



Château de Villette
Ile de France, France

Olivia Hsu Decker

“Self-made Chinese-American entrepreneur and socialite with charm and style”



Olivia Hsu Decker

“My love for historic buildings, antiques and decorations are showcased in my châteaux. Combined with surrounding nature elements and beauty, gourmet meals, amenities and services, the Château de Villette is a magical place to nurture your soul, inspire your mind and relax your body. My goal is to give your ‘Château stay’ an unforgettable experience that will change your life.”

Olivia Hsu Decker

The Château de Villette belongs to Olivia Hsu Decker, a Chinese-American who purchased it from Baron and Baroness Robert Gerard in 1999. She was intrigued by this significant historic home and has painstakingly restored the Château to a high standard and has decorated it with many beautiful antiques and objects of art.



Cher. Olivia is a member of Who’s Who in Luxury Real Estate and the International Real Estate Institute and completed the Institute’s Real Estate Study at the University of Oxford, England in 1990. She is a Board member of the San Francisco Opera Guild and chaired the Opera Ball in 2002.

Olivia is a self-made international entrepreneur, who was born in Shanghai and escaped from the Chinese communist regime. She was educated in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. In 1975 she immigrated to San Francisco. From 1980 to 1988, Olivia, worked at Merrill Lynch Realty, where she became their number one sales agent in the United States. In 1988, she started her own real estate company, Decker Bullock, in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ms. Decker is not married and has no children. As she says, “I am married to my business and my châteaux are like my two children”. She loves cooking, antique collecting, travelling, reading, opera and music. She divides her time between her home in Belvedere on the San Francisco Bay and Château de Villette and Château de Grimaldi near Aix-en-Provence.

Ms. Decker has achieved celebrity status as the leading luxury property specialist in the United States. Her company concentrates exclusively on the marketing of extraordinary homes - those valued at over \$5 million dollars. She is currently the exclusive listing agent for a home valued at \$65 million dollars and another for \$20 million dollars located in Belvedere. Previously she was agent for Andre Agassi, Sharon Stone and

Since Olivia purchased the Château it has been featured in several international films. With the phenomenal success of the book *The Da Vinci Code* which features Villette, it is no surprise that a cinematic version would soon follow. Nor that many scenes would be filmed at Villette. She has followed the filming with interest and looks forward to seeing the on-screen creation by Ron Howard, starring Tom Hanks, where much of the action takes place in her château.



Olivia Hsu Decker with former Prime Minister of Spain, José María Aznar



Olivia Hsu Decker relaxing at Château de Villette



Olivia Hsu Decker and Friends at Costume Party

A Journey of Beauty and Intrigue



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One of the most significant châteaux in France, Villette was designed by François Mansart, 1598-1666, for Jean Dye II, the Count of Auffay, Louis XIV's Ambassador to Italy, the Republic of Venice at the time. The construction was carried out by François' nephew Jules Hardouin-Mansart, 1646-1708, and completed around 1695. At the same time he was building Château de Villette, Hardouin-Mansart was the lead architect for the King at Versailles which is just 16 miles southeast of Villette. He designed the Petit Trianon, the Queen's staircase and the fabulous Hall of Mirrors. Hence, Villette has been known as "Le Petit Versailles".

Villette is both simple and sumptuous with the great octagonal salon in white and blue, the elegant dining room with the original 17th Century carved stone buffet, magnificent boiseries with paintings by François Boucher, the dark oak paneled library, the gilded music salon, and the limestone entry hall which pays tribute to the classical style of the 17th Century. The 185 acres gardens were designed by André Le Nôtre who also designed the gardens of Versailles. They spread out behind the Château on a central axis with two rectangular lakes filled with swans, ducks, birds and fish on each side. In the middle is the spectacular cascade and fountain surmounted by a bronze sculpture of Neptune.

In the 18th Century, the Grouchy family became the owners of the Chateau through marriage. After the Second World War, the Baron and Baroness Robert Gerard purchased Villette. They restored the garden and the Château up until the death of the Baron in 1998.

A publishing phenomenon, Dan Brown's No. 1 best selling novel *The Da Vinci Code* features the Château de Villette as the residence of the character Sir Leigh Teabing. The Château is a key film location for the movie starring Tom Hanks, and its magical grounds have been used for many other feature films, including: *Le Comte de Monte Cristo* with Gerard Depardieu, and *Le Libertin* with Fanny Ardant and Vincent Perez.



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1. One of the 18 bedrooms - 2. Dining room - 3. Music salon - 4. Library - 5. Grand salon - 6. Olivia lighting candles in the Hallway

Olivia Hsu Decker has the pleasure of welcoming you to the Château de Villette



Special programs can be designed for your needs and occasions. The Château is a spectacular location for family vacations, seminars, elegant parties, weddings, fashion shoots, product promotions, as well as a TV/movie location and other special events.

The Château and its magnificent grounds provide privacy, serenity and activities including fishing, hunting, horseback riding, tennis, biking, hiking and a wellness retreat with yoga, massages, exercise and Tai Chi.

Visiting Opportunities

Villette has 18 deluxe bedrooms each with its own private bathroom. All were beautifully remodeled in recent years. The kitchen has commercial appliances in addition to two service kitchens, and is thus perfect for gourmet cooking, and there is a gym, a billiard room and a banquet room. The telephone system is accessible from every room in addition to a wireless Internet connection on the main floor. There are numerous outbuildings including a spacious chapel and adjacent reception rooms, horse stables, greenhouse and a 13th Century building containing an 800 years-old wine press machine.

In addition the Château de Villette also offers by special request The Da Vinci Code Tour program. The highlights include:

- 6 days/5 nights with a deluxe room at Château de Villette
- Daily breakfast, a welcome dinner and a farewell dinner.
- A visit to the Louvre Denon Wing including Grand Gallery and Mona Lisa.
- Lunch at the Hotel Ritz where the Da Vinci Code book started.
- Visit to the church Saint Sulpice.
- Tour of the Champs-Elysees and Bois de Boulogne.
- Shopping trip and restaurants in Paris.
- Optional tours of Versailles, Monet's garden at Giverny, Normandy, Fontainebleau, Vaux le Vicomte and other sights are available.

For more information on Decker Bullock,
Olivia's Realty company:
www.sanfranciscofinehomes.com



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1. The Château is a great setting for a romantic wedding - 2. Costume Party



Crack the Da Vinci Code at the Château de Villette



The Elegance and Beauty of the Château de Villette

