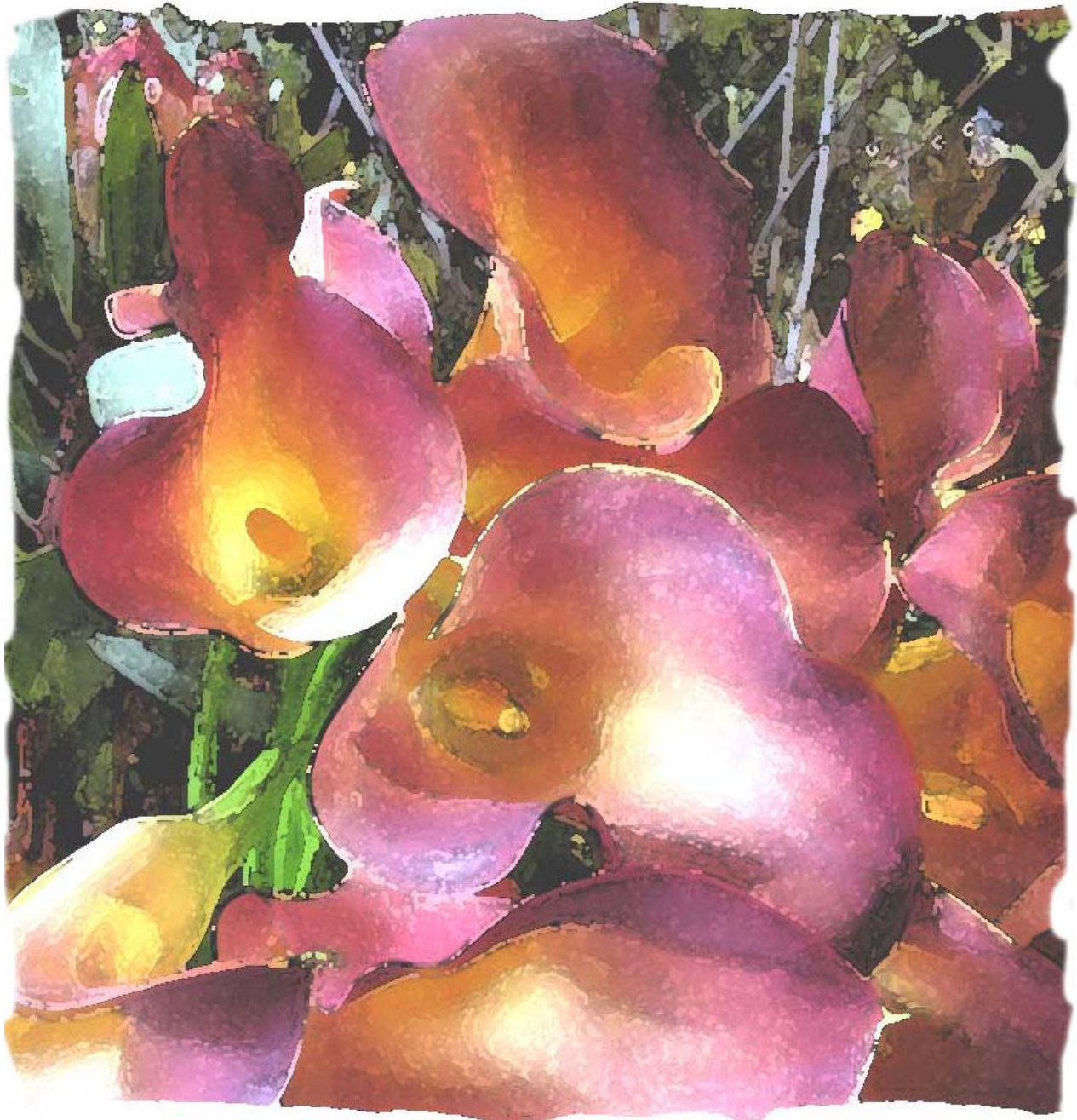


# GARDEN TOURS



**Holland & Belgium 2006**  
**Designed for garden writers**  
or  
**those wanting more than just garden visits**  
July 2 – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## HOLLAND & BELGIUM



## HOLLAND & BELGIUM

A European capital renowned for its indulgent atmosphere, Amsterdam is more than just a playground of sensual pleasures. Home of Rembrandt, Van Gogh, classic architecture, and, of course, the canals, this Venice of the North augments its famed 17th century glory with a thriving, cosmopolitan presence in the 21st century.

The heart of Brussels and the place to start getting to know the city is the Grand' Place (Grote Markt). This historic market square with its splendid guild houses and the impressive Gothic beauty of the Town Hall, is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful town squares in Europe.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights Crowne Plaza Amsterdam
- 4 nights President Centre Hotel Brussels
- Motor coach transportation on tour days
- Local Guides
- All breakfasts 5 dinners 1 lunch
- Tips & Gratuities Guides & Drivers

A European capital renowned for its indulgent atmosphere, **Amsterdam** is more than just a playground of sensual pleasures. Home of Rembrandt, Van Gogh, classic architecture, and, of course, the canals, this Venice of the North augments its famed 17th century glory with a thriving, cosmopolitan presence in the 21st century.

