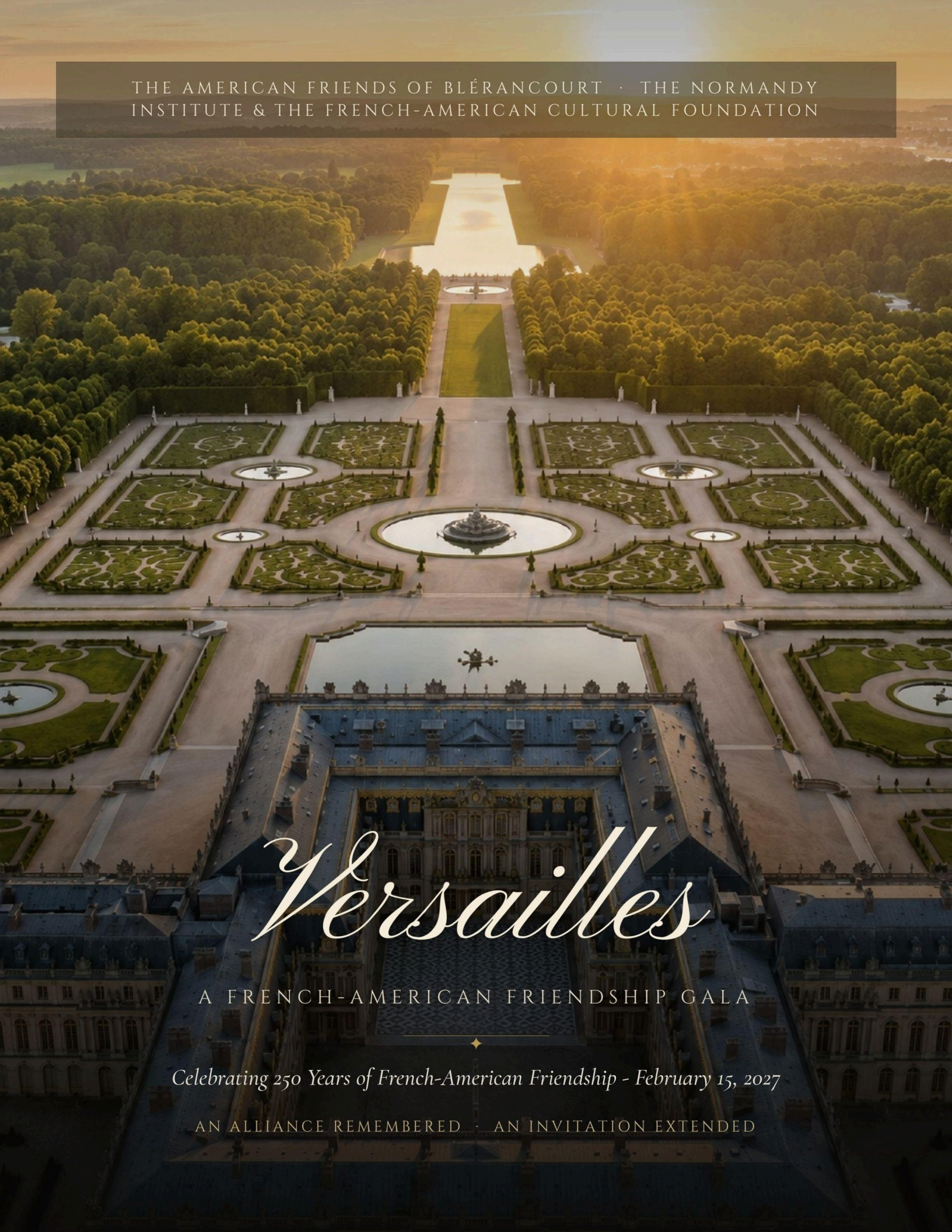


An aerial photograph of the Palace of Versailles and its extensive gardens at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. The long, straight central axis of the gardens is prominent, leading from the palace towards the horizon. The gardens are filled with manicured hedges, paths, and several large, ornate fountains. The palace itself is visible in the lower foreground, with its blue-tiled roof and classical architecture. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF BLÉRANCOURT · THE NORMANDY
INSTITUTE & THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Versailles

A FRENCH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GALA

Celebrating 250 Years of French-American Friendship - February 15, 2027

AN ALLIANCE REMEMBERED · AN INVITATION EXTENDED

THE OCCASION

A Friendship That Changed The World



“Some moments belong not to a party or a nation, but to civilization itself.”

