



AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE TOURS

In conjunction with the

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Tour Itineraries

WONDERS OF SOUTH AMERICA, 2014

1. Colombia: Earthly Paradise 4–13 September, 2014

Bogota, Pereira (coffee plantations) and Cartagena

2. Peru: In the Footsteps of the Incas 13–22 September, 2014

Lima, The Inca Trail, Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo, Sacred Valley and Cusco

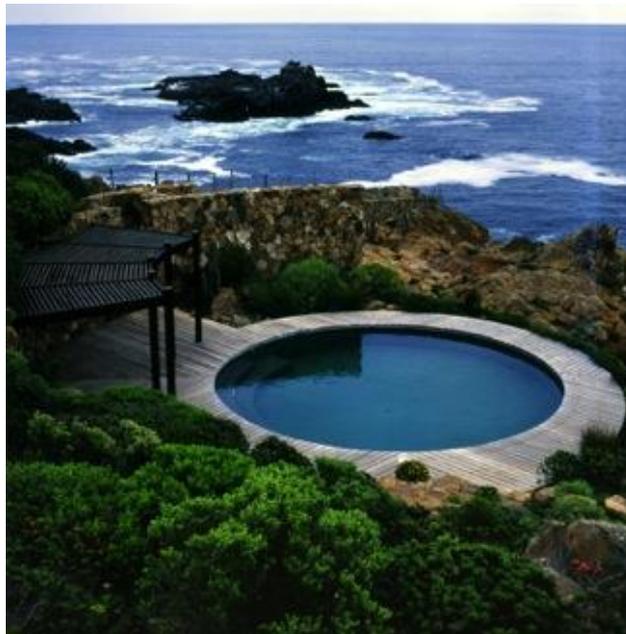
3. Gardens of Paradise: A General Cultural Tour 22 Sept–11 Oct, 2014 (20 days). 'Gardens Tour'.

Chile (Santiago, Bahia Azul, Zapallar, Viña del Mare, Valparaiso, and Maipo Valley;

Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis); *Argentina* (Iguazu Falls & Buenos Aires)

These exclusive and limited tours provide outstanding introductions to pre-Columbian civilisations, natural wonders of South America, unique gardens and so much else. They are journeys of the imagination and the mind - rich in layers of history and cultural interest.

We visit properties, designers and gardens which are unique - and exclusive to these tours.



Juan Grimm's own garden overlooking the Pacific

For information: phone (03) 9804 8915 warwick@bloomings.com.au

www.landscapeconference.com/alctours

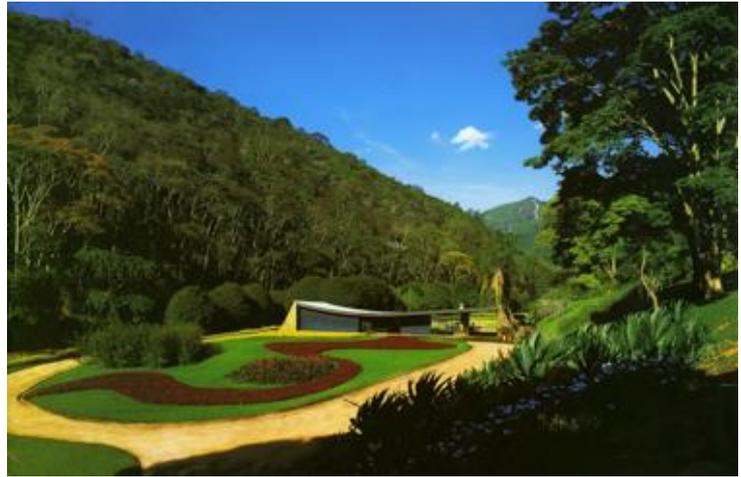


Gardens of Paradise:

A General Cultural Tour

(The 'Gardens Tour')

Central Chile; Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis,
Brazil; Iguazú Falls, Buenos Aires, Argentina
22 Sept–11 Oct, 2014 (20 days)



Tacaruna, Petrópolis, Brazil. A Roberto Burle Marx garden, Oscar Niemeyer dwelling and Mother Nature

SUMMARY

THE MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPES, GARDENS and cities of South America provide the central theme for this tour. In Chile, leading designer Juan Grimm guides us to both country and city gardens, to hacienda gardens and his own brilliant retreat overlooking the Pacific. We visit the historic bohemian port of *Valparaíso*, the idyllic seaside village of *Zapallar*, the gracious historic *Santa Rita Vineyard Estancia* and glimpse the Chilean soul through writers like *Pablo Neruda* and *Isabelle Allende*.

