

*Pacific Horticulture Presents*  
*A Provence, Cote D'Azur and Beyond*  
*Garden Tour*  
**May 5 - 13, 2025**



**May 4, Sunday - DEPART THE US FOR PARIS FOR CONNECTION TO TOULOUSE.**

**May 5, Monday: Arrival in PARIS connecting flights for TOULOUSE arrival transfer NARBONNE.**

Upon arrival in Paris, we will collect our luggage, clear customs, and make our way to our departure terminal for Toulouse. For those needing to check luggage, you will need to do so and then board your departure flight for Toulouse. On arrival in Toulouse, we will be met by a driver holding a sign with PACIFIC HORTICULTURE on it. Transfer privately to our hotel in Narbonne.

*Hotel Chateau L'hospitalet Wine Resort Beach and Spa for three nights, inclusive of breakfast.*

<https://chateau-hospitalet.com/>

This evening, we will meet with our travel companions, our Travel Escort, Linda McKendry of Pacific Horticulture and Local Professional Garden Guide and Tour Organizer, Amy Kupec - Larue for our Welcome Dinner Reception. *Dinner*

**May 6, Tuesday: CARCASSONE/ MONTPELLIER - Le Jardin Champetre - Le Jardin Sec - Jardin Antique Mediterranean.**

Joining our driver after breakfast for a visit to the botanical marvel, **Le Jardin Sec**. Celebrating its resilience and beauty of drought-tolerant plants, highlighting a diverse array of succulents, cacti, and other arid-loving flora. Designed to thrive in dry conditions, Le Jardin Sec offers a unique opportunity to explore an ecosystem that flourishes despite limited water resources. **Olivier Filippi**, who after 35 years of hard work and research around the Mediterranean and across Europe has revolutionized our view of the gardening in hot, dry climates.



Time for lunch in between visits. More details TBA.



Our next stop will be to the neighboring **Jardin Antique Mediterranean**. This garden pays homage to the rich botanical heritage of the Mediterranean region, displaying a variety of plants that have thrived for centuries in this storied landscape. Several display gardens here retrace the evolution of gardens and human relationships to plants during 1st Century BC and 3rd Century CE.

The day continues to **Le Jardin Champetre** with Imogen Checketts and Kate Dumbleton. Open since 2016 with interesting collections for dry and Mediterranean gardens as well as rare and collectible plants. A picturesque garden sanctuary known for its enchanting ambiance and vibrant botanical displays. Visitors are inspired by the Impressionist movement and the works of Claude Monet, Le Jardin Champetre exudes a sense of timeless beauty and artistic expression. *Breakfast, Lunch*



**May 7, Wednesday: MONTPELLIER - Le Jardin de Saint Adrien - Jardin Méditerranéen de Roquebrun - Le Jardin de Plantes - Chateau de Flaugergues.**

This morning, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel for a full day of touring. First stop, **Le Jardin de Saint Adrien** is a testament to the harmonious fusion of nature and artistic vision with its lush greenery cascades over rugged terrain, punctuated by terraced gardens, cascading waterfalls, and pools. Inspired by the beauty of the Mediterranean landscape, this garden displays a diverse array of plant species, from vibrant Mediterranean blooms to hardy succulents and aromatic herbs.



The garden has won multiple national awards including the prestigious Bonpland Prize and the « Remarkable Garden » label by the Ministry of Culture.

Next visit is **Jardin Méditerranéen de Roquebrun**. With its breathtaking beauty and



vibrant biodiversity, this garden offers a diverse array of plant species adapted to the region's unique climate and terrain. Terraced pathways wind their way through terracotta-hued soil home to aromatic herbs, colorful wildflowers, olive trees, and citrus groves, offering amazing views of the river valley and surrounding hillsides. With the most important collection of extraordinary plants in the

Hérault county. Succulents, Cacti, and other exotics are grown by the passionate gardeners with a botanical trail through the local flora, a collection of mimosas and a heritage Mediterranean orchard. A stop for our lunch, details TBA.

Our third visit today is **Le Jardin de Plantes**. Established in 1626, this historic botanical garden is not only one of the oldest of its kind in the world but also serves as a vibrant hub of scientific research, education, and conservation. Spanning over 69 acres along the banks of the Seine River, Le Jardin des Plantes is the first botanical garden created in France in 1593. Expanded twice in the 19th century, the garden now occupies 11 acres in the heart of the city. This historical garden is working to reconcile its exceptional botanical heritage with its scientific and educational vocations and its role as an environmental education center.



