

The Italian dream

The Garenne Lemot park

(French listed Site)

Located between Clisson and Gétigné. It is a French listed site, Garenne Lemot was born from an artist's dream in love with Italy Napoleon's official sculptor François-Frédéric Lemot (1771-1827), came here invited by the Cacault brothers, delighted by site. He was extremely captivated by the place. From his first stay onwards he projected then to make it his retirement estate and thus bought the garenne park for that purpose. This place was the 13 hectares hunting reserve of the lords of Clisson. Lemot started transforming it from 1811, along with Crucey, a French architect who was impregnated with Italian references .



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The main house "Villa Lemot", has got a neo classical architectural style surrounded by a romantic garden, it takes advantages of the steepy valley to overlook clisson thanks to its two mediterranean-like large shady terraces. Barthélemy, François-Frédéric Lemot's son ended up the last external works and the doing up of the inner gallery room.

The gardener's house is the masterpiece of the Italian rustic architecture, it is the very first italian edifice built in the estate. It became the major model for all the architects and local landlords who rebuilt Clisson after the war of Vendée. Actually, it was the residence of Lemot, the main house was hardly built when he died. The house is today the center of the CEPIA (Italian Heritage and architecture resources).

The lower part of the park is dotted with follies like **The Temple of Vesta**, the roman milestone evoking a roman way passing trough the park, the column of Madrid, antique tomb and altar, Héloïse's grotto and engraved rocks.



We can see in the bed of the river goddess **Diana's baths** with the help of little islets

On the opposite bank : **The greek-like Temple dedicated to friendship, The Column of Henri IV** and the **Obelisk**.

As a former hunting reserve of the Lords of clisson on its 13 ha range, the Garenne Lemot, holds a charming fauna and flora. Moreover, its naturally sculpted rocks inspired many poets : On one of them can be read « Its indestructible mass overworked time ». You will also appreciate the softness of the river Sevre flowing along this majestuous park.

This Italian reference in not exclusive yet. Indeed , the site is also evocating Heloise, the philosopher J.J.Rousseau, the castle of Madrid built by François I^{er} and the medieval times for the ruins of the castle can be seen from each point of view of the park.

Permanent exhibition of the Garenne Lemot : « Clisson ou le retour d'Italie » in the gardener's house. Information : Open everyday from april to september. Closed on Monday the rest of the year. Free entrance. Guided visits on request for groups (33) 240 547 585 Fax :(33) 240 039 922 E-mail : garenne.lemot@cg44.fr , Internet site : www.culture.cg44.fr