

**VISITOR  
GUIDE  
AND MAP  
WITH  
AUDIO  
TOUR**

**HILLWOOD**  
ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS



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INFORMATION



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## Garden Audio Tour

To **ACCESS** information about a selection, enter its number into the player, and press the **GREEN** button to play. To **STOP** a selection at any time, press the **RED** button.

The audio tour is also available for download as a mobile app.

### Audio Tour Selections

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ENTRANCE





# Tips for Experiencing Hillwood

**ORIENTATION FILM:** A ten-minute film in the visitor center theater provides an introduction to Marjorie Merriweather Post and Hillwood every quarter hour.

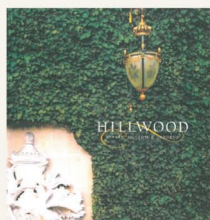
**SELF-GUIDED TOURS:** Explore using this booklet, which includes a room-by-room tour of the mansion and a map of the garden “rooms.” There are also interpretive signs in the gardens.

**AUDIO TOURS:** Audio tours of the mansion and gardens, as well as one just for families, are available. Players can be obtained in the visitor center. The tours are also available for download as the *Hillwood Museum & Gardens Tour* mobile app for iOS and Android devices.

**GUIDED TOURS:** Docent-led tours of the mansion are available year-round, and garden tours are offered in the spring and fall. These first-come, first-served tours can be reserved at the visitor center.

**SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS:** Inquire at the visitor center or visit [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org) to learn about special exhibitions on view throughout the year.

**DINING:** Merriweather Café serves lunch Tuesday through Sunday, while an express menu at the Merriweather To Go window offers a selection of food and beverages to enjoy at your leisure. Hours change seasonally. Please check the website for the current hours of operation. Reservations for Merriweather Cafe are encouraged and can be made at [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org) or by calling 202.686.5807. A courtesy phone is available in the visitor center.



**HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS:** This publication explores the life of Hillwood founder Marjorie Post, as well as the collections and gardens, through stunning photos and fascinating highlights. Purchase copies in the museum shop, along with other Hillwood publications.

**SHOPPING:** The museum shop is located in the visitor center and is open Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**BECOME A MEMBER:** Purchase a Hillwood membership and enjoy free admission, plus discounts and guest passes. To join, please see an associate in the visitor center, visit [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org), or call 202.243.3939.

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*Did you know ... Hillwood is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity, and receives no ongoing federal or local funds in support of its preservation and scholarly mandate. Your donations and purchases, along with grants and other donations, support Hillwood's stewardship and community service.*

*Booklet photography by Edward Owen, John Dean, Alex Jamison, Lydia Cutter, Erik Kvalsvik, Jessie Marcotte, Robert C. Lautman, Stan Rumbough, and Bruce M. White*

After completing your tour, please feel free to return this booklet to the visitor center.

Please leave your email address to keep up-to-date on programs and events.

Visit [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org) for the latest on what's happening at Hillwood.

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# Visitor Services and Guidelines



## Hours

Hillwood is open Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on most national holidays and for several weeks in January. Please visit [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org) for dates.



## Photography

Informal, non-flash photography for personal, non-commercial use is permitted in the mansion, all garden spaces, the greenhouse, and the visitor center. For special exhibitions in the dacha and Adirondack building, please follow the photography guidelines posted.



## Restrooms

*Visitor Center:* Accessible with changing station

*Merriweather Café:* Accessible

*C.W. Post:* Accessible companion care with changing station

*Dacha:* Available on the lower level, enter using the outdoor stairs on the side of the building

*Mansion:* Accessible companion care



## Complimentary Coat Check

A coatroom, located in the mansion, is available for checking coats, cameras, backpacks, and shopping bags. Umbrellas and strollers may be left outside entrances to the mansion, dacha, and Adirondack building.



## Picnic

Obtain a map of designated picnic areas and borrow picnic blankets from the visitor center.



## Additional Information

Visit the information desk, in the visitor center, for lost and found, driving directions, and other information. To schedule an appointment to visit the non-circulating research library or archives, found in the Collections & Research Center, call 202.243.3953.



## Accessibility

Accessibility services available in the visitor center include wheelchair accommodations, Braille information guides, large-print tour guides, and assistive listening devices.

Elevators are available in the visitor center and mansion. The Collections & Research Center is accessible from the elevator at the parking deck (by appt. only).

Wheelchairs are not easily accommodated in the greenhouse.