We will end the day at Chateau de Flaugergues where we can enjoy a wine tasting as well as a walk through their classical French garden with boxwood parterres and lovely Orangerie. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. Tonight we pack for our morning departure from the hotel. **Breakfast, Lunch.**



**May 8, Thursday: ST REMY/ RAYOL/ CÔTE d' AZUR - Confines Garden –Domain du Rayol Garden – National Holiday in France, Victory Day.**



This morning, we will gather in the lobby of the hotel to meet our driver/guide for our departure to Côte d'Azur via St Remy & Rayol – Canadel – sure – Mer Estate. With visits to the **Confines Garden** (subject to availability an alternative will be selected by the guide) and **Domain du Rayol Garden**. Confines Garden also serves as a living laboratory for ecological stewardship, providing habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species. Designed

by the internationally acclaimed Dominique Lafourcade. Our guide is hoping to make one of Dominique's Gardens available to us today, may it be Confines or Dominique's new home and garden. *Private arrangements to private gardens are very delicate, and any last-minute changes are permitted by the guide when necessary.* Taking in the tapestry of greens and grays punctuated with notes of color and terra-cotta pots. A harmonious blend of French, Italian, Portuguese, African and Asian influences resonate in the lateral groves of this amazing garden.

Stop for lunch, details TBA.

Next stop is **Domain du Rayol Garden**. Located within the Rayol-Canadel-sure-Mer estate, this botanical sanctuary offers visitors with a mesmerizing tapestry of landscapes, from windswept cliffs to sandy coves and lush terraced gardens. Offering panoramic views of the azure sea and rugged coastline Domaine du Rayol serves as a center for environmental education and conservation, promoting



sustainable gardening practices and fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of ecosystems. conservation work has been undertaken here since 1989, after over 25 years of abandonment. Gilles Clement and the coastal conservancy have preserved the breathtaking wild and natural beauty of this site.

After checking in at the *Hotel Nice Beau Rivage for our five nights' stay*, we will have a short orientation walk with our guide, including restaurant suggestions. Dinner on our own this evening. <https://www.hotelnicebeaurivage.com/> *Breakfast, Lunch*

**May 9, Friday: GRASSE - La Mouissone - City of Grasse - Domaine Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier.**



This morning after breakfast we will meet in the hotel lobby for our full day touring. **La Mouissone** sitting atop the hills of Grasse, France, is renowned for its beautiful gardens and historical significance. Originally built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, La Mouissone boasts an exquisite collection of plants as well as olives, the garden has many areas of interest. A Succulent zone, bamboo garden, semi-exotic beds and of course, many indigenous plants, shrubs, and trees.

After *lunch in the gardens of La Mouissone*, we will take some time to stroll through the city of Grasse. Here, they will be holding their annual Rose Festival throughout the city center with flower displays, music and dance performances, and an open-air market.

Lastly, we will end our day with a visit to **Domaine Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier**. This private estate, spreading along 20 acres, was designed by Russel Page in 1950. After a long period of abandonment, this tiered garden has been restored and expanded with a fluid transition between the different ambiances, ranging from very classical close to the villa to the perfume garden with all the scents and flowers Grasse is known for to the rock garden, a honey meadow and even a subtropical section filled with cycads and tree ferns. *Breakfast, Lunch*

**May 10, Saturday: NICE/ CAP FERRET - Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild - Le Jardin Exotique**



We will begin our day at the lesser-known **Botanical Garden of Nice** above the city and with an amazing view of the Bay of Angels. The rich collections in these 10 acres are organized around geographical areas, ethnobotanical collections and systematic collections including two national collections of Salvias and Agaves.

Time for lunch, more details TBA.

Next, **Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild**. This palace floats above the Mediterranean Sea and is surrounded by magnificent thematic gardens allowing you to travel around the world, from the Florentine Jardin to Spain on to Versailles and then Japan. All before discovering the Provencal Garden and her famous Rose Garden.





Last on our list today will be a visit to **Le Jardin Exotique**. Perched 1400 feet above the sea on the site of a medieval fortress with outstanding views of the Riviera. With its vibrant succulents, towering cacti, lush tropical specimens, and fragrant blooms. You will need to save some energy for the breathtaking Garden of Eze, perched 1400 feet above the sea on the site of a medieval fortress with outstanding views of the Riviera. The technical achievement alone of creating a garden on this site is unbelievable (think airlifted agaves & cacti...) along with succulents and xerophytes on its southern facade while caves and a waterfall alongside Mediterranean plants await you on the northern side. *Breakfast, Lunch*

### **May 11, Sunday: MENTON - Val Rahmeh - Serre de la Madone - Jardin du Clos du Peyronnet - Jardins Des Antipodes**

Today after breakfast we will meet in the lobby of our hotel for a full day of garden touring. Our first stop will be **Val Rahmeh**. This 19<sup>th</sup> century estate was previously owned by many plant lovers who enriched the collections and ground with species from around the globe. Today there are over 1700 species from Greece, Africa, Australia, China, and Mexico and it managed today by the National Natural History Museum.



Lunch between visits, TBA.



