



American Horticultural Society
Travel Study Program

GARDENS, WINE & WILDERNESS: A TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

January 6–28, 2018

WITH AHS HOST PANAYOTI KELAIDIS AND TOUR LEADER
RICHARD LYON OF GARDEN ADVENTURES, LTD.





AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Announcing an American Horticultural Society Travel Program

American Horticultural Society
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308
www.ahsgardening.org/travel

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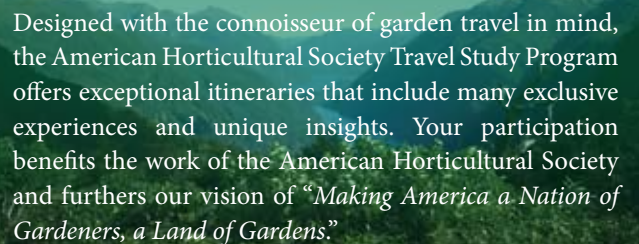
Join us for unforgettable experiences including:

- Exclusive tours of private urban and country gardens
- The serene splendor of protected natural areas
- Learning about Maori traditions and history
- Sampling authentic cuisine and distinctive wines
- The camaraderie of a small group of travelers with similar interests

Discover New Zealand with the AHS - look inside for more details about this remarkable program!

Please refer to the enclosed reservation form for pricing and instructions to reserve your place on this AHS Travel Study Program tour. For more information about AHS Travel Study Program tours, please contact development@ahsgardening.org or (703) 768-5700, ext. 127. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.

BOOK NOW
This tour sells out quickly.



Designed with the connoisseur of garden travel in mind, the American Horticultural Society Travel Study Program offers exceptional itineraries that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation benefits the work of the American Horticultural Society and furthers our vision of *“Making America a Nation of Gardeners, a Land of Gardens.”*



Dear Friends,

Our first Travel Study program on our 2018 calendar, Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness, will take us to New Zealand from January 6 to 28. We invite you to escape from winter while we explore the gardens and natural wonders of this extraordinary destination.

Featuring stops on both the North and South Islands, our tour has been expertly designed to provide that perfect balance between stimulation and relaxation. This Kiwi adventure will take us to some of the most spectacular places on earth. Along the way, we'll have ample opportunity to enjoy the country's exceptional wines, fine seafood and other culinary delights, and rich history.

Internationally renowned for their friendliness and hospitality, "Kiwis" welcome travelers with open arms. They also are known for their sophisticated garden culture, and our itinerary includes a wide variety of both private and public gardens—each magnificent in its own way.

Our AHS host for the trip will be Panayoti Kelaidis, who is Senior Curator and Director of Outreach at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado, where he has worked for more than 30 years. Panayoti's specialties include alpine and Mediterranean region plants, but his horticultural expertise extends to plants of all kinds. He has participated in dozens of plant exploration expeditions, including trips to Africa, South America, and Europe. A widely published author and acclaimed lecturer, he has won numerous awards, including the AHS's Liberty Hyde Bailey medal.

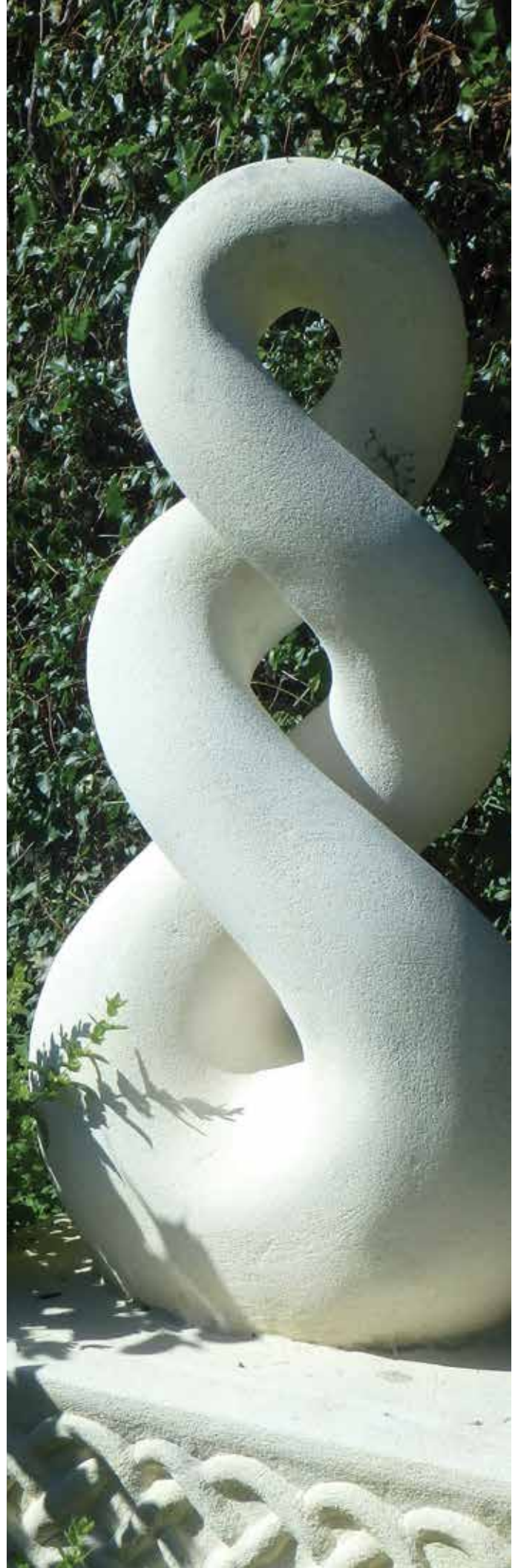
Tour leader Richard Lyon is a native Kiwi who practices landscape architecture in southeastern Pennsylvania. Richard has been designing and leading garden tours to New Zealand for over 20 years, including for some of the region's most prestigious horticultural institutions. With his passion for travel, his design expertise, and his familiarity with New Zealand's culture and history, Richard is uniquely suited to be your guide on this once-in-a-lifetime garden adventure.

