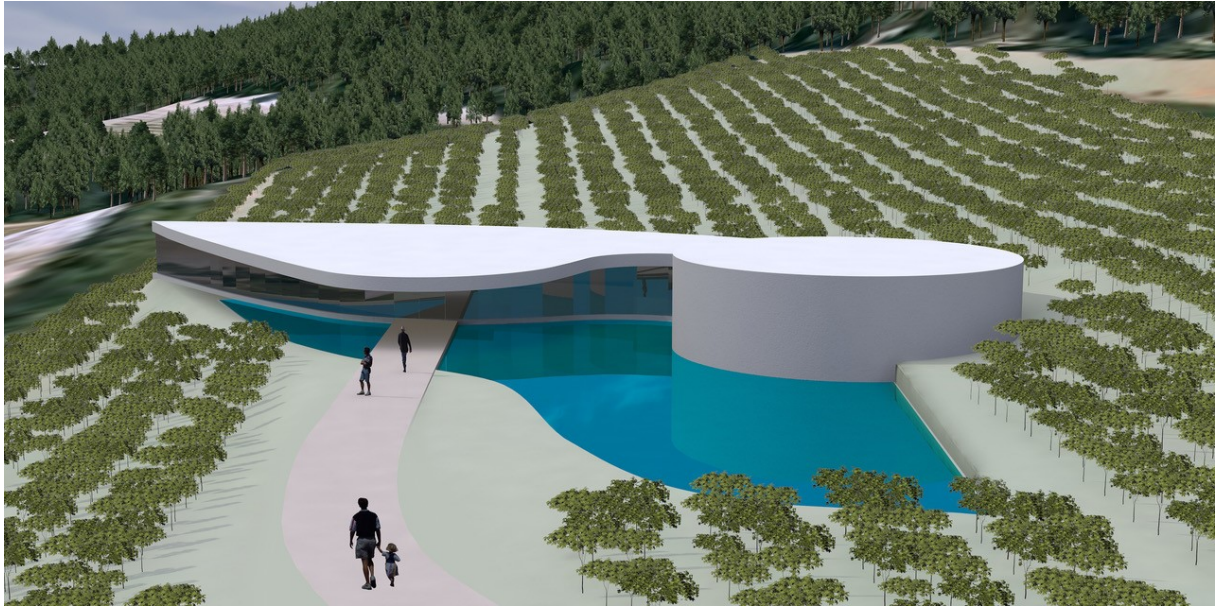




CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence



OSCAR NIEMEYER PAVILION

CHÂTEAU LA COSTE | AIX-EN-PROVENCE

UNVEILING SPRING 2022

"It was an absolute pleasure to work on this project. The location is very beautiful and a pleasant, peaceful environment. The pavilion had to be a light construction adapted to the landscape as well as the vegetation. The structure is at home in this setting and will be a joy to walk around."

- Oscar Niemeyer

This spring, Château La Coste is pleased to announce the inauguration of a new pavilion designed by renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. Conceived between 2010 and 2013, the pavilion is the final project drawn by Niemeyer and his last gift to France, a country close to his heart.

Set amongst a vineyard of Vermentino grapes, the new structure serves as an exhibition space and auditorium. Visitors start their journey via a curved, glazed elevation leading to a 380m² gallery. Adjacent to this is a 140m² cylindrical auditorium with a capacity of 80 seats.

The pavilion, with its organic, curved architecture reflects Niemeyer's distinctive style and sits in perfect harmony with the surrounding vines and rolling Provençal hills. The striking glass façade gives the impression of the vineyard unfolding through the building, while the shallow pool at the entrance beautifully captures the interaction of light and reflection.

The pavilion project at Château La Coste was born in 2010 when Niemeyer was first invited to consider a design for this picturesque landscape in Provence. The architect loved the idea of creating something among the vineyards and considered wine as an important symbol of mankind's presence on Earth. It took him more than a year to perfect the design and find a suitable site, and his team began technical visits in 2011.

Niemeyer had a long and faithful relationship with France. During the Brazilian military dictatorship, he went into exile in Paris and lived on Boulevard Raspail. He was often seen at La Brasserie La Coupole. Even after returning to Rio de Janeiro, he always said that he would only leave his home city for Paris. Over his lifetime Niemeyer developed several projects in France, among them: the Communist Party HQ, L'Humanité newspaper HQ, the Cultural Center in Le Havre, the Labor Council Building of Bobigny, and a private home in St Tropez.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT OSCAR NIEMEYER

Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, in full Oscar Niemeyer Soares Filho (born 15 December 1907, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—died 5 December 2012, Rio de Janeiro) was an early exponent of modern architecture in Latin America and particularly celebrated for his work on Brasília, the new capital of Brazil.

Niemeyer studied architecture at the National School of Fine Arts, Rio de Janeiro. Shortly before he graduated in 1934, he entered the office of Lúcio Costa, a leader of the Modernist movement in Brazilian architecture. He worked with Costa from 1937 to 1943 on the design for the Ministry of Education and Health building, considered by many to be Brazil's first masterpiece of modern architecture. The design reveals the influence of the Swiss-born French architect Le Corbusier, who was a consultant on the construction. Niemeyer also worked with Costa on the plans for the Brazilian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair of 1939–40.

Niemeyer's first solo project was the plan for a complex within Pampulha, a new suburb of Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Commissioned in 1941 by Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira, then mayor of Belo Horizonte, the scheme included a church, casino, dance hall, restaurant, yacht club, golf club, and the mayor's weekend retreat, all situated around an artificial lake. The complex's buildings are notable for their free-flowing forms. One writer described the facade of the church as resembling "the trajectory of a bouncing ball." In 1947 Niemeyer represented Brazil in the planning of the United Nations buildings in New York City.

In 1956, when Kubitschek was elected president of Brazil, he invited Niemeyer to design the new capital city of Brasília. Niemeyer agreed to design the government buildings but suggested a national competition for the master plan, a competition subsequently won by his mentor, Lúcio Costa. Niemeyer served as chief architect for NOVA-CAP, the government building authority in Brasília, from 1956 to 1961.

Among the Brasília buildings designed by Niemeyer are the President's Palace, the Brasília Palace Hotel, the Ministry of Justice building, the presidential chapel, and the cathedral. In 1961 Niemeyer returned to private practice and for a time lived in Paris and Israel. In 1966 he designed an urban area in Grasse, near Nice, France, and a building for the French Communist Party in Paris. Niemeyer was the recipient of many other international awards, including the Lenin Peace Prize in 1963, the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1988 (cowinner with Gordon Bunshaft), and the Japan Art Association's Praemium Imperiale prize for architecture in 2004.

The Oscar Niemeyer Foundation, dedicated to architectural preservation and research, was founded in 1988, and a new headquarters designed by Niemeyer opened in Niterói in 2010.

ABOUT CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. Artists and architects who have created permanent works at Château La Coste include Frank O. Gehry, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Rogers, Sophie Calle, Tracey Emin and Jean Nouvel.

Château La Coste
2750 Route de La Cride
13610 Le Puy-Sainte-Reparate
www.chateau-la-coste.com

PRESS INFORMATION:

Reiber PR

Naomi Crowther (UK/US media)
T. +44 (0)20 7079 3300 / M. 07702 441 742
E. naomi@reiberpr.com