Next will be a stop at **Serre de la Madone Gaden** where we will bear witness to the talents of Lawrence Johnston as he's transformed the steep, hot, and dry hillside into what it is today. Many original pieces of this garden are still intact with some of the remarkable species initially being collected by the Coastal Conservancy, who are also assisting in its restoration.

After our visit to Serre de La Madone Gaden, we will make our way to **Clos du Peyronnet**. This is a remarkable space where the rare Arts & Crafts influence can still be seen in a French garden. Three generations of the Waterfield Family have nurtured over 600 species of subtropical and Mediterranean plants on multiple terrasses with dense plantings to make this 1.5-acre gem feel even grander.







Time permitting, our guide would love to have our final visit today be to the **Jardin des Antipodes** where Alexandra Boyle has been working (& fending off real estate promoters) for over 20 years. She initially set to create a forest canopy with plants from her native New Zealand on this 5-acre plot with 30 terraces and has since developed an organic farm, supplying produce, heritage citrus, herbs and edible flowers to local markets & Michelin starred chefs using only other plant such as horsetail, garlic & comfrey to treat her garden.

There is a 300-year-old system of aqueducts that brings water through her garden as well as to dozens of nearby villas. *Breakfast, Lunch*

### **May 12, Monday: COURSEGOULES – James Basson - Vallon du Brec**



Today we will be privately escorted to see the work of the renowned landscape designer and four-time gold medal winner at Chelsea, **James Basson**, whose designs are conceived with start-up only watering. [www.scapedesign.com](http://www.scapedesign.com)

Stop for lunch, details TBA.

Next will be to **Vallon du Brec**, situated 3300 feet above Nice. This otherworldly garden, created by artists, has two sections, one with plants from Asia and North American and wooden sculptures, while the other is wild prairies along 11<sup>th</sup> century farming terraces.



**This evening, we will have a Farewell dinner with James Basson and his wife Helen.**  
*Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner*

**May 13, Tuesday: DEPARTURE** - One transfer has been included from our hotel in Nice to the Nice Airport today. After breakfast and this included transfer, ends our services.

**LAND COST PER GUEST:** Based on a minimum of 20 guests.

\$ 7,190.00 per person for Members of Pacific Horticulture

\$ 7,290.00 per person for Non Members

Single Supplement: \$ 1,589.00 per person

A nonrefundable deposit of \$ 1000.00 per person is required to register for this tour. This deposit will be used to secure and confirm hotel space and services. See Terms and Conditions with Booking Form to register for the tour.

**We encourage you to join Pacific Horticulture before registering for the tour at**

**<https://pacifichorticulture.org/membership-registration/>**

**Contact PH at office@pacifichorticulture.org with any membership's questions.**

### **INCLUDES**

3 nights & breakfast at 5 star Chateau Hospitalet

5 nights & breakfast at 4 star Hotel Beau Rivage Nice

Coach services based on present itinerary within a 12h day (ex: 9am-9pm)

2 Coach transfers from & to the airports on Day 1 in Toulouse and Day 9 in Nice as well as to dinner on Day 1 (for a 15min drive)

7 lunches, A Welcome Dinner & A Farewell Dinner

All garden entrance fees and all guiding services.

A Patronage for Pacific Horticulture of \$350

Expert Garden Guide: Since 2005, Amy Kupec Larue, doyenne of French gardens, has guided horticultural aficionados on botanical tours to idyllic public and private gardens in France and Italy. A confirmed rose lover, Amy is a permanent jury member of the prestigious Bagatelle Rose Commission.

Pacific Horticulture Escort: Linda McKendry, an APLD garden designer and rosarian who gardens in and around Los Angeles, California. Linda is passionate about roses and is an enthusiastic world traveler. She is a longtime board member of Pacific Horticulture and currently serves as a travel liaison.



## **DOES NOT INCLUDE**

Hotel Tax (to be paid at checkout by each guest, approx €4 a night, pp)

Air ; Note on Air:

You will want to arrive in Paris before 2PM on 5 May – so departing the West Coast from the USA before 5PM is best. From the East Coast 7PM.

There are flights from Paris to Toulouse on Air France that operate from Paris CDG at 2PM or 3PM and arrive at Toulouse by 4.15PM – a transfer in Toulouse for guests will be provided to meet them at 5PM no later and sooner is not feasible. If guests cannot make these times – Sterling Tours will assist you with an additional transfer at a supplemental cost. If you prefer any Pre or Post nights, Sterling Tours will assist you with this as well. These requests will be at an additional fee, which can be inclusive of your final payments for the tour.

Air schedules are due at the time final payment is request 90 days from the departure date. If you have any questions, feel free to email [Shannon@sterlingtoursltd.com](mailto:Shannon@sterlingtoursltd.com)

Travel Insurance