



## Best YouTube Christmas Village Videos of 2023

After watching well over a couple hundred Christmas village videos, one thing I know for sure is – the Europeans love Lemax façades!

Be sure to check out all the other topnotch and timely columns on TheVillageCollector.com – the always interesting "*Just So You Know (JSYK)*" by David Spears, "*Phil & Sue's Village*" (from England!), "*From Italy: Villaging in Europe*" by Peppe Apuleo (fascinating!), "*A Dickens Christmas*" and "*Hauntsville*" by Larry Treadwell, and soon to be more by webmaster Bill Channell.

***Please keep visiting the Village Videos page and watch, watch, watch.*** There will be a new batch of village videos starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month! So many ideas, so little time... and not enough money.



Photo by Brian McKnight

I viewed many dozens of great village **displays**, but if your video was just a **large flyover** (after about one minute in, you can tell), I stopped watching before I succumbed to motion sickness. This subjective list is not about the best displays, but the best videos. A really good video has composition. Here is how I judge a village video:

- ☐ Have You Planned Your Movie?
- ☐ How about that Title or Intro?
- ☐ Does your Movie have all short video clips and still photos?
- ☐ Are the video clips steady and/or smooth?
- ☐ Can we see lots of detail?
- ☐ Is each video clip or photo pleasantly composed?
- ☐ Are all the photos and video clips in a 16x9 aspect ratio (no black bars)?
- ☐ Do the scenes take us down into the village (or are we watching detached from above)?
- ☐ Does the music create a feeling, an emotion? Do some scenes follow the music?
- ☐ Do the transitions between scenes, and panning and zooming within each scene seem natural?
- ☐ Is there something never seen before?

On the other hand, I'm totally heartened at the long list of very good Christmas village videos this year. Could it be that my column here at The Village Collector is working?



Photo by David and Linda Spears



Before I knock myself down patting myself on the back, I'll let you be the judge if you'll take the time to watch some of these. Get a drink (soft or adult) and a few of those Christmas cookies and plunk yourself in the chair. Remember to switch to the full screen if you're not viewing on a smart TV. Most of these are short videos. The list is close to chronological as they were published. Here we go!



Photo by Diane Marie Hoffmeyer

Unlocking the Magic: My Best Christmas Village Revealed (2:54)  
Artistic Dad

[Unlocking the Magic: My Best Christmas Village Revealed - YouTube](#)

Incredible northern lights on ceiling, jam-packed with details, while I'm not normally a fan of stacked or shelving village displays, this display is so overwhelming that you almost don't notice the shelves. There is good videography, from Edmonton, AB.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE | Lemax | 3<sup>rd</sup> year (4:43)

Cheby Kali girl

[CHRISTMAS VILLAGE 🏠 | Lemax | 3rd year - YouTube](#)

All short video clips, takes us down into the village to see all the details and animation, shows us daytime and later some well lit nighttime scenes

Speedy Village (5:14)

Cesare Villa

[Speedy Village - YouTube](#)

A simple and small village with surprises – a Magnorail people mover system and a real water feature. There is lots of drinking and partying going on. Cesare takes us down into the village and gives us plenty of detail, including a couple of overviews to see the whole village and its construction. Watch also:

Villaggio Parigino 2023 (5:07)

Cesare Villa

[Villaggio Parigino 2023 - YouTube](#)



Photo by Linda Coe Stewart



Lemax – Christmas Village 2023 (4:20)

Christmas Dream

[Lemax - Christmas Village 2023 - YouTube](#)

This is a relatively compact village display, excellently videoed in short clips with good videography. It checks all the boxes.

Department 56 Christmas in the City (1:44)

J Durant

[Department 56 Christmas in the City - YouTube](#)

A nice short video, heavy on bokeh, that lets you hone in on some details.



Photo by Geert Fia Beijer

2023 lemax Christmas Village (6:40)

john butler

[2023 lemax Christmas village - YouTube](#)

This is in the never-seen-before category – John outfitted the entire village with utility poles and ran a wire to each building! If you have ever dealt with D56's Telephone Poles #52656 (and thin wires), I think I prefer underground utilities for my village.

Christmas Village 2023 (8:50)

Cesare Villa

[Christmas Village 2023 - YouTube](#)

Cesare's videos are consistently good, year after year, and including his off-season village videos. He has a nice mix of stills and short video clips, plenty of animation, and great lighting.

Aiello Christmas Village 2023 (2:25)

Dawn Aiello Photography

[Aiello Christmas Village 2023 - YouTube](#)

Mostly short video clips with very light snowing, put together by a professional. The camera is steady, and we are transported down into the village. There are a few clips where she passes by the houses too quickly to catch any detail. And the lighting could be increased threefold! Villages look great in person in dim light and even the dark, but the darker it is the more the details are obscured.

Christmas in the City Village 2023 (2:04)

SlickPixPhotography

[Christmas in the City Village 2023 - YouTube](#)

This is a nice short video of a modestly sized display and train loop, done well with short video clips, and interspersed with audio clips from our favorite seasonal movies.



