



Waddesdon launches exclusive tours of Eythrope, a private Rothschild garden

The walled garden at Eythrope is opening its gates to the public, through a series of public tours that start in May. These exclusive events will offer a glimpse into a garden that has, until now, been kept intensely private.

Described by Gregory Long, President Emeritus of The New York Botanical Garden, as ‘the perfect dream of a place’¹, the four-acre walled kitchen garden at Eythrope is a rare example of a large scale working private garden in the 21st century. It is legendary in the garden world both for its gardening excellence, and as a haven for traditional techniques that might otherwise be lost.

Whilst many kitchen gardens were scaled down or abandoned after the two world wars, Eythrope has been lovingly restored to its original function. Created in the late 19th century by Miss Alice de Rothschild, a passionate and knowledgeable gardener who rebuilt Eythrope, it was redesigned by Lady Mary Keen in the 1990s. Eythrope now supplies produce and flowers to the Rothschild family, the Five Arrows Hotel, Waddesdon’s Manor Restaurant and the monthly Artisan Food Market.

Suzie Hanson, Head Gardener at Eythrope said: *‘These tours offer a rare chance to share the secrets and delights of this remarkable garden with fellow garden enthusiasts. We look forward to introducing them to the 44 varieties of apple and 13 varieties of tomato we grow, alongside the 4,193 plants we propagate each year.*

Whether you’re a home gardener, a garden historian searching out old traditions or a professional hoping to learn new tricks, we’re confident that a visit to Eythrope will both intrigue and inspire.’

¹ *Paradise and Plenty* (2015)

The gardens are looked after by a team of eight, who collectively boast an impressive 134 years of experience at Eythrope, with vegetable gardener Paul having dedicated the last 40 years of his career to this private garden. This might sound like gardening on a grand scale, but one of the delights of this particular example is that the detail of design and practise can be applied to any garden, no matter how small.

From the outset, Eythrope has stood for horticultural excellence, and by sharing knowledge that has been passed down from Miss Alice's gardeners in the early 1900s, the tours will demonstrate how then as now, the gardeners have always striven for self-sufficiency - a key lesson in an increasingly environmentally conscious world.

Exclusive guided tours will be held on nine Wednesdays, between May and October. Each lasts approximately 90 minutes, and includes either a two-course lunch or afternoon tea, inspired by Eythrope's produce, at Waddesdon's Manor Restaurant. Tours can also be arranged for groups. Please call 01296 820414.

For more information visit: www.waddesdon.org.uk/whats-on/eythrope-walled-garden-tour



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Eythrope Garden Tours

Adult £40

Wed 15 May, 12 & 19 June, 10 & 17 July, 14 & 21 August, 18 September and 16 October 2019

To book call 01296 820414

Eythrope will also be selling produce at Waddesdon's monthly Artisan Food Markets, from May until October 2019.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Eythrope - The Eythrope estate was bought by Alice de Rothschild in 1875, shortly after her brother Ferdinand had bought the adjoining Waddesdon Estate. Alice had come from Frankfurt to act as a companion to Ferdinand after the death of his wife, but she was keen to have her own establishment. She re-built the existing house at Eythrope, and created a garden famous in its own day, which she used as a day-time retreat, always returning to Waddesdon Manor to sleep. Working with her long-time head gardener, George Johnson, she pioneered a number of new techniques, including 3-dimensional carpet bedding. Today, the garden is part of the private residence of Lord

Rothschild. While it has been open very occasionally for charity, the garden has, until now, been kept intensely private, and is not accessible to the public.

Waddesdon Manor was built at from 1874 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the style of a French Renaissance château. Ferdinand was generous host and an inspired collector and the house was designed entertain friends and family and to showcase his exceptional collection of English portraits, French 18th-century furniture, Sèvres porcelain and other decorative arts. When Ferdinand died in 1898, he left Waddesdon to his sister, Alice. When she died in 1922 the house passed to her great-nephew, James de Rothschild, who inherited a substantial part of his father, Baron Edmond's, great collection. In 1957, in order to ensure its future in perpetuity, Waddesdon was bequeathed to the National Trust. The Rothschild family continues to run Waddesdon through a family charitable trust under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild.

More at <https://waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/press/notes-for-editors>

IMAGES

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Eythrope garden gates. Image © Waddesdon Image Library

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