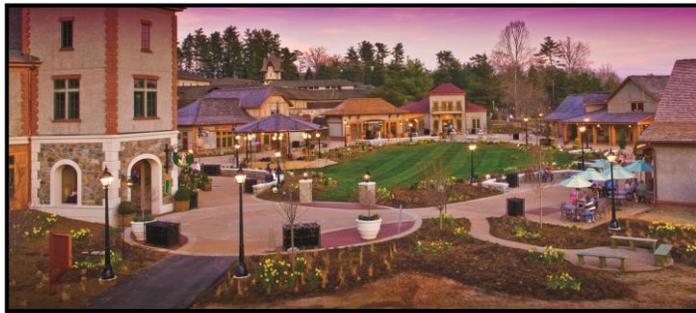




On Sunday, February 8 and Thursday, February 12, 2015 **American Booksellers Association** guests will have opportunities to enjoy unforgettable tours of the Biltmore Estate. Tour buses will depart the Grove Park Inn for the Biltmore Estate both days at 10:00am and return at approximately 3:30pm. **Please meet in the Lobby located on the Seventh Level of the Grove Park Inn's Vanderbilt Wing Atrium fifteen minutes prior to 10:00am.**



The primary attraction on the Biltmore Estate is the 255-room Chateau built by George Vanderbilt in the late 1800s. Biltmore House is America's largest privately-owned residence and it exhibits an incredible display of furnishings, sculptures, paintings, books, and other treasures collected from around the world. After your self-guided House tour, you will enjoy an all-inclusive lunch at Biltmore's historic Deerpark Restaurant. Deerpark is part of a series of handsome outbuildings designed by architect Richard Morris Hunt in the 1890s for Vanderbilt's farm operations. Originally a dairy barn, Deerpark was renovated into a unique open-air restaurant in a beautiful pastoral setting. Before returning to the Inn, your group will visit Biltmore's Antler Hill Village and the Biltmore Estate Winery. Formerly the historic Biltmore Dairy, the Biltmore Estate Winery is the most visited winery in America. There you will have the opportunity to taste several Biltmore

wines and browse a wide selection of gourmet foods, coffees, wine products and giftware. **The cost for this tour package is \$109 per-person and includes roundtrip transportation with professional guide from the Grove Park Inn, admission to the Biltmore House, Gardens & Winery, an all-inclusive lunch on the Estate (brunch on Sunday), and all taxes.**

Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ Participant Names \_\_\_\_\_

Please Choose Date of Tour:      Sunday, February 8, 2015       or Thursday, February 12, 2015

Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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*Name as it Appears on Card*

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*Type of Credit Card (MasterCard, Visa or AMEX only)*

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*Credit Card Number*

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*Expiration Date*

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*Card Security Code\**

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*Card Owner's Signature (not required if e-mailing form)*

*\*The Card Security Code (CSC) is a 3- or 4-digit number printed on your credit card. It provides added security when you use your card over the phone. The number appears on the card itself (on reverse of most cards, but on the front of AMEX cards), not on receipts or statements.*

**Important Information:** **Registration Deadline is January 31, 2015.** Cancellations must be received in writing on or before **February 5** for a full refund. NO refunds will be issued for cancellations received after that date. *Accents on Asheville* reserves the right to cancel any tour and will issue full refunds if the minimum number of participants for the tour is not met. For more information, contact *Accents on Asheville* at 828-251-9013, or e-mail Michael Rouse at: [michaelr@accentsonasheville.com](mailto:michaelr@accentsonasheville.com). Please e-mail form to Michael Rouse, fax completed form to 828-251-9213, or mail this form along with your check payable to:



