

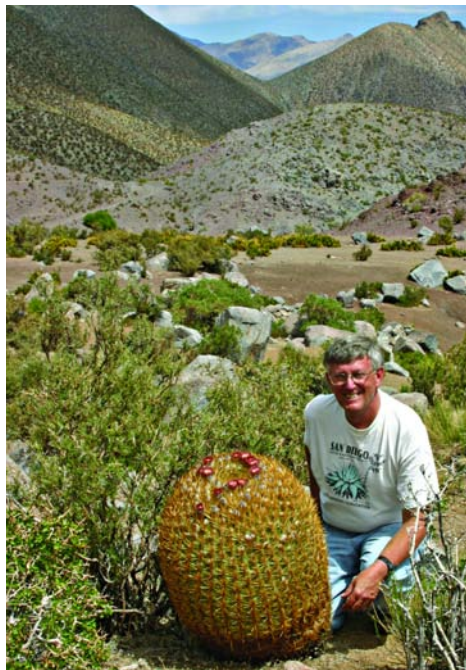


AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM

*Chile: Gardens, Wines,
and History*

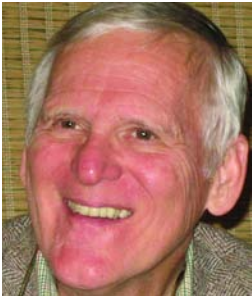
October 8 – 21, 2009

With AHS Host Mac Plant



Chile: Gardens, Wines, and History

Join the American Horticultural Society and tour escort Mary Kroening of Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours as we explore the coast and foothills of central Chile. Historically Chile has been a popular destination for plant exploration and its native flora has given rise to some of today's most popular garden plants. While vast areas of this region have been converted to arable land, pockets of native plants still remain. The Chilean climate varies from almost no rainfall to full saturation, and temperatures range from subtropical to temperate and cold in higher elevations. This makes Chilean plants well suited to temperate as well as arid growing conditions, an uncommon plant trait. And since almost half of Chile's plants are endemic—native only to Chile—this tour offers the rare opportunity to see many of these plants in their native habitat.



AHS Board Member Mac Plant will be your host.

This program will include tours of several private gardens that are not listed in the itinerary. Weather conditions will play a role in determining which gardens are spectacular at the time we visit, so we will select the final destinations based on which gardens are at their peak.

Leading this tour as AHS host will be AHS Board Member Mac Plant of Owings Mills, Maryland, and his wife, Wickie. Avid gardeners and plant collectors, Mac and Wickie are seasoned travelers who have visited gardens around the world. They will enliven this tour with their warm personalities, botanical expertise, and infectious curiosity for plants and gardens.

Itinerary Highlights

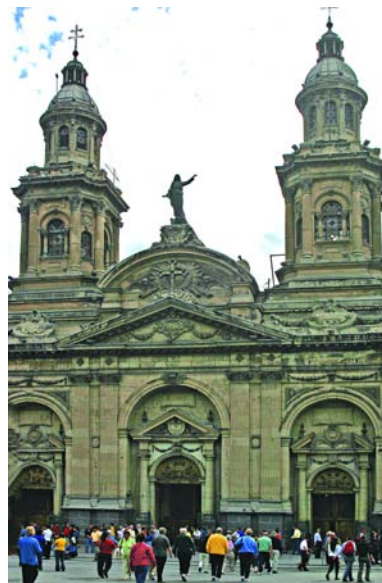


Thursday, October 8 – Santiago to Viña del Mar B, L, D

Upon arrival to Santiago Airport tour participants will transfer to Viña del Mar to enjoy a welcome lunch or dinner, depending on the individual times of arrival.

