



Bowood House & Garden's Walled Garden set for first public opening in history

The historic Bowood estate in Wiltshire opens its Walled Garden to the public for the first time on 1st April 2025. Despite opening the wider estate and gardens to the public in 1975, the Walled Garden has remained private to the Lansdowne family for the past 270 years.

The enclosed garden, known for its meticulous design and horticultural significance, captures the interest of keen gardeners, nature enthusiasts, and day-trippers alike.

The Walled Garden showcases striking double borders planted in soft hues of white, cream, and all shades of green (particularly lime green), reflecting the design of the famous chintz fabric found inside Bowood House. A contrasting display of red, orange, and blue blooms appear along the south-facing wall, adding vibrant, contrasting colours. The space is also home to a large cutting garden that provides the entire estate with a regular supply of freshly cut flowers.

Lord Kerry, Chief Executive and 11th generation custodian of Bowood said: "The Walled Garden has always been an integral part of the estate. Originally producing food and cut flowers for the house, it now supplies Bowood Hotel and other catering outlets. Before now, only visitors from our private garden tours saw behind the walls of this stunning place. I'm pleased that we can mark the 50th anniversary of Bowood's opening by sharing this space with visitors, offering a new glimpse into Bowood's rich history and ongoing legacy. Our vision is to bring nature, heritage, and culture to everyone."

Within the Walled Garden, visitors can discover a brand-new sensory garden, allowing them to engage with natural features representative of sight, sound, touch, and scent. A variety of vibrant plants with intriguing structures and fragrant blooms invite exploration and interaction. The sensory garden is designed as an enriching educational experience for school groups, families, and garden enthusiasts.

Bowood's Head Gardener, David Glass, commented: "Opening the Walled Garden to the public is a proud moment for everyone involved. The large selection of climbing roses is particularly beautiful, and I expect the contrasting colours within our borders to be a particular guest favourite. I hope that visitors are inspired by the colour schemes and the cutting garden on display. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase not only the garden's beauty, but also the estate's evolving role as a space for education with a focus on sustainability."

In addition to the displays, the Walled Garden has functioned as a working kitchen garden for many years and will continue to do so. It's one example of how all elements of the estate work in harmony, with the kitchen garden space providing fresh produce and cut flowers for Bowood's on-site restaurant and hotel.

Alongside the Walled Garden, the estate's 30-acre Woodland Garden will reopen from mid-April to early June when in full bloom. This area of the estate is renowned for the rare greensand, which enables vivid spring displays, including bluebells, magnolias, camelias, azaleas, and hardy hybrid rhododendrons once thought to be extinct.

Bowood House & Gardens invites visitors to explore the Walled Garden from 1st April 2025 and enjoy a unique and historic day out in the heart of Wiltshire.

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About Bowood House & Gardens

Bowood House & Gardens is a much-loved destination for culture, heritage, and nature exploration. The estate is owned and managed by Lord Kerry and his father (Lord Lansdowne) – the 10th and 11th generation custodians of Bowood in Wiltshire, and features a beautiful historic house, gardens, Capability Brown parkland, golf course, hotel, spa, and renowned adventure playground.

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of a major milestone in the Bowood's 250 plus year history – the House & Gardens opening to the public. In the 1980s, the Woodland Gardens (containing a nationally important plant collection) opened to the public and an adventure playground was built (inspired by Lord Lansdowne's own memories of playing on an old pirate ship as a child). The 1990s and beyond saw the phased creation of a Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort.

Bowood House & Gardens is also an ACS National Historic Chemical Landmark for Joseph Priestley's discovery of oxygen in Bowood House in 1774. It is also Grade I listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Today, the House & Gardens including the Woodland Garden, attract more than 120,000 visitors every year, alongside many more attending events.

Visit <https://bowood.org/> for more information.

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