

IN THE SHADOW OF TIME: GARDENS OF CAMPANIA AND LAZIO 2 – 11 May 2009

Lazio and Campania are places of the most exquisite natural beauty. The climate is benevolent, often mild enough for lemons and oranges and olives to flourish, and the soil is richly fertile. It is no wonder, then, that gardens have been made here since before the time of the Romans. Traces of more than 400 gardens have been discovered in the ruins of the villas at Pompeii. In the hills around Rome, on the islands of the Bay of Naples, clinging to the cliffs above the Amalfi Coast, there still exist gardens allowing a glimpse into the shadows of time, gardens lovely, atmospheric and often filled with exotic plants. You will visit Renaissance gardens of historical importance, as well as 20th century gardens of great charm. And you will have free time in which to savor the food, the wine and *la dolce vita*.

The tour includes 9 nights hotel accommodation, breakfast daily at hotel, 3 lunches and 2 dinners (as noted by B, L and D in the itinerary), entrance fees, coach travel, and tips and gratuities for the coach driver(s), tour manager, and included meals.

The tour will begin in **Sorrento, Italy**, and end in **Rome, Italy**. You could fly into either Rome or Naples and transfer to Sorrento via train. Naples is much closer – 45 to 60 minutes by Circumvesuviana train. However, Sorrento is also easily reached from Rome; the high-speed train from Rome to Naples takes approximately 1 1/2 hours. Participants will be responsible for their own airfare and transfer arrangements to Sorrento. Group transfer by coach to Rome's Fiumicino Airport after breakfast on the final morning of the tour is included.

ITINERARY

Saturday 2nd May

Arrive Naples and travel independently to your hotel in **Sorrento**. Welcome dinner.

Overnight: SORRENTO (D)

Sunday 3rd May

Following breakfast we will travel by boat to the beautiful island of **Capri**. With more than 800 species of plants endemic to the island, as well as a rare blue lizard, it is truly a Garden of Eden. It is here that Axel Munthe built his beloved **Villa San Michele**. Axel Munthe was born in Sweden in 1857 but spent much of his adult life working as a physician in southern Italy. As a young man he volunteered tirelessly during typhoid and cholera epidemics and earthquake disasters. High up on the rocky ledges of Anacapri, at the foot of Monte Barbarossa, he built a white villa surrounded by a garden in which art, architecture and nature combine in beautiful harmony.

Our second visit will be to the **Giardini di Augusto**, public gardens that feature a wealth of exotic plants and panoramic views of the south side of the island. Lunch on Capri is included today. Return to Sorrento late afternoon.

Overnight: SORRENTO (B,L)

Monday 4th May

After breakfast we travel to the medieval town of **Ravello**. A rambling walk through the narrow lanes of Ravello leads to **Villa Cimbrone**. In 1904, Ernest Beckett, Lord Grimthorpe, bought the property and spent the next fifteen years transforming a farmhouse, vineyard and walnut grove into one of the most exquisitely beautiful places in Italy, situated on a clifftop promontory. Trees, flowers and plants grow in profusion here. The garden is an imaginative and eccentric mix of features and styles, including a lawn decorated with statues, a sunken teahouse garden, a rose garden, an olive grove carpeted with wildflowers, and natural areas which descend down the steep slopes to the valleys far below.

Villa Rufolo, perched high above the sea in the center of Ravello, is a half-ruined but still remarkable 13th-century palace, one of the oldest surviving in Italy, with a garden that inspired the setting for the enchanted gardens of Klingsor in Wagner's opera, *Parsifal*. The gardens are laid out on three terraces behind the villa buildings. On the upper terrace umbrella pines and cypresses shade a wellhead while on a lower level there is an elaborate embroidery of flower-filled parterres. There is also a courtyard with two beautiful loggias in Moorish style. The pleasure garden is one of the rare surviving examples of a non-ecclesiastical medieval garden. There are panoramic views of the Gulf of Salerno and the surrounding mountains and countryside from the terraces. Return to Sorrento in the late afternoon.