Nestled in the heart of Western Europe's financial powers, the Dutch capital has parlayed its geographic location, well-educated population, high quality of life, and tolerant attitude into an appealing package that hosts the European headquarters of over 1,800 foreign corporations. The cultural mecca is also home to one of Europe's largest airports, seaports, and stock exchanges. These days, about 45% of Amsterdam's population is of non-Dutch origin, and almost everyone speaks English. The city's transportation system is as impressive as its business statistics, and Amsterdam is a dream to navigate. Compact and safe (unless you're a pedestrian on the bike paths), the city is accessible to locals and visitors alike, who traverse the city via a superb tram system or by cycling down the many bike lanes.

Reminders of Amsterdam's rich cultural heritage can be found everywhere. The historic city center contains over 6,000 historic, protected buildings, many of them narrow, ornate mansions along the canals. As expected, the city offers a wealth of excellent museums. When the work day's over, Amsterdam's citizens spend their euros leisurely and late in the city's many restaurants, cafés, and bars. Terrific cuisine from every culture imaginable satisfies hungry appetites, and nightclubs cater to a gamut of preferences. The city, a must for any serious traveler, is a mix of old and new, traditional and modern, athletic and apathetic, serious and bizarre - much like the citizens and visitors who inhabit and frequent it.

Much of Amsterdam, through countless years, has been reclaimed from the sea. In fact, the city rests on 90 islands, all of which are connected by more than 1000 bridges. To compensate for the sandy soil, many buildings are constructed on wooden pilings to give them stability. Central Station, for example, is bolstered by 9000 such pilings. Estimates, in fact, attribute to Amsterdam 165 canals stretching more than 62 miles. Engineering, certainly, has allowed the city to reclaim land for expansion, including the terrain of Schiphol Airport, which actually lies 16 feet below sea level. (The city itself rests about 5 feet below sea level.)

Amsterdam's street-front real estate was subject to heavy taxation in past centuries, so residents constructed long, narrow houses to minimize the expense. Some folks, however, went to the extreme. As a result, the city is home to several of the world's narrowest homes. One, at Singel 7, boasts a front width of only 3 feet, although it opens up towards the rear. Another, at Oude Hoogstraat 22, maintains a 7-foot width its entire length. <http://www.holland.com/ca/>

**Brussels** is best known as the bureaucratic capital of the European Union but it also has a long and interesting history which is reflected in the local architecture and attractions. It is a city of two halves and this diversity is reflected in its culture. It is home to Pis Mannekin (much smaller than you think it is), the famous sculpture that has become the city's symbol and its most famous sons include Hergé's fictional explorer, Tintin, and the surreal painters Magritte and Delvaux. Head to the Upper Town for wide boulevards, major museums, chic shopping areas around Sablon and Ave Louise, and monumental buildings including the Belgian parliament

Brussels is more than a 1000 years old. Today the name Brussels stands for an agglomeration of 19 communes forming one of the three Regions of the federal Belgian state; the capital of the Kingdom of Belgium; the headquarters of the French and Flemish Communities. Brussels also has an important international vocation: as the European capital the city is home to the European Commission and to the Council of ministers of the European Union (EU).

Brussels is the bilingual capital of Belgium. This means that both French and Dutch are the official languages of the city. Street names and traffic signs are always in these two languages. Furthermore, it is a cosmopolitan city where many different cultures live together and where different languages can be heard on each street. This liveliness and international flair is, of course, intimately related to its role as a crossroads for all of Europe.

The same variety and contrast can also be found in the different architectural styles that can be found in Brussels, the former capital of the medieval Duchy of Brabant. Gothic cathedrals and churches are next to - and sometimes in stark contrast with - gracious classical facades like the buildings around the Royal Square (Place Royale - Koningsplein), or beautiful art nouveau and art deco houses.

The heart of Brussels and the place to start getting to know the city is the Grand' Place (Grote Markt). This historic market square with its splendid guild houses and the impressive Gothic beauty of the Town Hall, is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful town squares in Europe.

New York has the Statue of Liberty, Copenhagen has the mermaid and Brussels has the ..... Manneken Pis. This statue of a little boy in a somewhat compromising position has since several centuries been a major tourist attraction in the city. When most people see 'manneken', the first reaction is always one of amazement: "Look, how small he is! Why does everybody want to see him?" The people of Brussels, however, accept him the way he is. After all, it doesn't always have to be big to be beautiful. Imagine if he was the size of the Statue of Liberty: Brussels would be continuously flooded!

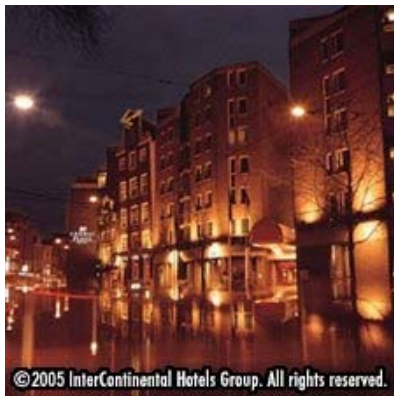
Of course you may also want to sample the beers in Brussels. One of the places I visited close to the Grande Place was Delirium Café. With a glass to match every beer served, it was a wonderful and tasty experience. Be sure to have some plates of the local cheese and bread with that beer.

