

The AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY presents ...
SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL IN THE HIGHLANDS OF AUSTRALIA

September 29 – October 14, 2008

Join us as we celebrate springtime in Australia with magnificent garden festivals throughout the Highland country! We will begin in Sydney, then travel into the Hunter Valley, the Blue Mountains, the southern highlands, and visit Canberra for the annual Floriade Festival, the largest flower show in the southern hemisphere. We have noted the websites for the more famous gardens that we will visit. We hope that upon exploring these websites, you will decide that this trip is not to be missed.

Your host for this tour will be Nicholas Staddon of Monrovia. Nicholas is the director of New Plant Introductions for Monrovia, and has been a Monrovia Craftsman for 18 years. Working with plant breeders, hybridizers, and professional plant exporters, he scours the globe for new creations and discoveries in the plant world. Nicholas was born in England, and travels extensively for Monrovia in his quest for great new additions and notable plants for American gardeners.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 - ARRIVE SYDNEY

D

Welcome to *Australia* and our springtime tour to *Sydney*, the *Hunter Valley*, the *Blue Mountains*, Canberra for the annual *Floriade Festival* and the *Southern Highlands*. Upon clearing Customs and Immigration, we'll board our 5 Star local touring coach who will transfer us into our city-based accommodation. The rest of the afternoon is free to relax and recover from any jetlag. Dinner is in the hotel this evening.

Lodging - Rydges World Square, Sydney

Thursday, October 2, 2008 - SYDNEY SIGHTSEEING

B, D

Following a hearty breakfast, we embark on a sightseeing tour of Sydney. We will have a free afternoon for shopping or personal sightseeing – perhaps to spend some time in the Botanic Gardens. Dinner this evening is at Australia's highest and most spectacular revolving restaurant – *The Sydney Tower Restaurant*.

Lodging - Rydges World Square, Sydney

Friday, October 3, 2008 - THE HUNTER VALLEY

B, L, D

We have an early start this morning as we make our way north to the wine growing region of Hunter Valley. Our first stop is at the fabulous *Hunter Valley Gardens* (www.hvg.com.au). Lunch is included at the gardens. This afternoon The *Hunter Valley Cheese Factory* invites us to taste their range of fine handmade and preservative-free cheeses followed by a visit to the *Golden Grape Estate* to sample some of their premium Hunter Valley wines.

Lodging - Rydges World Square, Sydney

Saturday, October 4, 2008 - THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

B, D

We farewell Sydney this morning as we make our way into the *Blue Mountains* to the west of Sydney, recently World Heritage Listed, to the village of Leura. The name *Leura*, which is aboriginal for "lava", was given to the village because of the area's wealth of volcanic stones. It is the rich volcanic soil that is responsible for Leura's international reputation of possessing some of the nation's most beautiful gardens. We'll spend a good part of tomorrow in Leura, so today, we continue to explore the area. Following a memorable day, we check into our accommodation for the next three nights and have time to relax before dinner.

Lodging - Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains (www.peppers.com.au/fairmont)

Sunday, October 5, 2008 - THE LEURA GARDEN FESTIVAL

B, L, D

Following breakfast, we return to the pretty town of Leura, home of the *Leura Gardens Festival* (www.leuragardenfestival.com.au). We break mid morning for Devonshire Tea at *Bygone Beautys*, the largest private emporium of Antiques and collectables in the Blue Mountains. We then take time to explore *Everglades Gardens*, one of the most important historic gardens in Australia. Everglades is considered by many to be unparalleled in Australia for its

unique design and historical significance. We have a light lunch here and time to enjoy the garden before our afternoon exploring some more **private gardens**.

Lodging - Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains

Monday, October 6, 2008 - MT TOMAH BOTANIC GARDENS

B, L, D

Following breakfast, we board the *Zig Zag Railway* to ride over one of the most exciting and breathtaking stretches of railway track ever built in Australia. We then head to the stunningly beautiful *Mt. Tomah Botanic Garden* (www.bluemts.com.au/mounttomah), the cool climate garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. The gardens are 850 metres above sea level and the rich volcanic soil and cool moist climate make it an ideal location for one of the world's finest collections of cool-climate plants.

Lodging - **Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains**

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 - BLUE MOUNTAINS TO CANBERRA

B, D

This morning, we travel down the mountains and head south to visit the *Mt. Annan Botanic Gardens*, the native plant garden of the Botanic Gardens Trust and the largest botanic garden in Australia. Early afternoon, we drive Canberra where we settle into our next three nights accommodation.

Lodging - Intercontinental Crowne Plaza, Canberra

Wednesday, October 8, 2008 - CANBERRA FLORIADE

B, D

Today we have the whole day to enjoy this abundance of bloom and beauty at the Floriade Festival (www.floriadeaustralia.com), the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere. We will meet this afternoon at a pre-arranged time and take a sightseeing drive around Canberra.

