



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hi-res images available upon request

Media Contacts:

Lynn Rossotti 202.243.3975
lrossotti@HillwoodMuseum.org

Lizzie Axelson 202.243.3906
eaxelson@HillwoodMuseum.org

***Holidays at Hillwood: Glamorous Greetings
November 25, 2025 through January 4, 2026***

The special exhibition *From Exile to Avant-Garde: The Life of Princess Natalie Paley* is the inspiration for lavish Christmas trees throughout the mansion.

Festive décor, workshops, and holiday shopping add to the splendor.

WASHINGTON—Fabulous Christmas trees inspired by the special exhibition [*From Exile to Avant-Garde: The Life of Princess Natalie Paley*](#) are the centerpiece of [*Glamorous Greetings at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens*](#) this holiday season, from November 25, 2025 to January 4, 2026.

Beginning Tuesday, November 25, the grandeur of the exquisite objects on view, which explore one of the twentieth century's most glamorous icons, permeates the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate. As the exhibition demonstrates the style and elegance of this legendary figure and her remarkable treasures, so too do the Christmas trees, each inspired by a particular exhibition piece.

The mansion entry hall will burst into bloom, with a tree inspired by *Princess Natalia Pavlovna Paley with Lilies* by Oliver Messel, an intriguing oil painting in which Paley poses with flowers. White permanent botanical lilies will festoon the tree, representing not only the painting but also Hillwood's year-round propagation of these flowers for use in arrangements and in the gardens. White and silver ornaments will add a touch of sparkle and glamour to the tree.

A remarkable tree, based on Paley's 'Wrapped Package' Brooch created by Verdura, will enhance the French drawing room. Decorated in dazzling shades of aquamarine, green, and gold, which reflect the magnificent brooch and complement the theme of the room, the tree will glimmer just as the brooch does.

Bright blues, oranges, yellows, reds, and greens will animate the pavilion, with a tree that takes its cue from an incredible 1960s jumpsuit by Bonwit Teller. With multicolored lights and colorful baubles, the tree will be reminiscent of the mid-century modern era of both Paley and Marjorie Post, who built this room during this time period for her entertainment needs.

A plethora of silvers and diamonds will fill the dining room with sparkle and shine, as a tree reflects the beauty of the Paley family's silver set, made of pieces from Risler & Carré, Aucoc, and Alber Schiffmacher. Just as Marjorie Post hosted notable dinner parties in this room, using similar serving objects, so did Paley's parents during their exile in Paris. Completely covered in silver ornaments, with a few diamond-encrusted highlights, the tree will make quite a dramatic statement.

In the visitor center, a magnificent tree filled with reds and golds will greet guests with the spirit of the holidays. Drawn from an evening dress created by Mainbocher, the stylish tree will feature a dramatic, oversized red fabric bow, draping from the tree to the banisters. Red ornaments and gold accents will mimic the intricate beading on the dress, which recalls the style of some of the imperial Russian orders Marjorie Post collected.

The Holidays at Hillwood

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. Greenery adjacent to the mansion is lighted to lead the way into the holiday splendor. [Wreath workshops](#) bring the holidays from Hillwood to you, inviting participants to craft a one-of-a-kind holiday decoration.

Throughout the season, the [museum shop](#) is a favorite destination for holiday shopping. With dozens of unique items inspired by the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, in addition to clothing, books, ornaments, and home décor, Hillwood's shop offers distinct gifts for everyone.

The delightful [Merriweather Café](#) is the perfect complement to a day celebrating the holidays at Hillwood. Warm up with seasonal specials and hand-crafted food and beverages served in the gracious manner of Post.

Calendar of events for the holiday season at Hillwood

[Holidays at Hillwood | Glamorous Greetings](#)

November 25, 2025-January 4, 2026

The beauty of the exquisite treasures on view in the special exhibition *From Exile to Avant-Garde: The Life of Princess Natalie Paley*, which explores one of the twentieth century's most glamorous icons, is the inspiration for elegant Christmas trees and festive décor across the estate. Included in suggested donation.

[Members Holiday Open House](#)

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Hillwood members are invited to kick off the holiday season and enjoy exclusive benefits at the annual holiday open house.
Free for Hillwood members

[Virtual Holiday Décor Tour](#)

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Immerse yourself in Hillwood's holiday spirit from home and join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, on a virtual tour of the holiday display, inspired by the special exhibition *From Exile to Avant-Garde: The Life of Princess Natalie Paley*.
\$5, free for Hillwood members

[Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, December 5, 2025, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Craft a traditional, one-of-a-kind holiday decoration of hearty evergreens to enliven your home.
\$75, \$65 Hillwood member

Gardener's Focus Tour | Bones of the Winter Garden

Tuesday, December 9 and 16, 2025, 12:30-1 p.m.

Friday, December 12 and 19, 2025, 12:30-1 p.m.

Enjoy some fresh air this holiday season and get an insider's look at Hillwood's gardens. Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, to explore the peaceful, winter garden, with evergreen and woody plants.

Included in suggested donation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)
- Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum or Instagram @HillwoodMuseum
- Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.
- Café:** Merriweather Café offers full-service dining Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 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.

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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum & 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. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a rose garden, and a French parterre.