O my gosh...don't forget the chocolate...it is to die for and I didn't bring home enough for the member of my family who just loved it and had to stay behind!

This is a wonderful tour and I encourage you to join us...you are in for two incredible cities in two beautiful countries...on this unique and one off tour!

### Sunday July 2 Day 1

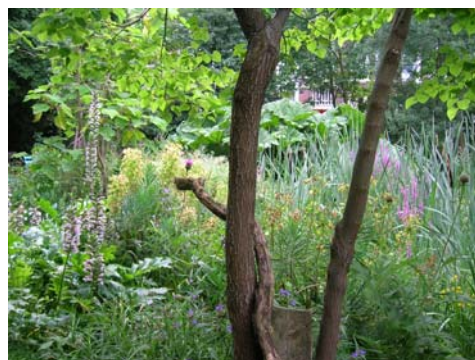
Arrive at Schiphol airport and make your way to Crowne Plaza Amsterdam City Centre for the next 4 nights on your own. We meet this evening for our **welcome dinner**. There is a transfer service from the airport to the hotel. It must be booked prior to you arriving through [www.maxi-minibus-tours.nl](http://www.maxi-minibus-tours.nl)



The **4 Star Crowne Plaza Amsterdam City Centre** is located right in the historic heart of Amsterdam and conveniently placed for visiting a wealth of theatres and churches and various museums such as Anne Frank House, Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum. Your room will have Interactive and satellite TV, In-house movies, Minibar, Two telephones and dataports, Voicemail, Hairdryer, Trouser press, Iron and ironing board, Duvets, Access by magnetic key cards, Complimentary mineral water, Coffee and tea making facilities, Safe and Private bathroom with bath and shower. The hotel also has free use of indoor pool, saunas and the well-equipped gym. As well, there is a business center. Cash and traveler's cheques can be exchanged at the front office and all major credit cards are accepted.

<http://www.amsterdam-citycentre.crowneplaza.com/>

### Monday July 3 Day 2



We will walk from the hotel to **de Hortus Botanicus** to arrive by 9 am when we will sit down for coffee while Andri van Proosdij - the man responsible for selecting plants - gives a talk all about the history of the gardens and highlights to look out for. Then we will be free to wander the gardens on our own.

The Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam is one of the oldest botanic gardens in the world. Today, there are more than 6,000 plants growing in the garden and greenhouses. The Hortus is located in the Plantage district on the edge of the hectic center of Amsterdam. Behind the 300-year-old gates, however, the bustle of the city seems to disappear.

Originally, the Hortus was a medicinal herb garden, founded in 1638 by the Amsterdam City Council. At that time, herbs were of vital importance as the basis of medicines and the city had just experienced a plague epidemic. Doctors and pharmacists trained in the preparation of prescriptions at the Hortus. Thanks to the ships of the Dutch East India Company (Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, VOC), the Hortus expanded quickly in the 17th and 18th Centuries. The VOC ships brought not only herbs and spices, but also exotic ornamental plants. In fact, a few of the Hortus' 'crown jewels' date from that time, e.g. the 300-year-old Eastern Cape giant cycad.

The Hortus houses more than 4,000 different species of plants, which is about 2% of all plant species growing on Earth. The plants grow in the Hortus as they occur in nature. Frequently, they are cultivated from seeds that were collected in the field and, thus, definitely belong to the pure natural form of the species. By cultivating and propagating these plants, the Hortus contributes to the conservation of the species and acts as a gene bank.

Note these:

A Victoria flowered for the first time in Europe in 1849. This was on the English estate Chatsworth. The Amsterdam Hortus was the first garden in The Netherlands to get a Victoria to flower - in 1859. Since then, Victoria's have always had a prominent position in the Amsterdam Hortus. In the past, the Victoria's were always grown in one of the Hortus' greenhouses. As part of an experiment in the summer of 2002, however, a *Victoria amazonica* was brought to flower in an outdoor pond. In 2003, the experiment was repeated, but this time with *V. cruziana* (which is less sensitive). In 2005, once again, *V. cruziana* grows in the outdoor pond.

They have a Wollemi Pine on display as well, so you haven't seen one yet; you are in for a treat!

<http://www.hortus-botanicus.nl/index.asp>

A special thank you to Hortus Botanicus for sponsoring today's tour!

We will leave around 11:30 and walk to the Flower Market to enjoy the wonderful displays of flowers then proceed to Coco's Outback for lunch on our own.



Meet back at the hotel at 3 p.m. to be picked up and taken out to **De Vroomen Holland**. We will visit their test gardens containing one of the largest collections of perennials in Holland, their test field, and a short presentation, then a short drive to Keukenhof Castle. On the way we will pass some of their production fields. At Keukenhof they are working on a garden showing several century garden trends. Last spring they planted an English garden from the 20th century and the 16th century garden was planted last fall. We will also see several buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries and enjoy a meal in a small English style farmers house (1840) in the middle of the gardens. We end this evening with a **guided tour through Keukenhof Castle** and then back to our hotel.



A very special thank you to Guus Boon, De Vroomen Holland Garden Products for sponsoring this afternoon/evening for us including dinner and transportation.