Overnight: SORRENTO (B)

Tuesday 5th May

Today we depart after breakfast and travel by boat to the island of **Ischia**, where we will visit the gardens of **La Mortella**. In 1948, English composer William Walton married the beautiful Argentine Susana Gil. He was 46 and she 22. Almost immediately they set off to live on Ischia, an island in the Bay of Naples. In 1956 they bought land on the west-facing slope of Monte Zaro, most of it a stone quarry filled with huge and dramatic rocks. The gardens were designed by Russell Page and planted by Lady Walton with hundreds of rare and exotic species from around the world, as well as collections of citrus trees, palms, cycads and strelitzias. A luxuriant grove of tall tree ferns provides shade and shelter for delicate understory plants. Epiphytic plants and ferns grow on the trunks of trees and orchids and tillandsias flourish in the tops. There will be free time to explore more of the island on your own. Return to Sorrento in the late afternoon.

Overnight: SORRENTO (B)

Wednesday 6th May

Morning guided visit to **Pompeii**. Mount Vesuvius looms over the whole of the Bay of Naples, but nowhere more hauntingly so than at Pompeii. In 79 AD, without warning, it erupted, blew its top, and became a raging inferno, showering rocks, fire and ash in all directions. In a few days the city of Pompeii, along with many of its citizens, was buried in layers of ash and pumice. Many of the inhabitants escaped, but the sulphurous fumes asphyxiated others. Pompeii was rediscovered in the 16th century, but excavations weren't begun until about 1750.

There will be free time after the guided visit for lunch independently, as well more time in Pompeii site and a visit to the House of Mysteries. In the afternoon, we drive north into Lazio.

Overnight: CIVITA CASTELLANA (B)

Thursday 7th May

Morning visit to **Sacro Bosco** at **Bomarzo**. Myth, magic and mystery shroud this remarkable 16th-century park. The giant ogres, beasts and maidens who inhabit the wooded ravine below the Villa Orsini were carved from bedrock and from the enormous boulders strewn by glacial action across the rugged terrain of this small valley in North Lazio. Narrow paths meander through the wood, following the contours of the land, leading the visitor along a labyrinthine trail from one fantastic creature to the next. Created between 1552 and 1584 by Count Vicino Orsini, the Mannerist style of Sacro Bosco represented a willful and rebellious departure from Renaissance garden making. After the death of Count Orsini, the garden fell into centuries of neglect and nature gradually reclaimed it for herself. Local inhabitants regarded it as a damned and haunted place and were happy to have it disappear from their consciousness. In 1949, surrealist painter Salvadore Dali discovered Sacro Bosco and made a film about it. In 1980, a local bishop performed an exorcism to banish the demons.

Afternoon visit to **Villa Lante**. Beginning in 1568, Cardinal Giovanni Francesco Gambara created the perfectly picturesque garden of Villa Lante in the hills of Lazio overlooking the small town of Bagnaia. Nestled into a walled hunting park three miles east of Viterbo, the garden is built on a terraced slope. Water pours, gushes, tumbles, trickles, sprays and splashes its way downward through fountains, runnels, a water stair with head and tail of a crayfish, over giant river gods furred with moss, along a massive stone table with a canal down the center, fills a shimmering water parterre and ends in a basin with a statue of Pegasus misting a semicircle of caryatids. This quintessential Renaissance garden celebrates, in stone, clipped box and water, the classic virtues of symmetry, proportion, perspective, beauty and simplicity.

Overnight: CIVITA CASTELLANA (B)

Friday 8th May

Morning visit to Castello **Ruspoli**, a fortified castle built on the ruins of an ancient Benedictine monastery on a promontory at the top of the small hill-town of **Vignanello**. The same family has owned it since the 16th century. Ottavia Orsini, daughter of Vicino Orsini, the man who made the Sacro Bosco at Bomarzo, married into the family in 1574. The garden was her creation, and the design remains virtually unchanged since her time. Entrance is through the castle, across the large hall, out a door at the back and across a small drawbridge spanning a narrow road, which may at one time have been a moat. There are twelve sections to the parterre, set out on a rectangular plat, and in the center is a pool with ornamental balusters. Below and to the side of the parterre is a small *giardino segreto* suspended above the valley far below. Lunch is included today.

In the afternoon we will travel south to **Castel Gandolfo**, near Rome, with possibly another garden visit en route.