We journey to Rio de Janeiro to visit the finest gardens designed by *Roberto Burle Marx* – perhaps the finest landscape designer of last century – who often teamed with brilliant architect *Oscar Niemeyer*. Both were profoundly affected by the power and beauty of Brazil and the voluptuous landforms of Rio de Janeiro.

We have six days in magical Rio where we experience Marx's vibrant Brazilian flora and brilliant civic designs – like the swirling mosaic promenade along the Copacabana beach. We see how his cubist garden designs were 'painted with plants' and visit his own unique garden-studio-nursery complex at the *Sítio* (Garden of Wonders). We see historic and modern gardens, a vibrant favela, and the treasured Burle Marx hill station gardens of *Teresópolis* and *Petrópolis*.

We leave sensuous Rio for one of the great natural wonders of the world – the astonishing *Iguazú Falls* amidst

beautiful tropical landscapes. In Buenos Aires, '*Paris of the South*', we tour the parks of Palermo, *Puerto Madero* (the rejuvenated port), colourful streets of *San Telmo* and *La Boca* and jostle through antique markets. We see galleries of Latin American art and ponder that national icon, *Eva Peron*, and explore her Museum and Mausoleum in the famed *Recoleta Cemetery*.

Of course, we will enjoy wonderful historic cafes and restaurants with Latin American cuisine, some marvellous wines, galleries, the famed *Teatro Colon* Opera House, the pulsating samba music of Rio and a night of riveting tango. We travel in luxury coaches and very much enjoy staying in some simply marvellous 4–5 star hotels.

We have special presentations from designers and experts and we explore themes of art, literature, politics and national identity.

But the unique feature of this tour is visiting the finest gardens in South America, of which 18 are privately owned. We talk with designers and owners and absorb their worlds. It is a thoughtful, provocative and personal tour. These people are our friends and our visits are strictly limited.

We know of no other tour so well priced offering comparable attractions, facilities and access to such wonderful gardens and fascinating South Americans.

Warwick and Sue Forge

TOUR ITINERARIES, 2014

These programs are based on early 2014 planning. There will be minor changes to dates and activities depending upon owners' wishes, etc. However, the internal flights, hotels and most of the activities listed are finalised. The number of meals will not vary, and a final daily program is provided before departure.

Meals included in the tour price are:
B = breakfast; L = lunch and
D = dinner (evening meal).

GARDENS TOUR 22 Sep–11 Oct Chile, Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu and Buenos Aires

'this elongated country is like an island, separated on the north from the rest of the continent by the Atacama Desert—the driest in the world.. To the east rises the cordillera of the Andes, a formidable mass of rock and eternal snows, and to the west the abrupt coastline of the Pacific Ocean. Below, to the south, lie the solitudes of Antarctica. This nation of dramatic topography and diverse climates, studded with capricious obstacles and shaken by the sighs of hundreds of volcanoes,.. is unified top to tail by the obstinate sense of nationhood of its inhabitants'.

— Isabel Allende

We may ponder these words as we learn more about our Chilean friends with whom we have so much in common.

Day 1: Mon 22 Sept Santiago

Travellers arrive in Santiago from various destinations and transfer to *The Aubrey*, an exceptional hotel in the historic *Bellavista* precinct. Some will arrive late and no official welcome is planned.

Day 2: Tue 23 Sept Santiago

Our guide, Dr Rudolf Thomann, takes us on a city tour starting at the *Plaza de Armas*. We lunch at the iconic *Confiteria Torres* and then visit the cerro Santa Lucia (hill) and if time permits, to the San Cristobal hill with the funicular. BL



Historic estancia, Santiago

Day 3: Wed 24 Sept. Santiago

Juan Grimm will show us two recent lovely homes and gardens in fashionable *Las Condes*. Then to one of Chile's most remarkable and intact private 18th Cent estancias complete with chapel, outbuildings and extensive c.1900 gardens of varying character. In bohemian *Bellavista*, we lunch at our favourite *'Chocolate Restaurant'*.

We then tour nearby *La Chascona* - former home of Pablo Neruda with its eclectic collection.

In the evening, we have two presentations, *The Natural Wonders of Chile* by Rudolf Thomann and *Landscape and garden design in Chile* by Paz Hormazabel, long time friend and colleague of Juan Grimm. BD

Day 4: Thur 25 Sept Bahia Azul – Zapallar

We drive north to Juan Grimm's own retreat overlooking the Pacific – brilliantly integrated within the coastal vegetation – an iconic Chilean landscape. We lunch at *L'Incontro* Restaurant at Bahia Azul with regional dishes. We visit the lovely property of Maleca Schade, with its wonderful views out across the Pacific.

