

Dreams of A French Château Wedding?

Sarah Francis can help make them come true

Is your vision to create a successful Wedding Venue to make dreams come true in a romantic French Chateau? If yes, look no further than www.sifex.co.uk. Established in 1989, Sifex is the acknowledged market leader world wide in the sale of Châteaux, Manoirs and prestigious French properties. Helping overseas buyers realise their dreams is their forté. Of the 500 plus Châteaux on their books, not all are visible on the website, so getting in touch with them should definitely be your first step along the way, to finding your Castle in France.

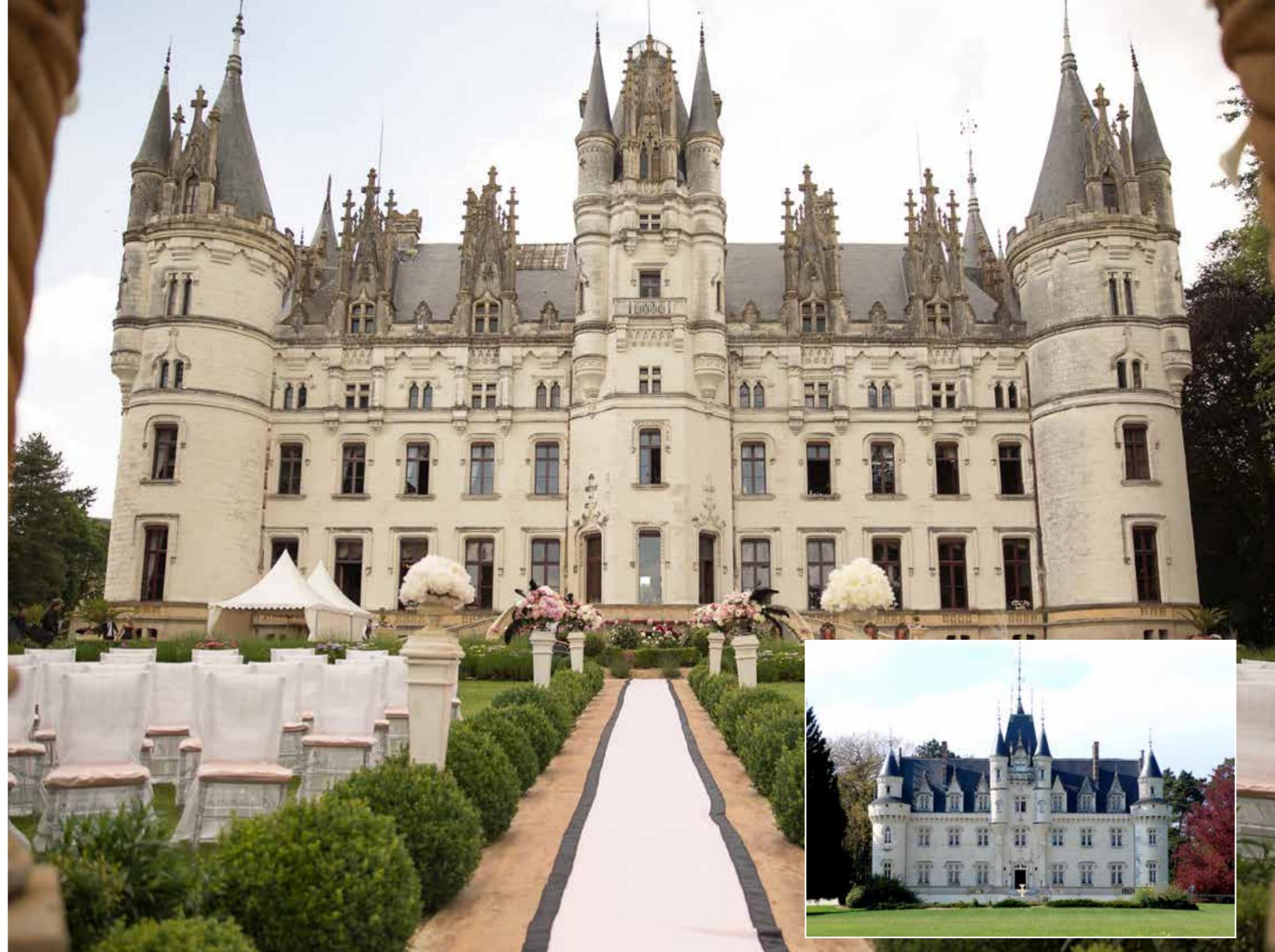
When Sifex clients from the States did just that in 2002, they had a very short time frame and no fixed idea as to where they wanted to be. They weren't even sure which properties they wanted to view, but did know they were committed to buying a Castle. Little did they realise this was the start of a journey, in which they would fall in love with a sleeping beauty of a Castle. The task of restoring the property to its former glory would absorb them for the next two years. The result was a fairytale heaven able to sleep 55 people, and where dreams really do come true.

