

**LA CHARTREUSE de BOURGFONTAINE**  
**VILLERS COTTERETS**



# LA CHARTREUSE de BOURGFONTAINE

## VILLERS COTTERETS

Paris 80km, Chantilly 50km, Villers Cotterêts 5km, Compiègne 32km

### AN HISTORIC ABBEY AND STUD FARM IN AN 80ha PRIVATE WALLED DOMAIN

*François Mathet's successful stud farm.*

*An exceptional group of buildings steeped in history, designated Monument  
Historique, in the heart of the Forêt de Retz.*

Principal Abbey House: 5 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms and bathrooms.

Gardens and swimming pool

Manager's House: 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

Guest apartment, Lodge Cottage, Windmill Cottage

Abbey buildings, Stud and Farm Buildings, 58 boxes in 3 stable yards.

66ha (165 acres) of paddocks and pasture

**In all 78.6ha (194 acres)**



Balak Estate Office, Ramsbury  
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2HG

Tel: **+44 (0) 1672 521155**

gfwc@windsorclive.co.uk

**www.windsorclive.co.uk**





## Summary

La Chartreuse de Bourfontaine is not only an historic Carthusian monastery converted into a wonderful house, but also a renowned stud farm founded by the late François Mathet, France's champion trainer during the 1960s and 1970s. The position is remarkable – within range of Paris and the racing centre of Chantilly, it is also hidden and private. It can be the ideal retreat for lavish entertaining, completely surrounded by its own walled park of 80ha.

5km from Villers-Cotterêts, a small country town in Picardie, north-east of Paris, Charles de Gaulle airport is 50km away, and le Bourget, only 65km. Trains to Paris take 50 minutes, connecting with those to London for a door to door journey in under 4 hours and Brussels in under 2½ hours.

## History

Bourfontaine was founded as a Carthusian monastery in 1323, by Charles de Valois, and completed in 1330 by his son King Philip VI, who had his heart buried there. Until the Revolution it was considered one of the greatest houses of the Carthusians, then, however in 1793 most of it was pulled down and the stone was sold off.

In the early XX<sup>th</sup> century Comte Henri de Roberval extensively repaired much of the abbey, turning into a magnificent house, and when François Mathet bought it in the 1962 he devoted his efforts to repairing the chapel, the important buildings, and perimeter walls. His son Hubert, on taking it over on his father's death in 1983, has continued to bring it into the present day and has resuscitated the gardens. A summary of the history is available from the agents.

## The Stud Farm

François Mathet always said that the land in the Valois is better than that in Normandy, and the free draining rolling paddocks of Bourfontaine are indeed ideal for raising the best horses. Many of their lines continue to this day, for example, Laurens, winner of the Gr 1 Fillies Mile in 2017, and second in the 1,000 Guineas in Newmarket came from Bourfontaine.



### La Chartreuse de Bourfontaine

Approached from the Villers Cotterêts to La Ferté-Milon road by a cobbled track, the domain starts at the main gates. Drive past the Lodge Cottage, and the sudden view of the Abbey buildings is remarkable. Continue past the windmill down the drive to the Abbey, and through the archway into the main yard. Opposite is the Abbey House.

#### The Abbey House:

About 1,350m<sup>2</sup> (c.14,500 ft<sup>2</sup>), this fine mansion has on the ground floor, with vaulted ceilings: Hall, living room/chapter hall with a fine chimney piece, gun room, laundry and boot room, billiard room, kitchen, dining room, 'sacristy' and impressive main staircase.

On the first floor are the main reception rooms: drawing room, panelled dining room, both with fireplaces, tapestry gallery, and summer sitting room. The family apartment has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 WCs and a linen room.

On the second floor are 4 guest rooms, and 4 bathrooms, 2 WCs and utility room. In addition are a games room, 2 store rooms and a WC.

#### The Manager's House:

About 400m<sup>2</sup>, (c. 4,300 ft<sup>2</sup>), with on the ground floor: boot room, vet's room, offices and WC, plus a cellar.