At the idyllic coastal village of Zapallar, we dine at our lovely *Isla Seca Hotel*. BLD

Day 5: Fri 26 Sept Papudo – Quillota

We visit another Juan Grimm native coastal garden at *Papudo* – a brilliant modern house and art collection and then dine on local fish at our much loved byside *Chiringuito* restaurant.



Then to another very special private garden of about 10ha in the Quillota valley. Grimm transformed the site with a



lake and the dwelling nestles within the garden, exuding an air of supreme calm.

We return to our seaside *Isla Seca Hotel*. Evening free. BL

Day 6: Sat 27 Viña del Mar – Valparaíso - Santiago

We travel through the popular resort city of Viña del Mar on our way to Valparaíso – colonial port city – now very much a bohemian centre for arts and crafts. Once the most important port in the Southern Hemisphere it was much influenced by the British. We take a funicular and view classy old ‘English’ houses, art galleries and artisan shops and admire the sea view across the port. Finally, we tour Neruda’s *La Sebastiana*, with its idiosyncratic maritime collection.



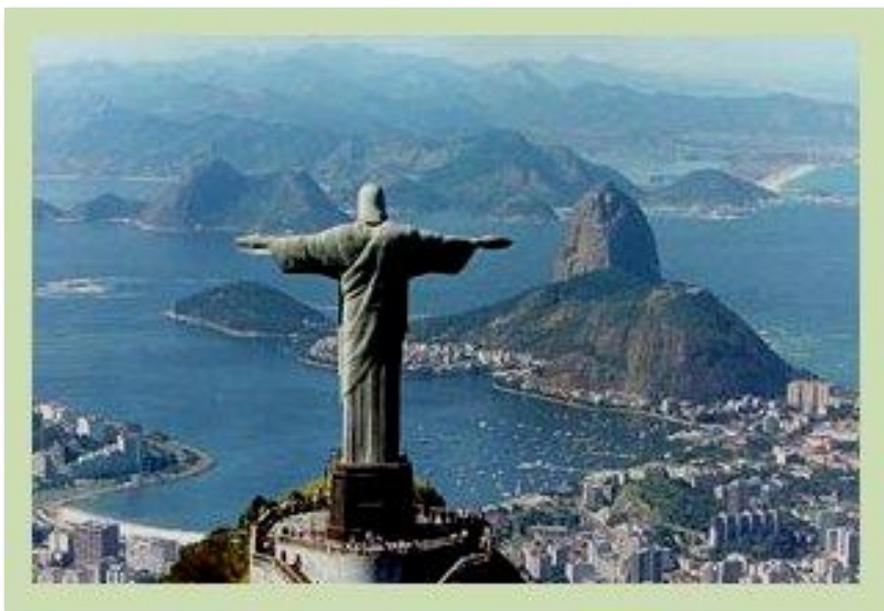
Street art, Valparaíso

We pass by national parks en route to Casablanca Valley – a distinctive cool wine region – to the *Emiliana Vineyard* – with its organic and sustainable practices and inventive landscape design. We taste their wines and consider an early return to Santiago for some free time and, perhaps, to visit the *Los Dominicos Handicraft Village* and Church. *The Aubrey* BL

Day 7: Sun 28 Sept, Santa Rita Maipo Valley

We head south to the Maipo Valley and *Santa Rita*, one of the most historic and beautiful vineyard estancias in South America. It has excellent wines and by special arrangement, we tour the forty hectare parkland leading to the old family mansion (now private hotel). The beautiful gardens, trees and buildings were constructed in the 1880’s. The complex is enhanced by an outstanding Pre-Colombian museum.

We enjoy a splendid lunch at *Santa Rita* with local wines. Those with remaining energy may conclude our tour in Chile by dining at the *Santiago German Club* – which was established in 1838 - a clear reminder of the German influence in Chile. BL



Day 8: Mon 29 Sept, Santiago – Rio de Janeiro

We fly into Rio de Janeiro – with its unrivalled setting of bays and mountains. We can soon see how the landscapes influenced Roberto Burle Marx, ‘*it is a country of action and passion, nourished by hopes and dreams. All these characteristics are present in (his work). He lived in Rio de Janeiro, where the landscape is omnipresent... with its huge bay and granite hills in dramatic and voluptuous formations...*’

