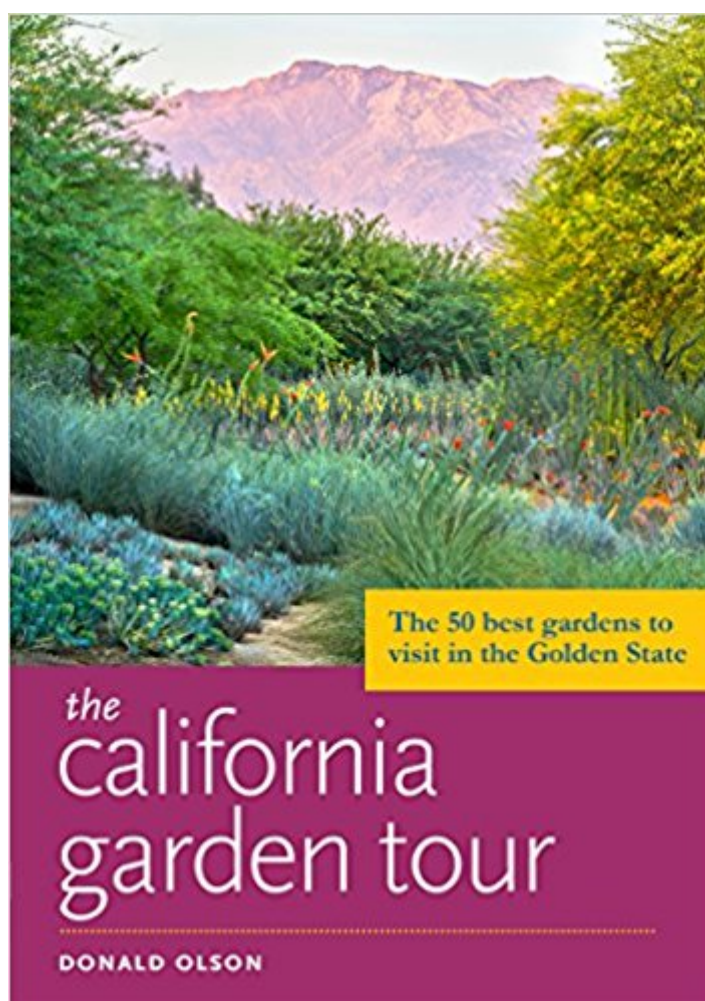


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# The California Garden Tour: The 50 Best Gardens To Visit In The Golden State



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: Timber Press (August 9, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1604697229

ISBN-13: 978-1604697223

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #235,879 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region > West #47 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Essays #131 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Ecotourism

## Customer Reviews

Among California's many charms, one of the most extraordinary is its treasury of public gardens. This detailed guide introduces you to fifty of the state's most beautiful cultivated spaces, from the glorious prison gardens of Alcatraz, to the exotic Eden of opera diva Ganna Walska. An easy-to-use format, location maps, and enticing photography make this a must-have companion for residents and visitors alike—sharing places of splendor, history, drama, and wonder.

Donald Olson is a travel writer, novelist, and playwright with a longtime interest in gardens and gardening. His work has appeared in the New York Times, National Geographic, and other national publications, and he is the author of several travel guides. An avid gardener himself, Olson

has been exploring the great gardens of Europe and the Pacific Northwest for many years. You can visit his website at [donaldstevenolson.com](http://donaldstevenolson.com).

It'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.

I have lived in California for over 40 years and never knew about most of the gardens in this beautifully illustrated book. I love gardens, so I've been using it as a guidebook as I travel around the state. It's easy to use and easily fits into your bag or backpack. The garden stories are fascinating and the photographs make you want to see the gardens for yourself, I am going to be giving The California Garden Tour to a lot of my friends at Christmas.

The CALIFORNIA GARDEN TOUR is a book designed for garden lovers. If you are not a garden lover, you probably won't even understand this book. I have been to many of the gardens featured here, and I confirm they are truly outstanding. Each garden has been an inspiring, fun trip. The sections of the book are geographically designed. So for example there is a big section called Northern California, and of course one called Southern California. In the Northern California area, it is further divided into San Francisco & Peninsula, East Bay, Sonoma and Vicinity, and Central and North Coast. The geographical divisions make it easy to navigate through the book. I was pleased to discover that there are many Northern California gardens close to me. As you might expect, each garden is accompanied by a variety of color photographs, showing the highlights from that particular garden. In the San Francisco area, where I live, there's even a section on Alcatraz! I had no idea that Alcatraz would be a featured garden. I'm pretty sure that was after the prisoners were all gone when the photos were taken. All in all, I found the CALIFORNIA GARDEN TOUR to be an inspiring, fun read. If nothing else, enjoy looking through the beautiful photographs. They are very inspiring--even the ones from Alcatraz Island. Advance Review Copy courtesy of the publisher.

I'll be taking this beautiful guide with me every time I go to California. Olson's knowledge and

appreciation of gardens, and his clear focus on what makes each of his selections distinctive, comes through on every page. His fine writing makes this book a pleasure to read, the photos are enticing, and the clean format and straightforward presentation makes this an easy resource to use. I look forward to exploring all 50 gardens.

This book is dense in the good sense of being filled with information on history of the gardens, plant varieties, social context, and the author's witty judgements. Some reading about areas familiar to me reveals that I still have much to learn about gardens nearby. I look forward to taking it along to places that I don't know well. California residents as well as visitors should find it a source of pleasure.

Well, I have to say, I actually like this book a bit more than Mr. Olson's gardens tour book covering the Pacific Northwest (and I loved it--5 stars)! I can't wait to head south from Portland to CA with this book in hand. Unlike his previous garden tour book, this one has maps showing the geographic locations of each garden - a nice improvement and many of the gardens sound divine! California, here I come!

Being an Oregonian, I have loved the Oregon Garden Tour guide, and this new book by Donald Olson is every bit as good. The photos are lovely, and the history of the gardens is well worth reading whether you are touring California or just want an interesting read of US garden history. It should be a "must have" book for every California garden enthusiast and tourist to the state. I have sent it as a gift to my many gardening friends. It is receiving rave reviews by all. Thank you, Mr. Olson, for another beautiful guide book.

I like the personal anecdotes describing special things to look for .....both seasonal tips and little items of joy that one might miss on a garden tour walk .....very personable writing style.....can't wait to get to California again

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