Photographs of areas inaccessible by wheelchair are available upon request.



## Smoking

Hillwood is a smoke-free campus. All forms of smoking, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited.



## Objects and Furnishings

Please do not touch the objects or furnishings in the mansion or sculpture in the gardens.



## Pets

Except for trained service animals and Sunday morning dog walks for members, pets are not permitted.



## Taxi

A courtesy phone for ordering a taxi is available in the visitor center.

*The grounds, mansion, and gardens are monitored by video surveillance systems.*

*No firearms or weapons are permitted on the property.*





Marjorie Post, mid-1930s (photograph: John Alfred Piver)

## Welcome to the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post.

**Marjorie Post was a pioneering business executive, engaged citizen, generous philanthropist, and distinguished collector.**

As the heir to the Postum Cereal Company, later General Foods, Marjorie Post (1887–1973) was among the wealthiest women of her time. She exerted a strong hand in the business affairs of her company long before women appeared in major corporate boardrooms. Post also dedicated her intense focus to collecting French and Russian art as well as to making significant charitable contributions throughout her life.

In 1955 Post purchased Hillwood as her spring and fall residence, spending winters in Palm Beach, Florida, at Mar-A-Lago and summers at Camp Topridge in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. She spent two years renovating and expanding Hillwood, creating a home that would suit her lifestyle while also serving as a museum for her extraordinary art collection.

Post made provisions to bequeath her Washington, D.C., home and collections for the enjoyment and education of future generations. In 1977 Hillwood opened to the public, endowing it with the most comprehensive collection of Russian imperial art outside Russia, a distinguished collection of French art from the 1700s, and twenty-five acres of landscaped gardens and natural woodlands.

Hillwood remains Post's most important legacy, and the artistry of its collections, beauty of its gardens, and graciousness of its founder continue to inspire. Today, Hillwood is vibrant with special exhibitions, programs and events, and garden displays. Enjoy your visit to this oasis in the nation's capital.



## Touring the Gardens

To explore the gardens, please make use of the interpretive signs posted in each garden "room," or take advantage of the audio tour stops. A map of the gardens appears on the preceding pages.

The following route is popular, but feel free to wander the gardens in the order you prefer.

Begin your walk at the **motor court**, in front of the mansion. During Marjorie Post's time, guests arriving at the enclosed motor court were escorted into the mansion by footmen.

The **French parterre**—with low intricate plantings divided by footpaths and surrounded by walls of English ivy—transports the modern visitor back to the 1700s when such formal gardens were popular in France.

Each bed in the **rose garden** is planted with a single variety of summer-blooming floribunda rose. Post chose this peaceful site to house her ashes, which are in the base of the pink granite monument in the center.

The black iron gates lead from the rose garden and down the **Friendship Walk**, a footpath flanked by boxwood, rhododendrons, and azaleas, ending at the red slate circle of the **Four Seasons Overlook**. A group of Post's friends created this walk and overlook in 1957 to honor her lifetime of philanthropy.

Post, a golfing enthusiast, believed in living a healthy lifestyle, and her family and friends worked on their golf game on the **putting green**.

The **Lunar Lawn** is an open setting where Post hosted receptions and garden parties for Washington's social and political elite and groups involved in her philanthropic and personal interests.

The **Japanese-style garden**, an artful hybrid of Japanese and American gardening traditions, combines native and Japanese plants, ornamentation, and design concepts to transform this hillside into a captivating space.

The **dog cemetery** was built as a memorial to the pet dogs Post loved throughout her life. Some of her family continued to memorialize their four-legged friends here through the 1980s.

The **dacha**, built in 1969 in a style reminiscent of traditional Russian country homes, and the **Adirondack building**, erected in 1983 based on the architecture of grand estates in the Adirondack Mountains, are both now used for special exhibitions. The buildings reflect Post's interest in Russian culture and attachment to Camp Topridge, her summer estate in Upstate New York.

The large beds of the **cutting garden** provide a seasonal bounty of fresh-cut flowers used in arrangements in the mansion and elsewhere at Hillwood.

The modern **greenhouse**, rebuilt and renovated in 1996 on the original site, contains an extensive collection of exotic orchids as well as tropical plants.

