

## **Dutch New Wave Gardens**

featuring private spaces and public places, both historic and contemporary, in

## **The Netherlands**

*Arranged by Classical Excursions*

**September 7 to 14, 2023 – Thursday to Thursday**

**Starting and ending in Amsterdam**



Join the Berkshire Botanical Garden and Classical Excursions as we discover the gardens of the Netherlands. Since the Age of Discovery in the 15th Century, the Dutch have explored the world. Their ships reached the Americas, South Africa, and to Australia. This incredible expansion of empire led to the founding of the Dutch East India Co. in 1602 and the Dutch West India Co. in 1621. These titans of trade introduced hundreds of species to the shores of the Netherlands after their journeys. Only a few years later, in 1638, Hortus Botanicus was constructed in the heart of Amsterdam, featuring botanical treasures brought back by these explorers and traders. Hortus Botanicus is one of the oldest Botanical Gardens in Europe and one of the many sites we will enjoy on our journey. Classical gardens on grand estates and intimate lush city gardens are a staple of the Dutch landscape. In the 1980s, a new style emerged that would change the face of gardening across the Netherlands and around the world. The Dutch New Wave Garden movement promoted a naturalistic approach to planting design embraced and emulated worldwide. Piet Oudolf, the movement's most prominent designer, has described his process this way, "My biggest inspiration is nature. I do not want to copy it but to recreate the emotion." Traveling through the Netherlands, we will immerse ourselves in the gardens of Oudolf and his contemporaries. As a group, we will find ourselves exploring the intersection of these classical and modern approaches to garden design. Our travels will take us from historic gardens to castles, charming towns, and exciting contemporary spaces. We hope you join us as we explore the great gardens of the Netherlands.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF OUR PLANS:**

- Hortus Botanicus, Amsterdam
- Utrecht: Historic 1924 house, Rietveld Schröder House
- De Wiersse garden in Vorden, dating back to 1678
- De Hessenhof perennial plant nursery in Ede on the Veluwe hills
- Castle Middachten in De Steeg
- Royal Palace of Het Loo, built by the House of Orange-Nassau
- The gardens of garden designer Piet Oudolf
- Plus there will be some private gardens that are not mentioned here...

## OVERVIEW OF OUR DAYS:

Day 1 - Thursday, September 7 – Arrival to Amsterdam . . .

Afternoon check-in to the **Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam**, for four-nights.

Day 2 to 4 - Friday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 10 – Touring out from Amsterdam, and returning each night.

Day 5 - Monday, Sept. 11 – Depart for the north, arrive to the town of **Groningen** and **Hotel Prinsenhof**, for three-nights – image of the formal gardens are part of the hotel complex.

Day 6 to 7 - Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Wednesday, Sept. 13 – Touring out from Groningen, returning each night.

Day 8 - Thursday, September 14 – Day for Departures or independent touring. 9:30am or so, bus departs for Amsterdam Schiphol Airport – JFK flight at 1:30pm; Boston flight at 2:50pm

## GUEST LECTURER:

**Nico Kloppenburg**, garden designer based near Groningen, in the historic village of Mantgum. He will share his passion for historic gardens and give insights contemporary garden design.



## Further details on our touring in the Netherlands:

Landgoed means Estate in Dutch | Kasteel means Castle | Tuin mean Garden

### DAY 1 • Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> • Arrivals

**Amsterdam** – meaning the *Dam on the Amstel River* – dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and grew by the 17<sup>th</sup> century to be a world port during what is known as the Dutch Golden Age. It became the official capital in 1814, however the Hague serves as the administrative center for government. Afternoon walking tour planned. Welcome Dinner at **Restaurant de Kas**, which is comprised of old city greenhouses.



## DAY 2 • Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> • Amsterdam and heading Southeast for the day

Breakfast at the hotel.

**Hortus Botanicus, Amsterdam:** Founded in 1638 by the Amsterdam city council for the purpose of providing herbs for doctors and apothecaries. It is one of the world's oldest botanical gardens. Botanical extracts were the principal way patients were treated in that day. Much of the early collection was created from plants and seeds brought by the traders of the Dutch East India Company. The earliest structure at the garden is the hexagonal pavilion from the late 1600s, there is the Orangerie from 1875, the Palm House from 1912, plus recent additions of hot-houses.



