, *R. 'Daviesii'*, *R. 'Fanny'*, *R. 'Gomer Waterer'*, *R. 'Sang de Gentbrugge'*, *R. 'Sylphide'*...





THE PARK

# VIEW OF THE SEA

The view of the open sea does justice to one of the park's great sources of inspiration: the sea.

In 1926, in his book «Le Potomak», Jean Cocteau shared the emotions of his visit with Jacques Émile Blanche to Le Bois des Moutiers:

*«Persicaria, have you forgotten this park?*

*It went all the way down to the sea(...) Oh, I remember it well. A clump of blue hydrangeas hides the name of the sad gulf where our buoy was lamenting... It was Persicaria, a vast domain, in the twilight, a dawn of the night».*





## THE PARK

# YULAN MOUND

Yulan is the name of a magnificent magnolia (*M. denudata*) that has been cultivated in China and Japan for centuries. Located under a very tall California Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), this magnolia has grown to exceptional size. It is accompanied by *Exochorda giraldi* and *korolkowii* as well as red rhododendrons 'Ascot Brilliant' (April).



## THE PARK

# RED VALE

On the site of a former jungle originally planted with Japanese bamboo (*Sasa palmata* 'Nebulosa'), a new project is being developed alongside venerable California sequoias (*Sequoia sempervirens*), 'Alarm', 'Alexander Adie' and 'Robert Croux' rhododendrons, which are surprisingly large (early June).

In keeping with the original vision, Sophie Seydoux plans to reopen this vale to the public, showcasing red rhododendrons against a newly planted lawn.





## THE PARK

# SEA VIEW

Planted by Guillaume Mallet, this avenue of Japanese camellias includes winter-flowering varieties such as *C. japonica* 'Sylvia', *C. japonica* 'Nobilissima', *C. japonica* 'Gloire de Nantes' and *C. japonica* 'Lady Clare' *akachigata*.

Against a backdrop of holly and holm oak, the slightly overhanging ponds form a «ricochet» that leads the eye to the nearby sea.

To fully open up the view over the «Valleuse des Moutiers», new pruning has been carried out, creating a «*Haha*» or «*Deer wall*» effect that gives the illusion that the landscape stretches out to infinity.







## THE PARK

# HOLLOW OAK VALE

The presence of a very ancient hollow oak tree (*now extinct*) gave this valley its name.

The extreme beauty of the gnarled trunks of the ever-present oaks is softened by the blooms of a collection of hydrangeas (*H. quercifolia* and *H. paniculata*), out of which rises the astonishing Japanese-style silhouette of a large *Magnolia loebneri*. On the left, as you climb back towards the house, the view through the tall evergreen Sequoias is illuminated by the monumental bright red blooms of the rhododendrons below.

A programme to planting new varieties of oak is in progress, carried out by the park's own team of gardeners.





## THE PARK

# BLUE ATLAS CEDAR CLEARING

An arched plantation of Blue Atlas Cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*) by Guillaume Mallet overlooks a valley leading up to the «Vale of Ghent». There is a wide variety of bluish Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*

*'Blaumeise', Hydrangea macrophylla 'Veitchii',  
Hydrangea macrophylla 'Mariesii Lilacina',  
Hydrangea serrata 'Blue Bird').*

This section of the park is framed by evergreen redwoods and a stand of Louisiana bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), past which runs a large stream that has carved out its bed over time, leaving its winding trail on the terrain.