### GARDENS NOT TO BE MISSED



French parterre



Rose garden



Japanese-style garden



Greenhouse



## MANSION

### NOT TO BE MISSED

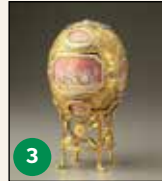
1. **Entry hall:** Portrait of Catherine the Great, two chests of drawers
2. **French drawing room:** Roll-top desk
3. **Icon Room:** Imperial Easter eggs by Fabergé, cabinet
4. **Pavilion:** Portrait of Countess Samoilova, Her Foster Daughter, and a Black Servant
5. **Dining room:** Dining table leaf
6. **Breakfast room:** Russian palace chandelier
7. **French porcelain room:** *Bleu céleste* Sèvres porcelain
8. **First floor library:** Painting and model of *Sea Cloud*
9. **Staff areas:** Mid-century kitchen, pantry, and staff dining room
10. **Russian sacred arts gallery:** Chalice and nuptial crown
11. **Marjorie Post's bedroom suite:** Rotating costume and jewelry displays



1



3



3



1



2



3



8



9



4



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6



4



7



10



10



11



## Mansion First Floor Audio Tour & Floor Plan

To **ACCESS** information about a selection, enter its number into the player obtained at the visitor center, and press the **GREEN** button to play. To **STOP** a selection at any time, press the **RED** button. The audio tour is also available for download as a mobile app.