<http://www.devroomen.com/>

(Breakfast & Dinner)

## **Tuesday July 4 Day 3 Our Day With Darwin Plants & Region 7 Mtg.**



After coffee and welcome at **Darwin Plants**, we visit the **private garden of Dick Maas**. Dick is the owner of a large perennials production nursery, and an avid plant collector. Many of the varieties he has gathered over the years have been artistically incorporated by his wife into the beautiful garden surrounding their house. Dick will be on hand to explain with great enthusiasm the story behind each of the varieties on show! The dwarf *Verbascum* 'Braveheart', introduced in 2006 was discovered in Scotland by Dick Maas and has now been renamed to *Verbascum* 'Flower of Scotland'.

We then visit a production nursery owned by **Kees van der Aardweg**. This production nursery supplies many perennial varieties to Darwin Plants, and others. A number of new introductions and future possibilities are to be seen here.

Following lunch on our own, we visit **Kebra Perennials Production Nursery**.

Kebra are entrusted by Darwin Plants to nurture many varieties through from the very smallest plug stage to field-grown plants ready to export to nurseries in Canada and the USA (and the rest of the world!) This is an opportunity to see some of the processes that plants have to go through as they are produced, and gain an appreciation of the amount of work that goes into supplying plants to the trade. Many new varieties and future possibilities are to be seen here.



Campanula 'Purple Sensation' and Euphorbia 'Mini Martini' were discovered by Mark van Kesteren at Kebra Nursery.

[www.plantspotters.com](http://www.plantspotters.com)  
[www.darwinplants.com](http://www.darwinplants.com)

We finally end up back at Darwin Plants. They are delighted to announce that Darwin Plants have been granted a Royal Warrant as nurserymen to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. (UK) This is given in recognition of Darwin Plants having been chosen to supply plants directly to the Royal Household for the past 5 years. Darwin Plants are the only Dutch company to

currently hold of a Royal Warrant from the UK Royal Household. Darwin Plants are The Netherlands' leading exporter of perennials to the trade. The company is at the hub of trading in varieties as they are discovered and put into propagation for distribution all over the world. In close contact with many plant breeders in The Netherlands and around the world, Darwin Plants are responsible for introducing many new varieties and are an influential player in the world of perennials availability. Darwin Plants are responsible for the Darwin PlantSpotters program [www.plantspotters.com](http://www.plantspotters.com), which presents exciting new varieties to the consumer together with full background information about the plants and their breeders, which gives an extra dimension of interest for enthusiasts. Many new introductions and future possibilities are on display here alongside many other special varieties.

We end this wonderful day with a **bar-b-que style dinner** provided by Darwin and served in the display garden where most of the 1000+ varieties the company distributes can be seen. A number of plant breeders and other influential people in the Dutch plant export business may also be present.

A very special thank you to Miriam Young from Darwin Plants for organizing this day for us...and thank you to Darwin Plants for sponsoring dinner – I cannot imagine a nicer place to have it!

**NOTE:** for members of the Garden Writers Association – we will be holding our Region VII meeting here as well.  
(Breakfast & Dinner)

### Wednesday July 5 Day 4 Aalsmeer Flower Auction, Free time and De Kas



It will be an early start as we will arrive at **Aalsmeer Flower Auction** by 7:30 a.m. but I think you will agree it will be a visit worth seeing! There we will be met by our guide and taken through the process.

As a cooperative enterprise, Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer offers globally producing growers and globally active wholesalers and exporters a total concept: a central marketplace for the buying and selling of floricultural products with a balanced range of marketing channels, good facilities for growers and buyers and effective logistics. Aalsmeer, the most prominent auction in the world, thus contributes significantly to processes of distributing and pricing flowers and plants.

#### **Aalsmeer**

Auctioning at the VBA goes according to the system of 'Dutch Auction'. This means that the clocks run from the highest to the lowest price, which is always per unit - i.e. per single flower or plant. When this process takes place, the buyer sees the lights around the clock's edge run back from 100 to 1. If a buyer notices a product he wants to buy at a price which agrees with him, he quickly pushes the button and the clock stops at the desired price. If the number of the buyer appears on the clock face, it means that the buyer was the first to stop the clock and therefore he is the buyer. At the same time he tells the auctioneer, using his headset with microphone, how much of the consignment he wants to buy (the auctioneer determines the minimum amount). The remainder of the consignment is put up for auctioning again. The information of this particular transaction is immediately entered in the central computer, from which the transaction information is sent to the buyers laptop, the invoice system of the VBA, the system which determines the payment to the growers and the statistics of the VBA. Per clock, some 1,500 transactions can be processed per hour. The VBA consists of five auctioning halls: four cutflower halls and one plant hall. In total there are thirteen auction clocks. The plant hall e.g. has four clocks. This is the biggest hall and provides place for six hundred bidders. All the halls together provide space for two thousand buyers at the same time.

#### Interesting facts:

- Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer sells more than 20 million flowers and plants every day;
- 7000 specialized growers from all over the world offer their flowers and plants via Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer every day;
- The auction has an essential 'break-bulk' function: large lots are sold within a couple of hours and divided into smaller lots;
- The customers who are situated at the auction (wholesalers and exporters) can be on their way to the consumer, anywhere in the world, within a few hours;
- With its 999,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space (soon to be more than 1 million), the auction building is the largest commercial building in the world, according to the Guinness Book of Records;
- Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer turns over EUR 6 million every day.

