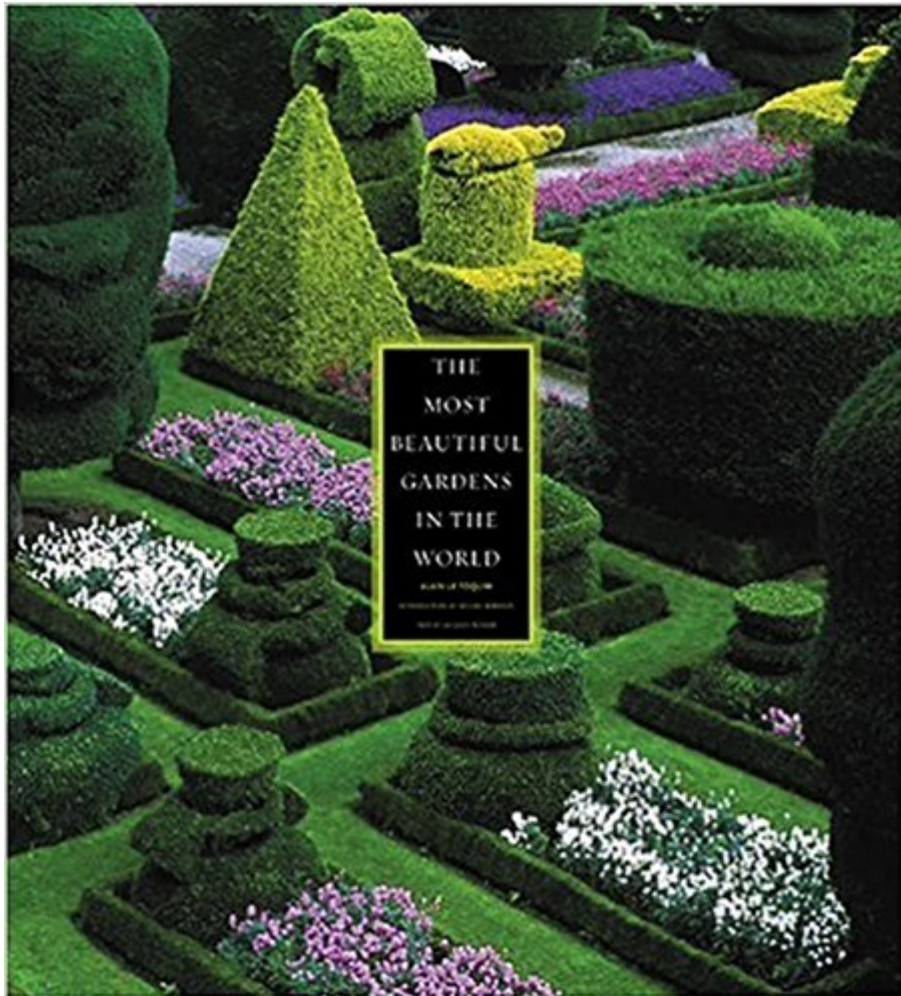




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# The Most Beautiful Gardens In The World



## Synopsis

Gardens are unique creations, reflecting not only the landscape, flora, and climate of their environments but also the heritage, the history, architectural styles, and influences, of the cultures that made them. From the fountain gardens of the Iranian desert to the whimsical Garden of Cosmic Speculation in Scotland, from the Zen gardens of Buddhist temples to the Impressionist gardens in Giverny, the huge variety of gardens around the globe is a testament to our age-old desire to tame and refashion nature. In *The Most Beautiful Gardens in the World* photographer Alain Le Toquin celebrates the diversity of these manmade landscapes, capturing 31 of the greatest public and private gardens on five continents, including Majorelle in Morocco, the Versailles gardens outside Paris, the Keukenhof flower show park in The Netherlands, and the Huntington Gardens in California. With more than 150 images and 12 gatefolds featuring spectacular panoramic photographs, this gorgeous book will captivate travelers and garden admirers alike, and will inspire gardeners themselves with fresh ideas for design, horticulture, and use.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*Gorgeous photographs by French luminary le Toquin render this impressive coffee-table tome one of the most awe-inspiring garden books in years, and lively text by Bosser only heightens its appeal. The book's scope is grand; encompassing such exotic locales as Morocco, Singapore and New Zealand; but perhaps the most breathtaking photographs are of the unexpected garden havens in Iran. "The Persian garden was not designed for strolling. The prince was carried

