



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Brandywine Valley in Bloom

with AHS Host Matt Mattus

May 23–27, 2027





Fountains at Longwood Gardens (courtesy of Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau)

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to invite you to join us next spring for an enchanting journey to the Brandywine Valley, located in the heart of “America’s Garden Capital.” Nestled along the Pennsylvania–Delaware border, the Brandywine Valley is renowned for its storied estates and gardens of extraordinary artistry.

Our itinerary is filled with remarkable highlights. Experience the grandeur of Longwood Gardens, one of the world’s most iconic horticultural showplaces, as we explore its dazzling conservatories and outdoor displays. At Winterthur, discover the exquisite gardens and American decorative arts collection of horticulturist Henry Francis du Pont. We’ll also enjoy the naturalistic plantings and sustainable gardening practices of Mt. Cuba Center, the native plant displays of Stoneleigh, and the creative and bold garden designs of Chanticleer. A special treat will be a private visit to Brandywine Cottage, where its acclaimed creator, David Culp, will not only welcome us but also serve as our local guide throughout the program. Rounding out our journey is a visit to Bartram’s Garden in Philadelphia, the nation’s oldest surviving botanical garden and a living testament to America’s horticultural roots.

Our home throughout the program will be the charming Mendenhall Inn, ideally situated for our explorations. I encourage you to join us for this exceptional springtime journey through the Brandywine Valley’s horticultural treasures and to engage with the experts responsible for maintaining the beauty and traditions of these exceptional spaces. Space is limited and we encourage you to reserve early.

Sincerely,

Suzanne orte
President & CEO

AHS Host Matt Mattus

Matt is the Senior Director of Horticulture for the American Horticultural Society.

A creative design leader for the past 30 years in the corporate world, Matt is also a renaissance man in the gardening world. Matt’s leadership voice in horticulture has inspired plant lovers through his combination of unique talents, which include visual design, photography, and a vast knowledge of horticulture. His enthusiastic curiosity about plants spans the full spectrum, from his lifelong love of rare and collectible botanical treasures to cultivating the most intriguing of vegetables and unusual flowers. When not working in his greenhouse and gardens, Matt is a passionate traveler. He can be found exploring plants in their native habitats, botanizing from the Himalayas to Japan and the Alps. His journeys and plant discoveries are well-known to those who follow him through his books, writing, or on social media.



Itinerary

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Welcome to the Brandywine Valley

Arrive independently to the charming Mendenhall Inn, located approximately 35 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). This evening, gather with AHS Host Matt Mattus and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at the Inn's acclaimed restaurant.

(Included meals: Dinner)

MONDAY, MAY 24

Longwood and Brandywine Cottage

Begin our exploration of the Brandywine Valley at the spectacular Longwood Gardens, one of the world's great garden treasures. A member of Longwood's horticultural team will lead an engaging tour of 12 dazzling conservatory galleries, each brimming with lush plantings and a brilliant spectrum of color. Then enjoy a special luncheon onsite with a presentation by a senior designer on Longwood's world-class horticulture displays. Following lunch, explore Longwood's classical gardens surrounding the extravagant water fountains and see the seasonal varieties in bloom. This afternoon, acclaimed gardener, author, and lecturer David Culp leads a special visit to Brandywine Cottage, his beloved 2-acre garden, which showcases the design technique of layering—interplanting many different species in the same area so that as one plant passes its peak, another takes over.

(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Winterthur and Mt. Cuba

The morning is devoted to Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, the former residence of horticulturist Henry Francis du Pont. We will explore the magnificent 60-acre garden—both by tram and on foot—celebrated for its naturalistic design and massive displays of color throughout the year. We also have the opportunity to see du Pont's unparalleled collection of American decorative arts, displayed throughout the remarkable 175-room mansion. Following lunch in a nearby historic tavern, continue to Mt. Cuba Center, an outstanding public garden recognized for its commitment to the conservation of native plants and the habitats that sustain them. Take an in-depth look at the gardens and learn about Mt. Cuba's efforts to promote sustainable gardening practices.

