

STORY IDEAS

Downton Abbey: The Exhibition set to open at Biltmore Nov. 8, 2019

Downton Abbey: The Exhibition will open at Biltmore in Asheville, N.C. on Nov. 8, 2019 for a limited engagement through April 7, 2020. This immersive exhibition will feature set recreations, costumes and exclusive multimedia elements, providing guests with a chance to step inside the world of Carnival Films' global television series and highly anticipated feature film, which will hit the big screen on Sept. 20, 2019.

Showcased in two locations at Biltmore, the exhibition will transport guests on an incredible journey through the grand home of *Downton Abbey*, providing an inside look into the world of the Crawleys and those that served them below stairs. It will also provide a fascinating look at all aspects of the post-Edwardian era in which the TV series is set, and offer in-depth insight into the remarkable events that shaped the world, such as World War I. At Biltmore's Amherst, never-before-seen multimedia elements and the series' most recognizable sets and artifacts will immerse guests in the social history, culture and memorable moments from the show. At Biltmore Legacy, guests will get an up-close look at more than 50 of the show's costumes that were worn by their favorite actors including Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville and Dame Maggie Smith.

Downton Abbey: The Exhibition is produced by NBCUniversal International Studios and Imagine Exhibitions. Biltmore marks the fourth stop on the exhibition's U.S. tour, which has received wide critical acclaim. The exhibition made its U.S. debut in New York City in Nov. 2017, where it was hailed by the *New York Times* as, "a cleverly immersive experience mounted with the same exacting care as the show itself." Following its debut, the exhibition completed a stop in West Palm Beach and is currently residing in Boston at The Castle at Park Plaza.

Biltmore's Christmas celebration: Addition of "Downton Abbey" exhibit enhances estate's annual holiday celebration

Known for its monumental scale of traditional holiday décor and dazzling lights, this year Biltmore's annual *Christmas at Biltmore* celebration will offer even more than ever before.

A yuletide feast for the senses, *Christmas at Biltmore* and *Candlelight Christmas Evenings* begin Nov. 1, 2019. One week later, on Nov. 8, the estate will welcome *Downton Abbey: The Exhibition*, an immersive experience that celebrates the global hit television series and new feature film.

Biltmore House all aglow with five dozen Christmas trees

Biltmore House interiors will shine with the sparkle of 56 hand-decorated Christmas trees, ribbons and garlands measured by the mile, and thousands of lights. A majestic 35-foot Fraser fir in the Banquet Hall is the home's holiday centerpiece. For the first time, hand-decorated Christmas trees will be displayed on the balcony that wraps around the home's two-story Library.

Candlelight Christmas Evenings

During *Candlelight Christmas Evenings*, candlelight, firelight, and live music will create a magical environment that elevates seasonal celebrations inside Biltmore House. A 55-foot Norway Spruce on the home's front lawn lit with 55,000 lights will greet guests as they arrive to enter Biltmore House.

The warm welcome continues at Antler Hill Village & Winery with a constellation of holiday lights leading to the Winery and estate restaurants. A towering tree of lights will illuminate the Village Green, with a sea of lighted grapevine spheres nestled in the landscaping. Lights cascading from the trees that surround the bonfire area near Antler Hill Barn will offer a unique touch to the experience.

Christmas at Biltmore 2019 Event Calendar

- *Christmas at Biltmore* daytime experience – Nov. 1 through Jan. 5
- *Candlelight Christmas Evenings* nighttime experience – Nov. 1 through Jan. 4
- Illumination of Antler Hill Village – Nov. 1 through Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m. to midnight
- *Downton Abbey: The Exhibition* at Biltmore's Amherst and the Biltmore Legacy in Antler Hill Village – Nov. 8 through April 7, 2020
- A Gardener's Place How-to Seminar: "Illuminated Holiday Tablescape" – daily Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, at 1:30 p.m.
- Conservatory's annual seasonal display – Nov. 1 through Jan. 5
- Complimentary wine tasting at Biltmore Winery. [Winery specialty tours](#) available with additional price and reservations required – Nov. 1 through Jan. 5
- Bonfires in Antler Hill Village with s'mores kits available for purchase at The Creamery - Nov. 1 through Jan. 3, select dates, 3 to 10 p.m.
- Roving Holiday Carolers in Antler Hill Village – select dates
- Candlelight Winery Tour with a look into the winemaking process and tasting with light cheese pairing. Additional price and reservations required.
- Visits with Santa at the bandstand in Antler Hill Village – select dates
- The Inn on Biltmore Estate's Annual Gingerbread House Tea – additional price and reservations required – Dec. 14 through 22, select dates, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Festive holiday meals prepared by award-winning chefs served in all of the estate's [restaurants](#) – ongoing

NEW VENUE! Meeting and event space: Amherst at Deerpark

Biltmore's newest and largest event setting is Amherst at Biltmore. Located in the most sought-after event area on the estate, Amherst offers a combination of flexible indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate meetings and events of all sizes. This elegant collection of venues can accommodate meetings, weddings and special events of all sizes, from the grandest of galas to the most intimate gathering.

Enhancements at America's most visited winery

Guests at Biltmore Winery now enjoy new enhancements for complimentary tastings of Biltmore's portfolio of wines in its renovated tasting room. Biltmore Winery is housed in the estate's historic dairy barn and renovations have kept the existing architecture of the dairy intact while making modern updates that highlight beautiful features of the original design. Renovations showcase the woodwork of the exposed rafters and incorporate original building materials such as stucco. The additional space hosts a new specialty tour, the Winery Production Tour, showcasing how science and nature meet in winemaking, while educating about the estate's vineyard, the unique factors of grape growing in North Carolina, and the craft of fermentation. A new Premium Wine Bar is available with outdoor seating.

Two overnight options for extending your visit to Biltmore

Biltmore guests can now choose from two distinctive lodging options to reap exclusive benefits like waking up on George Vanderbilt's mountain estate. Experience four-star accommodations and dining at **The Inn on Biltmore Estate**, or relax with a more casual stay at Biltmore's newest property, **Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate**, located in the middle of Antler Hill Village's activities. The Village Hotel is adjacent to Biltmore's popular Winery in Antler Hill Village, giving guests a convenient home base for exploring the estate's grounds through outdoor activities, shopping, dining and live music on the Village Green.