



Stowe - Spirit of Place

“Gardening on the grandest scale”

Stowe is truly a garden of international significance where the art form of landscape gardening was pioneered and developed. Originally created in the 18th century as a consequence of wealth and privilege, full of meaning and shaped by political rivalries and influence, its intriguing history is interwoven with stories of its creation, extravagance, revival and restoration. Considered to be the epitome of good taste, Stowe inspired the foremost innovative, intellectual and creative minds of the time, indeed the ‘gardening glitterati’. As one of the earliest tourist attractions Stowe became a cultural point of reference commanding much attention and visitors today continue to walk in the footsteps of the many early tourists who stayed at New Inn to marvel at the wonder of this monumental landscape.

Lord Cobham and Earl Temple’s gardens were designed to make a statement, on approach, the glimpse of splendour and opulence which reveals itself through the imposing Corinthian Arch continues to excite and surprise. The Grecian Valley and the Parkland are amongst Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown’s most influential pieces of work with Bridgeman’s early layout and Kent’s Rococo scenery and with its majestic architectural features; Stowe today provides a fascinating combination that can be found in no other single place.

There are many different layers of Stowe to unwrap from being overwhelmed by its awe inspiring splendour and scale to delving into the intriguing journey of its history, its meaning and the people who have influenced and shaped this grandest of gardens.

Jane Greenhaf
General Manager
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