

LATE SPRING OUTING

Tuesday 17th June 2025

Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8JN



The gardens at Scotney Castle are one of the finest surviving examples of the 19th-century picturesque style—romantic, theatrical, and designed to reveal new vistas at every turn. They combine a moated medieval ruin, sweeping rhododendron banks, quarry-cut ravines, and a richly productive walled garden, all set within a wooded valley in Kent. Key Areas of the Garden are:

The Old Castle & Moat

A 14th-century ruin was partially dismantled in the 1830s to create a romantic focal point. Herb beds and borders soften the stonework.

The Quarry Garden

Carved from the stone excavated to build the Victorian mansion.

- Winding paths
- Acer, azaleas, and dramatic rock faces
- One of the most atmospheric parts of the estate

The West Glade

Home to specimen trees, including a **Sequoiadendron giganteum** planted in the 1850s.

The Walled Garden

A productive, octagonal Victorian garden with:

- Wall-trained fruit
- Vegetable beds
- Herbs and cut flowers

A window into the estate's working past.

Estate Walks

Over **770 acres** of woodland, hop farm, and parkland extend beyond the formal gardens.

The Moated Castle is breathtaking in all seasons, whereas the Quarry Garden is a sea of colour in spring and summer. The Walled Garden provides fresh fruit and vegetables for the Hussey household, and the Victorian Boathouse adds a charming touch to the garden's landscape. The Icehouse, thatched with heather, adds to the historical charm. The natural Chalybeate Spring gives a serene atmosphere while wild meadows buzz with bees and insects in the summer.

Spring

Sweeps of rhododendron, azalea, and kalmia cascade down the slopes toward the moat. Rare green-winged orchids bloom on the mansion terraces. Bluebells carpet the surrounding woodland.

Summer

Herbaceous borders around the Old Castle are at their best. The walled garden is full of fruit, vegetables, and cut flowers, giving a sense of the Hussey family's 19th-century estate life.

Autumn

Acers and woodland trees create dramatic colour in the Quarry Garden and West Glade. The picturesque design is especially striking as the ruin is framed by autumn foliage.

Winter

The moat and ruin offer atmospheric views. Snowdrops appear early in the year. The garden remains open even when the house is closed.

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