Photo by Marko Popovic

Christmas Village 2023 (2:25)

Olaf's Haarstudio

[Christmas Village 2023 - YouTube](#)

Another short video, set in 4:3 aspect ratio, which is all short clips of the many animated pieces followed by super-sized Kens Burns effect stills.

Christmas Village 2023 by Rosaria Costa (3:44)

Rosaria Costa

[Christmas Village 2023 by Rosaria Costa - YouTube](#)

This beautiful display's video has some choppy sections, a few quick carsick flyovers, but she spends plenty of time down in the village showing off her vignettes. Still, all in all, well worth the full watch.

Madastiville Christmas Village 2023 (4:41)

Madastiville

[Madastiville Christmas Village 2023 - YouTube](#)

Madastiville's videos are a how-to clinic – great intro, excellent lighting, lots of views at vignette level, pleasant music, short video clips, and an outro.

2023 Stevens and Anderson Lionel Trains Christmas Display (9:58)

Michael Stevens

[2023 Stevens and Anderson Lionel Trains Christmas Display - YouTube](#)

If you like trains, this excellent video shows them off, as well as the villages they chug through.

Lemax Christmas Village 2023 – Zordan Deborah (2:55)

deborah zordan

[Lemax Christmas Village 2023 - Zordan Deborah - YouTube](#)

This beautiful village was videoed in very short video clips and some stills. The camera was super steady, and each scene is remarkable. There were few little people vignettes; it was mostly about the animation, which was superb. An absence of transitions is called a "cut" or "jump cut." A smoother set of transitions would have worked better.

Crèche 2023 de papy Jacky aTassin la demi-lune (4:04)

PAPY JACKY BONNET DE TASSIN

[Crèche 2023 de papy Jacky aTassin la demi-lune - YouTube](#)



This surprising video goes in the “never saw that before” category as a reason to watch it. Boats in the harbor rock to the waves, an animated nativity scene including Joseph rocking the cradle, and other animations set the scene for this very different village display. Fun to watch!



Photo by Rosario Costa

Il Presepe di fine '800 in Mostra nella Chiesa di San Costanzo alla Marina Grande di Capri (2:26)

Caprinotizie

[Il Presepe di fine '800 in Mostra nella Chiesa di San Costanzo alla Marina Grande di Capri - YouTube](#)

Wow oh wow! This display appears to be Fontanini-sized and comprises a large backdrop to the altar in a chapel. The translation is “The Nativity scene of the late '800 on display in the Church of San Costanzo at the Marina Grande in Capri.” Well worth a couple of viewings!

Linda’s Christmas Village Video 2023 (11:11)

Linda Stewart

[Linda's Christmas Village Video 2023 - YouTube](#)



This is an amazing display, primarily Dept 56's Original Snow Village buildings and little people, with sequestered Lemax thrown in. Some of the photos are stunning! The video is mostly still photos (with no Ken Burns effect) with video clips interspersed. It's too bad the photos were not converted to or taken with the camera setting in 16:9 aspect ratio. There are lots of black bars.

2023 Morizio Snow Village (1:02)

Mike Morizio

[2023 Morizio Snow Village \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

This village is relatively small – 17 buildings – but many of them are customized and named after family and the retirement community in which they live. Short and very well done!

2023 CHRISTMAS VILLAGE (9:32)

Cheby Kali girl

[2023 CHRISTMAS VILLAGE 🎄👤🎁 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

If you want to see details and be taken right down inside the village, then this video is for you. Mostly short video clips and a few photo stills are all it takes to assemble a really nice video.

Lemax Christmas Village 2023 HD 1080p (11:50)

MasterSullivan

[Lemax Christmas Village 2023 HD 1080p \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Lots of innovative animation, not seen elsewhere. This Lemax Caddington Village has a rearing horse, lamp man lighting the lamp, people moving over a shimmering pond bridge, people moving around town and along the street. There is over 1800 feet of wire with arduino electronics and codes, lots of mechanical structures on the underside. He apologized for the little shaking here and there but could not justify buying a gimbal stabilizer for a 10-minute video.

2023 Christmas Village from Snowfall Valley featuring Dept. 56, Lemax and Holiday Time pieces (7:55)

Dolly's Villages

[2023 Christmas Village from Snowfall Valley featuring Dept. 56, Lemax and Holiday Time pieces. \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Dolly's village videos are always well done. Quite the eclectic mix of brands and little people time periods! And it all seems to flow and work together. You never know what's coming in the next scene. This was a fun video to watch!

My Victorian London during Christmas time (13:11)

Dana Phuong Doan

[My Victorian London during Christmas time \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

This lovely video is all photo stills with Ken Burns effect, scenes nearly all down inside the village where the little people live. All four songs are sung by Michael Bublé, which adds a lot.



