



JOURNÉES DES PLANTES DE CHANTILLY

22, 23 AND 24 MAY 2026
PATRON : CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE GARDENING YEAR

Visitors experience the best of European horticulture at the *Journées des Plantes de Chantilly*. Held every May and October, this leading event in the garden calendar transforms the spectacular grounds of the Château de Chantilly into a botanical showcase. The 21st edition, themed **“One Thousand and One Botanical Gems”**, highlights rare and unusual or little-known plants as well as one-of-a-kind varieties, each meticulously propagated and curated by expert growers.

The event offers an ideal platform for professionals and experienced gardeners and encourages sustainable growing practices alongside plant diversity, conservation and garden innovation.



THEME IN MAY 2026 INSIGHT INTO PLANT NURSERIES

“One Thousand and One Botanical Gems” celebrates plant species, cultivars and botanical selections beyond the reach of ordinary garden supply chains. The result of botanical exploration, patient sowing or years of careful selection, these plants demonstrate the creativity and expertise of European nurseries. Featuring unusual shrubs, established garden plants, rare collector’s specimens and the latest varieties, the show is a forum for exchanging practical growing tips and specialist knowledge.

FASHION LEGEND AND PATRON: CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

This three-day event is being held under the patronage of **Christian Louboutin**. Known globally for his signature red-soled shoes, the designer has left a lasting mark on fashion through both his namesake brand and high-end accessories.

Less well known is Christian Louboutin's passion for gardens: in his twenties, after working with his mentor Roger Vivier, he stepped away from shoe design to devote several years to landscape design. One day, while working on a garden on the island of Bréhat, he visited a nearby nursery — **Kerdalo** — and discovered the gardens that he would go on to purchase in 2021. This botanical paradise had been created in the 20th century by Russian prince Peter Wolkonsky, then living in exile in Brittany. Officially designated a **Jardin Remarquable** (Remarkable Garden) in 2005 and listed as a protected historic site in 2007, Kerdalo is a rich mosaic of nearly 5,000 species, including rare botanical treasures, making every visit feel like a carefully choreographed performance. The *New York Times* ranks it among the 25 most beautiful gardens in the world.

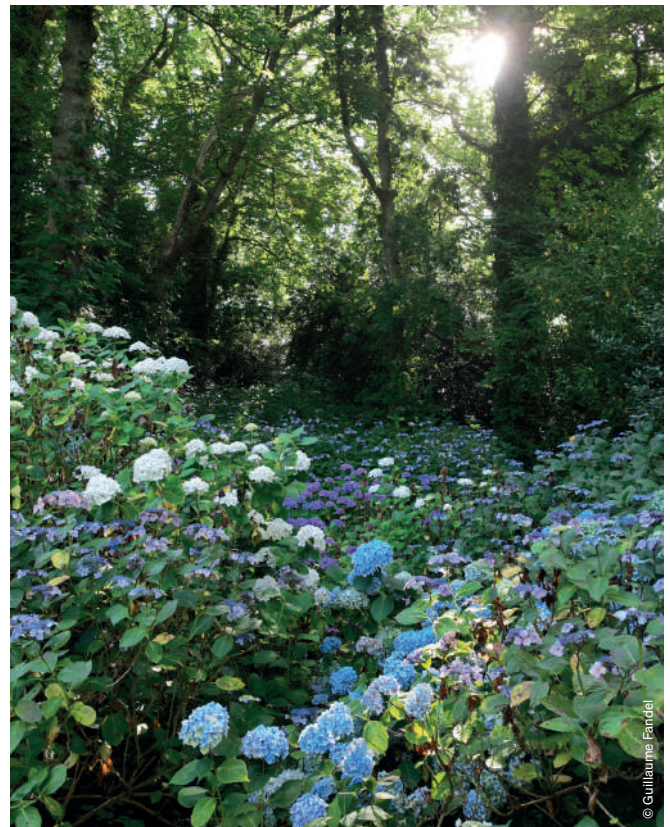
Christian Louboutin has played a key role in drawing attention to this previously overlooked garden. Now, nearly 500 visitors a day wander through Kerdalo, exploring its groves and terraces, where nature truly feels poetic. The event's patron will apply his keen eye to choose and reward his favourite among the very best on display.



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A CAREFULLY SELECTED GROUP OF EUROPEAN NURSERY GROWERS

Among the 200 exhibitors, over **one hundred French and European nurseries** will showcase a broad selection of plants, including botanical species, specialist collections, young plants, outstanding shrubs, rose bushes, rare perennials and new horticultural varieties, making the *Journées des Plantes de Chantilly* both a showcase of cultivated diversity and a window onto today's horticultural trends.



