

# HILLWOOD

ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS

## A Cartier Christmas at Hillwood

Sapphires, emeralds, and diamonds add sparkle and shine to the Christmas décor at Hillwood this holiday season

***Cartier: Marjorie Merriweather's Post Dazzling Gems*** is the inspiration for jewel covered trees throughout the mansion



WASHINGTON—Glittering jewel-toned trees inspired by the special exhibition [\*\*\*Cartier: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Dazzling Gems\*\*\*](#) are the centerpiece of ***A Cartier Christmas*** at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens this holiday season.

Beginning on Tuesday, November 25, the glamour and elegance of founder Marjorie Post and her splendid Cartier jewels permeate the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate. The deep hues of sapphire greet guests upon arrival in the Visitor Center. The mansion entry is made more festive with a Christmas tree decked out in sparkling emerald tones inspired by Post's famous Cartier pendant brooch. A grand tree in the theme of diamonds and pearls sits in splendor in the period French drawing room, mimicking the glamorous clasp created by Cartier for Post to wear with her sophisticated sets of pearls. In the pavilion, the contemporary feel of turquoise and amethyst complements the vintage feel of this room designed for entertaining. The tree in Post's personal dressing room takes on aquamarine, inspired by a 1950s brooch.

In addition to the trees, sumptuous dining services on the dining and breakfast room tables make up the glittering holiday settings also inspired by ***Cartier***. In the dining room, a table set with Sèvres porcelain in the famous *bleu celeste* (heavenly blue) takes its inspiration from turquoises

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jewelry seen in the Cartier exhibition. The deep blue sapphire of special glassware and intense cobalt blue of Russian plates saturate the breakfast room table with the hues of splendid jewels on display.

As always, the gardens at Hillwood reveal the beauty of the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witch hazel provide bright spots of color.

Pine trees adjacent to the mansion are lighted to lead the way into the holiday splendor. Seasonal greenery is also the focus of several workshops in December.

The family highlight of the holiday season at Hillwood is undoubtedly the [Russian Winter Festival](#) on Saturday and Sunday,



December 13 and 14. Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden are on hand for this celebration of the holidays in Old Russian style, while winsome characters, enacting the old Russian winter custom of *mumming*—dressing up in costume and visiting friends, singing, playing jokes, and fortunetelling—surprise and delight visitors across the estate.

Throughout the season, the Museum Shop is a favorite destination for holiday shopping. With dozens of jewelry pieces and dazzling items inspired by Cartier, in addition to clothing, books, ornaments, and home décor, Hillwood's shop offers distinct gifts for everyone.

**Below is a calendar of events at Hillwood for the holiday season.**

**A Serene Sunday**

**Sundays, November 30, December 14, and December 28  
1 to 5pm**

Bring your out-of-town guests to Hillwood during the holidays. These special open Sundays offer a special experience for the holiday season, with a day to explore the gardens, see the Cartier-inspired decorations, shop for special gifts, or have a relaxing lunch in the café with family and friends.

Included in suggested donation.

**Fabulous Wreath Workshop**

**Friday, December 5 from 10am to Noon and 1 to 3pm  
Saturday, December 6 from 10am to Noon and 1 to 3pm**

Take an inspiring walk through Hillwood's wintry grounds, then create your own wreath of fresh greens to take home.

\$55, \$45 Hillwood members

Visit [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org) to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

### **Russian Winter Festival**

**Saturday, December 13 from 10am to 5pm (Hillwood remains open until 7pm)**

**Sunday, December 14 from 1 to 5pm**

An annual holiday favorite! Hillwood celebrates the holidays in Old Russian style. A fun play based on traditional Russian stories of Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden will be performed for the festival again this year. After each performance, families can meet Grandfather Frost, Russia's Santa Claus, and his granddaughter the Snow Maiden, and have pictures taken with them. While lively Russian folk music enlivens, a hands-on art activity will allow visitors of all ages to create their own *kokoshnik*, a lady's headdress, or traditional Russian gentleman's hat. Shopping and festive dining in the café round out this day of family fun.

\$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 Hillwood members, \$10 students, \$5 children (ages 6-18), free for children under age 6.

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### **Gardener's Focus: Bones of the Winter Garden**

**Tuesdays, December 16, 23, and 30 from 11 to 11:30am**

**Fridays, December 19 and 26 from 11 to 11:30am**

**Saturdays, December 20 and 27 from 11 to 11:30am**

Be sure to get some fresh air this holiday season and get an insider's look at Hillwood's gardens. The winter garden may not be as splashy as spring bulbs or summer blooms, but there's something equally amazing about a peaceful, winter garden. Evergreen plants take center stage, deciduous woody plants become architectural, and hardscapes become more important. Join Bill Johnson, Hillwood's horticulturist, for this 20 minute tour during his favorite season in Hillwood's garden. Limited to 10 per tour. Tickets are distributed at the Visitor Center upon opening each day. Included in suggested donation.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC  
Metro: VanNess/UDC, Red Line (20 minute walk)

**Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information and reservations or  
[www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org)  
Follow us [www.Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum) or Twitter  
@HillwoodMuseum

**Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Select Sundays, 1 to 5 pm.  
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.

**Café:** The HILLWOOD Café serves lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.  
Afternoon Tea is served on Sundays only from 1 to 3:30 pm.  
Express Dining, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages is available Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm.  
Call (202) 686-5807 for café reservations

**Suggested Donation:** \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.  
No donation is suggested for children under 6.

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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens is dedicated to enlightening and engaging visitors with an experience inspired by founder Marjorie Merriweather Post's passion for excellence, gracious hospitality and intent to preserve and share the beauty and history of her collections, garden and estate. Hillwood is set upon 25 acres of gardens and surrounding woodlands in northwest Washington, D.C. Twelve acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a Rose Garden, and a French parterre.