



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images available on request

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HOLIDAYS AT HILLWOOD

Marjorie Merriweather Post's mid-century Christmas traditions set a vintage tone for the décor at Hillwood this season, while the Russian Winter Festival and hands-on wreath making workshops add to the holiday cheer

Museum Shop offers distinct items at great prices

WASHINGTON—A dining room table inspired by Marjorie Merriweather Post glittering with red Bohemian candelabra is the centerpiece of the holiday splendor of Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens this season.

Beginning on Friday, November 29, inspired by the special exhibition, *Living Artfully*, Hillwood's holiday décor will offer a look at some of Marjorie Post's Christmas traditions from the 1950s and 60s. In the



dining room, a sumptuous banquet scene from one of Post's legendary dinner parties, recently discovered in an archival photograph, will be re-created, using the Bohemian glass candelabra, dripping with crystal beads and cones made of red carnations. The holiday theme on the table will also include a set of 12 plates from the Russian Kornilov Brothers Factory with delightful wintry scenes. Like the Dining Room, the cheerful [Breakfast Room](#) also makes a nod to the past, with a tropical display reminiscent of Post's Palm Beach estate, Mar-A-Lago

In 1947, Post spent Christmas aboard the *Sea Cloud*, her 4-masted sailing yacht, sailing from Layton's Landing in Palm Beach. A series of photographs from this Christmas voyage reveal an abundance of wrapped gifts and miniature silver Christmas trees adorning the *Sea Cloud*'s library, along with Post's humorous caption, "Too bad—no presents!" The first floor library at Hillwood will re-create this retro scene with vintage décor, including vintage wrapping paper and bows.

The [gardens](#) reveal another aspect of the beauty of Hillwood during the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witchhazel provide bright spots of color. Pine trees adjacent to the Mansion are lighted to lead the way into the holiday splendor. Seasonal greenery is also the focus of several [workshops](#) in December. The family highlight of the holiday season at Hillwood is undoubtedly the [Russian Winter Festival](#) on

Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15. Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden are on hand for this celebration of the holidays in Old Russian style, while winsome characters, enacting the old Russian winter custom of *mumming*—dressing up in costume and visiting friends, singing, playing jokes, and fortunetelling—surprise and delight visitors across the estate.

Throughout the holiday season, Hillwood's [museum shop](#) features a variety of decorations and gifts, including hand-painted Russian egg ornaments and nesting dolls. The popular book, *Living Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post* makes the perfect hostess gift or present for mom. Two special Sundays also offer visitors the chance simply to immerse themselves in the oasis of Hillwood during the holidays.



Below is a calendar of events at Hillwood for the holiday season.

A Serene Sunday

Sunday, December 1 from 1 to 5 pm

Hillwood offers a gracious start to the holiday season with a day to explore the late fall gardens, see the decorations, shop for special gifts, or have a relaxing lunch in the café with family and friends. Included in suggested donation.

Fabulous Wreath Workshops

Saturday, December 1 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2 to 4:00 pm

Saturday, December 7 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2 to 4:00 pm

Fresh, fragrant greens handcrafted by you! Take an inspiring walk through the grounds with horticulturist Bill Johnson then create your own wreath of fresh greens to take home. Supplies provided.

All materials are included.

\$50, \$40 for Hillwood members

Russian Winter Festival

Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, December 15 from 1 to 5 pm

An annual holiday favorite! Hillwood celebrates the holidays in Old Russian style. A fun play based on traditional Russian stories of Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden will be performed for the festival again this year. After each performance, families can meet Grandfather Frost, Russia's Santa Claus, and his granddaughter the Snow Maiden, and have pictures taken with them. While lively Russian folk music enlivens, a hands-on art activity will allow visitors of all ages to create their own *kokoshnik*, a lady's headdress, or traditional Russian gentleman's hat. Shopping and festive dining in the café round out this day of family fun.

\$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 Hillwood members, \$10 students, \$5 children (ages 6-18), free for children under age 6.

A Serene Sunday

Sunday, December 29 from 1 to 5 pm

A peaceful ending to the holiday season. On this last Sunday of the year, Hillwood offers the opportunity for one final immersion in the holiday splendor and chance to unwind with family and

friends.
Included in suggested donation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: VanNess/UDC, Red Line (20 minute walk)
- Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information and reservations or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
Follow us www.Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum or Twitter @HillwoodMuseum
- Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Select Sundays, 1 to 5 pm. Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.
- Café:** The HILLWOOD Café serves lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.
Afternoon Tea is served on Sundays only from 1 to 3:30 pm.
Express Dining, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages is available Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.
Call (202) 686-5807 for café reservations
- Suggested Donation:** \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6.

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One of the premier art collector’s museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens is dedicated to enlightening and engaging visitors with an experience inspired by founder Marjorie Merriweather Post’s passion for excellence, gracious hospitality and intent to preserve and share the beauty and history of her collections, garden and estate. Hillwood is set upon 25 acres of gardens and surrounding woodlands in northwest Washington, D.C. Twelve acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a Rose Garden, and a French parterre.