[http://www.aalsmeer.com/aalsmeerupload/VBA\\_Facts&Figures\\_2004\\_DEF.pdf](http://www.aalsmeer.com/aalsmeerupload/VBA_Facts&Figures_2004_DEF.pdf)

<http://www.vba.nl/>

A very special thank you to Aalsmeer Flower Auction for sponsoring this tour!

Back to our hotel and free time until 1 p.m. when we meet at our hotel for a **special treat**.



Andre Ancion, a garden designer and owner of **Urban Home & Garden Tours Amsterdam**, and he will take us to see –what? Well, Andre is giving us a taste of what we might see on his tour as the definitive program will be made 2 weeks before your arrival. ‘ We will visit canal house gardens, formal (French), "parterre de broderie" and informal modern, an 17th Century Almshouse, a modern roof garden of a private bank, and 1 or 2 characteristic Dutch canal house interiors. Maybe we will also see a designers hotel garden or communal garden on Prinsengracht.’ Andre sent along a couple of pictures to tempt you.

Urban Home & Garden Tours Amsterdam was founded in 2000 by Andre Ancion. ‘We started with a small team and initially focused purely on canal house gardens – Amsterdam’s best kept secret! But soon we decided we couldn’t keep all those other interesting facts to ourselves: the 17th- to 20th-century canal house architecture and interior design and the French etiquette of the nouveau riche.’  
<http://www.uhgt.nl/en/>

A very special thank you to Andre for giving us just a glimpse of Amsterdam!

...then time to get ready and meet in the lobby for our tram journey out to **De Kas for dinner**. We will meet in the lobby at 6 p.m.

“A kitchen surrounded by fertile soil where vegetables and herbs thrive ... Where daylight shines in from all sides and where the chefs are free to express their creativity daily using the best the season has to offer. It seems an obvious concept, but I spent twenty years surrounded by white tiles under fluorescent lighting before I came up with it.” In 2001, top chef Gert Jan Hageman, who had earned a Michelin star in Dutch haute cuisine, found a new direction for his own career and a new purpose for the old greenhouse that belonged to Amsterdam’s Municipal Nursery. The greenhouse, which dated from 1926, was due to be demolished. With a lot of luck and, most importantly, with help from the municipality and his family and friends, Hageman succeeded in converting the unique 8-metre high glass building into a restaurant and nursery.

Situated in Frankendael Park, between the Rembrandt Tower and the nineteenth century facades of Watergraafsmeer, De Kas is an oasis of calm for the fifty-thousand guests who dine there each year; either in the breathtaking dining room designed by Piet Boon, or at the chef’s table in the kitchen, or - if weather permits - outside in the herb garden.



We will enjoy a three course dinner in the Garden Room. De Kas has a beautiful, separate room for private dinners, presentations and meetings. This garden room is located amongst the green of their nursery and has its own patio adjacent to the park. ‘At De Kas we are convinced that food is at its best when prepared using only the freshest ingredients, grown and harvested with care for the environment. De Kas has its own nursery, where we grow herbs and Mediterranean vegetables in the summer, and various kinds of lettuce in the winter. We



also own a piece of land in the Purmer polder, where we grow seasonable vegetables outdoors. In addition to our own produce, we buy fresh ingredients from local organic farmers on a daily basis.’ <http://www.restaurantdekas.nl/>

A very special thank you to De Kas for sponsoring part of this evening. **Make sure you pack tonight.**  
(Breakfast & Dinner)

#### **Thursday July 6 Day 5**

Make sure you have had breakfast, checked out and boarded the coach by 8:30.  
Plant Publicity Holland

PPH has as its principal task the collective promotion of Dutch hardy nursery stock in the Netherlands and other countries. They organize and support a wide range of activities aimed at promoting the sale of Dutch hardy nursery stock on behalf of and for colleagues in this sector. In the Netherlands and other countries the aim is to increase sales of Dutch hardy nursery stock and promote the good, reliable reputation of the sector. PPH’s activities extend around the world to North America, Japan and many European countries.

Beautiful products all year round...

...is the message which PPH uses to promote hardy nursery stock to the consumer market. The aim is to increase the number of buyers and the number of purchases per consumer.

... is the motto also used to approach the consumer market by the PR agencies outside the Netherlands with which PPH cooperates.

... is the starting point for organizing specific activities via television and radio broadcasting, the consumer press and professional journals.

The right Plant in the right Place ...

... under this motto PPH informs consumers in the landscape and amenity markets about the products and their uses. This includes local authorities, landscape architects and organizations responsible for public green space.

... was chosen as a motto because the policy in this market focuses primarily on providing information.

<http://www.pph.nl>

Our first visit today will be to **Jan van Zoest Clematis Nursery** where we will meet Wim Snoeijer. An amazing nursery of 2½-3 ha and 5000m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse, full of perfectly maintained clematis. At the time of visiting there won't be a lot of Clematis blooming due to the cuttings they have just made for propagation. They do all propagation at their own nursery and they also have a breeding program. Wim Snoeijer can tell you all about it, because he personally takes care of the breeding at van Zoest nursery. They grow about 400 cultivars of Clematis.