### Audio Tour Selections

#### 411. User instructions

#### 300. Introduction to the Mansion Tour

110. Motor Court

#### 310. Entry Hall

311. Two French Commodes (Chests of Drawers)

312. Bust of the Duchess of Châteauroux

313. Romanov Portraits

431. Portrait of Catherine the Great

521. Luxurious Interiors and Social Responsibility in the 1700s

#### 320. French Drawing Room

321. Wall Tapestries and Tapestry-covered Sofas and Chairs

322. Portraits of the Duchess of Parma and Her Daughter and Empress Eugénie

323. Roll-top Desk and Swivel Chair

324. Table Case of Boxes and Small Objects

368. Minerva Box

516. Photographs on Piano

510. Marjorie Post's Early Collecting: French Decorative Arts of the 1700s

522. New Household Conveniences and Comforts in the 1700s

523. Dressing the Part: The Toilette in France in the 1700s

#### 330. Russian Porcelain Room

331. Russian Glass

332. Order Services

333. Military Plates and Napoleonic Glass

511. Marjorie Post's Collection Broadens: The Art of Imperial Russia

#### 340. Hall to the Pavilion and Wet Bar

341. Two Bird Services from the Sèvres Factory

#### 350. Pavilion

351. Portrait of Countess Samoilova, her foster daughter, and a Black servant

352. *A Boyar Wedding Feast in the Seventeenth Century*

353. Bread and Salt Plate

354. Pair of Large Russian Vases

355. Busts of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great

#### 360. Icon Room

361. Two Imperial Easter Eggs by Fabergé

362. Iusupov Family Music Box by Fabergé

363. Empress Alexandra's Notebook by Fabergé

364. Icon of St. George

365. Brooch and Box: Imperial Presentation Gifts

366. Kovshi (Russian vessels)

367. Fabergé Bell Push and Cane Handle

369. Twelve Monogram Egg's Surprise

373. Opening the Easter Eggs

374. Box by Bolin

375. Snuffbox: Marjorie Post, Collector of Fabergé

376. Table Clock: An Emperor's Gift

512. Firm of Carl Fabergé

526. Recollections of Fabergé

#### 370. Library

371. Portraits of Marjorie Post's Parents

517. Marjorie Post's Family Business and Philanthropy

518. *Sea Cloud*

#### 380. Dining Room

381. Mantel Clock Case

382. Pair of Console Tables and Two Sèvres Tureens and Platters

519. Dinner Party Preparations

524. Mar-A-Lago

#### 390. Breakfast Room

#### 400. Behind the Scenes: Pantry

#### 410. Behind the Scenes: Kitchen

#### 420. French Porcelain Room

421. Case of *Bleu Céleste* Services

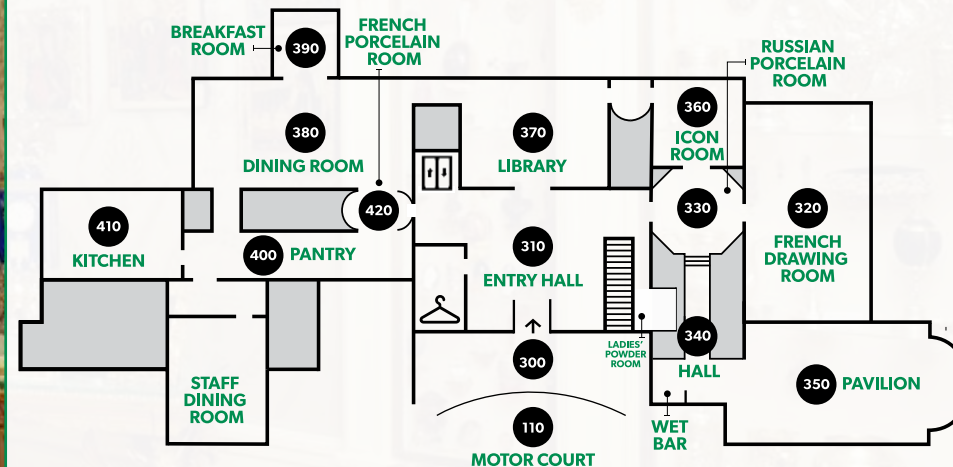
422. Benjamin Franklin Cup and Saucer

423. Pair of Rebus Cups and Saucers

424. Tureen and Platter

425. Cameo Ice Cup

513. The Sèvres Factory



COAT CHECK ELEVATOR STAIRS



## Mansion Second Floor Audio Tour & Floor Plan

To **ACCESS** information about a selection, enter its number into the player obtained at the visitor center, and press the **GREEN** button to play. To **STOP** a selection at any time, press the **RED** button. The audio tour is also available for download as a mobile app.

### Audio Tour Selections

#### 411. User instructions

#### 430. Hall and Snooze Room

- 432. Orlov Service
- 433. Tea and Coffee Service
- 434. Bariatinskii Vase
- 435. Coronation Cup
- 436. Louis XVI Saying Farewell to His Family
- 514. The Russian Imperial Porcelain Factory
- 515. Russia's Private Porcelain Factories

#### 440. Library

#### 450. Adam Bedroom Suite

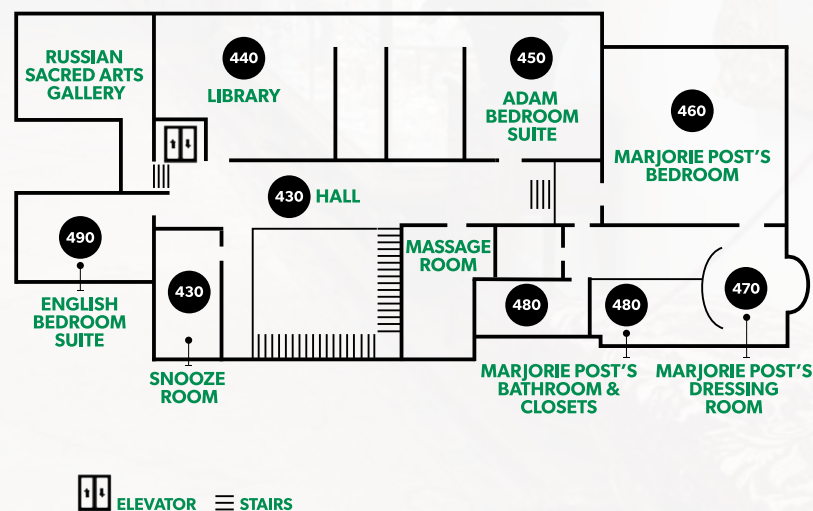
#### 460. Marjorie Post's Bedroom

- 461. Bedroom Furnishings
- 525. Marjorie Post's Children and Legacy
- 462. *The Beloved Child* (L'Enfant Cheri) and *Marie Antoinette and Her Children*

#### 470. Marjorie Post's Dressing Room

#### 480. Marjorie Post's Private Bathroom and Closets

#### 490. English Bedroom Suite



## Touring the Mansion

### ENTRY HALL



The entry hall's magnificent two stories, grand staircase, and dazzling rock crystal chandelier complement the gracious welcome that Marjorie Post extended to her guests. Footmen, stationed in the room where William-Adolphe Bouguereau's 1883 allegorical painting *Night* hangs, took the overcoats of male visitors. Female guests were attended to in the powder room just beyond the stairs. The powder room is sometimes closed, but if the door is open, take a moment to look inside.

Exquisite furnishings and historic objects introduce Post's two primary interests as a collector: the decorative and fine arts of France in the 1700s and imperial Russia in the 1800s and 1900s.