As you'll see in the following itinerary, Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness promises to be an outstanding experience in a land of immense beauty. Early reservations are advised because our accommodations are limited. We look forward to having you travel with us!

Most sincerely,

Holly H. Shimizu

Holly H. Shimizu
Interim Executive Director



WITH AHS HOST PANAYOTI KELAIDIS AND TOUR LEADER RICHARD LYON OF GARDEN ADVENTURES, LTD.



Join AHS Host Panayoti Kelaidis and tour leader Richard Lyon for this once-in-a-lifetime garden travel experience.

Itinerary Highlights

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6—DEPART LOS ANGELES

Depart Los Angeles on Air New Zealand for the overnight flight to New Zealand. Those with East Coast connections are encouraged to arrive a day early to spend the night in L.A. and relax prior to departure.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7—TRAVEL DAY

We cross the International Dateline during our flight.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8—Auckland (B, D)

Welcome to New Zealand! We arrive in Auckland early in the morning. After collecting baggage and clearing customs, we check into our hotel, where we are pre-registered for early arrival. The rest of the morning is free to unpack and rest. In the afternoon, we visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum to view Maori and Pacific Island exhibits as an introduction to the early history of this country. Next we visit Totara Waters, a stunning subtropical garden on the shores of Waitemata Harbor filled with palms, bromeliads, and cycads. Heading inland, we then complete our day at Mincher, an expansive country garden with diverse planting styles. Here we'll enjoy a welcome dinner and become better acquainted with our fellow travelers.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9—Waiheke Island (B, L)

A short ferry ride takes us to Waiheke Island, where the microclimate produces some of New Zealand's finest red wines. After a wine tour and *al fresco* lunch at Cable Bay Vineyards, our next stop is Connells Bay Sculpture Park. This breathtaking property unites art with nature, featuring sweeps of native trees that form special spaces for New Zealand sculpture created for the site. After taking a ferry ride back to Auckland, you may spend the evening at your leisure.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10—Pacific Coast (B, L)

We travel north, following the coastal highway past picturesque coves and beaches to the Bay of Islands. Our first stop is Wenderholm Regional Park, a site with historical significance to Maori tribes and wonderfully unspoiled natural scenery. Afterwards, we travel on to Takatu Peninsula to visit Omaio, a Maori word meaning "place of peace and tranquility." Once

a simple holiday cabin on 18 acres, Omaio has been creatively transformed into a unique home surrounded by extensive native bush and fascinating gardens. After a leisurely lunch, we continue on to the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands in the heart of Paihia, a delightful seaside town with a myriad of restaurants to choose from for dinner.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11—Bay of Islands (B, D)

The Bay of Islands is an area rich in both natural beauty and human history. Today we explore the magnificent ancient Kauri rainforest and visit a Marae, a Maori meeting ground. Along the way, we will learn about indigenous plant life and how humans came to settle this region, beginning with migrating Maori from the islands of Polynesia 800 years ago, to the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 between the British Crown and Maori Chiefs. Tonight we head to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Our evening begins with the ceremonial unveiling of the Hangi (a traditional Maori feast), followed by a guided walk onto the Treaty Grounds, returning for the Hangi and private Maori cultural performance.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12—Bay of Islands (B)