On the first floor: 3 bedrooms, games room, shower room and WC

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: 2 bedrooms, bathroom and WC and attic.

#### Guest accommodation

2 rooms, bathroom and WC,  
with a further 40m<sup>2</sup> to renovate.

#### The Valois Tower

For renovation. A total of 152m<sup>2</sup> on 3 floors

Also in the courtyard is **the chapel**.

#### The Gardens

Around the house are the fine gardens covering about 2ha, including a swimming pool, orchards, and trimmed hedges. By the house is the original abbey church, now a substantial romantic ruin. The gardens are protected from the paddocks by a ha-ha.







### **The Farm and Stud Buildings**

By the main group of abbey buildings are various garages, stores, workshops, tractor and implement sheds. There are 5 boxes in these ranges. In addition, close to the manager's house, are 3 foaling boxes.

Below the drive to the principal buildings is a range of 20 south facing boxes with feed room etc.

Behind and above the main building is an L-shaped range of 10 boxes.

By the Lodge Cottage and the main gate:

A range of 20 west facing boxes with a feed room etc.

The stud farm buildings are designed to enable separation of mares, fillies, foals, and colts. This flexibility also allows a variety of other equestrian uses at the property, which could be used for training, and for sport horses, particularly dressage, show jumping or eventing – indeed the land would merit a fine cross country course.

### **The Lodge Cottage:**

By the main gate, of stone under a tiled roof, this staff cottage of 90 sq m has

On the ground floor: Living room, kitchen, dining room, kitchen and WC.

On the first floor: Landing/TV room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and WC.

### **The Windmill:**

Renovated in 2008 as a guest cottage on 3 floors this charming cottage has extraordinary views of the whole estate, and has a kitchen/dining room on the ground floor, sitting room with WC on the first floor, and a bedroom with bath on the second floor.

### **The Paddocks and the Land**

Bourfontaine is at the heart of its own land, hidden from view, and yet with a lovely outlook over its own paddocks. There are 66 ha (164 acres) of paddocks and pasture on free draining rolling land, mostly paddock railed and easily accessible.

There is enough level land for outdoor schools, so as a centre for showjumping, dressage or eventing, this could be ideal – all within the 4km of estate walls.

The property is bounded on 3 sides by the 13,000 ha forêt domaniale de Retz, which gives the possibility of superb riding on forest tracks directly from the property.