**Landgoed de Wiersse** comprises 38 acres of gardens and 74 acres of landscape park (images above left and middle). It has been in the same family since 1678. De Wiersse is in the town of Vorden, east of Amsterdam. As they describe it “In this historic garden a sequence of surprises awaits the visitor – avenues and pergolas, fountains and statues, meadows and formal parterres, bridges over a gently flowing stream and a serpentine tunnel of beech. The moss and ferns beside the paths of the romantic wild garden give way first to a productive kitchen garden and then to the mixed borders, dry stone wall and pergola of the sunken garden.”

**Royal Palace of Het Loo** dates to 1684 and is done in the Dutch Baroque style by Jacob Roman and Johan van Swieten for King William III as Stadholder in the 1670's of Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Guelders and Overijssel. The garden was designed by Claude Desgotz (c.1658-1732), a French architect and landscape architect. Desgotz worked with André Le Nôtre (c.1613-1700). We plan to meet with Conservator Renske Ek (*pending, to be confirmed*). Lunch is planned at **Balzaal** on the grounds at Het Loo.



Nursery **De Hessenhof** is outside the town of Ede in the Veluwe hills. The nursery specializes with biologic perennial plants – some 3,000 or so are grown here on a small amount of land, just two hectares (close to 5 acres). Here we will meet with owners Miranda and Hans Kramer.



**DAY 3 · Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> · Amsterdam and heading Southwest for the day, around Rotterdam and Utrecht**

Breakfast at the hotel.

**Singer Laren Museum and Sculpture Garden**, features an Oudolf Garden. The original museum building was designed by Dutch architect Wouter Hamdorff in 1956, and the newer structure completed in 2017 was by a young female architect Sanne Oomen in collaboration with VDNDP architecten. William Henry Singer (1868-1943) and his wife Anna created the of the core collection. Singer was a American seascape and landscape painter, originally from Pittsburgh. There was an artist colony in Laren and the couple settled here.



**Vlinderhof** in Utrecht's Máximapark was designed by Piet Oudolf and is maintained by volunteers. The park overall comprises 148 acres is the largest in the Netherlands. Vlinderhof translates to Butterfly Garden.



The **Rietveld Schröder House**. Built in 1924 by Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld for Mrs. Truus Schröder-Schräder. The style of the house is described De Stijl or "The Style" – most people know the word from referring to paintings by Piet Mondrian, but it was a creative movement of art, architecture, furniture designs, etc. – and was a precursor to the Bauhaus and International Style.

We then head to Rotterdam, where we plan to have lunch at DakAkker's rooftop bistro on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor. **DakAkker** is the largest rooftop garden in Europe for food produced sustainability.



Then we see Oudolf's Public Gardens along Rotterdam's esplanade along the waterfront at Leuvehoofd Park. We will return to Amsterdam late afternoon.



#### **DAY 4 • Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> • Departing Amsterdam heading north to Groningen**

Following breakfast, check-out of the hotel as we head north.

We'll make a stop in the charming town of **Zwolle**. Distinctive features are the 600-year-old Sassenpoort (city gate) and star-shaped city canal, plus the historic facades, the city walls and towers, flanked by impressive merchants' houses and trees.



Visit to **Mien Ruys Gardens**, these experimental gardens were created starting in 1924 and was the lifetime work of Ms. Mien Ruys, who was one of the most important garden architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. There are multiple gardens and water features to explore and enjoy. She passed away in 1999 at the age of 94. Today, the gardens are maintained by the Mien Ruys Garden Foundation which she established in 1976.

Here we will also enjoy a very local Dutch lunch.

Continuing north, we drive to De Wilp to see the **Prairie Garden of Lianne Siergrassen**. In 2005, she established a nursery specializing in grasses and is the holder of a special collection of Poaceae (ornamental grasses). There is a Show Garden and the Prairie Garden, which was inspired by travels in the North American prairie. (*pending special opening*)



Afternoon arrival to Groningen. Check-in to the **Prinsenhof Hotel**. The Prinsenhof is renowned for their formal gardens and circular garden rooms. Enjoy the chance during free time to explore these extraordinary spaces.





## DAY 5 • Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> • Exploring outside of Groningen

Breakfast at the hotel.

We head to the town of Oostwold for **Tuin fleur**, which means “garden flower” in Dutch. Of special interest in 2023, there will be a display of bronze sculptures by Loet van Veen, who takes inspiration by birds in the sky, butterflies and more.