Today is a free day to relax or explore this beautiful historic area on your own. Return to Waitangi Treaty Grounds or catch a ferry to historic Russell across the bay. Venture further out into the Bay of a Thousand Islands for fishing, sailing, or swimming with the dolphins. Play scenic golf courses (including Kauri Cliffs) or kayak through the mangrove wetlands. There are many more options we can suggest—just ask.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13—To Auckland (B, L)

Heading South to Auckland, we first stop at Whangarei to stroll around the "town basin." This scenic waterfront district, with its abundance of cafes and galleries, is a haven for visiting international yachts. Next, we head to the Paddocks, the garden and home of Rowan and Penny Wiggins. In addition to touring this two-acre country garden, which is full of roses and familiar perennials, we will enjoy lunch with our hosts who are both passionate and knowledgeable gardeners. Then we return to Auckland with plenty of time to enjoy an evening exploring New Zealand's largest city.





SUNDAY, JANUARY 14—To South Island (B, L)

There are dramatic differences in geology, climate, and to some extent, culture between the North and South Islands. A short flight from the North Island lands us in Queenstown on the South Island. Queenstown is a spectacular alpine resort town nestled in the Southern Alps on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. From here, we travel by bus to a local vineyard, where we will enjoy the food and wine of the central Otago Plain for lunch. En route back to Queenstown, we stop to watch bungee jumping before arriving at Blair Garden, created by self-taught gardener Janet Blair over several decades. The intricate garden reflects the hues of the nearby mountains while offering year-round color.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15—Queenstown (B)

Today is your opportunity to explore Queenstown at your own pace. Take an exciting trip by jet boat up the Dart River into Mt. Aspiring National Park—authentic “Lord of the Rings” country—or a quiet steamship ride across Lake Wakatipu, or a romantic gondola ride to enjoy stunning alpine views. Other possibilities include white water rafting, hiking, golf, bus tours, bike riding, and fly fishing, not to mention abundant shopping and dining options.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16—To Doubtful Sound (B, D)

This morning we head to Fiordland National Park in Southland, where we catch a ferry to cross Lake Manapouri. Carved by glaciers and surrounded by ancient temperate rainforests, this lake is stunningly scenic. After our ferry ride, we cross over Wilmont Pass, an incredible natural habitat that receives over 20 feet of rainfall each year. We then board the well-appointed *Fiordland Navigator* yacht for a cruise of serene Doubtful Sound, surrounded by towering peaks, cascading waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. After dropping anchor for the night, we dine on board under the stars.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17—To Dunedin (B, L)

Leaving Doubtful Sound, we return by ferry across Lake Manapouri to board our coach. Passing through the lush farm country of Southland, we stop for a picnic lunch en route to the

city of Dunedin. Once New Zealand’s largest city, Dunedin boasts a rich Scottish heritage and sublime examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture. After checking into our downtown hotel, you may spend the evening exploring this vibrant University City.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18—Dunedin (B)

Our day begins with a guided tour of Dunedin Botanic Garden, New Zealand’s oldest botanic garden. This Victorian style pleasure garden is internationally recognized for its extensive plant collections. Next we visit Historic Olverton House to experience the historic and aesthetic delights of early New Zealand when gold and wool ruled Dunedin and was the economic powerhouse of the country. The afternoon is yours to leisurely enjoy the city’s vibrant urban scene near our downtown hotel or you may take a tour out onto the rugged Otago Peninsula to sample the South Island’s most accessible diversity of wildlife (yellow-eyed penguins, albatrosses, seals, and sea lions).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19—To Mount Cook (B, L, D)

An early start takes us north along the Pacific Coast. We stop in historic Oamaru, a fascinating town that has proudly preserved a Victorian atmosphere, then head inland to Ostler Vineyard in the Waitaki Valley region of North Otago. During lunch with the vineyard owners, we shall sample the elegant wines for which this region has garnered international acclaim. Continuing on toward Mount Cook, a unique landscape unfolds as we climb into higher elevations. We check in to the historic Hermitage Hotel, located at the base of the soaring peaks of Mount Cook, the highest in New Zealand. Dinner will be served in the famous Panorama Room with breathtaking views all around.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20—Mount Cook (B)

After breakfast, spend the day exploring on your own. Possibilities include a hike through the alpine terrain, cruising an alpine lake, or taking a helicopter ride to admire the scenery from above. A visit to the Hilary Center, a tribute to New Zealand’s most famous Kiwi explorer, Sir Edmund Hilary, is also recommended. In the evening, consider a visit to the planetarium, then taking an outside guided tour of the star-spangled southern skies.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21—Canterbury Region (B, L)