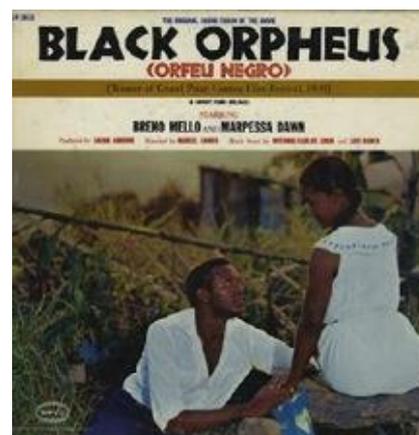
Marta Montero was writing of Burle Marx but the same was true for architect Oscar Niemeyer and many others. Burle Marx with the *Flamengo Parque* gave us Ipanema, Copacabana, avenues, parks and gardens as we know them today – a wonderful conjunction of mountains, sea and beaches which translates to warm, friendly and passionate peoples. *Sberaton Rio Hotel & Resort*, Leblon BD

Day 9: Tue 30 Sept, Rio de Janeiro

This is designated as a ‘free day’ but we may visit some of Burle Marx’s civic works – Petrobrás Headquarters, BNDS Bldg. and the Tram Centre. We visit the new Cathedral, then lunch at the *Colombo Restaurant* – a gorgeous historic café. Then on to the funicular railway to the giant landmark *Christ the Redeemer Statue*, for breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, surrounding beaches and bays.

Tonight we may visit the *Vinicius Bar* to learn something of the composer, playwright and poet *Vinicius de Moraes* - that charismatic figure who contributed

to the development of Bossa Nova and co-wrote *Black Orpheus* and *The Girl from Ipanema*. BL



Day 10: Wed 1 Oct Rio de Janeiro

First, to the *Institute of Moreira Sales Museum* – a superb gallery and building with Burle Marx landscaping and his ceramic frescoes. Then to the *Tijuka National Park*. Deep within this great tropical forest we visit a superb mountain retreat in a ‘bungalow style dwelling’. It sits within a tropical forest next to a flowing stream surrounded within a Burle Marx garden. We lunch at the historic *Os Esquilos* and depart for *Jardim Botânico* – the finest botanic gardens in South America, with its mighty avenues of Imperial Palms.

This evening, dance lovers may choose to attend the *Plataforma* show - good healthy fun and the best opportunity to see the girls dress up for Carnavale! BL



The Sitio, 'Garden of Wonders'

Day 11: Thur 2 Oct Rio de Janeiro

We visit Burle Marx's *Sítio* (Garden of Wonders) – 40ha of gardens, dwelling, studio, chapel and nursery where he propagated Amazonian plants. We see his paintings, his plants (over 3,500 species) and religious and other collections. Returning to Rio we visit Burle Marx's Flamengo Park with its reclaimed embankment and his *Modern Art Museum* (1958) gardens. This afternoon some may visit the *Rocinha* favela, one of many which cling to Rio's steep hillsides. Rio's favelas spawned the famous Carnavale and provided the setting for *Black Orpheus*.

An alternative would be to visit the superb Niteroi Contemporary Art Museum by Oscar Niemeyer. B

Day 12, Fri 3 Oct Teresópolis and Petrópolis

We leave sultry Rio for the cool hill-stations where Rio's elite have escaped the summer heat for centuries. Burle Marx had ample space for his curvilinear designs, lakes and abstract planting schemes in these extensive gardens.

We will visit two or three gardens including *Tarcaruna* – that sublime conjunction of nature, garden and building (by Oscar Niemeyer). B



Garden at Petropolis Photo: Kim Rabbidge

Day 13: Sat 4 Oct Rio de Janeiro

A free day! But there are heaps of suggestions for you including a twilight drink at Mt Sugarloaf via the cable car looking down back at Rio, with its necklaces of lights twinkling around those magic bays. Tonight we dine at the *Rio*

Scenarium in historic Lapa, with its antiques, Brazilian music, song and dance. BD

Day 14: Sun 5 Oct Rio – Iguazú Falls

We fly to one of the great wonders of the world, the *Iguazú Falls* – the largest anywhere – amidst two national parks of tropical forests on the border between Brazil and Argentina. This is valuable habitat for many rare and endangered species and today we tour the Brazil side of the falls. We then cross into Argentina and settle in at the Sheraton Hotel with our fabulous views of the *Iguazú Falls!* BD

Day 15: Mon 6 Oct, Iguazú Falls

We will enjoy walks along the catwalks and falls including *The Devil's Throat* – largest of them all with its 82 metre high, 150 metre wide and 700 metre long cataract. The sound is deafening as the water crashes below and the spray and general turmoil provides great mists, rainbows and shrieking birds. Few will resist the heady sensation of an Adventure Ride-in a boat which plunges into and behind one of these mighty falls. B



Oscar Niemeyer's Niteroi Museum

Day 16 Tue 7 Oct

Iguazú Falls – Buenos Aires

This morning we are free to enjoy Iguazú before an early afternoon flight to Buenos Aires where we will have an orientation tour if time permits.