To mark the 250th commemoration of France recognizing an independent America, a private gathering will convene inside one of the world's most storied addresses: the Palace of Versailles. It was within these halls that French support — military, financial, and diplomatic — helped a fragile coalition of thirteen colonies become a sovereign nation. That alliance endured through two World Wars and continues today through commerce, culture, & friendship.

The organizers have deliberately limited the evening to sixty tables, each intended to represent excellence rather than celebrity: military leadership, entrepreneurship, agriculture, education, medicine, philanthropy, architecture, & the arts. Guests will be received with a private visit of the Château de Versailles, including the Hall of Mirrors, followed by a distinctly American culinary journey — from Texas beef to Maine lobster to Virginia wine — conceived by Michelin-starred Chef Patrick O'Connell.



THE HALL OF MIRRORS, PALACE OF VERSAILLES

LOCATION

Versailles

SEASON

Winter 2027

TABLES

Sixty

SPIRIT

Citizen Diplomacy

Versailles is preparing a permanent gallery dedicated to America's War of Independence — a lasting recognition, unmatched by any other nation, of the American story inside one of France's great historical treasures. As the President of the Palace of Versailles has observed, few places have embodied the friendship between two nations across so many generations as this one.

THE HOST

Countess Dorothea de La Houssaye



Dorothea de La Houssaye

FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE FOUNDATION
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN FRIENDS OF BLÉRANCOURT

An independent, entrepreneurial thinker with a broad grasp of the creative and geopolitical forces shaping the world, Countess Dorothea de La Houssaye has built her life's work around a single conviction: that a deeper understanding of alliance — how it is built, and how it is kept — gives any leader a head start. That conviction became the Normandy Institute, a state-of-the-art educational residential institute in Sainte-Mère-Église inspired by the heroic efforts of the Allied Forces in the Second World War.

She has broadened that educational mission by accepting the presidency of the American Friends of Blérancourt, supporting the Franco-American Museum at the Château de Blérancourt, which traces the friendship between France and America from the War of Independence through both World Wars to the present day.

A CIRCLE OF AMERICAN EXCELLENCE

Dorothea conceived the Gala to showcase American Excellence in a once-in-a-lifetime event at Versailles, with a prestigious and exclusive audience. Only 60 tables of ten guests each are available in the Hall of Great Battles.

The Gala includes a private visit of the Château de Versailles, including the Hall of Mirrors, and a preview of the new permanent Gallery of the American War of Independence. We are pleased to announce that U.S. Ambassador to France and the Principality of Monaco, His Excellency Mr. Charles Kushner, has agreed to be the High Patron. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has endorsed this Gala. It would be a great honor if you would support this event.



*"I want to leave a legacy in education and international relations — especially in alliance-building,
through The Normandy Institute."*

COUNTRESS DOROTHEA DE LA HOUSSAYE

THE CHEF

Patrick O'Connell

>>> ♦ <<<



Patrick O'Connell

CHEF & SOLE PROPRIETOR, THE INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON
CHOSEN TO COOK FOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Hailed as “the Pope of American Cuisine,” Patrick O’Connell is one of the defining figures of modern American cuisine. In 1978, he founded The Inn at Little Washington in the Blue Ridge foothills of Virginia, building a cuisine rooted in the countryside’s finest ingredients and classical French tradition. Today the Inn holds three Michelin stars and simultaneous Mobil Five-Star and AAA Five Diamond honors — a synthesis of cuisine, hospitality, and theater unmatched in America.

O’Connell has received six James Beard Foundation Awards, the Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Humanities Medal. In 2007 he cooked for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her official visit to Virginia. At Versailles 250, he brings an American culinary voice formed in conversation with France — the very alliance this evening is gathered to honor.

“A rare chef with a sense of near perfect taste, like a musician with perfect pitch.”

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE



THE INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, VIRGINIA

MUSICAL KEYNOTE

Michael Fitzpatrick



Michael Fitzpatrick

RECIPIENT OF THE PRINCE CHARLES AWARD FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE,
CONFERRED BY HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES (NOW HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III)

