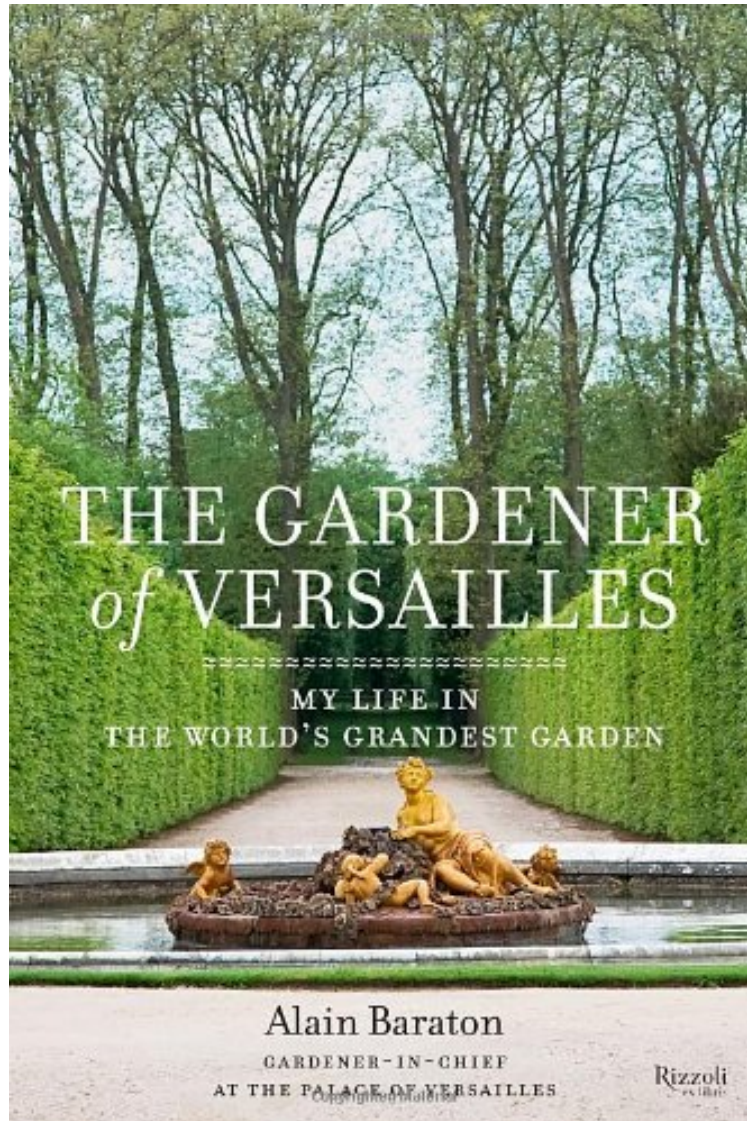


(Download) Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden

## Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden

*Alain Baraton*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#718615 in Books 2014-02-11 2014-02-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.55 x 1.09 x 5.83l, 1.13 #File Name: 0847842681296 pages | File size: 63.Mb

**Alain Baraton : Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Charming account by the current Head Gardener at Versailles. ...By Over-reader EKHCharming account by the current Head Gardener at Versailles. He and his wife live in a private house on the grounds of the chateau - can you imagine living at the chateau?! Baraton describes with Gallic wit how he came to be the chateau gardener and tells many amusing anecdotes about the visitors, some very odd, whom he has

encountered. Nothing deep here -- just an enjoyable visit with a gentle Frenchman who takes the gardener's long view of Nature's resilience and human existence. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another side of Versailles  
By JaKu  
This book was not exactly what I expected. The author's memoir of his apprenticeship and advancement to head gardener at one of the most prestigious gardens on earth was interesting. There was a lot of history about France and the gardens in this book, which was the surprise. It is not a true "how to" book on the gardens, but you definitely get a sense of the pace and mentality of the professional gardener. Some of the encounters in the gardens are funny, sad, and interesting. It's a sweet little book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very Interesting  
By SkInNy  
He is very interesting! Nice to read a little historical perspective on the gardens, especially before I went to Paris! Hope someone translates his other books (or at least some of them) into English. I would like to read some.

INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards -- 2014 Finalist  
For gardening aficionados and Francophiles, a love letter to the Versailles Palace and grounds, from the man who knows them best. In Alain Baraton's Versailles, every grove tells a story. As the gardener-in-chief, Baraton lives on its grounds, and since 1982 he has devoted his life to the gardens, orchards, and fields that were loved by France's kings and queens as much as the palace itself. His memoir captures the essence of the connection between gardeners and the earth they tend, no matter how humble or grand. With the charm of a natural storyteller, Baraton weaves his own path as a gardener with the life of the Versailles grounds, and his role overseeing its team of eighty gardeners tending to 350,000 trees and thirty miles of walkways on 2,100 acres. He richly evokes this legendary place and the history it has witnessed but also its quieter side that he feels privileged to know. The same gardens that hosted the lavish lawn parties of Louis XIV and the momentous meeting between Marie Antoinette and the Cardinal de Rohan remain enchanted, private places where visitors try to get themselves locked in at night, lovers go looking for secluded hideaways, and elegant grandmothers secretly make cuttings to take back to their own gardens. A tremendous best seller in France, *The Gardener of Versailles* gives an unprecedentedly intimate view of one of the grandest places on earth.