[www.clematisinfo.nl](http://www.clematisinfo.nl)

Then we cross the street to visit **Nico Rijnbeek and Son Nursery** where Nico will be there to meet and greet us.

Rijnbeek and Son are both growers and exporters of perennials...a rare combination in Holland. Together with a number of contract growers, Rijnbeek and Son offer more than 2,000 varieties of the newest and best quality bare-root perennials. They specialize in Astilbe, Dicentra, Hemerocallis, Heuchera, Hosta and Papaver. Rijnbeek's perennials are exported all over the world, including to America, Canada, Europe, Japan and Scandinavia. Rijnbeek and Son is also a leading producer of containerized perennials. Together with a large number of contract growers, we offer more than 2,200 varieties of perennials for the Dutch, European and Scandinavian markets



<http://www.rijnbeek.com/uk.html>

After we finish our visit with Nico, we will then be treated to **a boat tour through some of the canals in Boskoop with a box lunch provided.**



We are refreshed now and ready to visit **Applied Plant Research** unit in Boskoop and meet our host Marco Hoffman.

Professionals in knowledge and product development, PPO's Nursery Stock Research Unit provides support to the nursery sector in the form of research aimed at providing practical solutions. Their research takes into account societal developments regarding environment and sustainable production. They focus on practical innovations for the production chain and workable cultivation and farm management concepts through active knowledge transfer and implementation of workable solutions. To reduce the amount of waste, they focus on new products for the nursery sector such as degradable pots and degradable tying materials.

Healthy plants in a healthy environment can be achieved by looking for new, safe pesticides with safe application techniques. This makes it possible to use less product and to reduce emission. This is supported by the selection of less disease-prone crops and the development of optimum cultivation conditions.

#### Collection Garden

The PPO garden in Boskoop was in spring 2002 extended with a number of new crops. The range of crops will be extended further to give the garden a stronger instruction and educational function, in which education and nursery sector play a more prominent role. Healthy and strong crops will be given prominent place in this garden.

Primary school pupils have recently planted a number of new avenue trees which are included in their utility research, for which trees have also been planted in 16 municipalities in the Netherlands.

Topical themes are included in the renewed garden. There is room for flower bulbs, perennial plants and fragrant crops. Novelties and award-winning crops take up a prominent position. Current trends will also receive more attention, such as planting underneath trees.

<http://www.ppo.wur.nl/uk/>

A very special thank you to PPH for sponsoring this day, including our boat trip and lunch! After this wonderful day, we depart for Belgium and check into our hotel

#### Arrive Brussels and check into hotel (4 nights)



As the name suggests, the **4 Star President Centre Hotel** is located in the heart of Brussels. It is ideal for both business or pleasure with the Royal Palace and Grand Place just a short pleasant stroll from the hotel. Walking distance to boutiques at fashionable Rue de Namur and Boulevard de Waterloo.

The very professional and welcoming staff will help to make your stay more than enjoyable and are ready to answer all guest's enquiries. A warm welcome in a haven of peace and elegance. The hotel does not have a restaurant but it has an elegant breakfast room and bar. It also offers a variety of snacks and dishes that you may enjoy into your room from 06.00 pm till 01.00 am. Variety of cafes and restaurants within a few minutes walk to the hotel. All standard rooms recently refurbished decorated in warm modern shades with a working desk with lamp as well as a small sitting area. Your room will include: mini-bar, satellite and Cable colour TV, Radio Direct Dial Telephone, Computer Data line,

Working desk, Trouser press, Bathroom with bath and shower, Heated towel rail, Hairdryer, Welcome amenities, Non smoking room available. Also available: Room service from 06.30 pm till midnight, Laundry & Dry-cleaning service (for fee), Complimentary morning newspaper, safe Deposit Box at front desk, business center.  
(Breakfast & Lunch)

<http://www.presidentcentre.be/centre/en/welcome.htm>



**Friday July 7 Day 6 Leisure Day**  
(Breakfast)

**Saturday July 8 Day 7**



We board our coach at 9 and head to Antwerp for the entire day. We will start our medieval walking tour with a visit to Rockox House. Nicolaas Rockox was a great humanist, Burgomaster (Mayor) of Antwerp nine times in the first half of the 17th century, and friend and patron of Rubens. Together with his contemporaries Rubens, Plantin, Moretus, Jordaens and Snyders, Rockox was one of the key figures who helped to create the spirit of his times, at the height of the Baroque period in Antwerp. The house was restored in 1970 to its former splendour as a tribute to the Flemish region. The house was then furnished with art works and furniture which could have been found in a patrician house in the 17th century. The result is an outstanding example of a Flemish interior of the 17th century, displaying the best that Flemish artists and craftsmen of the period had to offer. There is also a charming interior garden here. We continue to the Rubenshuis gardens – Rubens took his inspiration in Italy for his garden and decorations. Not only did he decorate the area with niches, frontons, not only did he enhance the interior facades with garlands, he edified two different buildings face to face, connected by a genuine “triumph arch”, sort of magisterial synthesis of the Flemish and Italian character of the house. The perspective on the garden and the garden pavilion completes the décor. The Rubens house is considered as one of the masterpieces of Flemish baroque, just like the admirable “Grand Place” in Brussels or the beautiful Saint-Charles Borromeus church in Antwerp. We will then go to a brasserie type café where we will enjoy lunch on our own before leaving for the Antwerp Botanical Gardens. We may just see something else on the way back to our coach before departure to Brussels at 5 p.m. if time permits..

