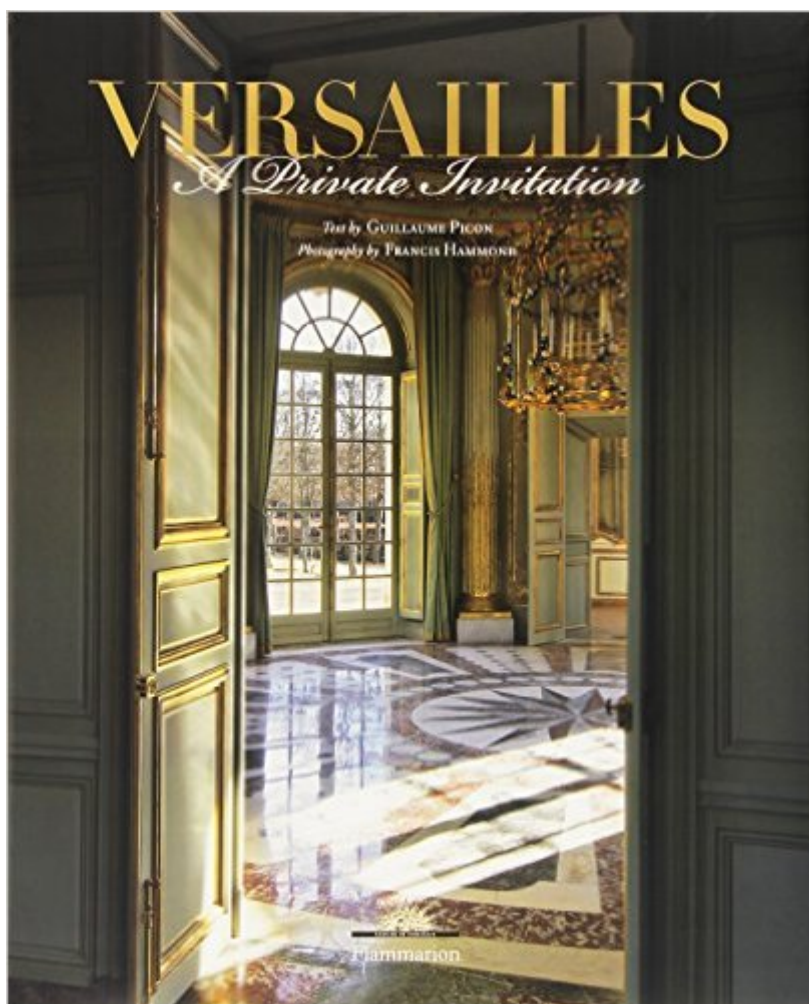


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Versailles: A Private Invitation



Synopsis

Exquisite photography of one of France's most significant historical landmarks. The largest châteaux in the world still holds a thousand and one hidden secrets. While Versailles has been described in detail since the reign of Louis XIV, numerous apartments in the palace and their outbuildings are inaccessible to the public due to their fragility or state of preservation. From the most renowned rooms to the gardens, passing through the Trianon or the Queen's hamlet, Versailles contains many extraordinary details, transformed according to the light or the shadow. Whether it's Marie-Antoinette's boudoir, the wings of the Queen's theater, or even the Orangerie on a beautiful wintery day, these singular photographs reveal the many facets of Versailles and offer readers unprecedented access to this historical treasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The photos in this beautiful volume are indeed exquisite, and are gorgeously captured. Many are of a more intimate scale than those taken with the expansive grandeur and wide framing we are used to from other books on Versailles. Although I agree with other reviewers that I had hoped to see at least some photos of the rarely-seen private areas -- parts of the palace that are not on public view . . . I was still exceedingly happy with the intimate feeling and exceptional quality of this book. Photos in extreme close-up capture fantastic details . . . a section of parquet floor where the heel marks of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette can almost still be seen; the breathtaking adornments of the gilded crown of Marie Antoinette's harp; shots showing the miraculous detail of furniture ornamentation,

attesting to the never-again-equalled artistry of artisans like David Roentgen and Jean Henri Riesener, Marie Antoinette's favorite cabinet-makers; close-ups of marquetry, leather books, porcelain, silver, crystal, bronze, gold, gilt, fabric, and other small details . . . all adding up to reveal the human scale of Versailles . . . and reminding us that it was, in fact, not just a palace but also a home. (Albeit, the most opulent one in the world!) My only real complaint is that the translation from the original French text into English is sometimes clumsily done. I would guess that I am way more familiar with Versailles than the average reader . . . I have read dozens of books about the palace and its history, and I have actually toured Versailles in person on numerous occasions, including privately-led special-study tours.

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