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## Press-Information

### **The Mainau Flower Year 2019 Sun, Moon and Stars**

*Mainau Island fetches the stars down from the skies for visitors in the Flower Year 2019. The celestial bodies' influence on the lives of earth's inhabitants and also on nature is shown under the theme "Sun, Moon and Stars".*

Island visitors can discover many interesting things about the Sun's life-giving influence whilst taking a stroll around the park; like on photosynthesis which is clearly explained in the Energy Pavilion near the Butterfly House. Other surprising facts are also revealed here. Like for example, that solar panels are not the only method of deriving energy from the Sun. Algae absorb solar radiation and can also serve as an energy provider. The importance of the Sun for the plant kingdom is reflected in their names; Helios is the Sun God in Greek mythology and derivations of this word are often found in plants' botanical names. For example, there's the rock rose (Helianthemum), Helen's flower (Helenium) or the false sunflower (Heliopsis). These and other children of the Sun will be presented in the displays created by Mainau gardeners in a large sun flowerbed right in front of Mainau Palace in summer 2019. The planets themselves will also be key players throughout the park. Visitors will find wooden sculptures of the planets in our solar system which just appear to "float". Mainau's chefs will create some very special dishes orientated on the annual theme.

#### **Magnificent blossoms throughout the year**

The annual Orchid Show in the Palm House traditionally opens the Mainau Flower Year. The title "Infinite Vastness" is in keeping with the annual theme. The exhibition takes visitors on a journey into space from 22 March to 5 May. Widths of material in various shades of blue symbolize the vastness of the universe and colour-matched orchid arrangements depict the various planets. The orchid species *Oncidium* is the star of this year's Orchid Show.

The Flower Year also starts now outside in the park with a magnificent display of spring flowers. More than a million crocuses, tulips, narcissi and hyacinths line the Spring Avenue and fill the island's flowerbeds. Tree peonies from China and Tibet come into blossom in a variety of colours as early as April. These are followed by rhododendrons, azaleas and a large assortment of herbaceous peonies in the park and gardens.

The rose month of June is one of the highlights of the Flower Year. More than 1,000 varieties of the Queen of Flowers bloom along the Wild and Bush Rose Promenade and in the Italian Rose Garden which Grand Duke Friedrich I of Baden had landscaped in the style of an Italian flower garden at the foot of the palace in 1861. Visitors can vote for the most beautiful rose to be crowned the Mainau Queen of Roses from 8 to 24 June. The German Rose Lovers Society erects a rose information stand in the garden at the same time.

The annual Dahlia Show also has a long tradition on Mainau. It colourfully announces autumn's arrival in the Lakeside Garden. Around 12,000 dahlias in more than 250 varieties provide a spectacular firework of colours wooing visitors to vote from 30 August to 6 October for the one to be chosen this year's Mainau Queen of Dahlias.

The Autumn Exhibition in the Palm House traditionally brings the Flower Year to a close. "Sunflowers!" is the title of the exhibition from 20 September to 20 October showing examples of their many uses including those in human nutrition.

### **Seasonal Gardens "Unknown Worlds"**

The Seasonal Gardens are designed anew each year. These experimental gardens covering an area of just 100 square metres – located near the Butterfly House – are the result of prize-winning designs by landscape architecture students from the University of Economics and Environment Nürtingen-Geislingen. Under the theme "Unknown Worlds", the five gardens in the park, open from 16 May to 20 October, offer an insight into innovative ideas for garden designs. For example, the winning design "Fragments" depicts a mystical place created, among other things, of two massive tuff boulders planted with coleus. These appear to balance upside down.

## **The Count's Festivals**

The Count's Festivals are always a highlight of the Mainau Flower Year. And again in 2019, the Count's Island Festival invites visitors to "Stroll around, Shop, Enjoy". International exhibitors present trends and fashions for garden lovers, lots of accessories for the home and garden and also wellness and lifestyle products around Mainau Palace and in the Rose Garden from 30 May to 2 June. There are also delicatessen and herb- and spice stands and all sorts of handcrafted products. A varied programme of entertainment provides lots of fun for all the family.