### Two Chests of Drawers



Two luxurious commodes, chests of drawers, flank the library doors. These pieces accommodated—hence the term “commode”—items commonly found in aristocratic homes. They are decorated with floral and pastoral images

created in marquetry, a technique involving extraordinary craftsmanship in which tiny bits of wood are meticulously cut and inlaid. The maker was the German-born Jean-Henri Riesener, official cabinetmaker to the French royals Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

### Portrait of Catherine the Great



The largest of the portraits gracing the stairway is of Empress Catherine II, who ruled Russia from 1762 to 1796. She is dressed in full state regalia, with the insignia of Russia's elite orders. She uses her scepter to draw attention to the jeweled crown and orb beside her, attesting her power, as well as to a bust of Peter the Great hidden in the shadows. Peter, who reigned from 1682 to 1725, and Catherine are both credited with westernizing and modernizing Russia.

## RUSSIAN PORCELAIN ROOM



Anticipating the day when Hillwood would open as a public museum, Marjorie Post had built-in, lighted display cases installed in almost every first floor room during renovations prior to her taking up residence in the mansion. The cases here and in the French porcelain room have pull-out drawers with information about their contents. While no longer in use today, the drawers reveal Post's dedication to educating her guests. She frequently invited high school and college students to visit Hillwood to learn about her collection.

The displays inside these cases are a captivating assortment of Russian porcelain and glass. Above hangs an array of large dishes used in the Russian tradition of offering bread and salt to one's visitors. The inlay in the center of the floor depicts a double-headed eagle, a symbol of Russia.

### The Order Services



Many of the cases in this room contain pieces from four porcelain dessert services that Catherine the Great commissioned in the last quarter of the 1700s from the Gardner factory. They are distinguished by the stars, badges, and ribbons from the insignia of Russia's most elite orders, the exclusive societies of individuals recognized for exceptional government or military service. Catherine and her successors used the services of St. Andrew, St. George, St. Vladimir, and St. Alexander Nevsky to honor the members of these imperial orders at yearly dinners, which were among the most important occasions at court.

## FRENCH DRAWING ROOM



Marjorie Post greeted guests here, and this room is also where she hosted many receptions. In nice weather, the curtained double doors would be opened to allow the gathering to spill out into the French parterre.

The painted and gilt wood paneling and mantel are from Parisian homes built in the late 1700s. In concert with the room's French tapestries, furniture, gold boxes, and Sèvres porcelain, they evoke the splendor of French aristocratic life of the 1700s.

Post began acquiring these French furnishings and objects in the 1920s to decorate her New York City apartment in the French style fashionable at the time. The elements of harmony, balance, delicate decoration, superb craftsmanship, and historical relevance that define these French objects guided Post's taste in collecting for the rest of her life.

### The Tapestries



Tapestries woven in the 1730s at the celebrated Beauvais factory in France grace the paneled walls. The largest of the three, across from the room's entrance, depicts festivities at an Italian country fair. Such scenes, with idealized peasants and elegant courtiers, convey the lighthearted spirit and pastimes of aristocratic Europeans in the 1700s.

### Roll-top Desk



Between the windows stands a roll-top desk crafted by the renowned German father-and-son team of Abraham and David Roentgen. On the front of the desk, the elaborate mother-of-pearl monogram surmounted by a crown contains the letters "MA." Long speculated to be the initials of Marie Antoinette, the monogram is now believed to be that of Maria Antonia, princess of Bavaria and the electress of Saxony. Both areas are part of today's Germany. Maria Antonia was an accomplished composer and patron of the arts, and the musical instruments and other motifs crafted of various woods reflect her artistic interests and pursuits.

### Portrait of the Duchess of Parma and Her Daughter Isabelle



Above the roll-top desk hangs a portrait of the eldest daughter of French king Louis XV and her daughter posed casually outdoors. The fashionable court artist Jean-Marc Nattier painted this portrait in 1750.

### Portrait of Empress Eugénie



Over the fireplace is an 1857 painting of Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III. The German artist Franz Xaver Winterhalter, the most sought-after court portrait painter of the mid-1800s, masterfully recorded her legendary beauty and elegance.



