



painting photography france

Home

Send us an Enquiry

Make a Booking

Painting

- Topics covered
- Example Schedule

Photography / Video

- Topics covered
- Example Schedule

Your Hosts...



Other Information

- Why the Lot-et-Garonne? 100+ images of the area
- Your Accommodation
- Prices and Dates

The best value painting / photograph

- Getting here by air road & rail
- Clients' Comments
- Equipment required/supplied
- The Monet Connection
- Rick Stein's Visit
- Around and Beyond
- Transport while you're here
- Terms & Conditions
- Resource Centre
- Contact Us

Frequently asked Questions

Beginners are Welcome!

Non-painters & photographers welcomed too! Please click here

If you are thinking of requesting a brochure please click here

The Lot-et-Garonne and Claude Monet



Monet is famous for his prolific paintings of nymphaea, or water-lilies; the picture on the left, for example, "Les Nymphaes", was painted in 1914 and now hangs in the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo.

In fact, it could be said that Monet developed an obsession with nymphaea. He once said, *"It took me time to understand my nymphaea; I planted them for pleasure without dreaming of painting them. Suddenly I felt there were fairies in my pond. I took up my brushes and palette and, since then, it has been almost my sole model."*

Whilst most people with an interest in art are aware of the above, few are aware that Monet's love for these plants was started by a botanical garden here in the Lot-et-Garonne

Situated close to the confluence of the rivers Baise, Lot and Garonne, *Les Ets Botaniques Latour-Mariac* was founded in 1875 by Joseph Latour-Mariac (statue below) who created the first hardy hybrid nymphaea in multiple colours. When these incredible hybrids were exhibited in Paris in 1889 they caught the attention of Claude Monet who immediately began placing orders for them for his garden at Giverny.

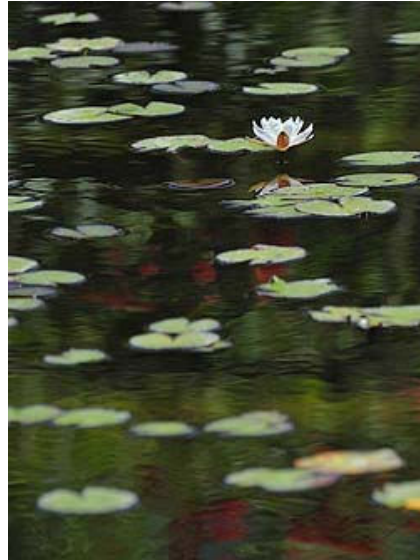
Thus began the obsession that occupied the rest of the artist's life. Several of the original hand-written invoices addressed to Monet at Giverny, can be seen on display at the gardens.



Almost 145 years later, *Les Ets Botaniques Latour-Marliac* is still trading and exports its plants worldwide.

It also houses the French National Collection of *Nymphaea* which includes 200 hardy and tropical water-lily varieties.

Les Ets Botaniques Latour-Marliac is set in beautiful grounds with a lake, secluded walks, a waterfall and numerous exotic flowers and plants in addition to the dozens of water-lily beds.



In 1904, whilst on his way to Spain, Monet came here to the Lot-et-Garonne to see for himself the source of his inspiration. Now, you can see it too!

[Painting-Photography-France](#) has obtained special dispensation from Robert Sheldon, the nursery's present owner, for small, long-term, group visits for the purposes of painting and photographing the grounds, plants and the cultivating ponds. All that is asked of us in return is that we are respectful of the environment and that we do not obstruct the free flow of other visitors to the nursery.

We spend a whole day at *Les Ets Botaniques Latour-Marliac* (our guests are the only people allowed to picnic there). Let us help you find your spot, choose your point of view, and capture your beautiful subject in all its glory!

For almost all our clients, the day spent at *Les Ets Botaniques Latour-Marliac* is one of the highlights of their holiday with us. The images on this page may give you some idea why.....



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