Next we head to the **Nursery Tuingoed Foltz** in Meeden, one of the specialists in the north of The Netherlands. Holder of the Dutch national Salvia collection. Further specialized in Echinacea, Agapanthus, Geranium, grasses, prairie plants and botanical rarities. (image right)



**Museum de Buitenplaats** in Eelde (partial plan below and image of the formal garden). The museum was founded in 1945 around a collection of realistic and figurative art from the Netherlands. Over the years it has expanded into gardens and display of sculpture.

We will enjoy lunch here at the museum.



After hours entry to the **Groningen Museum**. The museum first opened in 1874. The current post-modernist construction consists of three pavilions designed individually by Philippe Stark, Alessandro Mendini and Coop Himmelb(l)au, and was completed in 1994.



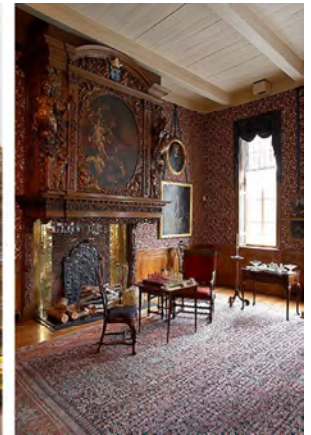
## DAY 6 • Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> • Exploring outside of Groningen

Breakfast at the hotel.

We start today with the private garden, **Tuin van Els de Boer** in the town of Warffum. Els is a garden designer and for forty years, she and her husband Jan have worked at creating 12 or more specialized gardens. They also created ramparts of raised soil beds of various levels, with retaining walls comprising over 16,000 bricks.



**Kasteel Menkemaborg and Gardens** in Uithuizen. With origins dating back to the 14th-century, the Menkemaborg in Uithuizen has changed very little since undergoing dramatic renovations around 1700. The gardens at the Menkemaborg are a beautiful example of the 18th century style, and include a teahouse, maze, orchard and vegetable garden. The gardens were built according to the original garden plans for the castle dating back to 1705.



Lunch on-site at the **t Schathoes Menkemaborg**, which is the converted barn and workers building.

We'll enjoy a drive back to **Groningen** where you'll have the later afternoon free to enjoy this charming city. Our hotel is just a few blocks from the center of the historic area.



### **PRISENHOF Hotel**





## DAY 7 - Wednesday · September 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 · Exploring outside of Groningen

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning we visit the **Dekema State** in the town of Jelsum. It is described as an oasis of gently country. It was first built during the 15th century. The moated house and its gardens are restored before the year 2000 and opened to public. The content of the house, with portrait-gallery, antique furniture and the treasures inherited from older generations, demonstrate the lifestyle of a titled family as it lived in Friesland until the 1930's.



Lunch today planned at **Bistro DuCo Leeuwardenat** at the Flechter Hotel-Paleis Stadhouderslijk Hof.

Then we head to the **Village of Mantgum** and a special to visit **Nico Kloppenburg's private garden**. We will spend time with Nico, an urbane garden designer whose work flows in and around the elegant homes of the historic village of Mantgum.



## DAY 8 - Thursday · September 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 · Exploring outside of Groningen

Breakfast at the hotel.

Check out and we depart at 9:30am or so for Amsterdam Schiphol Airport – JFK flight at 1:30pm; Boston flight at 2:50pm.



## **OUR HOTELS:**

### **Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam –**

We will be staying four-nights. With a canal at its front yard, one cannot help but enjoy the uniqueness of this amazing city. Parts of the building dates to 1411 when it began life as a convent. The complex over the centuries has served many different functions. The hotel is central to the city and easy walking. It features multiple restaurants and bars, plus a lush courtyard for quiet enjoyment and meals.



### **PRINSENHOF Hotel in Groningen -**

We will be staying three-nights. The building's origin lies with the Brethren of Communal Life, who lived here rather modestly around 1436 and rebuilt their home to an impressive church in which the brasserie is situated. Where used to be the church's nave, is now a bar; where used to be the chancel, is now an elevated lounge. The conversion of the property took place in 2012 and the Prinsenhof became a 4-star boutique hotel with two high-end restaurants.



To reserve your place on this unique excursion supporting the  
**Berkshire Botanical Garden**  
please contact [office@classicalexursions.com](mailto:office@classicalexursions.com) or call Lani Summerville at 413-446-8728.

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*Itinerary as of 29 March 2023 and subject to updating by Classical Excursions.*