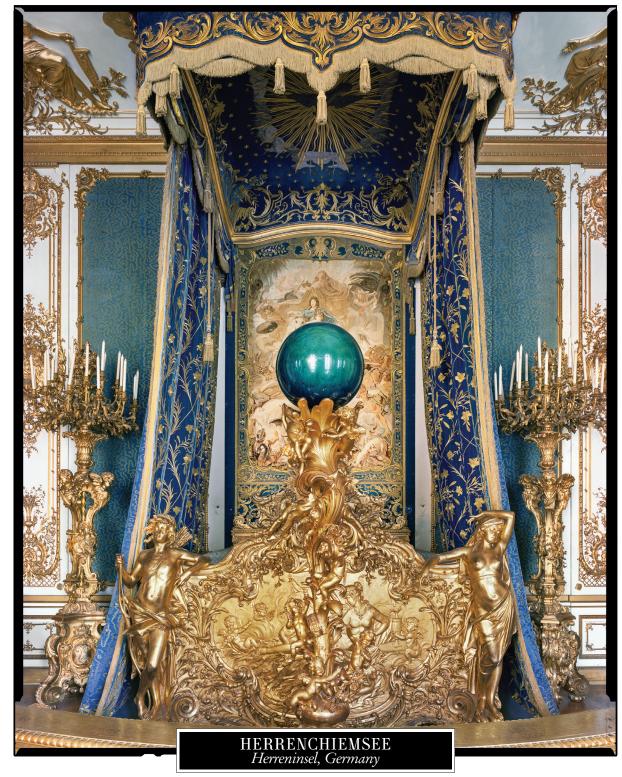
Who's the most powerful ruler of them all? For a new



King Ludwig II of Bavaria built such extravagant castles, including this one modeled on Versailles, that he was called the Fairytale King. But his bankrupting spending habits (among other eccentricities) earned him a more enduring moniker: Mad King. GUIDED TOURS ONLY, HERRENCHIEMSEE.DE (© BAYERISCHE SCHLOESSERVERWALTUNG)

SLEEPING AR OUND EUROPE

series, one photographer found answers—in the bedroom.



In 18th-century England, Lord Chamberlains had first dibs on the furniture of deceased kings, which is how the fourth Duke of Devonshire ended up with the damask bunk of George II, who reportedly died in it. As they say, one man's deathbed is another man's status symbol. OPEN JANUARY-MAY, CHATSWORTH.ORG



Sir Robert Walpole wasn't a king, but as England's first prime minister he considered himself deserving of just as fabulous a bed for his home at Houghton. The velvet and gilt trimmings alone cost £1,200. That was in 1732; today it would be more than \$300,000. OPEN APPRIL-OCTOBER, HOUGHTONHALL.COM



Marie Antoinette regularly redecorated her apartments at Versailles to suit her taste du jour. She did the same with her private chambers, which were accessed via a secret door next to her bed and where she could take a break from royal obligations—and, presumably, her husband. CHATEAUVERSAILLES.FR

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