

## Celebrating **50** Years OvS Hosts an Exclusive English House & Country Garden Tour May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027



In honor of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, join the award-winning landscape architecture firm Oehme, van Sweden for a glimpse into a world of timeless English beauty on an eight-night journey that blends horticultural splendor, architectural grandeur, and personal hospitality. CEO Eric Groft and Principal Lili Herrera will lead a tour of a curated selection of homes and gardens in the United Kingdom, including an exclusive exploration of the American Museum & Gardens, which they planned, designed, and implemented a distinctly American 2.5-acre garden.

From the Georgian grace of Bath to the rolling green of Devon, you'll explore private estates, world-renowned gardens, and historic homes rarely open to the public - all while enjoying hosted lunches and personal encounters with the custodians of these treasures.

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### **Day 1: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2027 – Arrival in Bath: Georgian Elegance & Countryside Welcome**

Arrive in Bath, the jewel of Georgian England and a UNESCO World Heritage city. Settle into your country house hotel in the surrounding Somerset hills, where pastoral calm meets refined comfort.

Enjoy a welcome dinner with your hosts and fellow travelers as we set the stage for the week ahead — a journey through gardens that define England's beauty and history. Your first night's accommodations are at the Bath Priory, a refined country house hotel.





## Day 2: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 – The American Museum & Gardens and The Newt, Somerset

This morning, visit The American Museum & Gardens, nestled in landscaped grounds overlooking the Avon Valley just outside of Bath. The New American Garden, inspired by OvS' style of the same name, utilizes classic American planting design - robust and bold - to beautifully complement a distinctly British, 18<sup>th</sup>-century setting.

A highlight of the day will be a behind-the-scenes tour of both the gardens and the mansion, led by the garden's designers, Eric Groft and Lili Herrera, along with the Director and Chief of Horticulture and Gardens.

Continue to The Newt in Somerset, one of the most innovative garden estates in Britain. Created by Koos Bekker and Karen Roos, the visionary owners of Babylonstoren in South Africa, it blends historic English formality with contemporary flair.

Lunch will be hosted at The Newt, followed by a visit to the nearby Hauser & Wirth Gallery, where art, architecture, and nature intertwine. We will overnight at the Bath Priory.



## Day 3: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Wilton House, Salisbury Cathedral & Private Lunch

Travel to Wilton House, seat of the Earls of Pembroke for over 400 years. Its renowned Palladian Bridge and sweeping parklands represent the height of English landscape design.

Continue to the sublime Salisbury Cathedral, home of the Magna Carta, before enjoying a private lunch at Walton Canonry, hosted by Mr. Michael Wade OBE, overlooking the Cathedral Close - a quintessential English experience. Overnight accommodations will be at the Bath Priory.





#### Day 4: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Private Wiltshire Gardens & Stourhead

Today we enjoy a series of visits to private gardens in Wiltshire, where gracious hosts open their gates for a rare look at their creative and historic grounds.

Lunch will be hosted at Mary and Antony's delightful manor house before we continue to Stourhead, perhaps England's most famous landscape garden. Its temples, lake, and woodland walks embody the 18th-century ideal of Arcadian beauty.

This evening, we will stay at the Bath Priory.

#### Day 5: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – To Devon: The Grandeur of Ugbrooke House

We check out of the hotel and head into the heart of Bath. Following a hosted lunch en route, you will experience a guided visit to the Roman Baths, one of Britain's most remarkable ancient sites, where you walk the original Roman pavements, gaze into the steaming Great Bath, and discover the city's origins as Aquae Sulis. We then depart Somerset for Ugbrooke House, the stately home of The Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Clifford, who will personally host our stay for this evening as well as the following three nights.

The house and park were laid out by Lancelot "Capability" Brown, whose genius reshaped England's countryside. The experience is one of true English country house living — complete with private staff, including a butler and household team, ensuring every comfort is thoughtfully attended to.

Day 5 features a guided house tour, afternoon tea in the gardens, and a black tie dinner hosted by the Cliffords in this splendid family seat.





## Day 6: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Perridge House & Sandridge Park

A day of noble hospitality begins at Perridge House, where Sir Harry and Lady Studholme will host a private tour and elegant lunch in their Georgian home. Their gardens showcase the continuity of English horticultural tradition, carefully maintained for generations.



We continue to Sandridge Park, a hidden gem overlooking the River Dart. A warm welcome and private garden tour will be followed by a hosted lunch with the Yallops, who will share stories of restoring their historic home and garden to former glory.

Return to Ugbrooke in the late afternoon for a leisurely evening and optional stroll through Capability Brown's serene parklands. We will again stay at the Ugbrooke House.

## Day 7: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery & Exeter Cathedral

The days begins with a visit to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery. Housing a strong collection of fine art – from Old Masters to 20th-century British painting. The Victoria Gothic building itself is beautifully restored and architecturally impressive. We will have lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon we have a guided visit to Exeter Cathedral, one of England's finest examples of Gothic architecture. The Dean will provide a private tour, offering insight into the Cathedral's rich history, remarkable medieval features, and its role in the life of the city today.

We return to Ugbrooke in the afternoon for dinner and overnight accommodations.





## Day 8: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Castlehill

Travel to Castlehill, the estate of the Earl and Countess of Arran, surrounded by sweeping landscapes and refined gardens that blend natural beauty with classical design.

Tonight we have our farewell dinner at Ugbrook House. For one final night, accommodations are at Ugbrooke House.

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## Day 9: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2027 – Farewell in Devon

Depart for onward travel to London airports.



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### *The Fine Print*

- Land arrangements based on double occupancy per person.
- Final payment due 14 weeks in advance.
- Flights are not included, but should be booked in and out of London Airports. Airline travel can be booked through Peggy Cleary [pcleary@travellers365.com](mailto:pcleary@travellers365.com)
- Wine and soft drinks are included at all meals unless specified otherwise. Anything extra will be the responsibility of the traveller.
- N.B. Due to the private nature of these visits, we may need to make adjustments based on availability and will offer appropriate alternatives as necessary.
- Travel insurance is mandatory, and cancellation insurance is highly recommended. This can be organised for medical reasons or a separate policy for unforeseen business purposes. We are now able to assist with travel insurance, please email [clem@theargosy.uk](mailto:clem@theargosy.uk) for more information.