Leaving Mount Cook, we descend to the Canterbury Plains, New Zealand's largest expanse of flat land that boasts a rich European heritage and agrarian traditions. Our first stop is the historic homestead and gardens of Akanui, where we will learn about the farm's colonial past, explore the wonderful gardens surrounding the house, and enjoy lunch. Next, we head to Christchurch on the eastern coast of South Island. Known as the Garden City, it has experienced vigorous rejuvenation in recent years after a series of earthquakes caused extensive damage. This evening is free to wander around its charming cityscapes as you please.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22—Christchurch and Akaroa (B, L)

We begin the day with a visit to Ohinetahi, which features a historic home and spectacular gardens that have been restored over the last several decades by architect Sir Miles Warren and his family. The property is known for its collection of New Zealand art, native plants, venerable trees, and floriferous display beds. Next, we continue on to the town of Akaroa, situated on Banks Peninsula near to Christchurch. Here we stop at Fishermans Bay Garden overlooking the Pacific, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch. This eclectic garden features a wide variety of New Zealand native plants, particularly hebes. Our second destination in Akaroa is the Giant's House, the home and terraced garden of artist Josie Martin. Her self-described "seriously playful" sculptures and mosaics perfectly accent the equally eye-catching plantings throughout the grounds. Upon returning to Christchurch, the evening is at your leisure.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23—Marlborough Region (B, L, D)

We head north across the Canterbury Plains, then follow the Pacific Coast on our way to Winterhome in the Marlborough Region. This classic formal yet very drought tolerant garden boasts unexpected views within and stunning views of the Pacific coastline beyond. Then we continue on to the town of Blenheim, where we will check into the Marlborough Vintners Hotel. Nestled among the vineyards of the South Island's renowned Marlborough wine region, this sophisticated establishment is the perfect venue for experiencing the beauty and flavors of New Zealand's sunniest region during dinner this evening.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24—To Wellington (B, L)

This morning we begin with a visit to Barewood Farm, a traditional sheep station and homestead. Here, we watch the sheep dogs at work and observe a shearing demonstration. The property also features a three-acre garden full of unusual plants, designed to perfectly complement the 100-year old homestead at its heart. After enjoying morning tea with the owners, we continue on to Hortensia, a floriferous, fragrant garden inspired by the textures and hues of Monet's impressionist style. Offering a complete contrast in design is our next stop, Upton Oaks. Formal lines and neatly clipped hedges set off colorful borders in this intimate country garden, where a late luncheon will be served. Later this afternoon we depart on the inter-island ferry through the protected waters of Marlborough Sound to arrive as dusk falls and lights glimmer throughout Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25—Wellington (B, L)

The Government House, home of New Zealand's Governor General, is our first stop today for a tour of the grounds that were extensively redesigned in 1990 to include many native

plant species. We also shall learn about the historical role of the Governor General and how that has transitioned into today's political landscape. Then we head out to Wellington's wonderful windswept coastline for lunch while admiring the dramatic views. Returning to the city, we head to "Te Papa," the museum of New Zealand. Our guided tour there will focus on Maori history and culture. Spend the evening relaxing or exploring Wellington on your own.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26—Wellington (B, L)

We begin with a guided tour of Otari-Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Garden, which focuses exclusively on native flora. Then, we follow the coastal highway north to Springfield, the house and cooking school of Ruth Pretty. Ruth will host us for lunch, as well as a tour of the gardens and kitchens where she built her reputation as New Zealand's top caterer. Next we stop in Waikanae to enjoy a few gardens in this delightful coastal town before returning to our hotel in downtown Wellington. Tonight is free to enjoy this wonderfully cosmopolitan city however you wish.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27—Wellington (B, D)

Today you are free to explore on your own. Enjoy the striking and often whimsical architecture, art galleries, and farmers' markets of the city on a leisurely walk along Oriental Bay. A short stroll takes you back to Te Papa and the other museums nearby. Ride the historic cable car and stroll down through Wellington Botanic Gardens. Tonight we gather for a private function in the Begonia House for a farewell dinner catered by Ruth Pretty, in celebration of good food, new friends, and adventures shared.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28—To Los Angeles (B)

The morning is free for you to explore, shop, and pack before catching an afternoon flight back to Auckland and the evening flight to Los Angeles.

While no revisions of this itinerary are anticipated, the AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to make changes, with or without notice, that may become necessary.

