Like a stage setting, Oak Alley, "The Pink Temple in the Clearing," always appears to the visitor as glimpsed through the avenue of 28 massive oaks planted by an unknown settler more than 120 years ago. The upper branches of the live oaks, planted 90 feet apart, now interlace and the trunks measure 21 feet in circumference. No comparable vista can be seen in the Mississippi Valley.

Construction of the mansion at the junction of the Mississippi River and Bayou Lafourche was started 120 years ago and completed in 1836. Fallen into decay in the period following the Civil War, Oak Alley has now been completely restored and tropical plantings frame the soft-shadowed pink brick and the 28 Doric columns that encircle the four sides.