## PAVILION



Before Marjorie Post moved to Hillwood in 1957, she had this pavilion, along with the adjacent wet bar, built to accommodate her entertainment needs. Film screenings are one example of Post's after-dinner entertainment; note that the sofas have pop-up trays for drinks and snacks. In the ceiling above the pia-

no are speakers and a screen, largely hidden by draperies. Two state-of-the-art projectors from the time are housed in a projection booth behind the balcony. The staff could enjoy first-run films from the comfort of theater seats in the balcony.

The pavilion's contents are largely Russian in origin. Chief among them are the two large, impressive paintings, both acquired in the 1960s, that dominate the room. They were among Post's final major acquisitions as she and her curator, Marvin Ross, prepared to open her home as a museum.

### Portrait of Countess Samoilova, Her Foster Daughter, and a Black Servant



Finished in 1834, the portrait is rendered in lifelike detail by the Russian artist Karl Briullov. The Russian countess steps in from the balcony of her Italian villa, greeted by her adopted daughter, a young Black servant relieving her of her cashmere wrap, and an eager dog. The identity of the boy remains unknown. His presence and his collar allude to the slave trade in Western Europe and the fashion for Black servants in aristocratic circles.

### A Boyar Wedding Feast in the Seventeenth Century



This painting celebrates the union of two noble Russian families, boyars, during the 1600s. The sumptuously attired guests fete the newlyweds in a candlelit dining hall replete with gleaming silver and gold and richly embroidered linens. Konstantin Makovsky painted this work in 1883, two hundred years after such an event would have occurred.

This Russian revival style was quite popular at the time, as Russians were nostalgic for old traditions predating Peter the Great's efforts to westernize the country.

## ICON ROOM



Marjorie Post recognized the need to set aside space to showcase her small precious objects and sacred treasures. She created this intimate "collector's cabinet" for them and called it the Icon Room. Some four hundred objects fill this space, including highlights of the museum's nearly ninety creations by the firm of Carl Fabergé, the celebrated jeweler to Russia's imperial rulers.

The icons and chalices represent the types of objects Post acquired at state-run storeroom sales and commission shops in the 1930s in the Soviet Union. Post spent eighteen months (1937–38) there with her husband, Ambassador Joseph E. Davies. During that period, the Soviet government was still selling imperial treasures to finance its industrialization plan. Living in the Soviet Union ignited Post's passion for collecting Russian art, and she acquired the nucleus of her Russian art collection at that time. She continued to acquire Russian art in the West for the rest of her life.

### Imperial Easter Eggs by Fabergé

Both imperial Easter eggs in the center case were gifts from Russia's last emperor, Nicholas II, to his mother, Maria Fedorovna. In 1885 Nicholas's father, Alexander III, began a yearly tradition of presenting his wife with a specially commissioned Easter egg. Nicholas continued the practice, giving an egg to both his wife and mother. The tradition endured for more than thirty years and yielded in excess of fifty eggs, all crafted with exceptional skill by the workmasters and artisans of the Fabergé firm.



The 1896 midnight blue enameled *Twelve Monogram Easter Egg* is decorated with the diamond-studded Cyrillic initials of Alexander III and his wife, Maria Fedorovna.



The 1914 pink enameled *Catherine the Great Easter Egg* was so-named because of the marvelous "surprise" it once contained—a miniature figure of the empress seated in a wind-up sedan chair carried by two servants. This surprise, revealed by opening the top of the egg, unfortunately was separated from the egg at some point before it entered Post's collection.

## FIRST FLOOR LIBRARY



This room was a cozy place for Marjorie Post to gather with family and friends. The pine paneling and marble mantelpiece, dating to the 1700s, evoke the comfortable atmosphere of a British country home.

Personal touches abound. A portrait of Post's father, C.W. Post, hangs over the fireplace, while a portrait of her mother, Ella Merriweather Post, hangs opposite. The canopied French

miniature bed is featured in a nearby photograph with Post's beloved schnauzer Scampi seated on it. On the center table is a model of her yacht, *Sea Cloud*, which she leased to the U.S. Navy during World War II. Frank O. Salisbury painted the 1934 portrait of Post in an elegant ivory satin evening gown with a red velvet and fur drape.

## DINING ROOM



Marjorie Post orchestrated this splendid dining space for formal dinners and parties. The oak paneling, recovered from a Parisian home of the early 1700s and featuring billowing scrolls and graceful birds, elegantly frames the spacious room.

Formal dinners required footmen to serve each guest and different waiters for wine,

meat, vegetables, and bread. On these occasions, Post and her staff planned extensively to ensure that the guests had no inkling of the effort involved.