Overnight: CASTEL GANDOLFO (B,L)

Saturday 9th May

This morning, after an early breakfast, we will travel south to **La Landriana**. In 1956, Marchesa Lavinia Taverna and her husband bought an abandoned dairy farm near Anzio, south of Rome, a few miles from the sea. The only crops were unexploded bombs and landmines left from the battles fought during the Allied landings nearby. She soon began planting, first a few trees, then seeds of annuals, perennials and various exotics. In 1968, she hired Russell Page to create a structure for her growing collection. He designed a series of garden rooms, outlined by borders and paths. At the time of her death in 1997, the garden had grown to 25 acres and thirty-two rooms,

including the Valley of Old Roses, the White Way, the Orange Garden, the Bonica Rose Walk, the Rosa Mutabilis Valley, the Italian Garden, and a Grey Garden of olive trees underplanted with cistus, lavenders, artemisia, Westringia, Iceberg roses and 1000's of other plants. Lunch is included today.

In the afternoon we will visit **Ninfa**. Once a powerful and prosperous town controlling a major route between Rome and the south, it was sacked in 1382. The small medieval village that rose from the ashes fell victim to malarial plagues and was finally abandoned entirely. The ruins of churches and houses, castle and town hall gradually subsided into the earth and were covered by wildflowers and the lush vegetation of the area. Men and women of the Caetani family, who have owned Ninfa since the thirteenth century, brought it back to life in the 20th. Now calla lilies line the streams, irises bloom in the meadows, wisteria festoons the railings of ancient bridges, and hundreds of roses drip from the trees. Please note: because of the fragile nature of this site, our visit is limited to a conducted tour lasting one hour thirty minutes.

Overnight: CASTEL GANDOLFO (B,L)

Sunday 10th May

Sunday morning visit to **Villa D'Este**. The villa and gardens were built on the site of a former Franciscan convent in the 16th century for Cardinal Ippolito D'Este. The sweeping views from the villa are thrilling, taking in the town of Tivoli, the hills surrounding Rome, the lovely sun-baked Roman campagna. Terraces spill down a steep slope, connected by paths and stairways, to a large flat area at the bottom. Tall somber cypress trees line the long walks that traverse the terraces. Along one of those walks, for the whole of the distance, runs a stepped fountain with three tiers, one hundred small jets sending fine spray into the air and little streams trickling down over the ferns and mosses which cover spouting masks. At one end of the garden, the thundering Fountain of Neptune releases dramatic cascades on three levels. This is High Renaissance Baroque at its highest and most baroque.

Afternoon visit to **Villa Adriana**, built between 118 and 138 A.D. by Emperor Hadrian. Travel and building were his passions, and everywhere he went, he built bridges, aqueducts, temples, theaters and new towns. This is much more than a villa, actually a small rural town, a sumptuous complex of buildings and lakes, rich in architecture and sculpture. The ruins and excavations cover about 150 acres, but it was about five times this size in Hadrian's time.

We will gather for a Farewell dinner this evening.

Overnight: CASTEL GANDOLFO (B,D)

Monday 11th May

Tour over after breakfast. Morning transfer as a group to Rome Fiumicino airport for those departing for U.S today.

THE DETAILS: GARDENS OF CAMPANIA AND LAZIO

The Land Cost for this 10-day, 9-night tour is **€1775 (Euros)**, per person sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities.

The supplement for single occupancy is **€290 (Euros)**, per person, subject to availability.

The tour is costed in Euros at this time because of currency exchange rate volatility.

The exchange rate is currently approximately \$1.50 - \$1.55 to €1.

Using the exchange rate of \$1.55, the land cost of the tour would be \$2750.

Using this same rate, the single supplement cost would be \$450.

Please note that the US dollar amount is subject to change up until the final payment is made to the suppliers in February.

The tour is designed for 18-20 participants. If the tour doesn't fill to 18, there is a substantial supplemental charge per person, which may cause cancellation of the entire program. If the tour fills to 20, there will be a reduction in cost. Do not purchase nonrefundable airline tickets until you have been notified that the tour has been filled.

You will receive an invoice in January, 2009, for your final payment, in dollars, for the actual tour balance due, and you will make your payment, in dollars, based on the exchange rate in effect at the time of the invoice. Final payment of the balance will be due no later than Friday, February 6, 2009.