## THE PARK

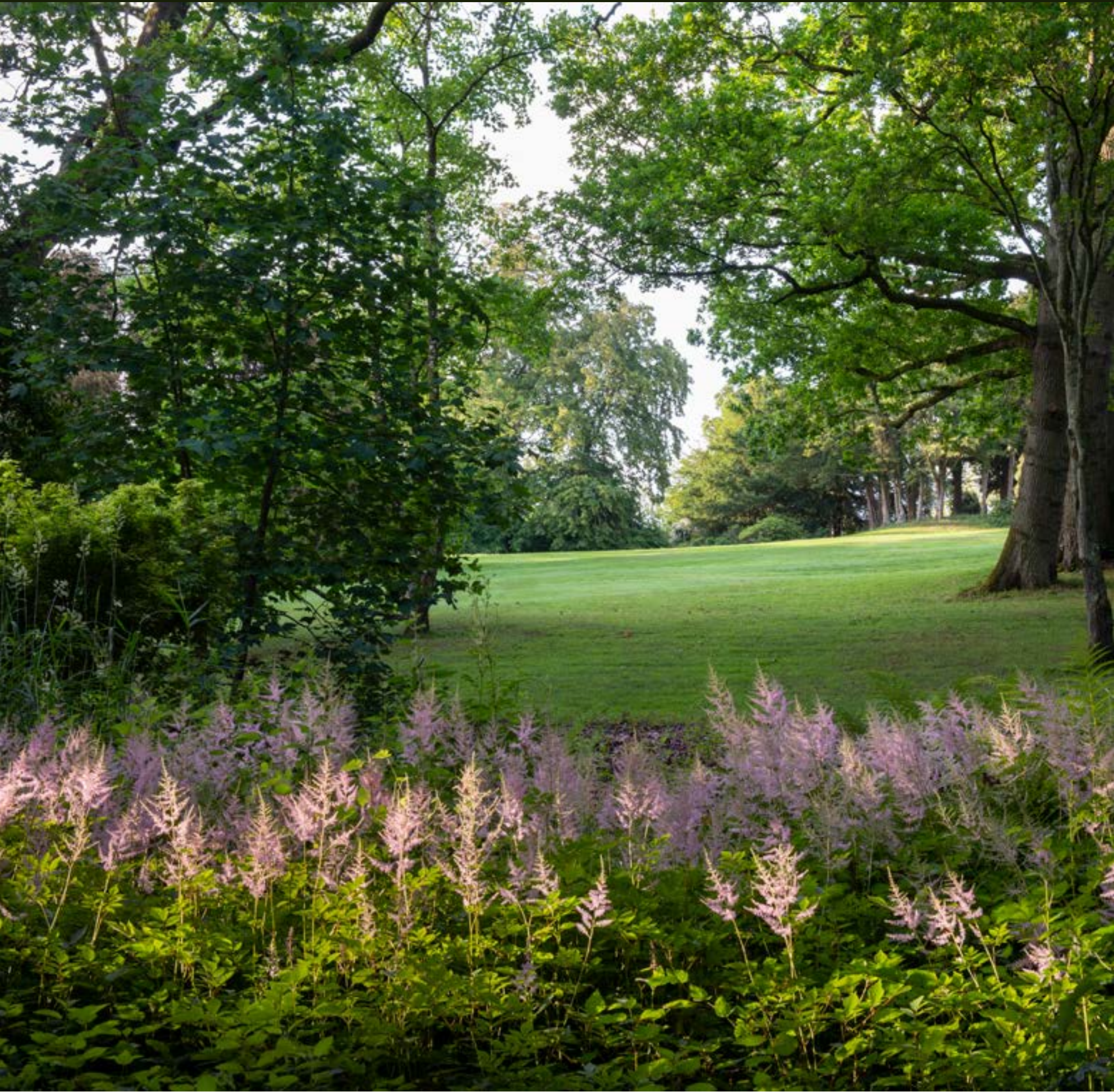
# SPRING VALE

In this small valley along the stream, the beauty of the planting does not stem from contrasting colours or bright tones, but rather from the discrete nuances and shades between the shapes and textures of the green plants.

The German ferns (*Matteucia struthiopteris*), planted en masse, extend along the stream, bordered by the large American azaleas (*Rhododendrons occidentalis*) and on the mound a *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, which smells of caramel in autumn, overlooks the scene.

Turning our backs on this tableau, a second scene of soft green takes shape before our eyes. It combines the acid green frond foliage of Louisiana bald cypresses (*Taxodium distichum*), a group of Japanese Angelica trees (*Aralia elata*) with indented foliage and Brazilian gunneras against a backdrop of two majestic Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*).





## THE PARK

# ASTILBE STREAM

Leaving the spring vale, take the path towards the higher parts of the park and you will come to a very beautiful Japanese maple and a *Magnolia macrophylla* on your left. Then, again on the left, a wood of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) forms a rolling landscape around a stream running down to the sea. A «river»

of Astilbe along with varieties of Japanese maples provides contrasting touches of colour against a background of soft green moss (in spring and autumn), *Acer platanatum* 'Kinran', 'Beni Kagami', 'Bloodgood', 'Matsukase'. The Blue Atlas Cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*) provide structure and colour to the whole, alongside the Scots pines with their dark red trunks.

During the restoration work, maples and irises were planted to complete the ensemble.







THE PARK

MOLLIS  
AZALEA TRAIL

Going up towards the house, on a west-facing hillside, a large collection of Chinese Azaleas was planted in 1900 and 1960. A range of fragrant pastel orange, yellow and white colours blend harmoniously against a background of *Cryptomerias japonica*

*'Elegans viridis', Quercus rubra 'Aurea',  
Q. robur 'Fastigiata', Q. Phellos, Amelanchier x  
grandiflora, Nyssa sinensis and Pseudolarix  
amabilis.*

A replanting campaign was launched In 2022.

Old varieties of azaleas have been planted,  
and numerous layers have been taken from  
the mother plant to protect these old species,  
which are now very rare.



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