**Viewing**

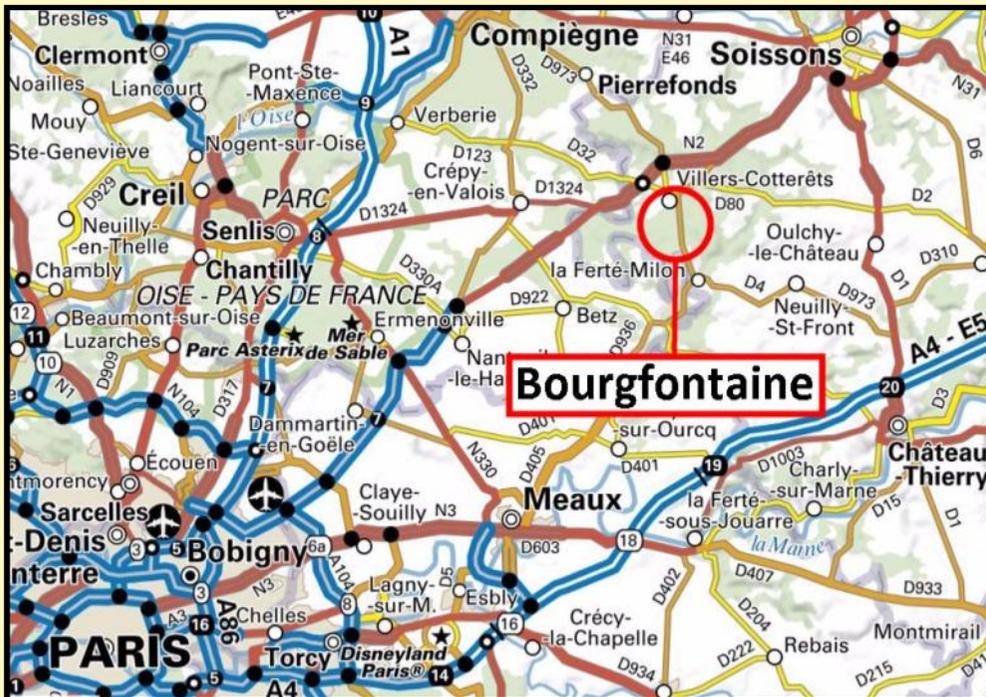
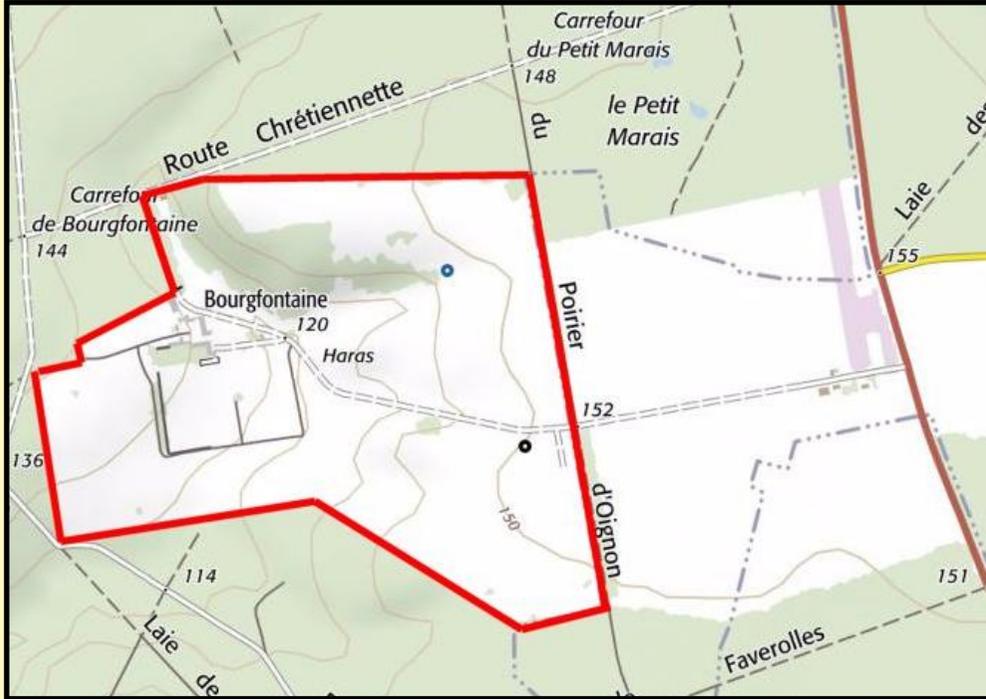
Strictly by appointment through Windsor Clive International

**+44 (0) 1672 521155** [info@windsorclive.co.uk](mailto:info@windsorclive.co.uk)



**INTER URBIS** **+33 (0)1 45 63 17 77**





#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Windsor Clive International give notice to anyone who may read these Particulars as follows:

1. These particulars are for guidance only. They are prepared and issued in good faith and are intended to give a fair description of the property but do not constitute part of an offer or contract.
2. Any description or information given should not be relied on as a statement or representation of fact or that the property or its services are in good condition. Neither Windsor Clive International nor any of its employees have any authority to make or give any representation or warranty in relation to the property.
3. Any reference to alteration to, or use of, any part of the property is not a statement that any necessary planning, building regulations or other consent has been obtained. These matters must be verified by any intending purchaser.
4. The plan included with these particulars is for identification purposes only and is based on published maps. Where revisions have been made by the Agents a full land survey has not been carried out, consequently where enclosures have been divided or altered, the position of the new boundaries together with the plotting of any new or altered building and any other information, whilst believed to be basically correct, are indicative only.



