



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images available on request

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CELEBRATE FRENCH CULTURE BOTH PAST AND PRESENT AT

FRENCH FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 13, 2013

**The ultimate summer get-away—18th-century France—
in the heart of northwest DC**

WASHINGTON — With the exquisite French 18th-century interiors, collections, and gardens as a backdrop, [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#), with [Alliance Française de Washington](#), celebrates France's national holiday, Bastille Day, at [French Festival](#) on Saturday, July 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the estate remaining open until 7 p.m. for leisurely enjoyment of the gardens, the Mansion, and the special exhibition, [Living](#)



[Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post](#). The French Festival is generously supported by The Sally Foss and James Scott Hill Foundation.

Throughout the day, games, lively theatrics, dance, pantomime, and music bring the life of the French court to the lush gardens at Hillwood. *New York Baroque Dance Company* revives the music and dance of 18th-century country and court life, including lessons in courtly manners for guests of all ages to join in. *Happenstance Theater* adds a delightful French flair with the roving *Pierrot & Pierrette*. These two French mimetic characters will entertain visitors with music, comedic improvisation, and physical hijinks popular in 18th-century France. In the French Parterre, *Madame ToutDeSuite*, an 18th-century eccentric, fictional, member of the French court resembling Madame de Pompadour and Marie Antoinette will entertain in whimsical costume reflecting the palette and decoration of the Sèvres Porcelain from the

Hillwood collection. She will be joined by the *Marquis Aubergine FouFou*. Together they will play games with guests and create an atmosphere of French whimsy.

The *Game of Graces* and other pastimes enjoyed by French children will prove a challenge for visitors, while others apply their beauty patches, known as *mooches*, or enter the workshop to create their own finely-crafted gold boxes inspired by one of Marjorie Post's collecting passions.

Inside the Mansion, gallery talks—offered in French and English— offer insight into the art and furnishings of the [French Drawing Room](#). The special exhibition [Living Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post](#) adds a new perspective on Post's passion for 18th-century French culture and the role of French decorative arts and interiors in her public and everyday life, and cars on loan from the Citroën Club mimic the streets of Paris on the Motor Court outside.

The [French Market](#) at the Museum Shop will allow guests to take a little bit of France home from the festival. A fabulous selection of food such as cookies, mustards, jams, and dried fruits from small family-owned businesses will be offered for sale, along with a carefully curated selection of French housewares. Macaroons and lemonade will be sold from a roving cart to offer refreshment throughout the day. Or guests can linger over a light, take-out lunch at the *Sidewalk Café*.

Hillwood and 18th-Century France

Soon after she inherited the Post cereal fortune in 1914, and following the tradition of many American collectors in the first half of the 20th century, [Marjorie Merriweather Post](#) began collecting magnificent examples of 18th-century French furniture, porcelain, tapestries, and gold boxes. Their intrinsic beauty and elegance perfectly suited Post's taste for the classical and beautifully-crafted. Today, the [French holdings](#) of Hillwood include furniture by such masters as Jean-Henri Riesener and David Roentgen, numerous pieces of famed Sèvres porcelain spanning the early years of manufacture at Vincennes to the time of the French Revolution, and spectacular Beauvais tapestries designed by François Boucher. One stroll through the Entrance Hall, to the French Drawing Room, and up to her Louis XVI style [bedroom](#) with its view of the [French Parterre](#), and visitors are embraced by Post's lifelong passion for 18th-century France and its culmination at Hillwood.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHEN: **July 13**
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for festival activities
Until 7 p.m. for leisurely strolls of the gardens, Mansion, and special exhibition
Living Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post

WHERE: Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
4155 Linnean Avenue, Washington, DC

PRICE: \$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 for Hillwood and Alliance Française members, \$10 for students, \$5 for children ages 6-18, free for children under 6.

Sponsor: The Sally Foss and James Scott Hill Foundation

INFORMATION: www.HillwoodMuseum.org
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Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens is Washington, DC's most gracious cultural attraction. The grand mansion, breathtaking gardens, exquisite art collection, engaging programming, and delightful café offer something special for every season. Marjorie Merriweather Post's spectacular estate and gardens, as well as one of the finest Russian art collections in the world, offer each visitor the opportunity to be immersed in a tranquil world of beauty. An engaging and welcoming respite from one's daily life located right in the city's own backyard, Hillwood is a true treasure for all who experience it.

Funded in part by the U.S. Commission on the Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program, and by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.