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Hi res images available upon request

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Season’s Greetings
November 24, 2020 through January 10, 2021

The publication A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Hillwood is the inspiration for lavish Christmas trees throughout the mansion.

Festive décor and virtual programs add to the holiday splendor.

WASHINGTON—Fabulous Christmas trees inspired by the publication A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Hillwood are the centerpiece of Season’s Greetings at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens this holiday season.

Beginning Tuesday, November 24, the beauty and botanical bounty of Hillwood’s gardens permeate the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate. When the visionary Marjorie Merriweather Post purchased Hillwood, she planned and created a garden paradise, shaping a setting with a diverse and verdant array of trees, shrubs, and plants to offer something to see in all seasons. Post designed the 13 acres of formal gardens to extend from the house in a progression of outdoor rooms, encouraging an intuitive flow. As the lush gardens burst into bloom and flourish with growth, so too do the Christmas trees, each inspired by a particular season.

The mansion entry hall warmly welcomes visitors with the colors of fall. Reds, rusts, golds, yellows, and oranges reflect Hillwood’s place as a leaf peeper’s paradise. This bountiful season comes to life with a tree featuring mostly natural objects, such as leaves, mums, pumpkins, and gourds. In addition to spring, Post spent fall at Hillwood, eagerly returning after a summer away for the cooler weather and vivid beauty of Hillwood in autumn. Over two thousand mums dominate the formal gardens each fall, and these blooms now find a home on this abundant tree.

Taking its cue from the bright colors and renewal of the season, spring arrives in the French drawing room as the tree overflows with peonies and tulips, more than twenty-three thousand bulbs of which are planted each year. Post loved color, ensuring every part of the garden at Hillwood beckoned with vibrant splendor, as they continue to do today. Soft pinks, peaches, and whites in this spring-inspired tree complement the French drawing room, emulating the calming and welcome sanctuary of the spring gardens.
Summer, the season at Hillwood for colorful annuals, brightens the dining room, as the large tree bursts with color. Vivid blossoms and tropical plants abound, seen in the bright dahlias, cockscombs, and snapdragons that reflect the plentiful cutting garden, which Post grew to source the ever-present arrangements on view in the mansion.

A winter-inspired tree, featuring whites, silvers, and purples, enhances the pavilion. Winter reveals the elegant bones of the garden, and everything on the tree is something grown at Hillwood, from verdant kale to magnolia leaves and intricate branches. Just like in the gardens, the greenery on the tree is blanketed with snow. Orchids—Marjorie Post’s favorite flower—are grown safely under glass in the greenhouse, preparing for Orchid Month in March. They join glass bulbs on this tree to add an elegant touch.

In the visitor center, bright greens, pinks, and reds greet guests upon arrival as a glittering tree takes inspiration from the gemstones on view in the special exhibition Natural Beauties: Exquisite Works of Minerals and Gems. Diamonds and glass ball ornaments add a shiny and elegant flair.

The Holidays at Hillwood

Hillwood remains a safe way to enjoy the holiday splendor with precautionary measures in place. Enjoy time outside as the gardens reveal another aspect of their ever-changing beauty during the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witch hazel provide bright spots of color. Pine trees adjacent to the mansion are lighted to lead the way into the holiday splendor. Virtual floral design workshops bring the holidays from Hillwood to you, inviting participants to craft a one-of-a-kind holiday decoration.

The family highlight of the holiday season is the Winter Adventure with the Snow Maiden, a virtual program in honor of the annual Russian Winter Festival. Embark on a magical and interactive winter adventure to learn about the Snow Maiden and Grandfather Frost while exploring treasures from Hillwood’s collection.

Throughout the season, the museum shop is a favorite destination for holiday shopping, with additional safety guidelines and capacity limitations in place. With dozens of unique items inspired by the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, in addition to clothing, books, ornaments, and home décor, Hillwood’s shop offers distinct gifts for everyone. Shop the selection online to gift the beauty of Hillwood from afar.

The delightful Merriweather Café is the perfect complement to a day celebrating the holidays at Hillwood. Warm up with seasonal specials and hand-crafted food and beverages served in the gracious manner of Post. Contactless ordering is available, to enjoy delicious bites from a distance.

Calendar of events for the holiday season at Hillwood

Season’s Greetings
November 24, 2020-January 10, 2021
Hillwood’s gardens, as revealed in the publication A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Hillwood, are the inspiration for glamorous Christmas trees and festive décor across the estate.
Included in suggested donation.

Virtual Holiday Décor Tour
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 10:30-11 a.m.
Immerse yourself in Hillwood’s holiday spirit from home and join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, on a virtual tour the holiday display, inspired by the publication A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Hillwood.

Floral Design How-To: Holiday Blooms
Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Friday, December 11, 2020, 1:30-2:15 p.m.
Celebrate the holiday season with a floral arrangement full of luxuriously rich colors and festive blooms.

Online Family Program: Winter Adventure with the Snow Maiden
Saturday, December 12, 2020, 11-11:45 a.m.
Embark on a magical winter adventure from the comfort of your own home! Join Natasha Mirny, performer and teaching artist, for an immersive storytelling experience that invites children to become part of the story through movement, music, and active participation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: 4155 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)

Information: (202) 686-5807 for information or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum or Instagram @HillwoodMuseum

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.

Café: Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m.
to 3 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Suggested Donation: $18, $15 seniors, $10 college students, $5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6
Adults and seniors receive $3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits and $1 for weekend visits when reservations are made online.

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One of the premier art collector’s museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum & 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. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a rose garden, and a French parterre.