

In the Country

THE PLEASURES OF THE PASTORAL LIFE

King Louis

In the gardens of the rich and famous—those of Diane Von Furstenberg, Princess Michael of Kent, Yves Saint Laurent supreme, Pierre Berge and Christie's owner François Pinault, among others—barely a sprig of greenery pops above ground without the benediction of Louis Benech, French landscape artist of the hour. He describes his style as "nature very arranged. Plants that could grow spontaneously are planted in a rhythm so they mix naturally." In this Normandy garden, for instance, a "stairway" of golden dogwoods descends to a swath of yellow flag irises bordering a reflecting pool surrounded by a carpet of yellow and blue flowers. *Très chic!* **JEAN BOND RAFFERTY**