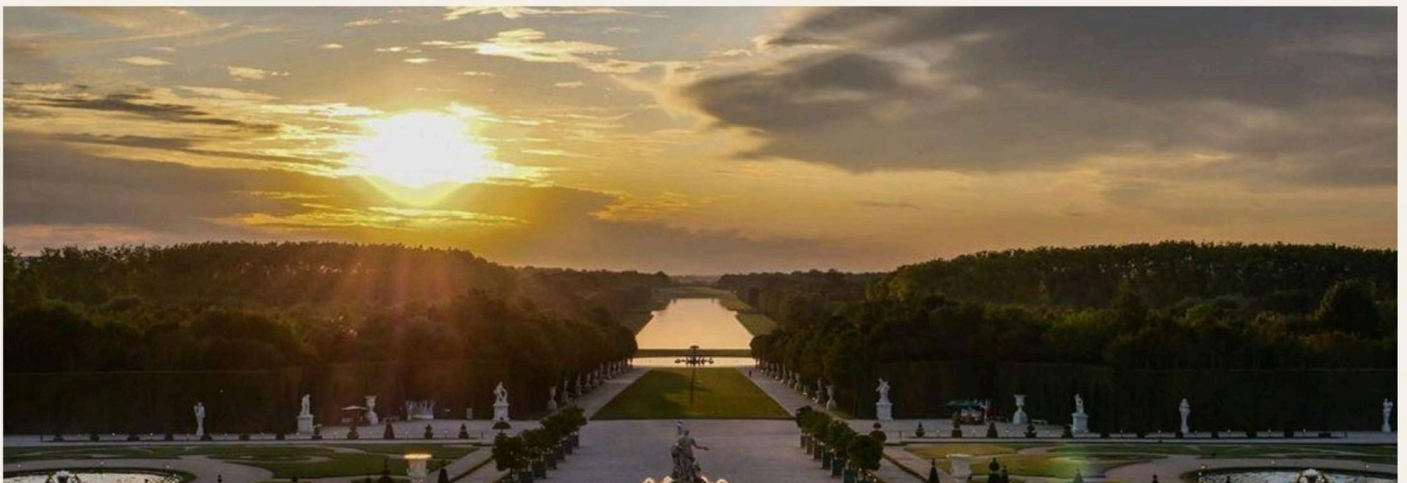
PERFORMANCES FOR HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II AT THE ROYAL PALACE IN
JORDAN, AND FOR HIS MAJESTY KING FELIPE VI OF SPAIN

Michael Fitzpatrick has performed Musical Keynotes for Presidents, Kings, Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, and world leaders throughout a boundary-crossing career that has taken him from the concert hall to the world's great stages of diplomacy, culture, and humanitarian leadership. For the past three decades, he has shared the stage with His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, performing the Musical Keynotes that have opened His Public Talks and Teachings worldwide. His performances have also taken him to The Vatican for the Holy Father, Pope Francis; the United Nations; the West Lawn of the United States Capitol; the Hollywood Bowl; and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as possessing “virtuosity, a sense of humour, and an ear for musical dialogue,” and by Rome’s *Il Tempo* as “the destiny of the cello,” Michael Fitzpatrick is a virtuoso cellist at the forefront of using music as a vehicle for awakening compassion. For the past three decades he has shared the stage with His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, performing the Musical Keynote that opens His Holiness’s public talks and teachings around the world — of which the Dalai Lama has said simply: “His sound is Clear Light.”

“The most beautiful sound I have ever heard — a sound filled with love.”

GIAN CARLO MENOTTI, FOUNDER, SPOLETO FESTIVAL DEI DUE MONDI



THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES, AT DUSK

SAVE THE DATE



The French-American Friendship Gala

CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES · FEBRUARY 15, 2027 · HALL OF GREAT BATTLES



Sixty tables of ten guests are available between \$35,000 and \$45,000 per table.

To reserve before January 5, 2027, please contact

Dorothea@NormandyInstitute.org

THE INVITATION

Under the High Patronage

OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHARLES KUSHNER

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO



THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF BLÉRANCOURT · THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE
& THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

invite Organizations of American Excellence to share a gesture of gratitude to France for its support of the American War of Independence.

Château de Versailles, including the Hall of Mirrors, will be available exclusively to the guests of the Gala.

The gastronomical menu will be created by renowned Chef Patrick O'Connell of The Inn at Little Washington.

Proceeds of the Gala will support the French-American programs of The American Friends of Blérancourt, The Normandy Institute & The French-American Cultural Foundation, who will collectively make a gift toward:

The permanent Gallery of the American War of Independence at Versailles

&

The Lafayette Scholarship, a year-long curriculum for American students in France.

&

Generation 250, an exchange program for French undergraduate students in the USA.



*Sixty tables of ten guests each are available between \$35,000 and \$45,000 per table.
To reserve before January 5, 2027, please contact Dorothea@NormandyInstitute.org*