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**FALL IN LOVE WITH ANDALUSIA HISTORIC HOUSE, GARDENS & ARBORETUM, BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED AND WITH ADDITIONAL TOURS THIS AUTUMN**

Photos: [HERE](#)

**ANDALUSIA, PA | July 19, 2023** – This Spring, [Andalusia Historic House, Gardens & Arboretum](#) (Andalusia) opened for the 2023 season, with a newly renovated Visitor Center and opportunities to tour the picturesque property overlooking the Delaware River. As autumn approaches, plenty of days remain to enjoy the breathtaking fall foliage at the riverside estate and National Historic Landmark. Each walkable expanse features incredible views of the Biddle family's early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Greek Revival home situated on a 50-acre sprawling estate, surrounded by stunning native woodlands and spectacular formal gardens. The Bucks County riverfront property is just 13 miles from Center City, Philadelphia, making Andalusia an ideal day trip for nature enthusiasts looking to relish in the crisp outdoors of fall or relax along the riverbank.

Andalusia dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when John Craig, a Philadelphia merchant, purchased the property as a summer home in 1795. He built a house two years later, then expanded it in 1806-08 with additions by architect Benjamin Latrobe. In 1814, the property was passed to Craig's son-in-law, Nicholas Biddle, best known as the President of the Second Bank of the United States during the 1820s and 1830s. Biddle, a Renaissance man with a range of interests, including classical architecture and agriculture, oversaw an expansion of Andalusia's gardens and commissioned architect Thomas Ustick Walter to design a Greek temple façade to wrap around the main mansion, known as the "Big House."

The new Louisa Copeland Duemling Visitor Center features new amenities and interpretive spaces, including a gallery presenting a timeline of the property's history from 1681 to the present day, richly illustrated with photographs, drawings, and documents from Andalusia's archives. The theater offers a new presentation of a 2001 video about Andalusia and Nicholas Biddle. Guests can also browse books or purchase a drink or snack during their visit. The Visitor Center at Andalusia honors Louisa Copeland Duemling, an ardent supporter of Andalusia for many years, with improvements made possible by The Colonial Dames of America and the generous gifts of anonymous donors.

An inviting palette of auburn-hued trees and open garden walks await guests embarking on Andalusia's self-guided tours aided by a map of the grounds and featuring panoramic views of nature in fall transition. Visitors can stroll to The Woodland Walk and observe hundreds of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials. Highlights include the American Hornbeams, Ash trees, Baldcypress, Buckeye, Dawn Redwood, Easter Redbud, Elms, Hickories, Honey-locusts, Katsura, Korean Mountain Ash, Maples, Oaks, Persimmons, Sassafras, Sourwoods, Stewartia, Sweetgums, Tupelo Trees, Yellowwoods, Zelkovas, and Crepe Myrtles, White Wood Aster, Blue Wood Aster, Crimson Queen, Cosmos, Lemon Queen, Black-Eyed Susan, Goldenrod, and Joe Pye Flower.

Through November 3, Andalusia is open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., excluding holidays. Admission to tour the gardens is \$15 per person. Guided tours of the Historic House are offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and cost \$30 per person, including access to the gardens. [Tickets](#) are available online or at Andalusia, though advance tickets are recommended for all house tours.

Andalusia's [Open Saturdays](#) offer the public opportunities to enjoy the grounds during the weekends, continuing on September 23, October 28, and November 4. Each Open Saturday features special public programs and offerings. In September, celebrate World Rivers Day by taking a lively nature walk with naturalist Mike Weilbacher,

offered at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Visitors may also purchase local beer on tap from Neshaminy Creek Brewing Company. October features a fall foliage tour themed around climate change. This year, Andalusia begins extended hours on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Historic House tours offered at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 2:30 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets for Open Saturdays in advance from the Andalusia website with free admission for children under 12.

On Saturday, September 30, acclaimed guitarist and vocalist [John Pizzarelli](#) celebrates the anniversary of his debut album, performing a near-century catalog of songs for guests of Andalusia during the annual [Cabaret by the River](#). Returning by popular demand, the world-renowned songwriter/bandleader and his trio will perform the best of their expanded artist repertoire, including songs by The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, and Neil Young. [Tickets](#) for the 2023 Cabaret by the River black-tie event are currently on sale and include cocktails, gourmet cuisine, and live musical entertainment against the backdrop of the Delaware River and brilliant Historic House.

One of the featured tours of Andalusia, the [Champagne Garden Tour](#), is hosted by horticulturalist and Andalusia Board Trustee Kristin Biddle on September 23 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Guests will be treated to a glass of champagne and light refreshments on the grand porch of the Historic House. After a guided tour of the formal gardens, guests will return to the Historic House to relax while overlooking the Delaware River or stroll along The River Walk. Champagne Garden Tour tickets are \$65 per person; access to the Historic House is not included.

For a truly immersive and memorable experience, guests are encouraged to pack a picnic basket and settle among the gardens, or along the riverbank, for a blissful afternoon recess. From the riverbank and the expansive grounds, visitors have a perfect view of the exterior architecture and classic design of the Historic House and the many other buildings that dot the Andalusia property.

Masterful interior design and Greek revival style architecture combine inside Andalusia's Historic House, which underwent several restorations in January 2023 to its Yellow Parlor and Ottoman Parlor. Rehung draperies (supported by a grant from the Richard C. von Hess Foundation), restored decorative plaster ceilings, and newly painted walls and woodwork frame this historic treasure's rich textures and priceless heirlooms. An expansive and impressive art collection—including Voltaire's complete works edition of 1785, kept in Andalusia's extensive library, ornate Chinese art, polished silver serving wares, marble sculptures, carved stone and wood fireplaces, period furnishings, and commissioned portraits of centuries of Andalusia residents and extended family members—make the Historic House a delightful must-see. Tours of the Historic House run one hour and are led by guides with in-depth knowledge of the property's history, the Biddle family, and their distinguished guests.

Those looking to support and preserve Andalusia may join the Friends of Andalusia, a membership program that offers exclusive offers and benefits. An Andalusia Historic House, Gardens & Arboretum membership includes invitations to all special events and programs and the biannual newsletter, The Column, filled with news, articles, and more. Members also receive free Garden Admission and Historic House Tours during public hours (advance reservations are required for Historic House Tours to ensure availability).

The Andalusia Foundation was established in 1980 to preserve and maintain the grounds that are home to more than 1,000 trees, including nearly 250 unique specimens and cultivars from around the world. The estate's natural beauty has been carefully curated over the generations to include an expansive flora and plant life collection. From 2017 to 2018, renowned British landscape designer Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd led a revitalization of the grounds. This enormous undertaking led to the addition of some 10,000 plants consisting of assorted trees, shrubs, roses, and perennials. In 2020, Andalusia Historic House & Gardens was officially designated an Arboretum after being awarded Level II accreditation by [Arbnet](#) thanks to its diverse collection of tree species, cultivation practices, specialized staff, and educational programming. The Morton Register of Arboreta also added Andalusia to its global tree-focused database of public gardens.

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**About Andalusia Historic House, Gardens & Arboretum**

Andalusia, the ancestral home of the Biddle family, is surrounded by spectacular grounds that feature architectural delights and breathtaking gardens. Placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 1966, the "Big House" continues to provide an unparalleled look into our nation's past while allowing visitors a glimpse into the lives of a family that helped shape its future. Visit [andalusiapa.org](http://andalusiapa.org) for more information.