Lodging - **Intercontinental Crowne Plaza, Canberra**

Thursday, October 9, 2008 - CANBERRA'S GARDENS

B, D

This morning, a member of the *Horticultural Society of Canberra* joins us to show us some of Canberra's favourite "private gardens". This afternoon, we visit *Tulip Top Gardens* – established in 1997 Tulip Top is a world class exhibition of half a million tulips.

Lodging - Intercontinental Crowne Plaza, Canberra

Friday, October 10, 2008 - CANBERRA TO THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

B, D

Before departing Canberra this morning, we visit *Cockington Green*. We then take our time driving to the beautiful Southern Highlands where we check into our next two nights accommodation. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the resort.

Lodging - **Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest, Southern Highlands** (www.peppers.com.au/manor-house)

Saturday, October 11, 2008 - THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

B, D

Gardens, gardens, gardens – the Southern Highlands abounds with them!! First stop today is *Moidart Gardens* (www.highlandnsw.com.au/gardens/moidart/index.htm) - a private garden and nursery on the outskirts of Bowral. Our next visit is in Mittagong at *Chinoiserie* which is a Bed & Breakfast establishment set in a colourful perennial garden. The peonies (100 varieties) should be just about to bloom! This afternoon, a short drive to Moss Vale will take us to "*Bank o' the Moon*", - 3 acres of park-like gardens set against a backdrop of rolling farmlands. Our final visit for the day is very close to our accommodation – *Red Cow Farm* is a lovely garden set on 6-acres. Divided into different garden areas or 'rooms', with new vistas and surprises around every corner, Red Cow Farm is a dream come true for anyone with a green thumb! Late afternoon, we return to our hotel to freshen up for dinner.

Lodging - **Peppers Manor House, Sutton Forest, Southern Highlands**

Sunday, October 12, 2008 - SUTTON FOREST TO SYDNEY

B, D

Following a leisurely breakfast, we say farewell to our hosts at Peppers and return to *Bowral*. We'll have some free time here – we can take a stroll along Bendooley Street – some of us may wish to visit *Corbett Gardens*, the centrepiece of the annual *Tulip Festival*. From Bowral, we drive back to Sydney for our final two nights accommodation.

Lodging - Rydges World Square, Sydney

Monday, October 13, 2008 – SYDNEY

B, D

We have a totally free day today. Perhaps some of us would like to spend time in the *Royal Botanic Gardens*, others in the city or Darling Harbour for some "retail therapy", or just return to the hotel to relax. For our final night in Australia together, we have arranged a special dinner. We'll meet up early evening to enjoy our dinner cruise on the wonderful *Sydney Harbour*. Sydney's most elegant way to dine afloat on the "*MV Sydney 2000*", synonymous with luxurious a la

carte dining and first class service. We will enjoy the entertainment and dancing, and sip a drink under the stars from the spacious upper deck. Our coach will be waiting at the end of the evening for our transfer back to the hotel. What a wonderful way to finish our holiday in Australia!

Lodging - Rydges World Square, Sydney

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 - DEPART AUSTRALIA

B

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. After breakfast, we complete our checkout procedures and transfer to the airport to connect with our flight home.

TRIP COST AND CONDITIONS

Price

Land only package price **\$6,795 (based upon double occupancy)**

Single room occupancy supplement **\$1,550**

This trip has been organized by Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C. and the American Horticultural Society, and both reserve the right to make necessary changes to the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances. Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours will provide details on necessary supplies and logistics for this trip when the departure dates get closer. You will receive confirmation of registration by mail within 30 days of receipt of registration. You will receive follow up information and final invoice 90 days prior to trip departure, at which time payment in full is due.

Tour Price Includes

Private transportation with driver and air conditioning
Meals as listed in the itinerary
All entrance fees and lodging pertinent to the itinerary
Local taxes on lodging and meals, and tips for porters, on site guides, maids and waiters

Tour Price Does Not Include

Airfare
Airport departure tax (USD \$26.00 per person)
Optional tours or excursions where available
Alcoholic beverages

Refund Schedule

Final payment due 90 days prior to trip departure
Prior to 90 days, a full refund will be given minus a \$250 administrative fee
There are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as all lodging and airfare will be booked at this time
We will send a Terms and Conditions document for specific refund schedule once we receive registration form

Passport

A passport is mandatory to enter any foreign country and to return to the United States. **Your passport must be valid for six months beyond the return date of the trip.**

Registration Form

Spring Garden Festivals in the Highlands of Australia
An American Horticultural Society Tour
September 29 – October 14, 2008

Passenger Information

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport or the photo id you will use for airline ticketing.

Legal name _____ Legal Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home and or cell) _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone _____

Please mark your preferred travel arrangements

____ I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements

____ I would like Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to arrange airline reservations from my nearest airport

Single Occupancy (\$1,550 additional) _____ **Double Occupancy** _____ **

** (cannot be guaranteed, and if none available, you will be responsible for single supplement)

Please let us know if you have any special requirements or medical needs while you travel with us:

Payment Information (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

amount \$ _____ check no. _____

If paying by credit card (we can accept only VISA or Mastercard)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount to be charged _____ Three digit security code from back of the card _____

Signature _____

Direct inquiries and mail this form to:

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