**The Book Lover:** George Washington Vanderbilt III was the youngest child of industrialist William Henry Vanderbilt and his wife Maria Louisa Kissam. While his father was a well-known collector of paintings, George had a different preoccupation: books. Born in 1862, young Vanderbilt was educated at local private schools and at home by tutors. He proved to be an able student with an active, inquiring mind and began to read widely at a very tender age. Around the age of twelve, he began recording each book he read in a series of small notebooks. There, numbered consecutively, he diligently listed the title and author of each work completed. Though we have little else documenting George Vanderbilt's youth via personal writings, his few remaining diaries give a bit of insight into his personality and confirm that both books and reading were lifelong passions. Scrawled in script befitting a twelve-year-old boy, George notes in his diary in 1875:

*"I have been way down town today and have displeased Mother, she gave me two dollars to buy a sketch book with which I went to four stores but could not get one so I spent it on books, besides \$2.65 of my own money which Mother did not like... I got two volumes of the Young America Abroad. And the last volume of the Yacht Club."*

Despite any annoyance his mother may have expressed, George continued to pursue his passion. By the age of 16, his love of the written word had certainly not waned. Indeed, based on his diary entries, collecting books seems to be his main interest, even when traveling through Europe with his family. An excerpt from his diary written in London on September 28, 1880 reads:

*...I think I enjoy it here more than any of them as I am interested in going [sic] about the old book stores and consequently have plenty of books to read when at the hotel...*

While members of his family were known for their lavish parties or success in the stock market, it was George's love of learning on which the press was reporting. This characterization of Vanderbilt written by a turn-of-the-century New York journalist undoubtedly contained a measure of truth:

*He was a bookworm, a student... And his love of books came all from his own inner consciousness, for he was not graduated from any college, and his education, while not neglected, had not been carried beyond the ordinary limits of high schools, though now, I doubt not, he is one of the best read men in the country.*

George kept his list of *Books I have Read* from the age of 12 until his untimely death in 1914 at the age of 51. The last entry was #3159, the third volume of Henry Adams' History of the United States. Thus, between 1875 and 1914, George Vanderbilt read an average of eighty-one books a year. This is a staggering total, even when taking into account that Vanderbilt was a man of leisure.

Throughout his life, George chose to use part of his wealth to make several charitable gifts and to support local literacy initiatives. Even as a young man, Vanderbilt donated land for the campus of the Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City and funded the building and collection of one of the first public lending libraries in the country. The library was eventually absorbed into the New York Public Library. This treasured public institution, along with his remarkable private collection of 23,000 volumes still housed at Biltmore, serves as a befitting legacy for one with such a passionate love of learning.

Today, Biltmore is a testament to a life-long love of learning and offers engaging and vibrant lessons in art, horticulture, architecture, agriculture, engineering, science, land management, and hospitality. George Vanderbilt's knowledge and view of what the world could be, gleaned from the hundreds of books he collected and read throughout his lifetime, is surely articulated at Biltmore. His grandson and great-grandchildren who continue to operate the estate also offer an amazing case study in the business of private, self-sufficient preservation.

**Special Exhibit:** Starting, February 5, Biltmore Estate will feature a new exhibit entitled *Dressing Downton: Changing Fashion for Changing Times*. This exhibition is included in the tour price and guests can view more than 40 costumes from the popular PBS series *Downton Abbey*. The costumes will be displayed throughout America's largest home in groupings inspired by the fictional show and by real life at Biltmore. Ranging from servants' uniforms to lavish evening gowns, the award-winning costumes reflect how world events - the sinking of Titanic, World War I, and the Jazz Age - and the evolving roles of women influenced fashions. Biltmore House, the exhibition's premiere location, strikingly resembles Highclere Castle where the series was filmed, making it easy for guests to imagine how the Vanderbilts and their employees lived a century ago. "The day-to-day running of Biltmore House was surprisingly similar to that of Downton Abbey," said Ellen Rickman, Director of Biltmore's Museum Services. "Just like Downton has Mr. Carson and Mrs. Hughes, Biltmore had its own cast of fascinating characters. Displaying these fabulous costumes from the show gives us an unparalleled opportunity to delve into Biltmore's stories."