Sifex arranged for them to meet their colleagues in Paris so they could suggest appealing properties. When the 'sleeping beauty' was produced, they were told this particular Château was, "not actually for sale... but it

could be". The husband became very excited and exclaimed "I have to have that". They went there straight away, and the Castle worked its magic and he fell hopelessly in love.

Built in 1847, the magnificent Neo-Gothic style Château, which has been compared to Chambord, boasts 8000 square feet with 150 rooms, 365 windows, four turrets, 12 dormer windows and 52 fireplaces. A beautiful curving stone staircase with carved stone balustrading leads up to spacious rooms with beautiful high beamed ceilings, and original wooden floors. There are 23 bedrooms in all. Every window frames a mental picture, more often than not, a bride complete with veil. When the present owners discovered the Château, previously used as a summer home, had been built for receptions, they decided it should host events once again. It was such a special place they wanted to share their beautiful new home with people beginning their lives together, who would appreciate it for its romantic setting and spectacular architecture.

Nowadays wedding venues are expected to ooze charm, sophistication and glamour, whilst providing a backdrop for photographers to create a memorable photo shoot. It's the signature of every modern wedding. No pose is too extreme and the props must be original. An historic property with beautiful architectural elements, manicured grounds, lakes and bridges to add to the mystique, are just what it takes to



achieve this. It's not hard to imagine why a Castle tops a tent any day of the week. Perfection is key and extravagance and originality are desirable, so a breathtaking Château is a vote winner. And this especially, when the inside overflows with luxurious décor, decked out in bridal style with satin ribbons, frothy tulle, candles and scented petals. It's not hard to see why this particular Château has been so popular. The owners have perfected their art to the highest standard, and a myriad of happy couples are ready to sing their praises along with their staff. Their mission to make brides and grooms feel 'at home' in

their home, has worked! No attention to detail is too much, hence its remarkable success. Just 45 minutes North West of Angers, and a mere hour and a half from Paris by Eurostar, the Château is also ideally located for visiting the Loire valley.

A Château whose profile is not dissimilar is waiting, not far away, south of Chinon, for its new owner. Sifex are listing this stunning white stone fairytale Château, in just under 18 hectares of park, meadow, woodland. Built in 1826 in the Renaissance style with mullioned and dormer windows

and a rigorously symmetrical façade, it was expanded in 1860. Meticulously renovated and refurbished by British owners, the Château is in good structural order, now representing an incredible opportunity with an asking price of only €2,400,000. With the addition of a pool and tennis court, it could easily become a small boutique hotel, or a venue whether for events or weddings. Like the previous Château, it boasts a beautiful stone spiral staircase in the Gothic style. Coats of arms, painted beamed ceilings and magnificent fireplaces, as well as impressive plaster mouldings abound. The

Château has 10 bedrooms, all en-suite, as well as a caretaker's house, stables and the possibility to hunt on the estate – or for brides to arrive on horseback. The Loire is not far away with all its wonderful tourist attractions, excellent wines and historic Châteaux to visit, as are the charming towns of Tours and Poitiers and the popular attraction, Futuroscope.

To contact Sifex for further information: email info@sifex.co.uk or phone +44 207 384 1200.