Lodging in Viña del Mar—To be announced closer to departure

Friday, October 9 – Viña del Mar B, L
Known as “The Garden City,” Viña del Mar is one of the most beautiful cities in Chile. The name goes back to the time when the old haciendas had their vineyards by the sea. This delightful city offers visitors two miles of beautiful beaches bathed by the



gentle swells of the Pacific Ocean. Our tour today will take us to a choice selection of places, starting with Quinta Vergara, a park in the heart of Viña del Mar that was originally the estate of the city's founders, the Vergara family, in the 1870s. It features several acres of landscaped gardens filled with native trees and flowers. The original home now houses a museum of fine arts.

Our second stop today will be the Fonck Museum of Archeology and Natural History. This museum is the only South American mainland location where visitors can view Muai Moai (or mo'ai), monolithic human figures from the famous Easter Island collection.

Saturday, October 10 – National Botanic Garden B, L
Our day will begin with a visit to the National Botanic Garden. Designed in 1918 by the French landscape designer George Dubois, the landscape originally was a private park commissioned by the nitrate baron Pascual Baburizza. Now the 99-acre garden, which features more than 800 species of flora, is dedicated to the conservation of endemic and endangered species. During the afternoon we will visit a private garden in the area.



Tuesday, October 13 – Zapallar and Los Molles B, L

Our home base for the next few days is Zapallar, a small fishing village and an exclusive resort where many aristocratic Chileans have vacation homes. Surrounded by high mountains that fall dramatically to the sea, Zapallar enjoys a privileged climate sheltered from wind and with a dry season from October to April. This provides a mild, pleasant Mediterranean climate, much like that of California’s central coast. We will start the morning with a drive along the coast to Los Molles. This beautiful stretch of coastline offers a wonderful introduction to the coastal native flora, including many endemic plant species.

Wednesday, October 14 – Salinas de Pullally B, L

Our first visit will be Margarita Alamos’ wild garden in Catapilco, which depends solely on the winter rains for its spring and sum-



mer beauty. Every year Margarita cultivates an artistic display that is in harmony with the rhythms of nature. Our next stop will be a private garden overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the estuary of the river La Ligua. Designed by Ignacio García, this garden has breathtaking views and a wonderful design that integrates native plants along with species from South Africa and Australia that are well adapted to the climate.

Thursday, October 15 – Ocoa to Santiago B, L

The Ocoa area harbors one of the three relic stands of Chilean palm (*Jubaea chilensis*). These amazing sentinels are considered natural monuments in Chile. Because their conservation status is vulnerable, they are protected by law. This region is also known for having small remnant patches of evergreen sclerophyllous forests—a plant community composed of “hard-leaved” trees and shrubs typically found in areas with Mediterranean climates—and many endemic species are also found here. After touring this area, we will continue our journey to Santiago.

Lodging in Santiago—To be announced closer to departure

Sunday, October 11 – Casablanca Valley & Vineyards B, L

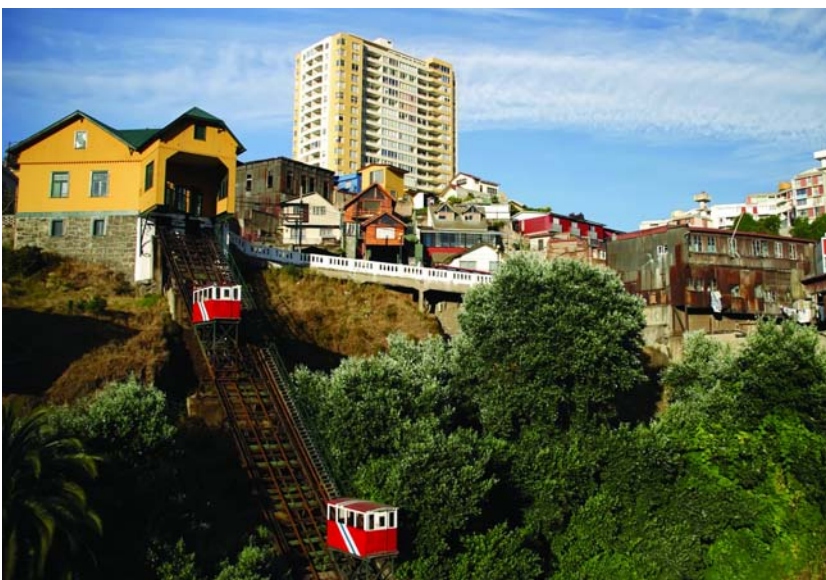
Today we will tour gardens and vineyards in the area. We will also visit Casa de Isla Negra, the home of Chile’s Nobel Prize-winning poet, Pablo Neruda. Neruda, a lover of the sea and all things maritime, built the home to resemble a ship, complete with low ceilings, creaking wood floors, and narrow passageways. Every room has a different collection of bottles, ship figureheads, maps, and ships in bottles.



