



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High Res Images Available Upon Request

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***Haute Holidays* at Hillwood reflect the most stylish eras of the 20th century**

***Ingenue to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post* is the inspiration for glamorous Christmas trees throughout the mansion**

Festive décor, hands-on workshops, and the annual Russian Winter Festival add to the Christmas splendor

WASHINGTON—Christmas trees draped in vintage styles inspired by the special exhibition *[Ingenue to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post](#)* are the centerpiece of a fashionable holiday season at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. Beginning on Tuesday, November 24, the glamour and elegance of founder Marjorie Post and the styles that characterized the most formative decades of her lifetime will permeate the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate.

Diamonds, pearls, and peacock feathers greet guests upon arrival in the Visitor Center as a “Roaring Twenties” tree takes inspiration from the flapper styles of this glamorous era. Vintage-style colored lights and tinsel reflecting the 1950s, the decade when Post established her legacy in Washington with the purchase of Hillwood, adds a festive touch to the mansion entry. A grand Edwardian tree sits in splendor in the period French drawing room. Taking its cue from the fashion of the time—including the intricately-detailed French velvet and lace dress of 1903 on display in the room—garlands of lace, velvet bows, and dried flowers, with decorations in hues of blue, pink, and lilac, accent the tree. In the pavilion, A “Hollywood Glamour” tree exudes the fashion trends of the 1930s and 1940s, as seen on the silver screen, where evening fashion featured elegant backless gowns in velvets and body clinging sensuous satin. Two of Post’s dresses of this very style are in the pavilion with a tree dressed in pink champagne-colored satin and set with intricate gold and diamond jewelry ornaments. In the staff dining room, punctuated by retro linoleum flooring and period furnishings, a vintage aluminum tree decorated with bright-colored metal balls brings a 1960s Christmas feel to this historical space.

In addition to the trees, other displays celebrate the style of holidays past, inspired by *Ingenue to Icon* and Post's luxurious way of life. A wrap dress on view in the first floor library represents the type of resort wear that Post wore while wintering in warm locales, including her Palm Beach estate, Mar-A-Lago, or aboard her beloved sailing ship, Sea Cloud. The nearby monitor will play a loop of images from Christmas 1946, spent aboard the famous yacht.

A festive table display in the dining room will feature a green-bordered porcelain service with armorials from the Paris-based Jacob Petit factory. In the mid-1830s the factory made elaborately gilded, colorful, and sculptural table services drawing inspiration from Rococo designs of the 18th century. The banquet glass is decorated with colorful hunting scenes and was made at the Lobmeyr factory in Vienna in the early twentieth century. The Gorham silver-gilt flatware dates from the 1960s.

Ingenue to Icon

The special exhibition, *Ingenue to Icon*, presents the elegant designs, sumptuous fabrics, and impeccable styles that distinguished Post's apparel. From Edwardian confections in tulle and taffeta to the flapper silhouettes of the 1920s and sophisticated gowns of the 1950s, Post acquired her wardrobe with the eye of a connoisseur. In this special exhibition more than 60 dresses and perfectly paired accessories, archival materials, and portraits illustrate the evolution of 20th-century fashion through the lens of one of its most prominent women. After opening with Post's spring and summer styles in June, the exhibition now features her fall and winter wear, on view through December 31. *Ingenue to Icon* is sponsored by Northern Trust.

Holiday Programs and Workshops

The family highlight of the holiday season at Hillwood is undoubtedly the [*Russian Winter Festival*](#) on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13. 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.

Hillwood's gardens reveal another aspect of their ever-changing beauty during the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witchhazel provide bright spots of color. Hands-on wreath-making workshops provide the opportunity to explore Hillwood's magnificent grounds during the winter and craft a one of a kind holiday decoration to enliven the home.

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

Calendar of events for the holiday season at Hillwood.

Haute Holidays

November 24-December 31

The most stylish eras of the 20th century, as seen in the special exhibition, *Ingenue to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post*, are the inspiration for glamorous Christmas trees and festive décor across Hillwood.

Included in suggested donation.

Fabulous Wreath Workshop

Friday, December 4 from 10am to Noon and 1 to 3pm

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

Sunday, December 6 from 1 to 3pm

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

\$65, \$55 Hillwood members

Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

Russian Winter Festival

Saturday, December 12 from 10am to 5pm

Sunday, December 13 from 10am 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 the day, 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. New to the festival this year, Eminence Dance Studio entertains with authentic Russian folk dance performances. A trip to the Museum Shop and festive dining in the café round out this day of family fun.

All of Hillwood's 2015 festivals are supported by a grant from the Sally Foss and James Scott Hill Foundation. All exhibitions and programs are funded in part by the U.S. Commission of the Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program.

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

Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org to register or call (202) 686-5807 for more information

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
Follow us [www.Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum) or Twitter
@HillwoodMuseum

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10am to 5pm.
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.

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

Suggested Donation: \$18, \$15 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.
No donation is suggested for children under 6.
Adults and seniors receive \$3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits and \$1 for weekend visits when reservations are made online. Visit www.HillwoodMuseum.org/your-visit/opening-hours-tickets

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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.