

# Hunting THE KING'S Forest

— LARRY'S SHORT STORIES #291 —

No matter how long a person hunts, there is always the opportunity for new experiences and to learn new things. Hunters have been wandering these woods in France for several hundred years, but it was the first time for us, and of course the hunting methods and equipment have changed a great deal through the centuries. This was an "estate hunt" for red stag, mouflon, fallow deer, roe deer and wild boar. The grandkids purchased the hunt at Safari Club, and I was along mostly because I'm Grandpa!

Today, the beautiful "estate" grounds around Château de Montchevreuil are used for weddings in the spring and summer and for hunting in the late summer, fall and winter. It's located about an hour north of Paris, and not far east of the beaches our soldiers landed on at Normandy, during WWII. The known developments on

the "estate" date back to the 12th century. It's only 880 acres, which isn't large, if you're hunting from a vehicle; but, on foot, it's another story.

This property was

owned by Madame de Maintenon, who became the 2nd wife of King Louis the 14th, in October of 1683. Louis was an avid hunter, and is said to have visited here, thus "the King's Forest." I can imagine many places where the King might have sat while the beaters pushed the game in his direction.

Our party was Brenda and I, daughter Sara and her two kids Eliza and Jay. This was certainly the most unusual hunting we had ever done. At first light, after a light



Château de Montchevreuil is in ruins, but in its heyday in the 16th and 17th centuries, it must have been quite a place.

breakfast, we walked out the door and into the forest, five of us behind our professional hunter, who carried the only gun. The forest is quite open, with walking/shooting lanes in various places. It was possible to sight animals at a couple hundred yards - before they saw us. First question: who was going to shoot; then the stalk began! We hunted in this fashion early morning and late afternoon – until dark.

One day, we drove to another estate, "…who was going to shoot…"

where we shot a roe deer and some ducks. Another day, after the morning hunt, we drove to Paris for lunch, and arrived back early enough to hunt that evening. What an interesting experience; spend time with wife, daughter and grandkids; hunt every day; eat and drink a bit more than normal. Learn some new things. First hunting trip to France!

Larry Potterfield

Château de Montchevreuil  
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We shot a few mallard ducks. For this event, they loaned me a pair of Purdeys.



Daughter Sara, with her two kids, Jay and Eliza. This was the biggest red stag that we saw.