(Breakfast)

**Sunday July 9 Day 8 Les Jardins d'Annevoie**



After breakfast we begin our day with a visit to **The Gardens of Annevoie**. Designed and laid out between 1758 and 1776 by Charles-Alexis de Montpellier, the gardens are an authentic historical record and above all a living work of art.

The 17th century French-style pleasure gardens at Annevoie were alone in adopting the Italianate and English styles in the 18th century.

As a result of the amalgamation of these three cultures, the gardens were referred to as European-style gardens. Over twenty ornamental lakes and ponds fed by some fifty water jets, fountains and cascades go to make up water gardens which are unique of their type. Four springs act as feeders, while the Rouillon, the river that runs across the site, takes care of water collection and distribution.

Charles Alexis had the sheer genius to locate the main reservoir, a 400 m long canal at the highest point as well as installing a spring. It was an ingenious discovery that enabled the principle of communicating vessels to be utilized.

Everything works entirely naturally; the water has been flowing non-stop for over 230 years and does so throughout the year. The meadow, woods and the hermitage estate surrounding the gardens give the site its intimacy and offer substantial potential reserves for future development of the gardens.

Gravel drives, water features, sculptures, statues, trompe-l'oeil, remarkable trees, canals, woods sprinkled with stone remains (bridges, false grottoes, etc.) make it an exceptional location. We will have a guide along with us in case you have further questions.

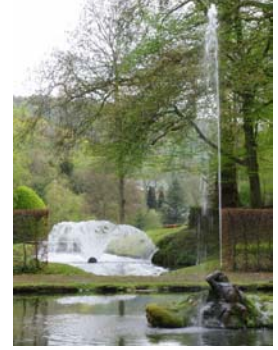
<http://www.jardins.dannevoie.be/>

A very special thank you to Annevoie for sponsoring this tour.

We will then head back to our hotel and enjoy free time until our **farewell dinner**.  
(Breakfast & Dinner)

**Monday July 10 Day 9 depart for home**

After breakfast, make your way to the airport for departure home. The easiest and most economical would be to take a taxi. The ride is about 20 minutes and cost approx. 27 euro. I would suggest finding out who is heading out at the same time and sharing a cab with them.



Your land package includes:

- 4 nights 4 Star Crowne Plaza Amsterdam & 4 nights 4 star President Centre Hotel Brussels
- Breakfast each morning
- Lunch on canal cruise
- 5 Dinners as noted
- Motorcoach Transportation on tour days
- Entrance Fees to Bolder Gardens
- Local Guide on tour days
- Tips/gratuities to guide and driver only

(You can extend your stay at the hotel for our special rate – please let us know when you call to book or make a note on your reservation form and we will contact you with the options available.)

Not included, airfare, meals unless noted, items of a personal nature or extra hotel charges.



**Tour Dates: July 2 – 10, 2006**

LAND ONLY €1640 (Euros)  
SINGLE supplement €467 (Euros)  
Meals: All breakfasts (B) 5 dinners (D) 1 Lunch (L)

Email: [donna@icangarden.com](mailto:donna@icangarden.com) – Toll Free **1-888-476-8721**

Subject to change without notice – 03/02/06

## Holland Belgium 2006 Reservation Form

Name (as shown on Passport):									
Address:									
<b>Telephone:</b>									
Home:									
Business:									
Fax:									
Email:									
<b>Type of Room</b>									
Double <input type="checkbox"/>	Sharing with:								
Single <input type="checkbox"/>	If Single supplement add €467								
<b>Air Transportation:</b>									
Please provide the following information in order for us to quote you the lowest available airfare from your city:									
Leave from:									
Date:									
Return from:									
Date:									
Remarks: A non-refundable deposit of \$450.00 CAD per person is due at time of reservation. The balance is payable no later than May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2006. After May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , all payments are non-refundable. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance.									
<b>TRAVEL INSURANCE</b> (optional)									
Must be purchased at time of deposit. Rates are based on your age. For a quote please advise date of birth.									
<input type="checkbox"/> Cancellation insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Package insurance (only applies to Canadians)								
	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined								
(Package insurance includes cancellation, emergency medical plus additional coverage)									
<b>How did you hear about the tour?</b> (this helps with our future advertising budget)									
Please specify _____									
<b>Payment Method</b>									
<input type="checkbox"/> I WISH TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD	<input type="checkbox"/> I WISH TO PAY BY CHECK/MONEY ORDER								
(If you would rather not include on this email form, please write it on the printable version to be faxed or mailed in)	(payable to Farlie Worldwide Travel) Please mail with this form.								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Name on card:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Card Number:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Exp Date:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Credit Card Company :</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name on card:		Card Number:		Exp Date:		Credit Card Company :		
Name on card:									
Card Number:									
Exp Date:									
Credit Card Company :									
I hereby authorize Farlie Worldwide Travel to charge these arrangements. X _____									
I accept these arrangements as described hereon and I accept the terms and conditions of these arrangements. Farlie Worldwide Travel/ICanGarden.com shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, or to property, resulting from any delay, substitution or deficiency of quality of equipment or service, or any act, omission, negligence or commission of any party supplying any of these services or accommodation herein, its agents, servants, employees, subcontractors or for any claims for such loss, damage, or injury, whether physical or mental, arising therefrom, or from any cause that arises by reason of actions of parties other than Farlie Worldwide Travel/ICanGarden.com. We reserve the right to refuse any booking and decline any passengers as a member of this tour at anytime. Signature _____ Date _____									
If paying by Credit Card Please either fax to 780-460-1528 or Email to <a href="mailto:donna@icangarden.com">donna@icangarden.com</a>  Toll Free 1-888-476-8721	If paying by check or money order Make payable to Farlie Worldwide Travel Mail to: #1 Fenwick Crescent St. Albert, Alberta Canada T8N 1W5								

