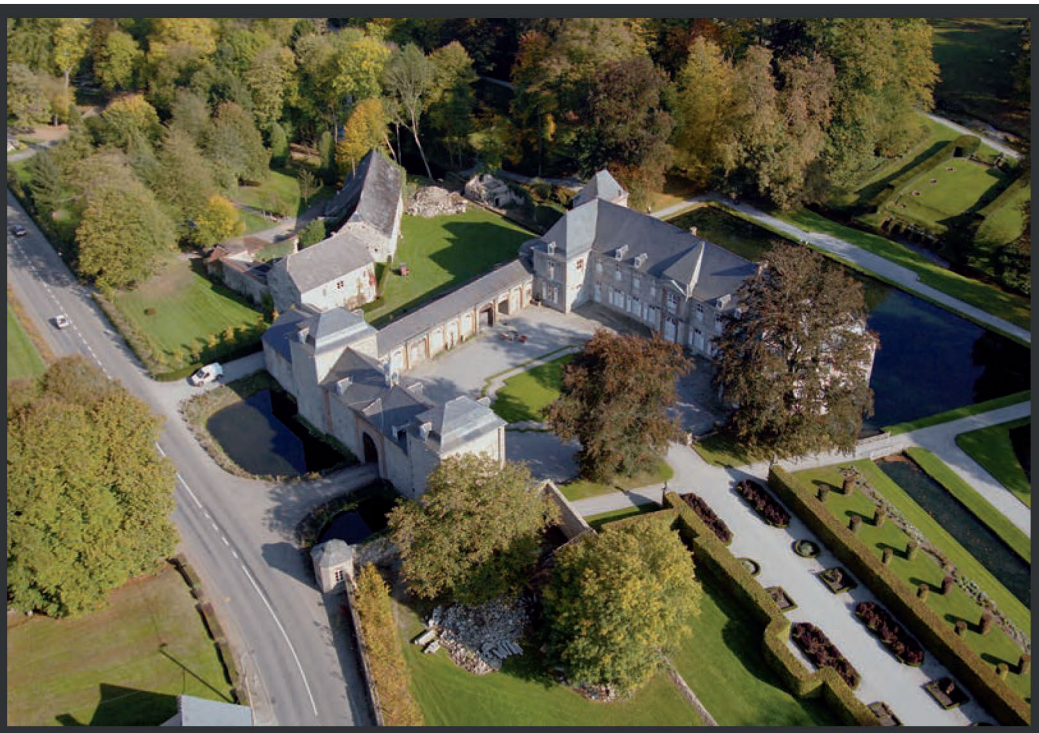
Château et Jardins d'Annevoie



Castle and Gardens of Annevoie

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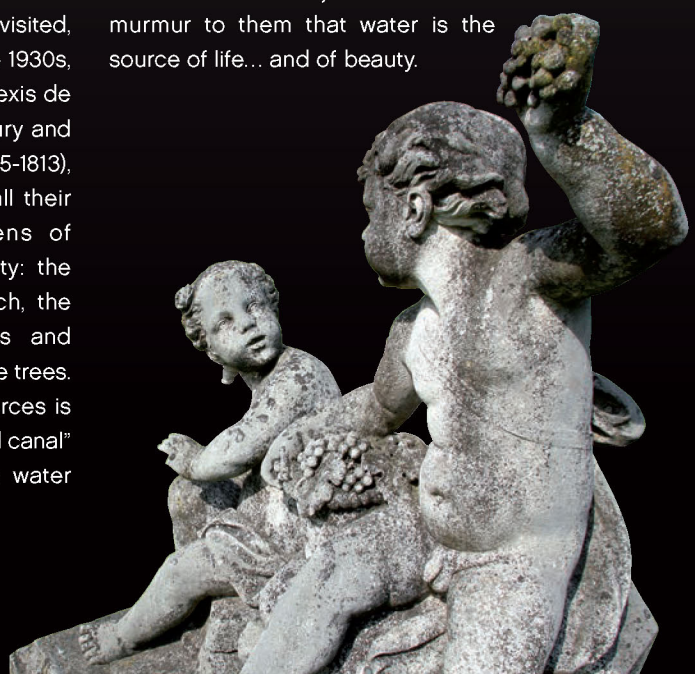
An original castle – more a small mansion with a corner tower – was built in Annevoie by the Halloy family in 1627 before being handed down through inheritance to Jean de Montpellier in 1696. One of his descendants, Charles-Alexis, built the current castle in 1758. Sadly the Montpelliers had to part with their castle in 2000. In a slightly curved I-. shape, on the garden side the main building has a beautiful facade – with a central part jutting out, surmounted by a triangular pediment and endowed with a small terrace – which reflects in a mirror of water.

Even though the castle can no longer be visited, the gardens, open to the public since the 1930s, still can. Created by the same Charles-Alexis de Montpellier in the middle of the 18th century and completed by his son Nicolas-Charles (1755-1813), improved and carefully maintained by all their descendents, the sumptuous gardens of Annevoie have an extraordinary diversity: the paths and flowerbeds very much French, the Italian fantasy of the many fountains and cascades, the English charm of the mature trees. Present everywhere, water from four sources is transported in stone aqueducts to a "grand canal" 365m long which feeds a marvellous water garden and several spurting fountains.

Below the grand canal, near the castle, the Rouillon – a stream crossing the gardens, receives the overflow from the various water pieces. Since the 18th century, the water circulates day and night, in all seasons, without any machinery at all: the aquatic system of the gardens of Annevoie works entirely on the principle of natural flow, "which shows a remarkable knowledge of the land and perfect mastery of water distribution and regulation techniques" writes N. de Harlez. The dozen hectares of gardens, many pools, fountains and water jets await visitors to murmur to them that water is the source of life… and of beauty.



Castle cannot be visited.
Gardens can be visited –
educational presentations
primary and nursery schools
in the form of treasure hunts
in French and/or Dutch
April to June
from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm
July to August
from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm
September to November
from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm
Located on several GPS tours:
see www.tourismegps.be
Accessible to people with
limited mobility
Parking
Secure site

Excerpt from the brochure *Châteaux de la Meuse, de Charleville-Mézières à Namur.*

Carried out as part of the Interreg IV project « la Meuse et Vous ». Brochure available in tourist offices and homes of tourism.