

# Claude Monet's House & Gardens - Giverny

Press release

**29 March to 1 November 2024**



© Claude Monet in his garden by Sacha Guitry, circa 1913 - All rights reserved

**“Standing on the Japanese-style bridge adorned with wisteria, Monet appraises the picture he has created.”**

Gustave Geffroy,  
'Monet, Sa Vie, Son  
Oeuvre', 1924  
(republished: Macula, 1980)

**Following a busy winter for the estate's 15 gardeners, Claude Monet's house and gardens will soon reopen to the public for its 45th season.**

**This year marks the 150th anniversary of impressionism, making a visit to this icon of impressionism and globally-famous 'artwork of light' an even more meaningful experience.**

On 15 April 1874, some thirty artists exhibited their artworks in the Nadar studio at 35 Boulevard des Capucines. They differentiated themselves from others through their new pictorial technique, which was the first to focus on the effects created by light. Rejected by the official Salon, they decided to exhibit their artworks outside the official channels. Those artists included Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir, Berthe Morisot, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley and Paul Cézanne.

Louis Le Roy, an art critic writing for the Le Charivari newspaper, poked fun at the title of Claude Monet's artwork 'Impression, sunrise' (1872) but his description stuck, giving birth to the impressionist movement. Plenty of events throughout 2024 will celebrate this revolutionary artistic movement. And what better way to immerse yourself in impressionism than to wander through the Giverny gardens, which provided Monet with a full-scale palette and boundless inspiration?

## A 'full-scale' artwork

Visitors to this open-air museum experience the astonishing sensation of stepping into one of Monet's artworks. From the end of the central path, gaze back towards the house to step into 'La Grande Allée à Giverny', painted in 1900 and displayed at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in Canada. Only a few steps further and you are immersed in 'Les Pivoines', an artwork depicting peonies painted in 1887 and now housed in The National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, Japan. Every year, the gardeners strive to recreate the artwork's scenery in the exact location where it was painted, with peonies identical to those the Giverny artist cultivated long ago. Right beside it are breathtakingly colourful flower beds, like a set of paint pots, creating the feeling of an immersive visit.

Claude Monet turned the traditional method of landscape artists on its head, shaping his motif before relentlessly painting it. Nowhere is this more obvious than at the water lily pond, dappled with ever-changing sunlight, which he started to depict in 1899 before making it his sole source of inspiration around 1910 as well as his artistic testament with 'Les Grandes Décorations de Nymphéas', exhibited at the Orangerie Museum in Paris. Combined with the famous Japanese bridge's reflections in the mirror-like water, the carpet of water lilies gently immerses visitors in one of the three hundred impressionist artworks that Monet devoted to his water garden.

### Fritillaria, tulips and weeping willows: what's new in 2024

Whether floating on the pond's surface or adorning the gardens, all flowers "were worthy of the artist's gaze, paintbrushes and care" (Sylvie Patin in 'Claude Monet, sa passion pour les fleurs', published by Editions des Falaises).

Head gardener Jean-Marie Avisard's team has taken the same care in preparing the 2024 garden, ensuring historical authenticity while subtly introducing new plants. Featured amongst the elegant newcomers brightening the garden in spring are fritillaria raddeana, which produce creamy pale yellow bell-shaped flowers with a subtle hint of green, and fritillaria pallidiflora.



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There are also new varieties of gladioli, lilies and crocosmias, with their exquisite funnel-shaped flowers clustered together. New Ambassador and Jackpot alliums and Purple Bird corydalis will brighten up the flower beds while new Signum, Fortress and Maskovri tulips will adorn the central path. Gabriella and Dynasty feature in the baskets.

The Shirley tulip, a vintage variety with purplish-blue edged white flowers, is making its comeback in the gardens. Along with the Rip Van Winkle narcissus, an historic variety that Claude Monet may have known. In terms of shrubs, the Snow Queen quercifolia and Vanille Fraise paniculata hydrangeas are making their debut in this Giverny paradise.