Post set the table for elaborate gatherings with her French, Russian, and other exquisite services. The splendor of these events is recalled today in the changing tableware and floral arrangements here and in the adjoining breakfast room.

## Dining Table Leaf



Marjorie Post commissioned the table for Mar-A-Lago, her home in Palm Beach, Florida, and requested in her will that it be brought to Hillwood. A table leaf in front of the window affords a close-up view of its craftsmanship.

## BREAKFAST ROOM



This charming space off the stately dining room was where Marjorie Post had less formal lunches and dinners. The table was set for four at all times, even if she dined with her secretary, with two guests, or alone. The bronze metalwork lining the room was repurposed from Post's 1920s apartment in New York City. The Russian gilt bronze and green glass chandelier from the late 1700s comes from the Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo, one of the imperial estates outside St. Petersburg.

The floral displays in the window make it difficult to tell where the garden ends and the room begins, an interaction of indoor and outdoor spaces notable throughout Hillwood. Today, as in the dining room, floral arrangements and place settings are changed several times each year.

## PANTRY



While many rooms at Hillwood are reminiscent of historical European styles, the pantry and adjacent kitchen, remodeled by Marjorie Post, reflect typical mid-century American design and feature state-of-the-art appliances from the 1950s.

This pantry—equipped with a clock, calendar, corkboard, chalkboard, and telephones—was the nerve center for the household staff. Next to the refrigerator is a dumbwaiter, a small elevator used to bring porcelain and glass from basement storage. Silver was stored in the walk-in safe. A food-warming cabinet sits near the kitchen door. Cupboards display pieces from some of the services used on a regular basis.



## KITCHEN



The Sta-Kold freezer and refrigerators, along with the industrial stove, double sinks, and multiple appliances, fill this staging area for luxurious entertaining. The only thing missing is a dishwasher, because all the tableware was handwashed. This is just one example of the extraordinary effort put into the dinner parties and festive garden teas that Marjorie Post hosted over the course of a year.

## STAFF DINING ROOM

Ever mindful of the well-being of her staff, Marjorie Post took great care to provide comfortable accommodations for them. Near the kitchen is a re-creation of the rooms where staff relaxed and enjoyed morning coffee, hot bun breaks, and three meals a day prepared for them by Hillwood's cooks.

Enjoy exploring the displays, which give a sense of life and work at Hillwood, Camp Topridge, and Mar-A-Lago. An organizational chart details the people required to maintain the gracious style of living that Post enjoyed at all of her residences.

## FRENCH PORCELAIN ROOM



The French porcelain room attests to Marjorie Post's enthusiasm for her porcelain collection, which, to the surprise and delight of her guests, she used at her dinners and other parties. The pieces around this room come from France's famed Sèvres royal porcelain factory and reflect the variety of items produced there during the mid to late 1700s.

## Case of Bleu Céleste



The largest case in this room is filled entirely with Sèvres's famed *bleu céleste*, "heavenly blue," wares. These pieces, from a variety of services made for the French and other European princely courts, typify the ornate and fanciful style favored by the aristocracy of Europe in the 1700s. The plates with the gilt monogram "LPR" painted in the center and the small ice cups with bird decorations come from a lavish dessert service commissioned by Cardinal Prince Louis de Rohan, a French ambassador to Vienna in the late 1700s.

## Benjamin Franklin Cup and Saucer



To the left of the dining room entrance is a dark blue cup with a portrait bust of Benjamin Franklin and a saucer made around 1779. Franklin, an American envoy to the French court, was considered the personification of liberty, and his likeness appeared on all kinds of media, including these Sèvres pieces.

## SECOND FLOOR HALL



The stairway—accented with Russian portraiture, a French standing clock, and a Russian vase of blue and clear glass—provides a gracious passage between the mansion's public and private areas. It also offers a close-up view of the French-made rock crystal chandelier. At the top of the stairs sits a case of English painted enamels, popular accessories among wealthy Europeans in the 1700s. Russian porcelain made by imperial and privately owned factories is displayed throughout the open balcony area.

## Snooze Room



The doorway at the top of the stairs opens onto the snooze room. Furnished with a daybed, and connected to the English bedroom by a passageway, this room provided the perfect space for a midday nap, followed by freshening up in the neighboring half bath.