BOTANICAL FOCUS: AURICULA PRIMROSES

One of the show's main attractions is a display of **auricula primroses** from Barnhaven Primroses, a nursery in Côtes-d'Armor, Brittany, showcasing their rich heritage and horticultural significance. Truly deserving of the name "gem", the petals of these primroses sometimes bear a white or silvery powder so perfect it looks hand-painted. Their flowers come in a dazzling range of colours, from deep red and bright yellow to rich blue, violet and orange and have captivated gardeners since the 17th century. In England, they inspired the creation of small "auricula theatres" — simple or ornate cabinets designed to protect the plants from rain while showcasing them as prized collectables. One of these historic cabinets, lent by Christian Louboutin, will be on display at the Barnhaven stand.



OPENING OF THE PEONY GARDEN

FRIDAY 3 PM

Just beyond the Hamlet, Candie Meadow will be transformed into a flower-filled landscape. For the past two years, the teams at the Château de Chantilly have been carefully preparing the 8,000 m² site to showcase nearly 300 varieties of peony. The completed collection promises a striking display of colour and fragrance, arranged across thirteen plots, each devoted to a different theme.



- The **giants plot** features tall peonies with spectacular blooms. Among the most remarkable of these giants are the tree peonies, *Paeonia suffruticosa* and *P. rockii*. Some reach 2.5 metres high with a spread of 3 to 4 metres, and flowers as wide as plates! This also holds true for *P. 'Ambrose Congreve'*, a vigorous *P. rockii* hybrid with incredibly large, fresh pink flowers accented with purple.
- In the **fragrance plot**, visitors can discover 'Baume de Provence', a remarkable peony whose delicate scent evokes old-fashioned rose with subtle notes of lily.
- The **historic plots** showcase French and European varieties cultivated between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- The **"Gardens of Chantilly"** plot features peonies in white, cream and yellow hues — historically the colours of the Chantilly gardens.
- The **demonstration plot** reveals the right and wrong ways to plant and care for peonies.

- The **artistic plots** evoke the colours of a painter's palette, ranging from soft Romantic hues to the glowing shades of a sunset.
- In the **discovery plots**, visitors can explore giant, fragrant and distinctive peonies, alongside varieties particularly suited to floral arrangements.

The early blooms will give way to bulbs and perennials, keeping the garden in flower for the entire season.

The new Peony Garden was accompanied by Florence Woerth and Christian Langlois-Meurinne, with the participation of Prince Aryn Aga Khan.

REMARKABLE TREES AWARD CEREMONY

SATURDAY 11 AM

At the Château de Chantilly, ten specimens will soon be recognised as "Remarkable Trees" by A.R.B.R.E.S.*. They include a **Tulip Tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a **Horse Chestnut tree** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) that spreads by layering (rooting its own branches), and eight **Bald Cypresses** (*Taxodium distichum*). Together, they highlight the site's landscape history and the ongoing efforts to safeguard its tree heritage.

The A.R.B.R.E.S.* non-profit organisation grants state-recognised "Remarkable Tree of France" status to trees of exceptional national importance for age, size, shape, rarity, history or the stories they inspire. Label holders must maintain and protect the trees, since they are recognised as part of France's natural and cultural heritage.

* Remarkable Trees: Evaluation, Research, Study and Conservation.

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

The *Journées des Plantes de Chantilly* offers families a delightful day out. Children can join fun, hands-on workshops throughout the event, from face painting and crafts to animal- and plant-themed creative activities, all designed to spark curiosity and imaginative thinking.

Young visitors can also enjoy a simple yet educational encounter with nature by watching sheep graze peacefully in the park, gaining a firsthand insight into the bond between animals and their environment.

The experience continues with the chance to savour authentic Chantilly cream, a local speciality, and explore stalls overflowing with regional products bursting with flavour.



JOIN US

**ON 22, 23, AND 24 MAY 2026 AT THE CHÂTEAU DE CHANTILLY
TO DISCOVER ONE THOUSAND AND ONE BOTANICAL GEMS!**

USEFUL INFORMATION



ADMISSION

Tickets are available online: <https://journeesdesplantesdechantilly.fr/>

- “*Journées des Plantes de Chantilly* + Grounds” ticket (excluding the Château and the Great Stables): full price €14 and reduced price €10.
- “1 Day + *Journées des Plantes de Chantilly*” ticket (providing access to the entire estate): further information is available on the website.

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS

chateaudeschantilly.fr

PRESS CONTACT

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