

# 2012 International Floriade

## Gourmet Gardens of the Netherlands and Belgium



**June 12-20, 2012**

Land Package

**From \$3,995\* per person**

\*Price is per person based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included. Airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul is approximately \$1,700, but is subject to change. Contact Carlson Wagonlit Travel for airfare details. Ticketing fees may apply.

Join the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on this early summer excursion to the private and public gardens of the Netherlands and Belgium. The highlight of this amazing itinerary is two full days at *Floriade 2012*, the World Horticulture Expo held once every ten years. Garden experts from many countries will showcase the newest ideas and innovations in horticulture. The first day you will be guided through the fair, and the second day you will be able to explore and study the exhibits in depth according to your own interests.

The Netherlands and Belgium are justly famed for horticultural excellence. This itinerary will take you to many well-known Dutch and Flemish gardens and grant exclusive access to some very private, more recent creations. Throughout the tour, you will be introduced to the unique work of many of the leading names of horticulture and garden design, such as Piet Oudolf, who have changed and continue to influence the backyards of the world.



### Included Features:

- Two full days at the Floriade World Horticultural Exposition
- Exclusive access to private gardens
- One night accommodations Amsterdam, double occupancy
- Two nights accommodations Zutphen, double occupancy
- Two nights accommodations Venlo, double occupancy
- Two nights accommodations Antwerp, double occupancy
- Seven breakfasts
- Five lunches
- Four dinners
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Sightseeing and transfers as noted in the itinerary
- A contribution to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society
- Expert host throughout tour: Cole Burrell of the University of Virginia

#### Tour Host—C. Colston Burrell

Mr. Burrell, an avid naturalist, has devoted a lifetime to studying native plants in the wild and in gardens. He holds an MS in Horticulture and received an MLA from the University of Minnesota, where he was also an instructor.



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### Tuesday, June 12—Depart the U.S.:

Passengers will depart their home cities on overnight flights en route to Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

### Wednesday, June 13 — Arrival into Amsterdam:

Arrive at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. Meet your MSHS tour host, Cole Burrell, and your guide, Dr. Sophieke Piebenga, a multi-lingual Dutch horticulturalist who has trained with The National Trust, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, and has received an advanced degree from the University of York. Today you'll visit Hortus Botanicus, one of the world's oldest botanical gardens. Then board a boat and enjoy a buffet lunch as you gently cruise three of the main canals of Amsterdam, the Keizergracht, the Herengracht and the Prinsengracht, viewing the many houseboat gardens along the way. Next, meet Tonko Grever, curator of the Van Loon Museum, who has written about these special gardens, and view a private city garden in Amsterdam. Check in to your hotel, the Leidse Square Hotel near the lively Leidseplein and Vondelpark. You'll have time to rest and refresh before dining amidst Art Nouveau opulence at the Café American, just a short walk from your hotel. **BLD**

Check in to the Eden Hotel, located in the heart of historic Zutphen. The hotel interior is an exceptional mixture of art and architecture, blending 17th- and 18th-century art with modern pieces. This evening, you'll have time to explore the town and enjoy dinner on your own. **BL**



### Friday, June 15 — Bingerden/Zutphen:

After breakfast at the hotel, travel to Huis Bingerden for a special visit to the International Nursery Fair. This is an opportunity to meet many interesting growers and producers of specialty plants, garden tools and accessories from all over Europe. There is also the option to attend a lecture in English by a clematis expert. Explore the famous potager, rose gardens and shrubberies of this historic garden. Bingerden owner Eugenie van Weede will be hosting the Fair and looks forward to greeting you.

Next, visit the nearby garden of De Wiersse for a hosted lunch in the coach house with the owners, followed by a guided tour of this woodland garden surrounding the moated manor house. The garden is laid out in a sequence of surprises, with avenues, pergolas, fountains and statues, meadows and formal parterres bridges over a gently flowing stream and a serpentine tunnel of beech. Return to the Eden Hotel in Zutphen for another free evening. **BL**

### Saturday, June 16 — Floriade/Venlo:

After breakfast, we travel to Venlo on the Dutch/German border to attend the 2012 International Floriade. We'll start with a special guided tour and cable car ride to get a full understanding of the layout and possibilities of this remarkable show. You'll have time for lunch on your own at the Floriade site and time in the afternoon to explore the Expo on your own before traveling to the Van der Valk Hotel for check-in and group dinner. **BD**



### Thursday, June 14 — Amsterdam/Zutphen:

After breakfast, meet Cilia Prenen, the instigator behind the Johannapark Community Garden. So much in the Netherlands is about sharing, and this is a true community garden where neighbors share all the responsibilities of gardening, from weeding to controlling the vivid green parakeets. Depart Amsterdam, traveling westward to the Gelderland, where you tour the ornamental vegetable garden De Boschoeve. Lunch will be hosted by the garden's owner, Dineke Logtenberg. Next, you will visit the private garden of Piet Oudolf, where the influential Dutch garden designer, nurseryman and author lives and crafts his ideas. Piet has a global portfolio and is well-known in the U.S. for his planting designs at the Highline and Battery Park in New York City.



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### Sunday, June 17 — Floriade/Venlo:

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll return to the Floriade for a full day exploring the venue at your own pace. Themes of the 2012 International Floriade exhibit include "Relax & Heal", "Green Engine", "Education & Innovation", "Environment", and "World Show Stage". Transportation and entry are included. Return to the Van der Valk Hotel for a group dinner. **B D**

### Tuesday, June 19 — Bruges/Antwerp:

After breakfast at the hotel in Antwerp, we'll visit the lovely, canal-lined town of Bruges. After a walking tour of the central part of the old town, we'll visit the private gardens of Chris Ghyselen and Mrs. Van Caesbeeks. Lunch in a local restaurant is included. As we make our return to Antwerp, we'll visit Kalmthout Arboretum with its wonderful botanical collection of trees and shrubs sourced and managed by the de Belder family. Our farewell group dinner will be hosted at a historic restaurant located in a 16th-century town house, set in the atmosphere of Anthony Van Dyck, a Flemish Baroque artist born in Antwerp. **BLD**

### Wednesday, June 20 — Return:

Check out of your hotel and transfer to Brussels Airport for flights home. Thank you for joining us! **B**

**B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner**

### Not included in the tour:

- International and domestic flights (Carlson Wagonlit Travel will assist with airfare arrangements for a \$50 fee)
- Any airline fees for checked pieces of baggage
- Optional sightseeing activities
- Gratuities to drivers and guides
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Excess baggage charges
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone, laundry, etc.
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary

**To register, please contact  
Carlson Wagonlit Group Travel  
800-533-0324 or 763-852-8162**



### Monday, June 18 — Antwerp:

After breakfast at the hotel, depart Venlo en route to Belgium. You'll visit the Margraten American Military Cemetery, the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands, situated near the famous Cologne-Boulogne highway. Our first stop in Belgium is the Hex Castle Gardens, known for its collection of old roses, its potager, park and fine formal gardens. The current owners of Hex, Count and Countess Ghislain D'Ursel, only occasionally open their garden to outside visitors, so this is indeed a unique privilege to see these remarkable gardens.

After lunch at a nearby auberge, we'll travel cross-country, visiting an exquisite private topiary garden near Antwerp. Next, check in at the Hotel Prinse located in central Antwerp, within easy walking distance of all the central sites and restaurants of this intriguing maritime city. Enjoy a free evening in Antwerp. **BL**

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**Deposits:** \$1,000 per person at the time of booking. Travelers will be provided with a complete deposit and payment schedule upon registration.

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