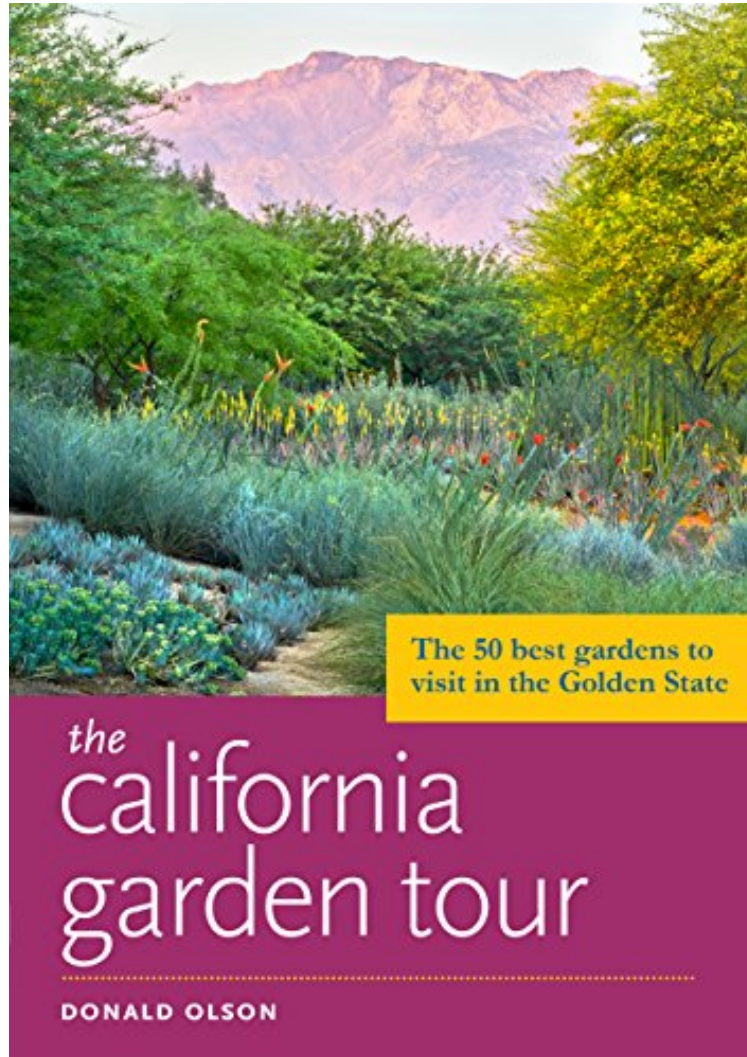


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The California Garden Tour: The 50 Best Gardens to Visit in the Golden State

Donald Olson

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Donald Olson : The California Garden Tour: The 50 Best Gardens to Visit in the Golden State before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The California Garden Tour: The 50 Best Gardens to Visit in the Golden State:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classic of its kind By Timothy Mason Imagine an invitation to a dinner party given by a favorite friend or relative, an invitation you accept with relish because you know the host not only has a passion for all things beautiful, but also really knows how to tell a great story. The California Garden Tour by Donald Olson is that invitation. Some of the 50 gardens described in words and striking photos are well known;

some are obscure. But Olson makes each of them come alive. A garden is a collaboration between nature and men and women, and Olson has a particular skill with the human side of the equation. Here are the beautiful Descanso Gardens, (Los Angeles), originally home to "a character named E. Manchester Boddy," encyclopedia salesman turned millionaire newspaper man, who started the largest camellia collection in the United States. We visit the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens with Olson as our host. Burbank, a New Englander and high school dropout, developed a potato in 1872 that financed his move to the West Coast, and his lifelong pursuit of creating hybrids, both fruit and floral -- over 800 of them, many of which grace our gardens, or dinner plates, today. Olson takes us to the Greystone Mansion and Gardens, created by Edward Doheny of the Teapot Dome scandal, and hints at suspicious goings-on in the mansion's history. A favorite garden of mine would have to be Lotusland, (Santa Barbara), created by a Polish expat (and faux diva), Ganna Walska. Before entering the gorgeous grounds, the author takes us on a dizzying tour of Madame Walska's marital life. "Ganna, you see, was searching for spiritual enlightenment. After six husbands, what else was there? Gardening, as it turned out." For those passionate about gardens, and for those who simply love a good story, this book is ideal. The California Garden Tour may well turn out to be a classic of its kind. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's both amazing and compelling to see in Donald Olson's new book ...By gary h larsonIt's both amazing and compelling to see in Donald Olson's new book the huge diversity of the gardens and plant materials in the Golden State. The book is beautiful; the amazing photos tantalize me to experience more. Each of the gardens has its own unique story that the author captures in a wonderfully personable and knowledgeable voice. I particularly liked his telling of how gardens in California came to be, essentially a story of bringing water to an arid region to create a whole new world of exotic wonder. I will use this book often. I'm inspired to visit all these fantastic gardens. The book is a must have for all garden lovers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For those who love beauty, travel and gardensBy portlandcarolFor those who love beauty, travel and gardens, it doesn't get any better than Donald's garden tour books. As the author is himself a gardener with an eye to harmony and curiosity; an author with an impressive catalogue of books, including the Pacific Northwest garden tours; a playwright with a sense of the performer; and a man with a great sense of humor, these garden books are far beyond the dry routes of other travel writing, readable on their own, and usefully directive for traveling. You want this for your library, and for gifts!

A fantastic garden journey that only California can provide In *The California Garden Tour*, veteran travel writer Donald Olson highlights 50 outstanding public gardens and provides all the information you need to make the most of your visit. From San Francisco and the East Bay to Palm Springs and San Diego, Olson includes iconic gardens like the Getty Center, new favorites like Alcatraz, and uniquely Californian destinations like Lotusland and Sunnylands. The easy-to-use format includes visitor information, an evocative description, and full color photography for each garden.

Lushly photographed and profiled. San Diego Home and Garden