(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)



Brandywine Cottage by David Culp



View of Winterthur House from the Reflecting Pool

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Stoneleigh and Chanticleer

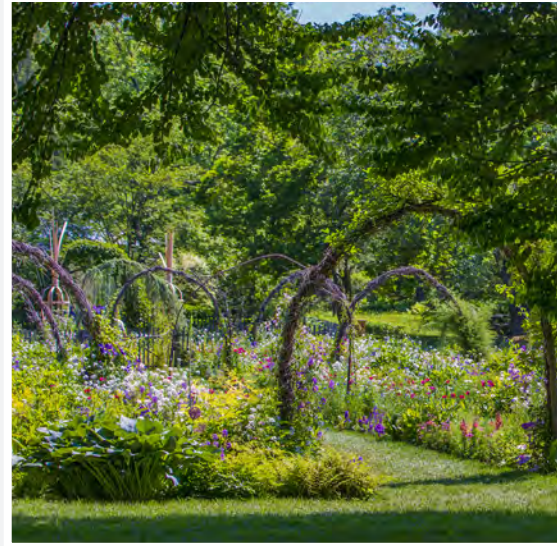
Spend the morning at Stoneleigh, a historic Gilded Age estate in Pennsylvania's Main Line region with an ecologically focused landscape of native plants. Tour the property's 42-acre public garden and enjoy its open vistas, towering trees, and native plant displays. Also take a glimpse inside the Tudor Revival mansion and the massive, century-old stone pergola. Following lunch, continue to the marvelous Chanticleer, often called "a pleasure garden" for its ingenuity and bold plantings. Take a guided stroll through Chanticleer's imaginative themed gardens linked seamlessly by winding paths, including the Teacup Garden, Ruin Garden, Pond Garden, and bulb meadow. Return to the hotel for free time before reconvening for a farewell dinner this evening at a fantastic local restaurant.

(Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

THURSDAY, MAY 27

Gardens of Philadelphia and Departures

Check out of the Mendenhall Inn and depart on a group transfer to Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). En route, stop at Bartram's Garden, the oldest surviving botanic garden in North America. Learn about botanist John Bartram's devotion to the collection, cultivation, and study of North American plants, thereby creating the premier collection of North American plant species in the 18th century. Next, visit Calder Gardens, a museum dedicated to the work of acclaimed sculptor Alexander Calder, set within a naturalistic landscape conceived by Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf. Arrive at PHL in the early afternoon for return flights home. *(Included meals: Breakfast)*



The Cutting Garden at Chanticleer
(Courtesy of JFusco, VisitPhiladelphia)



Spigelia marilandica at Bartram's Garden (photo by Laura Blanchard)



Accommodations at the Mendenhall Inn

Nestled in the heart of Pennsylvania's picturesque Brandywine Valley, the Mendenhall Inn provides a welcoming home base for our tour. Ideally situated just minutes from Longwood Gardens and Winterthur Estate, the hotel offers both convenience and charm. Guests will enjoy comfortable accommodations, a full hot breakfast each morning, and one evening of fine dining in the inn's acclaimed restaurant, known for its Country French and New American cuisine. Set amid beautifully landscaped grounds with inviting gathering spaces, the Mendenhall Inn blends warm hospitality with modern amenities, making it an ideal retreat after each day's exploration of the Brandywine Valley's extraordinary gardens and cultural treasures.

When you travel with the AHS, you make a difference.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS' nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.

Tour Information

AHS ADVENTURES

This custom trip is offered in collaboration with ISDI and is part of the AHS Adventures travel program collection. For more information, visit ahsgardening.org/travel.

TOUR COST:

Land Package.....	\$4,295
Single Supplement	\$425

Land Package is per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 15 paying participants.

AHS TRAVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL DESCRIPTION: AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk for a minimum of two miles each day.

HEALTH: At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority.

All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by ISDI Travel, local staff, and local laws. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on February 12, 2027, and must be paid by check or wire/ACH transfer to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis.

FLIGHTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but *participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan* in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be provided upon receipt of your registration. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel. Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS:

4 nights at the Mendenhall Inn; 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners; water, soft drinks, coffee, tea included with all meals; 2 glasses of wine or beer included with dinners; ground transportation by private motor coach as outlined in the itinerary, including a transfer to Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) on 5/27/27; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guides; personal listening devices for duration of the tour; gratuities for guides, drivers, and restaurant staff at included group meals; bottled water on motor coach; service charges and taxes.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; airport transfer upon arrival; individual airport transfers upon departure for those not using the scheduled group transfer; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a nonrefundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before February 12, 2027: full refund minus the \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between February 13 and April 8, 2027: refund of all monies paid minus \$2,000 per person cancellation fee (includes the registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after April 9, 2027: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or the American Horticultural Society due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact travel@ahsgardening.org or 703-768-8801. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.



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Registration Information

TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL:

International Seminar Design, Inc. at 202-244-1448 ext. 1

or

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc., 10770 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Silver Spring, MD 20901

or by email at info@isditravel.com

Name - Participant 1

Name - Participant 2

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address - Participant 1

E-mail Address - Participant 2

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

☐ Double Occupancy

☐ I have a roommate who is registering separately. I plan to share a room with _____.

☐ We prefer separate beds.

☐ Single Occupancy (\$425 single supplement)

☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found.

DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person):

_____ # of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Check (make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on card

CVV Security Code

By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.

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