Monday, October 12 – Valparaíso B, L

Today we will explore the beautiful city of Valparaíso, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003 due to its special setting in a horseshoe-shaped bay, its 46 hills and 15 funiculars (cable tramway lifts), and amazing architecture. Until the Panama Canal was opened in 1914, Valparaíso was the financial center of Chile and the most important port on the Pacific coast of South America. Our tour will take us through town, on one of the famous funicular rides, and along its attractive hills. After lunch we depart for Zapallar, our destination for the next three nights.

Lodging in Zapallar—Hotel Isla Seca



Friday, October 16 – Santiago B, L

Our first visit of the day will be Parque Metropolitano, a 1,803-acre park, dating back to 1917. It was designed to provide Chile's capital city with an attractive urban area to promote educational, social, and cultural activities, as well as direct contact with nature. After lunch, we will visit the Parque Bicentenario, a bicentenary park the city created to celebrate Chile's upcoming 200 years of independence, in 2010. One of Chile's modern creations, Parque Bicentenario is notable for its 173 acres of green space, including a 123-acre central park.



Saturday, October 17 – Santa Rita B, L

Today we head south of Santiago to Viña Santa Rita, a national monument and a living museum for the Chilean wine industry.

We will start our visit with a tour of the 99-acre Santa Rita Park, designed by Gustave Renner in 1882 for the owner of the Santa Rita Vineyard. The house has been converted into the Casa Real Hotel, which claims to have the biggest bougainvillea plant in South America. We will also visit the vineyards.



Lodging in Santa Rita—Hacienda Los Lingues

Sunday, October 18 – Colchagua Valley B, L

Departing early for San Fernando, as a special treat we will travel by steam-engine train through the beautiful landscape of the Colchagua Valley, which is home to some of the region's main vineyards. En route we will enjoy tastings of select red and white wines from local vineyards. A lunchtime stop at a vineyard will offer additional exposure to the local wine industry, as well as a chance to enjoy a traditional Chilean meal. After lunch we will visit the Colchagua Museum, one of the largest and most diverse private museums in Latin America. The collection highlights paleontology, archaeology, and Pre-Columbian art from Chile and throughout the Americas.

Monday, October 19 – San José del Carmen de El Huique B, L

We will start with a visit to El Huique, a preserved ranch that offers insight into traditional Chilean lifestyle in a 19th-century hacienda. The 74-acre site was originally owned by Gertrudis Echeñique and Federico Errazuriz, who was president of Chile from 1896 to 1901. After our visit to El Huique, we will tour a private garden and the water mills on the banks of the canal in Larmagüe.

Lodging in San José—Hotel Santa Cruz Plaza.

Tuesday, October 20 – Colchagua Private Park B, L, D

Today we will explore Colchagua Private Park, a beautiful old park in which Chilean and European influences have made their mark on both architecture and landscape design. The classic adobe walls enclose a display of select trees and shrubs in perfect harmony with the environment.



Wednesday, October 21 – Transfer to Santiago and depart for home.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CONTACT:

Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

P.O. Box 39

Rocheport, MO 65279

(573) 881-6316 or (573) 445-3975

E-mail: info@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com

www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com