Photo by Dana Doan Stein

Ester Christmas Village 2023 1080WebShareName (1:14)

Eric Clement

[Ester Christmas Village 2023 1080WebShareName \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

This very short, well done vignette video shows how you can raise charity money with your Christmas village.

MY 2023 CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – by Silvio Allena (34:51)

Silvio Allena

[MY 2023 CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - by Silvio Allena \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Sivio is a YouTube influencer who every year has a year-long village how-to tutorial series. He likes to talk, and you must be ready to give your time to follow his series. His annual village



video does the same at nearly 35-minutes long. The camera is very steady, and he probably uses the camera-on-a-dolly on a board system of videoing described by Steve F of New Zealand. There are plenty of details, unusual scenes, and new figures to see – he gives just enough time – as he navigates back and forth with the extended video clips. There is some loss and regain of camera focus as the sections of buildings interfere. You can tell he started videoing **after** the village was completed. If you want viewers to see the best of the rear rows, you must video or photograph as you build – back to front. The vignettes get progressively farther away. In the last third, while trying to show the back rows, he devolves into shaky handheld flyovers.

Steve's Xmas Village 2023 HD 1080p (7:35)

Steve F

[Steve's Xmas Village 2023 HD 1080p - YouTube](#)

Steve F from New Zealand publishes a video every two years because the extra work he puts into constructing, videoing, and editing shows. Normally, I'm not a fan of low light videos because they obscure details, but Steve F uses tiny hidden Lemax spotlights to give us detail at the villager's level. His music is always mood-creating. He discloses in the outro that he uses just an iPhone and video edits in Apple's Final Cut Pro 2023. This is top three for 2023, maybe the best.

Snow Train to Christmas Ski Village 2023 (2:34)

Dylan Fick

[Snow Train to Christmas Ski Village 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

This is another if-you-like-trains village video. The setup around a full-sized tree is amazing, so much so that I almost ignored the shaky carsick flyover. Thankfully short, this video's never-seen-this-before made it onto my list.

Mom Village 2023 (12:28)

Stephanie Ziemann

[Mom Village 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

This video is composed of short(ish) clips that are reasonably steady flyovers. It shows a massive display that has naked shelving (something I usually don't like), but I understand that going upwards is the economical way to include your whole collection. What piqued my interest was the incredible diversity of ideas and scales and anything that moves along a track. There are surprises at each scene change – lot's of "oh my!" while

watching. In person you could probably spend 2-3 hours just looking.

Christmas Village 2023 – Festival of Lights (9:41)

LolaZack08

[Christmas Village 2023 - Festival of Lights \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LolaZack08)

Second year newcomer LolaZack is a rock star (don't tell Kiss or Billy Idol)! Her New Orleans-style villaging combined with burgeoning video skills make her must-see TV on the big screen. She paints little people to fit her needs and surprises are around every corner. She's been watching pammyj100's and my videos, and the story-telling shows. The music goes with her style, and I can't wait to see her next video. This video is my favorite.

Crimbletown 2023 (1:45)

Cotswold House Photography

[Crimbletown 2023 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Crimbletown2023)

This short, professionally-made video gives us a look at how technically well-done our Christmas village videos can be – something to aspire to. Robin Lawrence uses his video to raise charity money for Cancer Research.

Christmas Village by Jarek Smolec A.D. 2023 (4:42)

Jarek Smolec

[Christmas Village by Jarek Smolec A.D. 2023 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChristmasVillagebyJarekSmolecAD2023)

A great green screen beginning followed by lovely short video clips and photos using the Ken Burns effect. He had very light snowing down in the town and took us up the ski lift to the mountain top where a blizzard was happening. Very cleverly done! Then, back down the ski lift the snowing abated and he used a green screen Santa, sleigh, and reindeer that I've used on a fly-by.

Lemax Christmas village 2023/Lemax kerstdorp 2023 (4:07)

Jago & Chris Crol-Vos

[Lemax Christmas village 2023/Lemax kerstdorp 2023@Lemaxcollection#christmasvillage#Lemax \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LemaxChristmasvillage2023/Lemaxkerstdorp2023@Lemaxcollection#christmasvillage#Lemax)

A great beginning followed by excellent Ken Burns stills and steady short video clips of their beautiful Belgian village. The transitions are initially magical, but as they keep using them over and over, they become heavy-handed. All followed by a great outro!



Waterford Christmas Train Village – December 2023 (2:17)

Waterford Grand

[Waterford Christmas Train Village - December 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

This short video is all quick video clips and mostly about the train display. It's different than most and holds your interest with the display. The transitions are overdone, but it's over before you notice.



Photo by Ugly Blue Chair Productions

2023 Christmas Village Display (3:30)

DIAMOND ON DEMAND FILMS

[2023 Christmas Village Display \(youtube.com\)](#)

Likely videoed by a professional, this small village at the base of a tree has pro-style focus changes, animation, and stop motion of the villagers – very different!

In my next column on The Village Collector, I don't know what I'm going to write about. I'm out of words for today and I'll try to do better next time.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome.

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