in his sedan chair to an open pavilion or to the edge of a pool to mediate, hear music, write verse or listen to recitations," Bosser writes when describing the ancient water garden of Bagh-e Fin. Fold-out sections provide panoramic views of such escapes as the jewel-toned gardens of Yves Saint Laurent's labyrinthine Marrakech oasis and a kitchen garden in Loire Valley, France, in which vibrant green, leafy cabbages take on the beauty of blossoms. Le Toquin displays his love of the more playful side of garden architecture in a stop at the Nymphaeum of Villa Visconti Borromeo Litta outside Milan, a stone pavilion built over a spring and decorated heavily with (what else?) stone nymphs, and makes the unusual choice of capturing the gardens of Versailles in winter; snow blankets the nude statuary and offers a unique view of the gardens' "bones." With its sumptuous full-color photographs, this visual tour is a necessary indulgence for armchair gardeners. A detailed section providing the location and contact information for nearly all the public gardens featured also makes it a handy reference for readers whose ambitions and resources equal le Toquin's own. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Throwing down the horticultural gauntlet, photographer Le Toquin makes good on his promise of an armchair traveler's dream come true: a pictorial tour of 32 gardens that more than justify the title's accolade. From the awe-inspiring gardens at Japan's Kyoto Temples to the avant-garde landscape at Scotland's Portrack House, Le Toquin explores the most elaborate and elegant private and public gardens on five continents. Treating winter-weary gardeners and peripatetic plant enthusiasts to an intoxicating realm of vicarious pleasures, LeToquin excels at the unexpected. His requisite pilgrimage to the gardens at Versailles takes place in winter, when their signature beauty is veiled by a lacy filigree of snow. Other surprises include Russia's majestic Peterhof gardens, the mystical oasis of Iran's Bagh-e Shahzdeh gardens, and the antiquarian gardens at Belgium's Freyr Chateau. Michel Baridon's and Bosser's illuminating text eloquently enhances Le Toquin's photographic artistry to complete a magnificent treatise celebrating the rich heritage, cultural influences, and creative diversity of the world's grandest gardens. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

The book arrived within a few days of me placing the order. It was well and securely packaged and arrived in excellent condition. This was very important for me as I purchased the book as a present for a friend. I briefly looked at the book before I sent it away as a gift. It looked absolutely stunning - I wish I could have kept it for myself !

Great publications and beautiful pictures. Thoroughly enjoyed it and keep in my library for reference.

Well-composed photos of mostly outstanding gardens in good light. Too many books have lesser quality photos because of the conditions when the photographer was visiting. Obviously a lot more time was spent waiting for decent light and the result is many really great photos. There is also a good balance of text; this is not the book for in depth info, but there is enough to give some background.

Absolutely gorgeous photography. This is a big, heavy coffee table book that gets oooh'd over far more than it gets actually read. There is text within it, talking about the various gardens/landscapes that have been chosen, but truth be told, that's secondary to all the beautiful pictures.

This is really a nice book, whether you're looking for ideas for your property or just a coffee table book you can't go wrong. Worth every penny.

GoooooD

I bought this stunning book for a friend who is an avid gardener. We were so WOWED by the foldout photo of the European kitchen garden that we are planning a Spring trip to visit it. Garden porn at its best. Great price, uber fast delivery, as usual. Thank you, !

I did enjoy the book and many of the photographs were a pleasure -- however, I was SO glad I bought it used from a reseller. I would have been really annoyed if I paid anything close to list price. I felt this book did a surface job both with pictures and narratives. It left me wanting more, but not in a good way. Also, it probably should be called "The Most Beautiful Garden STRUCTURES in the World" -- because garden structures dominate the photographs. Criteria for choosing "the most beautiful" also unclear.

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