### English Bedroom Suite



This bedroom, with its attached closets and bathroom, served as a guest room. The bed and chest-on-chest were made in England in the 1800s. British sailors of that period hand stitched the needlework pictures, called sailors wools, which served as souvenirs from voyages.

### RUSSIAN SACRED ARTS GALLERY

What had once been staff quarters is now a gallery dedicated to the sacred arts of imperial Russia. While many icons, chalices, and other religious objects are displayed in the Icon Room, this gallery provides an opportunity to explore in greater detail



the distinctive visual culture and spiritual traditions practiced in Russian Orthodox churches as well as in the intimacy of private homes. Take time to read and explore the displays.

### Chalice

The magnificent gold chalice that Catherine the Great commissioned from the jeweler Iver Winfeldt Buch in 1791 as part of a communion set stands in splendor in the center of the gallery. The empress, who provided the cameos and intaglios from her own collection, presented the chalice to the monastery of Saint Alexander Nevsky in memory of Grigory Potemkin, her favorite courtier.



### Nuptial Crown



Nearby is the dazzling nuptial crown worn by Empress Alexandra in 1894 during her wedding to Nicholas II. Sold at Christie's London in 1927 and entering the Post collection in 1966, the crown is the most significant piece of the imperial crown jewels outside Russia today.

### SECOND FLOOR LIBRARY

This library offered a cozy alternative to the formality of the rooms downstairs. When Marjorie Post lived here, it was equipped with a television so she could watch shows in which her youngest daughter, the actress Dina Merrill, appeared.



As in the larger library downstairs, this room's décor echoes the style of an English country home. To the right of the fireplace is a card table made in the mid-1700s. Sir Oswald Birley's 1925 portrait of Eleanor, Post's second daughter, in a riding costume presides at one side of the room, while Frank O. Salisbury's portrait of Post in the 1940s hangs at the opposite end.

The windows in the adjoining passageway provide a grand view of the Lunar Lawn and beyond to the wooded valley of Rock Creek Park. The Washington Monument, just visible above the tree tops, is less than five miles away.

### ADAM BEDROOM SUITE



This guest bedroom, with its adjacent walk-in closet and dressing room, is named for the English style first popularized by the designers Robert and James Adam in the 1700s. The Adam brothers were celebrated for their use of pastel tones and classically inspired decoration, echoed here in the fabrics, carpet, ceiling, and Wedgwood ceramics.

In the 1946 portrait by Frank O. Salisbury above the fireplace, Marjorie Post wears a magnificent Cartier sapphire, diamond, and platinum necklace, now part of Hillwood's jewelry collection.



## MARJORIE POST'S BEDROOM SUITE



On the approach to Marjorie Post's bedroom suite, several notable paintings come into view. The large portrait of Post and her daughter Nedenia, the actress Dina Merrill, was painted by Giulio de Blaas in 1929. Post wears a large emerald Cartier brooch, which is occasionally displayed in the jewelry

area of her closets. Near the steps, Marguerite Gérard's *The Beloved Child*, painted around 1790, delightfully captures a rosy-cheeked baby riding in a cart drawn by two women.



The bedroom is furnished with French furniture and fabrics. The table case is filled with small objects made of bloodstone, Post's birthstone. The large pastel portrait across the room of two of her daughters, Adelaide and Eleanor, is by Pierre Tartoué and dates to about 1915. Over the fireplace hangs Douglas Chandor's 1952 portrait of Post. Chandor died before completing the work, leaving the hands and other details unfinished. The window in this bedroom offers a view of the French parterre below.

Off the bedroom is a silver and pale blue dressing room, which also served as Post's morning office. Here she not only dressed and enjoyed breakfast but also attended to personal, household, and business matters with her staff. Family photographs cover the walls.

When the bathroom in Post's bedroom suite was renovated in the 1950s, pink, one of her favorite colors, was experiencing a revival. The adjoining hallway has a safe Post used to store her jewelry, and changing displays of her jewels and accessories. The closets contain an array of fashions that are also rotated throughout the year. These temporary presentations illustrate how Post's love of exceptionally beautiful and exquisitely crafted objects extended to her sparkling gems and tailored clothing.

## MASSAGE ROOM

Near the steps leading to Marjorie's Post's bedroom suite is the massage room. While the room no longer houses the massage table, it still has the original hair dryers and permanent wave machine used for the final touches of her impeccably groomed appearance. This room is sometimes closed, but enjoy looking inside if the door is open.