An exclusive benefit for AHS President’s Council (PC) members, our 2020 trip offers an exceptional winter getaway to sunny Santa Barbara, California. PC members are invited to join us for exclusive tours of gardens and prominent sites of botanical and historical significance in this coastal town, which has been called the “American Riviera.” Blessed with a Mediterranean climate and beautiful beaches, Santa Barbara is known for its distinctive, upscale vibe and gracious outdoor living.

The historic Four Seasons Resort–The Biltmore Santa Barbara will serve as our luxurious home base for this exciting tour. Located by the Pacific Ocean within view of the Santa Ynez Mountains, the hotel was designed and built in 1926 by California architect Reginald Johnson and exemplifies the Santa Barbara Style of architecture, which combines Spanish, Moorish, and Portuguese influences. In addition to delightful fountains, private courtyards, and spectacular views, the Four Seasons Biltmore offers a relaxing spa, ocean-front whirlpool, and all the amenities that you would expect from a world-class resort and lodging.

**Itinerary Highlights**

**Monday, February 24 (D)**
- Individual arrivals
- Reception and welcome dinner at the Four Seasons Resort–The Biltmore Santa Barbara. Tonight we will be treated to a presentation from AHS Great American Gardeners Landscape Design Award winner Paul Comstock. Paul is a renowned Los Angeles-based landscape architect who has worked on diverse local and international projects ranging from the world’s largest sustainable theme parks, sports stadiums, and institutional, hospitality, and government landscapes to small-scale, intimate spaces.

**Tuesday, February 25 (B, L)**
- Breakfast at the Biltmore
- We begin our trip touring the fabulous gardens at the Biltmore, where we will view some of the Resort’s rarest specimens, including Santa Barbara’s second largest tree, a Moreton Bay fig dating back to the 1800s, and 75 different species of palms. Then we head to Casa del Herrero to be transported back to the casa’s 1920s heyday with an exclusive view of the interior and a tour of the grounds, including a visit to the Steedman workshop.
• We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.
• Next we are off for a private tour of Ganna Walska’s Lotusland, recognized as one of the ten best gardens in the world. After our tour, we will have a private reception hosted by Lotusland’s leadership team.
• We will return to the Biltmore, and you will have the evening to explore the area independently.

Wednesday, February 26 (B, L, D)
• Breakfast at the Biltmore
• This morning, we visit Aloes in Wonderland, the only botanic garden where full-size plants are available for purchase out of the ground.
• Travel to Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens and the Pritzlaff Conservation Center with Dr. Steve Windhager. We will enjoy a catered lunch at the gardens.
• This afternoon we will go to the Old Santa Barbara Mission, known as the “Queen of the Missions.” Representing the earliest phase of Spanish Renaissance architecture, the mission also has an historic central garden and a rose garden that complement the golden sandstone of the exterior.
• Visit the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, followed by free time to explore State Street Shopping district on your own.
• Enjoy dinner at one of Santa Barbara’s renowned eateries.

Thursday, February 27 (B, L, D)
• Breakfast at the Biltmore
• Start our day at the San Marcos Growers Wholesale Plant Nursery. Nursery General Manager and President and AHS Great American Gardener’s Paul Ecke Jr. Commercial Award winner Randy Baldwin will give us a private tour of the nursery and gardens featuring many California natives.
• Visit breathtaking private gardens throughout the Santa Barbara area.
• Finish our time together with a grand finale banquet.

Friday, February 28 (B)
• Breakfast at the Biltmore
• Individual departures

Don’t delay! Extend your experience and enjoy all the amenities the luxurious Four Seasons Resort–The Biltmore Santa Barbara has to offer. We have a limited number of rooms both before and after the tour available for participants at the special group rate. Be sure to send your PC trip reservation in early and request extra night stay(s).