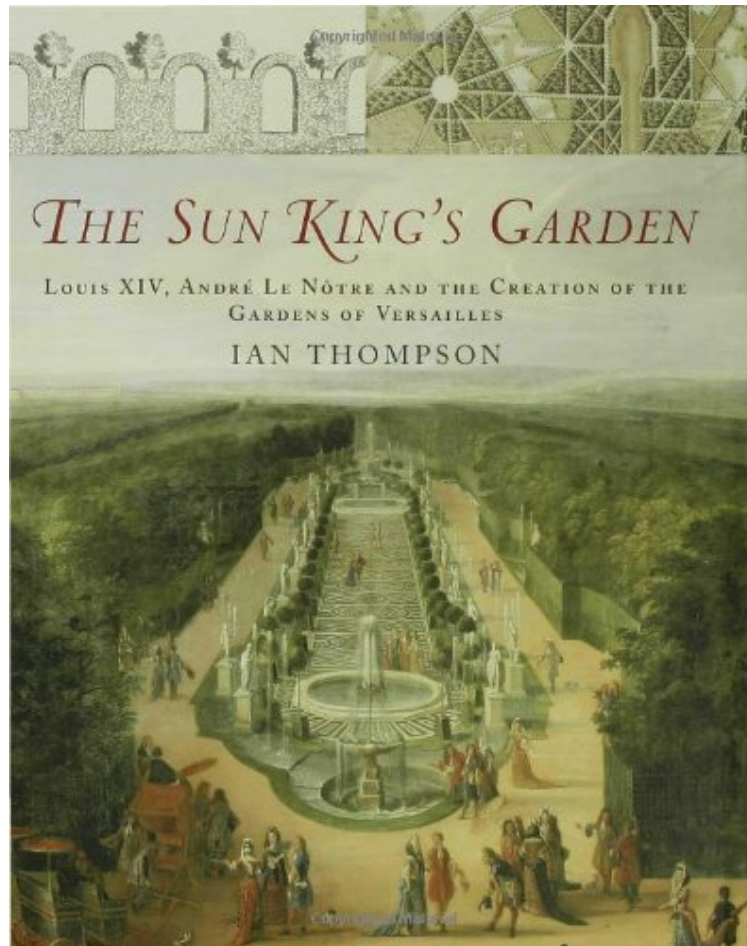


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## The Sun King's Garden: Louis XIV, Andre le Notre and the Creation of the Gardens of Versailles

*Ian Thompson*

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting By Vera Podgornaya This book will tell you all you wanted to know about Le Notre's experience and thinking, all about King's personality and ideas, a lot about the Versailles garden design. What I miss in this book - just more details on the chronology and the detailed description of the garden features and their detailed alterations through the time. This book gives broad understanding of the time and society, traditions, philosophy, it even gives the details of how garden works used to be done than. The visuals are

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Warmonger, womanizer, and autocrat, Louis XIV may also have been history's most fanatical gardener. At Versailles, twelve miles outside Paris, France's self-styled "Sun King" created not only Europe's most lavish palace, but, beginning in 1661, the most extensive gardens the Western world has ever seen. Assisting Louis in this enterprise was the low-born gardener Andr Le Ntre, whose character and temperament were as different from those of his sovereign as it is possible to conceive. Where Louis was ruthless and relentlessly driven, Le Ntre was down to earth, witty and amiable and also phenomenally talented. While Louis could strike fear into the highest in the land with just a look, Le Ntre enjoyed the king's trust and friendship for more than 40 years. In this lavishly illustrated book, Ian Thompson tells more comprehensively than ever before the intertwined stories of an extraordinary garden and an extraordinary friendship.

'Lavishly and intelligently illustrated...the best account currently available in English of how and why this extraordinary prodigy of gardening art and regal vanity came into existence.' Sunday Telegraph 'Lively and well researched, studded with anecdotes and fascinating statistics.' Daily Telegraph 'A superb account...the book is as delightful and masterly as the project it describes.' The SpectatorAbout the AuthorA former professional landscape architect himself, Ian Thompson now is a lecturer in landscape architecture at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The Sun King's Garden is his first book.