

Wine & Garden Tour, One-Day Tour

This tour offers visits two Finger Lakes landmarks: Belhurst Castle in Geneva and Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion in Canandaigua, plus wine tastings.

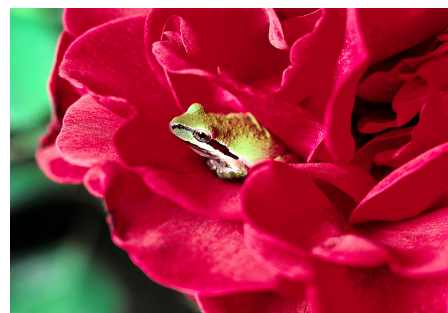
Included is a meal at Belhurst Castle, perhaps one of the area's best-known sites, with an interesting history. In the early 1800s the first "modern" building on the land was built and called the "Hermitage," where William Henry Buck resided under an alias. Buck lived in seclusion and died in the home after breaking his leg. Upon his death it was discovered that he had been the treasurer of the Covent Garden Theatre in London, had embezzled theatre funds, married his stepmother and fled to the United States to avoid capture. Some say Buck built an escape tunnel in case authorities found him. The property was transferred many times with the original building eventually being torn down and replaced by Belhurst Castle, a grand home, which took fifty men four years to build. During this time one man was killed when he fell from the site's tower and another went insane while putting on the roof. It was later used as a restaurant and casino during Prohibition and now with expansions offers a spa, restaurant, wine tasting bar and hotel accommodations.



Also tour Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion offering nine formal gardens and an impressive 40-room Queen Anne-style mansion built by New York City financier Frederick Ferris Thompson and his wife, Mary Clark Thompson, daughter of New York State governor Myron Holley Clark in the mid-1850s. View many of the mansion's stately rooms including the impressive great hall, billiard and trophy rooms, library, drawing room, dining room and upstairs bedrooms and enjoy a moment on the mansion's veranda porches overlooking the surrounding gardens.



The gardens were inspired by Mary Clark Thompson's many trips to Europe and Asia. After her husband died she hired hundreds of workers between 1902 and 1912 to re-design existing gardens. Groups can visit the greenhouse conservatory complex, Japanese Garden, Sub-Rosa Garden with fountain, Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Blue & White Garden, Pansy Garden, Moonlight Garden, Old Fashioned Garden, Rock Garden and Peacock House/Aviary. This site also offers a gift shop and wine-tasting bar. Garden tours are general docent-lead and can be tailored to group's interests and mobility. Trams are available upon request to transport guests from parking area to the mansion and with many gardens directly surrounding the building, visitors with limited mobility will be able to enjoy many of the site's renown features.



One-day tour, available May to October. Best for garden color June through early September. Custom multi-day options available.

Tour includes:

- **Belhurst Castle**
- **Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion**
- **Wine Tastings**



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