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MARCH 2017

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Brandywine Valley's Feast for the Senses

BY SHARON HERNES SILVERMAN

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH A VISIT TO TWO OF THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY'S TOP ATTRACTIONS, LONGWOOD GARDENS AND WINTERTHUR, AND YOUR SENSES WILL THANK YOU. JUST 120 MILES FROM FREDERICK AND ONLY SEVEN MILES APART, Longwood and Winterthur will inspire and refresh you as you view hillsides carpeted with blossoms, inhale the sweet perfume of lilacs, feel the sun on your face, listen to the birds chirping and savor some local specialties.

National Geographic Traveler got it right when the magazine named Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa., one of America's "50 Places of a Lifetime." Pierre S. du Pont (1870-1954) purchased the property in 1906 and brought his engineering skills, horticultural ability and artistic vision to life here. That legacy continues today.

Da Pont's concept of the garden as theater is evident in spring when hundreds of lush acres come alive with color. Daffodils, azaleas, magnolias and cherry trees are all in flower, and, oh, the tulips! At peak, usually late April-early May, Longwood is a rainbow of 240,000 tulips and other seasonal blooms along the Flower Garden Walk, in the Idea
Longwood Gardens is a spectacular rainbow of color from the 240,000 tulips and other seasonal blooms. Peak viewing time for tulips is late April to early May.

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Garden and in beds near the Visitor Center. Other outdoor pleasures include three treehouses—don’t miss the Canopy Cathedral, a two-story structure inspired by a Norwegian church—the fanciful Topiary Garden, and the Meadow Garden.

Indoors, the Conservatory bursts with lilies, delphiniums, hydrangeas and other blossoms. Tour Longwood’s unique organ museum for a behind-the-scenes look at the grand collection of 10,010 pipes, which range from one inch to thirty-two feet tall.

Longwood has won many awards, including the title of America’s Best Restroom in 2014. Seventeen individual chambers are tucked behind a living wall designed to resemble a lush green jungle. About 47,000 plants cover both sides of the long, curving corridor. It’s not often that bathrooms are a must-see, but these are.

Excitement is running high leading up to the May 27th reopening of

Longwood Gardens

1001 Longwood Rd.
Kennett Square, Pa.
610-388-1000
www.longwoodgardens.org

Admission: $23 adults; $20 seniors (age 62+); $13 students (ages 5-18 with valid student ID); free for ages 4 and under. Some events require additional tickets; see website for details. Timed tickets required every day; may be purchased online.

Hours: Open daily. Hours vary seasonally and during special events.

Gardening demonstrations and behind-the-scenes tours are held regularly and are included with admission. Other classes and special events are ticketed separately.

Easter Weekend (April 15–16): Live music, special menu, wine and champagne bar.

Mother’s Day Weekend (May 13–14): Extended hours (9 a.m.–8 p.m.), Live music; wine and champagne bar.

“Summer of Spectacle” May 27–Sept. 30. Fountain shows daily; 30-minute illuminated evening fountain displays set to music Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 9:15 p.m.

Fireworks & Fountains July 2, July 22, Aug. 12, Sept. 2 and Sept. 16.