



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2014

Images available on request

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CELEBRATE FRENCH CULTURE BOTH PAST AND PRESENT AT

FRENCH FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 12, 2014

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

WASHINGTON—With exquisite French 18th-century interiors, collections, and gardens as a backdrop, and the gems of French jeweler, Cartier, sparkling in a special exhibition, [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#) celebrates France's national holiday, Bastille Day, at [French Festival](#) on Saturday, July 12 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, ***Cartier: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Dazzling Gems***. French Festival is presented in partnership with [Alliance Française de Washington](#). All of Hillwood's 2014 festivals are supported by a grant from the Sally Foss and James Scott Hill Foundation. All exhibitions and programs are funded in part by the U.S. Commission on the Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program.

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. *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. In the French Parterre, baroque guitar will be played by Kevin Shannon.

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*. In the “Shoemaker’s Workshop,” historic French fashions are the inspiration for the creation of stylish paper shoes.

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 *Cartier: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Dazzling Gems* features exquisite jewelry and luxury objects collected by and specially designed for Marjorie Post, style icon Cartier’s most important American client, while cars on loan from the Citroën Club mimic the streets of Paris on the Motor Court outside.

The [French Popup Shop](#) at the Museum Shop will allow guests to take a little bit of France home from the festival. A fabulous selection of jewelry and accessories will be offered for sale. Guests can also picnic or linger over a light, take-out lunch at the *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 12**
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for festival activities
Until 7 p.m. for leisurely strolls of the gardens, Mansion, and special exhibition
Cartier: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Dazzling Gems

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.

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**Information/
Reservations:** www.HillwoodMuseum.org
Advance reservations are recommended.

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(202) 686-5807

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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.