



CARRÉ
DES JARDINIERS



@Alexandre Moulard

PORTRAIT

CARRÉ DES JARDINIERS

Antoine de Lavalette, new Master Gardener 2023

The 2023 edition of the Carré des Jardiniers competition came to an end live on stage at Paysalia, the unmissable event for landscaping professionals, which took place from 5 to 7 December in Lyon.

On 6 December, the jury for the prestigious competition awarded the title of Master Gardener to Antoine de Lavalette, a landscape gardener from Haute-Garonne. Let's meet this enthusiastic professional, who will be representing the profession for two years!



Antoine de Lavalette

age 35

Joint manager of Nature & Création in Cessales (Haute-Garonne)

Graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure de Paysage in Versailles

Career

With a childhood stretching from France to Thailand, Antoine De Lavalette grew up with two different visions of nature. After his initial leaning toward law and language studies, a yearning for freedom and love for the Earth changed his course toward gardens. After graduating from the École Nationale Supérieure de Paysage, Antoine took his first steps alongside landscaper Camille Muller before continuing up the learning curve with his father and his uncle in the family business near Toulouse.

Today, he has carved a place among the gardening teams and taken over the reins at landscaping firm Nature & Création alongside his cousin, with a 13-strong staff. Antoine creates gardens that allow nature to express itself, that mirror his thoughts, and are imbued with memories still present in his dreams. In December 2023, he secured the title of Master Gardener and became the new face of the profession.



@Alexandre Moulard

Antoine de Lavalette, Master Gardener 2023, in his own words

Experience

It's important for me to make the garden into an experience. I think that's a good way of taking people by the hand and teaching them to see nature differently, without forcing them. Placing plants everywhere and creating interaction helps people to get used to living with vegetation.



Working collectively

To create change, to bring nature back to the city for example, it's important to drive a movement that includes everyone. There is no single solution that can be applied to all urban spaces, and it takes a collective effort to carry everyone along in the same boat.



Adapting

Over the last few years, we have seen the world change very quickly, along with several careers, including gardening. The climate and ecological challenges we face lead us to see things differently, which has an impact on what we do. In some ways, through these challenges, our work is converging on the same goal: being able to adapt to rapid change and making sure it moves in the 'right' direction.



The city of the future

It's important to keep in mind that the city of the future already exists, and that the real challenge is to deal with the cities in which we live today. These days, there's not much space for nature in its raw state in cities, and we have to take small steps to restore its place. This was the concept behind the garden we presented at the Carré des Jardiniers. It represents a forgotten piece of city, where nature is gradually reclaiming its place and users are taking ownership of this mixture of the urban and the natural. It can be done!



The Lauragais region

I come from the Lauragais, and I'm very attached to it. The landscapes are full of memories for me. I often gaze at the same view from Cessales, the little village where our company Nature & Création is based. I see things changing gradually – in the evening there are more and more lights, and the town is coming closer.



Thailand

I grew up between France and Thailand. This dual culture created in me two ways of seeing nature that are now complementary and useful for my work as a landscape gardener. In Thailand, Nature is powerful and vital, and people have learned to live alongside it, fearing it or venerating it. For example, you often see coloured ribbons wrapped round the trunks of great trees. They are seen as sacred, inhabited by spirits, and cutting them down to build a car park would be unthinkable.



The Carré des Jardiniers competition

Carré des Jardiniers has been giving outstanding gardens a place of honour in the public eye since 2011, organising a contest open to landscape contractors and designers from all over France. Every two years, this iconic competition in the sector invites professionals to form a mixed team of experienced profiles and young talents who, given a specific theme, collectively apply their minds and create a remarkable 200 m² ephemeral garden.

Live at the Paysalia trade show, the teams who make it to the final will compose their garden and present it to a panel of expert judges and an audience of professional visitors. The judges deliberate and agree on a winner, who is crowned Master Gardener and bears the profession's standard for the next two years.

The Master Gardener becomes the ambassador for a whole sector, giving regular speeches to promote the activity's core values with passion and professionalism.

Bringing together experienced professionals from all over France, reserving a particular place for the younger generations with a student jury and inviting the whole profession to consider a topical theme and demonstrate its limitless creativity, the Carré des Jardiniers competition has claimed its place over the years as an unmissable event in the landscaping and gardening sector!

www.carre-des-jardiniers.com



The garden of Antoine de Lavalette, the Carré des Jardiniers winner

Antoine de Lavalette's experience

That's how we imagined our garden for the Carré des Jardiniers! It had to give the impression of having been there for a long time. The progression had to be an emotional upward journey: from disappointment to wonder! I wanted the visitors to take ownership of the place, for the

garden to belong to them, and it worked. The greatest moment for a gardener is when you hand over the garden you have created and watch the visitors' joy as time stands still for an instant..



YOUR CONTACT

Caroline Roques
caroline.roques@gl-events.com
+33 (0)7 50 69 33 89