**"Without the willows, whose melancholic creepers hook into the pond, the water lilies would seem to float in the sky", Claude Monet**

To recreate those impressionist effects, two new willows have been planted on the edge of the iconic water lily pond. Despite only recently having put down roots in this site of historical interest, the newcomers have already established their majestic silhouettes in the mirrored pond that was so dear to Monet's heart. Framed by the new Japanese fences, the water garden has never looked so zen...

# Claude Monet's house and gardens: caring for the environment

From the time the gates reopen, the gardens will boast a weather station installed beside the Clos Normand greenhouses. "When there is heavy rainfall, particularly when the team is not there, this weather station will help us save water by turning off the automatic watering system," explains deputy head gardener Rémi Lecoutre. "In the future, the aim is for it to control the irrigation system."

## Books and lectures

### LECTURES BY PHILIPPE PIGUET

What would a new season at Giverny be without our usual lectures by Philippe Piguet? Historian, art critic, and grandson of Claude Monet's step daughter, Philippe Piguet will give three lectures on the impressionist movement that established Claude Monet's reputation.

- **18 April** : 'The invention of impressionism in 1874'
- **22 May** : 'Impressionism: a secular, republican forerunner'
- **19 September** : 'Impressionism... and beyond?'

### A BOOK TO SAVOUR!

*'Monet's Table: The Cooking Journals of Claude Monet' (Editions du Chêne) is now available in English*

Meals at Monet's house were times for celebration. His friends Gustave Caillebotte, Octave Mirbeau, Georges Clemenceau, Camille Pissarro, Auguste Rodin, Auguste Renoir, Sacha Guitry, Georges Truffaut, and many others would gather around the dining table where the walls, ceiling and furniture were all painted in shades of yellow.

In the kitchen, which was second only to the studios in terms of importance, Monet's favourite and best recipes were brought to life by renowned cook Marguerite.

That legacy is celebrated by art historian Claire Joyes in her book 'Monet's Table: The Cooking Journals of Claude Monet' (Editions du Chêne).

**Featuring a preface by chef Joël Robuchon, this book has been translated into English and is exclusively available to purchase from our store this season.**

In the first few chapters, Claire Joyes uses her skill with words to weave a pictorial journey through Claude Monet's work with the story of his culinary preferences. Between bibliographical references, she sketches ingredients from a turn-of-the-century table and describes the feeling of that place, the picnics and other celebratory lunches. The second part is quite moving and focuses on the precious recipes. Enjoy reading about soups, eggs (upside down with tomato), sauces, first courses, poultry (gastronomic sautéed chicken), meats served with Yorkshire pudding, game meat, fish (Florentine-style sole fillets) and desserts (including the must-try 'vert-vert' cake and banana ice cream).

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## Maison et Jardins Claude Monet - Giverny

84, rue Claude Monet - 27620 Giverny  
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[www.claude-monet-giverny.fr](http://www.claude-monet-giverny.fr)  
[contact@claudemonetgiverny.fr](mailto:contact@claudemonetgiverny.fr)

**Open every day from 29 March to 1 November  
2024 from 9.30 am to 6.00 pm**  
(last entry at 5.30 pm)

## Entry price/individuals

Adult €11  
Child under 7 years free  
Child over 7 years €6.50  
Student €6.50  
Disabled/PRM €5.50  
Skip the queue by purchasing at :  
[www.claude-monet-giverny.fr](http://www.claude-monet-giverny.fr)

Free parking  
Individuals: bookings recommended

## Group price

Groups (minimum 20 people) - bookings required  
For information about group visits and bookings  
Contact: Agathe Vandenbussche / Tel.: +33 (0)2 32  
51 90 31  
[reservation@claudemonetgiverny.fr](mailto:reservation@claudemonetgiverny.fr)  
Child: €6.50; Student: € 6.50  
Disabled: €5.50; Adult: €10

## Online store

[www.claude-monet-giverny.fr](http://www.claude-monet-giverny.fr)

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