LAND TOUR COSTS INCLUDED: 9 nights in a twin-bedded room with private shower or bath; 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners (as indicated by B, L and D in the itinerary); private motor coach and services of a professional driver; services of an English-speaking tour manager throughout; entrance and local guide fees for all visits as specified in the itinerary; return hydrofoil to Capri and Ischia; guided tour of Pompeii; local taxes and service charges for included services; hotel gratuities, restaurant gratuities for meals included in the itinerary, gratuities to your tour manager and driver(s).

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; transfers to the first hotel in Sorrento; items of a personal nature, such as wine, alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, milk, etc., with meals; telephone calls; laundry and personal services; room service.

A \$600 per person deposit is required to hold your reservation.

Please return the Reservation Form with credit card details or a check for your deposit of \$600 per person. Checks should be made payable to HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON. HPSO will confirm receipt of your deposit upon receiving it. HPSO will send you an invoice in January, 2009, for the balance, which is due no later than February 6, 2009. Full payment is required if reserving after February 6.

TOUR CONDITIONS (Please keep this copy for your records)

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Regardless of the reason, cancellations result in a costly process of letters, toll calls and faxes, refund checks, extra bookkeeping expenses, etc., plus often the loss of revenue for the tour company if time doesn't permit resale. To offset the expenses and any nonrefundable deposits, the cancellation fee is \$600 per person until final payment is due February 6, 2009; this fee will be waived if the place is filled from a waiting list. After February 6, 2009, refund is subject to suppliers' charges and overhead expenses. If the tour is cancelled because the minimum number of participants isn't reached, all money will be refunded.

TRAVEL CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. This is available through your travel agent and will reimburse you for penalties incurred for a number of specific reasons if you are forced to cancel.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE COACH OR DURING GROUP MEALS OR GROUP ACTIVITIES. However, in Italy many people do smoke and it is not possible to insure that you won't be exposed to smoke during the tour. If this is a health issue for you, please consult with your doctor before reserving.

TOUR PARTICIPANTS ARE ACCEPTED ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY ARE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY FIT. The success of any tour depends to a great extent on each person's ability to participate physically and to cooperate with other tour members and with the tour leader. This tour should be considered physically demanding and is not suitable for anyone who has difficulty walking or climbing steps. Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) acts only as representative for the tour participant with respect to transportation, hotels, and all matters of tour operation. All reservations for accommodation and transportation arrangements, etc., are accepted by HPSO as representative for Pathfinders of Cheltenham, England, and other suppliers with the express condition that HPSO shall not be held liable or responsible for any delays, loss, damage, injury or death which may be due to negligence of companies or persons engaged in conveyance or servicing any and all arrangements. HPSO and Pathfinders of Cheltenham accept no responsibility for losses or delays arising from sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, war, acts of terrorism, weather conditions or acts of God. The right is reserved to substitute services, features and hotels of similar or equal quality without notice. The right is reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on the part of HPSO. No revisions to the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make changes, with or without notice that might become necessary. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines and all other transportation companies involved in this tour are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes and conveyances. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which they are rendered.

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon

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RESERVATION FORM GARDENS OF CAMPANIA AND LAZIO 2 – 11 May 2009

Please mail this form, with your credit card information or deposit check, made payable to Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, to: HPSO Garden Tour, 1930 N.W. Lovejoy Street, Portland OR 97209. Or Fax to 503-224-5734. Register online at www.hardyplantsociety.org/itineraryitaly2009.htm

Please reserve _____ places for the Tour of Gardens of Campania and Lazio.

Name(s) _____ Date of Birth _____

_____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Preference regarding accommodation (please tick):

I prefer single accommodation.

We are reserving together and would like to share a room.

I would like to share a room with the following person, who is reserving separately.

Name: _____

Please indicate method of payment:

I enclose a check for \$ _____ (\$600 per person) as deposit to hold my reservation(s).

Please charge my credit card for \$ _____ (\$600 per person) to hold my reservation(s).

Visa or MC # _____ Expiration date _____

Name as on credit card _____

By signing below, I (we) acknowledge that the Tour Conditions and the Responsibility Clause have been received and read and that I (we) agree to all the conditions stated therein.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____