Argentina is a vast country with a huge range of climates and landforms. From the steamy north-eastern jungles to the desert highland steppes through endless grasslands southwards to windswept *Patagonia* and *Tierra del Fuego* at the southern tip. BD



Native Jacarandas blooming in Buenos Aires



2013 tour group at La Compana National Park
Photo: Kim Rabbidge

Iguazu Falls





Estancia garden, Chile. Photo: Kim Rabbidge

However, Buenos Aires is a heady cosmopolitan city with fine European architecture and lifestyles greatly influenced by Italian and Spanish migrants with a penchant for the English.

We exchange the Samba for the Tango and Burle Marx for Charles Thays who was responsible for establishing most of the parks in Buenos Aires. We dine this evening at *Piegari Vitello & Dolce Restaurant*, for some typical Argentinian food. BD

Day 17: Wed 8 Oct, Buenos Aires

Clara Billoch leads us on one of her exciting tours of designed private gardens in Buenos Aires. In the evening, we will enjoy a traditional home cooked Argentinian meal with Clara in her garden *en famille* – enjoying the best beef in the world!

BLD

Day 18: Thur 9 Oct, Buenos Aires

We tour Buenos Aires, the *Paris of the South*, through tree lined avenues and historic buildings (some still bearing cannon damage from the revolution) and stop for coffee at *Café Tortoni* (1858) – haven for artists, politicians and intellectuals.



'I will come again. I will be millions'.
— Eva Peron ('Evita').
Indeed, millions did attend her funeral.

Then to the *MALBA* Museum with its exhibitions of Latin American Art. We may choose to visit another of their fine galleries, such as *The Proa* or the new *Faena Arts Centre* at Puerto Madero.

Then to *San Telmo's Antique Market* for lively stalls, handicrafts and street tango.

We press on to the *Eva Peron Museum*, plus a visit to her tomb at the amazing *La Recoleta Cemetery*. We reflect upon the life of Eva Peron who remains embedded within the Argentine consciousness today.

BL

Day 19: Fri 10 Oct

This is a free day - the last day of a busy tour and we are at leisure. There are many touring possibilities and small groups can be arranged either with or without guides. For example, *San Antonio de Areco*, 'home of Argentina's gauchos', is a 90 min drive into the country. It is a charming historic town with old estancias (horse ranches) with good lunches. There is also the *Villa Maria estancia* with its lovely parklands for a very upmarket (and expensive) meal only 45 mins away.

There are wonderful walks you can join, and shopping precincts to explore. We do enjoy a wonderful exchange rate! Some may choose to tour lovely Palermo or stroll through historic *La Boca* and down to the *Puerto Madero*...

There we may visit the *Parque de la Memoria de Buenos Aires, (1997)* with its continuing sculptural commissions commemorating 30,000 people killed by Argentina's military junta and 'Dirty War' from 1976 to 1983 – a brutal campaign of political repression, terror, kidnapping, torture and murder in Argentina.

Buenos Aires has the biggest cattle market in the world and those wishing to attend, should advise well in advance to enable booking.

Another delightful prospect is to visit **Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay.**

At *Puerto Madero* we catch the catamaran ferry (1 hour) across the *Rio de Plata* to Colonia, Uruguay's oldest port settlement and subject to centuries of warring conflicts between Portugal and Spain.



Colonia del Sacramento

Some say it reminds them of Old Lisbon and it certainly exudes history and charm with its old cobbled streets and Spanish/Portuguese architecture. It has been rated, *'one of the most beautiful and understated towns on the whole continent.'* and time seems to stand still as we saunter around this beautiful old colonial port.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage City from where we may reflect upon the early colonial struggles in South America. In 1774 Arthur Phillip, then a captain with the Portuguese navy, served in the war against Spain and relieved the garrison at Colonia where he served with distinction for some time. It proved an excellent grooming for his appointment as Governor with Australia's First Fleet.



For our farewell evening together we will treat ourselves to a special evening of tango at the *Gala Tango* over dinner. There is a side to the *Porteno* psyche that is only perceived through this brilliant, sensuous and melancholic dance form.

BD



Clara Billoch's garden with its potager, ornamental plantings and barbeque area provides a wonderful venue for parties for friends and families.

Day 20: Sat 11 Oct

We say farewell to many of our travellers as they transfer to the airport for their departures.

B