



The Secret Gardens of Charleston

By Louisa Pringle Cameron

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A city renowned for the preservation of its vast collection of Georgian and other antebellum architecture, Charleston is equally famous for the intriguing private gardens that make it one of the greenest cities in the nation. From within hidden sites and from behind ancient city walls, the nearly two dozen exquisite gardens Louisa Pringle Cameron profiles in this book leave little doubt that Charleston has earned its moniker as "a city set in a garden."

Although all are situated in Charleston, each garden is unique, offering the reader the aesthetic experience of discovery and renewal with the turn of a page. Readers step through shrubbery and meander under trellises bulging with flowering vines, with each photograph providing a unique perspective into the horticultural character of this urban city. Surrounded by native gardeners' encouragements, tips, and stories, the narrative details a vibrant life and history in each space. The Secret Gardens of Charleston captures the distinct architectural composition of this remarkable city and provides a rewarding collection of ideas, advice, and anecdotes from the city's experienced gardeners.

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The Secret Gardens of Charleston By Louisa Pringle Cameron Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #239584 in Books
- Brand: Brand: University of South Carolina Press
- Published on: 2012-10-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.90" h x .40" w x 8.40" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 110 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

Another look at the exclusive gardens, both popular and lesser known, of Charleston, South Carolina

About the Author

Louisa Pringle Cameron grew up amid historic gardens in her native city of Charleston, South Carolina. Cameron is a graduate of Hollins College in Virginia and of Clemson University's Master Gardener Program in Charleston. She is an accomplished gardener, watercolorist, and lecturer.

Lauren Preller Chambers is a freelance photographer who lives on Sullivans Island, South Carolina.

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Charleston, founded in 1670, has an important history of gardening. It has been as alluring to horticulturists as it has been appealing to sophisticated travelers throughout its history. Mark Catesby, a naturalist, historian, and artist, documented plants and sent them (along with seeds) back to England in the early 1700s. The French government funded Andre Michaux's plant collecting expeditions to America, where he and his son eventually established a nursery near Charleston in 1787. The Gardenia and the Poinsettia were named for botanically-minded early Charlestonians, and the first rose to be hybridized in America, Champneys' Pink Cluster, was grown at a large garden just south of the city.

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