



## MUSINGS ON LOTUSLAND AND MADAME...

“The estate's sign reads ‘Ganna Walska Lotusland.’ One cannot consider Lotusland without considering Walska. They are one and the same. In Montecito, about 90 miles north of Los Angeles, where New World tycoons conspired to recreate staid Old World garden estates, the Old World Madame aspired to invent a New World. Eccentricity, sophistication and deep pockets unite at Lotusland, the living incarnation of Walska's irrational exuberance.”

*-New York Times Magazine*

“Evidence of Walska's art is everywhere — in surprising juxtapositions of form and playful shocks to our expectations. But Lotusland's garden is not simply an eccentric fantasy, any more than ‘Alice in Wonderland’ is just a children's book. For Walska, plants were more than plants; they were colors to paint with, a family to nurture, characters to direct.”

*-Los Angeles Times*

“Madame Walska to me is the Diana Vreeland of the gardening world. I imagined her not only strolling through her cycad collection and giving each individual specimen a nickname, but also ‘styling’ her garden as any great interior designer would do. She was just as much an artist as a plants woman. At birth, she was definitely given a big dollop of eccentric, creative genius.”

*-Mish Tworowski, jewelry designer and Lotusland supporter*

“Indeed, what distinguishes Lotusland from most other ornamental gardens is its unique — some might say bizarre — flourishes. A true innovator, Walska also came up with the idea of ‘mass plantings,’ now de rigueur for every landscape designer...”

*-Wall Street Journal*

“Docent Barbara Silver is clearly tickled to be working at Lotusland...Much of the appeal for Ms. Silver is Walska herself, whom she says was not only bold and beautiful but also a ‘spiritual quester.’...Silver is not alone in her fascination with Walska. It's virtually impossible to visit Lotusland without wondering what kind of a person would create such a place. For as Walska herself put it: ‘My garden is out of this world.’”

*-Christian Science Monitor*

“Lotusland is one of the great gardens of America—a living work of art, and a special reminder of the half-forgotten design values of the past. Its magnificent living collections of cycads, palms and succulents are the backbone of a dynamic program of conservation education.”

*-Peter H. Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden*

“While Lotusland is out of this world,” says curator Virginia Hayes, “ordinary gardeners can draw inspiration from the techniques used there. For example, the striking Blue Garden is nothing more than blue foliage plants arranged to complement each other — blue agaves, cedars, bluegrasses.”

*-HGTV*