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2006

### TOUR COST

All prices quoted are per person in Euros and include GST where applicable. Prices are current as at January 2006 and are subject to increases imposed by airlines, hotels and operators. Prices are subject to increase due to the fluctuation of the British Pound vs. the various foreign currencies, increases in supplies charges, i.e. international and domestic airfares, as well as the introduction of new Government taxes. The cost of each tour is based on a certain minimum number of passengers traveling (please see relevant tour page) and is subject to confirmation of availability of space at hotels and on flights. Hotels and services offered are subject to change and no refund is given for services provided but not utilized.

### NOT INCLUDED

Return airfare, any meals/ beverages with meals/ sightseeing not specifically mentioned in the Itinerary, items of a personal nature, such as room service, mini bar, telephone calls and **travel insurance**.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend travel insurance to cover yourself for cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances, medical attention and loss of personal items. Upon receipt of your booking, Farlie Worldwide Travel/ICanGarden Garden Tours will contact you to assist you with our own preferred Insurance product. If you choose NOT to take out travel insurance with Farlie Worldwide Travel/ICanGarden Garden Tours, we will require a written declaration stating that this was your decision.

### PHYSICAL CAPACITY

All passengers warrant that they have the physical capacity to participate fully in the tour without any assistance of the tour escort or other passengers. Due to the extent of walking and general travel involved in the tours, as well as difficulties with wheelchair access in the majority of gardens as well as some of the hotels/motels used, ICanGarden Garden Tours reserves the right to request a doctor's certificate from a passenger prior to or anytime during a tour to confirm that the passenger is physically able to undertake or continue the tour without any assistance from the tour escort or other passengers. ICanGarden Garden Tours, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to request a passenger cease the tour if, in the opinion of ICanGarden Garden Tours, its employees/agents, that a passenger is not physically able to continue the tour unassisted. In such event, ICanGarden Garden Tours, is not liable for any direct or indirect costs, losses or expense incurred by the passenger.

### US ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Canadian Citizens require a Canadian birth certificate and valid photo identification or a valid Canadian passport

### CHANGES TO ITINERARY

ICanGarden Garden Tours Office staff/ tour escort reserve the right to amend any part of the Itineraries at their discretion. Bad weather or any situation which may make conditions unsafe or uncomfortable, may result in changes to the itinerary. These decisions are final and may not be disputed before, during, or after the tour.

### SHARING ACCOMMODATION/ TRAVELLING ALONE

If you are travelling on your own and prefer to share with another person, we are more than happy to assist in providing you a share partner. Share room arrangements are subject to availability. However, if this is not possible, or if one person in a twin share cancels, then a single supplement is payable by the other person.

### LUGGAGE

International airline requirements for economy travel restrict luggage to a maximum of 20 kgs, domestic travel to 1 piece per person. In general it is advisable to keep your luggage to a weight that you will be able to carry when/if there are no porters around as happens occasionally.

### PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Visa/vaccination requirements/suggested clothing and other helpful hints will be forwarded in due course.

### TIPPING

Our tours include tipping/gratuities to Coach Driver and Local Guides. They do not include tips to the Tour Guide.

**TERMS AND BOOKING CONDITIONS / LIABILITY / RESPONSIBILITY:** ICanGarden Garden Tours and its associated operators welcome the opportunity to provide a travel service to their clients. However persons who take advantage of this service do so with the knowledge that ICanGarden Garden Tours and their associated operators act only as intermediaries, whose function is to make reservations with companies or firms offering facilities for accommodation or coach travel associated with the travel industry. ICanGarden Garden Tours and its associated operators make every endeavour to ensure that the reservations and bookings which are made with such firms or companies, are in fact fulfilled by them. However, ICanGarden Garden Tours and its associated operators, whilst acting in good faith, does not accept any responsibility for default causing loss or injury to person or property whether by negligence or otherwise on the part of any company, firm or their employees or any individual providing any facilities for any person taking advantage of the travel service. Further, ICanGarden Garden Tours and its associated operators are not liable for any loss suffered by any person or any additional expenses caused or occasioned by delays due to adverse weather, unsuitable road conditions, illness, injuries, strikes, civil disturbances or whatsoever nature interfering with, altering or adding to the cost of the service or accommodation requested or booked.