

Inauguration of Place Lady Wallace at the Estate Bagatelle



On July 7, 2025, the public square in front of the original entrance to Domaine de Bagatelle in Bois de Boulogne was officially named Place Lady Wallace. The inauguration ceremony paid tribute to the wife of Sir Richard Wallace, **Julie Amélie Castelnau**, and recognized her cultural and humanitarian contributions to the people of France and the United Kingdom.

Chateau Bagatelle was their summer home and the place where Richard Wallace died. They were the last residents of the property. Sir Richard and Lady Wallace supported a variety of charitable causes in Paris, including funding night shelters, giving welfare for the needy, donating Wallace Fountains to make clean drinking water available for all, and building the Hertford British Hospital. The couple made many civic and community improvements in Lisburn, Northern Ireland and among many charitable projects, provided cultural opportunities for working class people in East London.

Lady Wallace continued this charitable work after her husband's death and she is best known for bequeathing to the British nation what was considered one of the finest private art collections ever assembled. Today, the Wallace Collection is on display at Hertford House, London, and is open to the public free of charge.

During the ceremony, remarks were given by **Jérémy Redler**, mayor of the 16th arrondissement of Paris and **Karen Taïeb**, deputy mayor of Paris responsible for history, heritage and relations with the churches. After the plaque created to mark the square was unveiled, **Andrew Dalgleish**, minister and deputy head of mission from the British Embassy received a copy of the iconic metal plaque, typical of the signs that denote the streets and squares of Paris.

The ceremony was followed by a champagne reception at Chateau Bagatelle. The chateau is being restored by Fondation Mansart and eventually it will be a place of tribute to the philanthropy of Sir Richard and Lady Wallace. Senator **Albéric de Montgolfier**, president of Fondation Mansart, spoke about the plans to restore the Chateau and the Trianon, which will include a life-size statue of Richard Wallace at the entrance. The chateau will be open to the public and offer many educational and cultural programs and special events.

Friends of the Wallace Fountains were invited as guests at the inauguration.