Charming  
Mr. Baraton is delightful when describing his daily routineshe talks to his trees and has pet names for many of themand as a writer he is a master of what might be termed the inarguable Gallic utterancebut for a hands-on perspective and sheer fun, Mr. Baraton can't be beat. -Wall Street Journal  
"What an eccentric and charming memoir Baraton has been gardening at Versailles for nearly 40 years. He knows every vista, every bosquet, every fountain on its 2,100 acres. Baraton's book is sweet and breezy." -New York Times  
a delightful memoir of more than 40 years of living and working there  
Baraton's book is the best kind of travel experience: a chat with a local. Chicago Tribune  
"Baraton shares the memories of more than 40 years of living and working in the gardens. He is an engaging raconteur who tells his story with humility and a delightful sense of humor. He chooses his words to convey his passion and his personality. To read them is to have him in the room, where he entertains you without your having to reciprocate. In this case, though, that's cause for regret. I think he would be the sort of house guest one hates to see depart... Whether you enjoy reading of history or gardening or simply take pleasure in the memoir of someone who is passionate about his craft and finds gratification therein, I strongly recommend *The Gardener of Versailles: My Life in the World's Grandest Garden*. There is an undeniable sweetness to be found in being in sync with nature and in dancing to the rhythm of the seasons. Baraton tells us that, distilled to its essence, what makes a good gardener is joy. I have a feeling he is a very good gardener. He ranks high on a list of people I'd like to meet ideally, on his turf." -Paris Arts Travel  
An exquisite storyteller who works in and lives among the gardens, Baraton immediately engages readers  
Baraton has filled his book not only with interesting historical details and human stories of the royals who walked the grounds but with insightful, contemporary tales of wise coworkers and eccentric visitors. Whether he's discussing romantic tourists or marveling at bygone gardening techniques, Baraton's eloquence and intelligence shine in this English translation by Murray. Practically required reading for garden travelers, gardeners, history fans, and even memoir buffs. Readers will wish more of his books were available in translation. Delightful. ~Library Journal, Starred [A]  
fascinating memoir  
an intimate and visceral look into his complicated relationship with one of Europe's most astonishing public gardens  
It is a telling glimpse of the challenge, consolation, and occasional horror of overseeing a place of magic. ~Publishers Weekly  
"He is an engaging story-teller who has written many books on Versailles, but this is the only one available in English. Baraton also hosts gardening programs on French radio and television. If you have visited Versailles, this book will remind you of that gorgeous setting. If you have not, it will inspire you to do so with the help of Baraton's suggestions for a perfect tour." -Chicago Botanic Garden  
Versailles head gardener and TV host Baraton reflects on his three decades tending some of the most beautiful gardens in the world: Simply but thoroughly, the author narrates the history of Versailles, from the days of Henry IV sneaking off to these woods to hunt to the days of the revolution. The author philosophizes about the ability of gardens to provide space for deep reflection, and he writes poetically about the beautiful power of the grounds he tends. He also provides some practical advice-e.g., the best places for a lovers' tryst. In addition to paying tribute to the work of these innovators, Baraton also looks at the various films that have been filmed on the grounds, storms that have battered them, and the

effects of each season on the flora and fauna. The descriptions of the various sites on the grounds could only come from a man fortunate enough to have lived on and loved the site for almost 40 years." ~Kirkus sIn his capacious, generous memoir, Baraton beautifully renders the intersection of personal memories with French history and botanical splendorsThe gardens of Versailles, however, are not entirely romanticized by Baraton. Darker moments, from the aftermath of a storm to suicides, balance the portrait of a place marked as much by seasonal change as by an irresistible mythologyThis engaging account of decades spent cultivating pathways speaks volumes on public and private uses for gardens and of natures enduring witness. -Foreword Magazine"A bestseller in France, this charming memoir offers an intimate account of life at one of the worlds grandest gardens. Baraton came to Versailles in 1976 and has reigned over its grounds as jardinire en chef since 1982; he willingly confesses his personal relationship with the trees there. A treat for horticulture buffs, this appealingly self-deprecating account weaves together Baratons own story with that of the historic parterres and groves he so lovingly tends." -France Magazine"Whether you enjoy reading of history or gardening or simply take pleasure in the memoir of someone who is passionate about his craft and finds gratification therein, I strongly recommend The Gardener of Versailles...." -BonJour Paris"...a unique treasure....the real experiences and thoughts of someone who has worked (and lived!) on the grounds of Versailles add a personal touch that can't be achieved in a simple photobook or even general history of the palace and gardens. Baraton's passion for the gardens..clearly shines as the heart of this personal..garden memoir that is a must for anyone with an interest at a more personal look at Versailles." -Vive la QueenAbout the AuthorAlain Baraton is the best-selling author of many books on gardening and the host of weekly gardening programs on French radio and television.