Classic London Homes and Gardens
with the Chelsea Flower Show
May 21–29, 2022
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

The yearly Chelsea Flower Show is the world’s premier gardening event. We combine a full day at this iconic show with an exploration of many of the magnificent heritage homes and gardens of Greater London, uncovering the history of the capital of England through this eclectic mix of properties. Our first home base is the luxurious Royal Horseguards Hotel, itself a historical attraction overlooking the Thames mere steps from Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament. We conclude with two nights at historic Hartwell House Hotel, with a tour from the head gardener and a visit to jaw-dropping, neo-Renaissance Waddesdon Manor, including a tour of the Rothschilds’ famous wine cellar, with an exclusive tasting and luncheon.

With space for only 24 participants and pent-up demand, we anticipate this program will fill quickly. Please reserve by calling Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. For more general information, you may also contact the Vanderbilt Travel Office directly by calling (615) 322-3673.

With best wishes,

Cary DeWitt Allyn
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program

HIGHLIGHTS

♦ See new cultivars, watch trends, and receive expert advice during a full-day visit to the Royal Horticultural Society’s most sought-after event, the Chelsea Flower Show, held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

♦ Enjoy specially arranged visits to a carefully selected mix of heritage homes and gardens (list at right).

♦ Myddleton House
♦ Capel Manor
♦ Great Comp Garden
♦ Red House
♦ Eltham Palace
♦ Osterley Park
♦ Chiswick House
♦ Wrest Park
♦ Hatfield House
♦ Waddesdon Manor

For more information visit www.vuconnect.com/travel
Saturday–Sunday, May 21–22
Home / London, England
Depart the U.S. on Saturday afternoon and arrive in London on Sunday. Relax in the centrally located Royal Horseguards Hotel or join an optional short walking tour of the neighborhood before gathering with your fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner.
ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL (R,D)

Monday, May 23
London
See two hidden gems in North London: (1) Myddelton House Gardens, created over several decades by self-taught horticulturist Edward Augustus Bowles, who has been called one of the great 20th-century gardeners; and (2) Capel Manor Gardens, a colorful 30-acre oasis surrounding a Georgian Manor House and Victorian Stables. Return to the hotel and spend the afternoon and evening at leisure.
ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL (B)

Tuesday, May 24
London
Board a motorcoach for a day trip to Kent to visit Great Comp Garden, a Georgian farmhouse and garden with one of the finest collections of salvias in the country. On the way back to London, take a detour to Red House, the arts and crafts home of William Morris, and stop in Greenwich for a guided tour of the medieval Great Hall of Eltham Palace & the 1930s Art Deco mansion next to it. Enjoy dinner at a pub in Greenwich with views across the Thames River.
ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 25
London
Witness the finest in garden design and receive superb expert advice during a full day at the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show, held by the Royal Horticultural Society on the grounds of Royal Hospital Chelsea since 1912. Awarding a wide range of prizes within categories such as Show Gardens, Artisan Gardens, and Urban Gardens, the Chelsea Flower Show is among the world’s premier gardening events. After the show, enjoy the evening at leisure.
ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL (B)

Thursday, May 26
London
Venture to the western edge on London to explore Osterley Park, a neo-classical house designed by Robert Adam with beautiful formal gardens and a large landscaped park. Continue to Chiswick House, a Palladian villa with classical landscapes and 65 acres of gardens designed by Richard Boyle, inspired by the work of prominent English architect Inigo Jones.
ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL (B,D)

Friday, May 27
Buckinghamshire
Journey northwest of London and stop at Wрест Park, a grand country estate in Bedfordshire resembling a scaled-down French chateau surrounded by stunning formal gardens that pre-date the house by more than a century. Also tour the State Rooms of Hatfield House, home of young Elizabeth I, a prime example of Jacobean architecture along with superb Elizabethan carvings, paintings, and furniture. Check in to the historic Hartwell House Hotel for a two-night stay.
HARTWELL HOUSE HOTEL (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 28
Buckinghamshire
Enjoy a morning tour of the ornate Waddesdon Manor, an impressive renaissance-style chateau built by the Rothschilds in the late 19th century. Have lunch on the grounds followed by a private visit to the impressive collection of Rothschild wines in the Wine Cellars with a short wine tasting. Return to our hotel for a guided tour of the Hartwell House gardens by the Head Gardener. Gather for a farewell reception on the hotel terrace followed by dinner.
HARTWELL HOUSE HOTEL (B,L,R,D)

Sunday, May 29
London / Home
After breakfast, transfer to London’s Heathrow Airport for flights home. (B)
The Royal Horseguards Hotel
Built in 1884 in the style of a French chateau, this hotel's storied past includes its roles as the first home of Scotland Yard and a base for MI5 during WWI. Located along the bank of the Thames River in the heart of London, mere steps from the Underground and Charing Cross Station, it provides easy access to Westminster, Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, Leicester Square, The London Eye, St. James' Park, and much more. The tasteful décor is modern, yet retains the traditional style of its surroundings with a nod to the past. Wifi is included for all guests, and there are excellent dining options on site.

Hartwell House Hotel
Set in over 90 acres of gardens and parklands, Hartwell House is a historic countryside home with a fascinating history stretching back nearly 1,000 years. Boasting both Jacobean and Georgian features with outstanding decorative ceilings and panelling, fine paintings, and antique furniture, the current house was constructed in the early 17th century and converted to a hotel in 1989. The sprawling gardens, notably laid out by Capability Brown around 1750, feature statues, an obelisk, and a lovely ornamental bridge. Each room is unique and tastefully decorated. Amenities include free wifi, fine dining options, and a spa/fitness center with an indoor pool.
PROGRAM RATES
Per person, double occupancy: $6,990
Single supplement: $1,000

To reserve a place, please contact Criterion Travel by phone at (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com
Contact the Vanderbilt Travel Program directly at: (615) 322-3673 or email alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE
All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including seven five-star hotel nights, seven breakfasts, three lunches, five dinners, and two wine receptions - Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations - Airport transfers from/to Heathrow on group arrival and departure dates - Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and wait staff for all group activities - Entrance fees - Bottled water on motorcoaches - Complete packet of pre-departure information - Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, or the airline of your choice. Further help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be obtained by contacting the Vanderbilt Travel Program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

GROUP SIZE
This exclusive program is limited to 24 participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT
The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over uneven and cobblestoned terrain, and extended periods of standing. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. Up-to-date information about COVID-related protocols and restrictions is being monitored and will be sent to confirmed participants in pre-departure mailings.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS
Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
U.S. domestic and international airfare - Passport/visa expenses - Medical expenses and immunizations - Travel and trip cancellation insurance - Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days - Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour - Airline baggage charges - Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted - Laundry or dry cleaning - Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges - Room service - Other items of a personal nature

TERMS & CONDITIONS
Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed “Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause” is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. To reserve a place, please contact Criterion Travel by phone at (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is February 21, 2022. For those who register after February 21, 2022, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Upon payment of the $1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the Vanderbilt Travel Program and Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable until the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which

final payment deadline (February 21, 2022). Cancellations after final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Note: Neither the Vanderbilt Travel Program nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES
The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the Vanderbilt Travel Program and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the Vanderbilt Travel Program and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program
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