It's "Noblesse Oblige" again at the Count's Palace Festival. This special shopping event is held in rooms of the baroque Mainau Palace not normally open to the public. Exclusive jewellery, fashion and accessories are presented from 3 to 6 October. The festival is accompanied by a programme of musical performances, historic fashion shows and a presentation of the latest creations from Countess Diana's hat studio in the palace's ornate White Hall.

## **Swedish Customs**

The Bernadotte family's roots lie in Sweden and so Swedish traditions have always been upheld on Mainau Island. One of the main ones is the Midsummer Festival where people in Scandinavian countries celebrate the summer solstice. Mainau also celebrates this cheerful colourful festival on the forecourt of the Rothaus Seeterrassen restaurant on 22 June; there will be dancing around the midsummer tree, entertainment for children and all sorts of Swedish delicacies according to Swedish custom.

The traditional Lucia singing 12 December and the Swedish Lucia festival 13 December bring light in the dark days. Lucia wears a crown of candles on her head and her companions hold lights in their hands. A local choir will sing carols with visitors on the eve of the Lucia Festival from 5.45pm in the palace courtyard on Mainau Island.

"Swedish Winter Magic" joins the line-up of Swedish customs for the very first time this year. A Swedish-style Christmas market will open its doors in front of Mainau Palace from mid-November putting island guests in the mood for the coming festivities.

## **Culture in Nature**

Mainau Island also offers the ideal setting for a connection between nature and culture. A diverse programme of exhibitions, theatre, concerts and colourful events compliment the plants in the park and gardens emphasizing their splendour brilliantly.

The summer exhibition in Mainau Palace is also orientated on the annual theme 2019. It has the title “Astronomy for Everyone” and imparts the basic concepts of astronomy using hands-on interactive exponents which make learning about the stars and planets fun for both children and adults.

School music groups and amateur music ensembles from throughout Baden-Württemberg and also Austria and Switzerland meet up in Mainau park and the palace garden on 7 July for a musical encounter under the theme “Mainau Sounds”. The series is staged by the Mainau European Cultural Forum (EKFM) in cooperation with the Baden-Württemberg Institute for School Sports, Art and Music, the Foundation “Singing with Children” and the Ministry for Culture, Youth and Sport Baden-Württemberg.

The American Drama Group Europe performs Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in English in the palace courtyard on 11 July.

The successful Jazz under Palm Trees series started in 2008 by the Mainau European Cultural Forum (EKFM) will be staged again in 2019. Performances by jazz greats like the Jazz Sisters Quartet from Frankfurt (26 July) or the Swedish trombonist Karin Hammer (6 September) are planned.

A further highlight of the “Sun, Moon and Stars” year is an invitation to go on a fantastic journey to a fantasy world when it’s full moon in August. The Theatre Anu Berlin will be making a guest appearance for the first time on Mainau Island with their performance of “Moraland”. Many lights will illuminate parts of the park in the evening hours changing it into a unique world where stories are spun around an imaginative fairground with all sorts of curious and wondrous things going on.

The eyes of children and adults will shine brightly at this year’s winter exhibition with the title “SIKU – Little Cars, Big World” on show in the palace from 8 November to 9 February 2020.

## **A Paradise for Children**

Mainau is truly a paradise for children because there's lots of variety, fun and nature experiences for smaller guests on the island. "Water World", "Blumi's Lakeside World" and the "Dwarf Village" playgrounds in Mainau's Children's Land are perfect for romping around and exploring things. There's also a farmyard with a petting zoo and pony rides. The Mainau Treasure Hunt is great fun for all the family. More than 20,000 children hunted for the legendary Mainau treasure last year.

Mainau's admission prices are also child-friendly: it's free for children up to the age of 12. The island was awarded the "family holiday" quality seal again in 2018 by Tourism-Marketing GmbH and the German Hotel and Catering Association.

## **Mainau Gastronomy**

Mainau gastronomy is an important part of the Flower Island. With a choice of ten restaurants there's something to suit everyone: from a bistro with kiosk at the island's mainland entrance to the Palace Café in the baroque palace and the Schwedenschenke restaurant in the style of a Swedish country inn. The á la carte Comturey restaurant presents new innovative Lake Constance cuisine. Down at the harbour there's also a beer garden, ice-cream parlour and the "Täglich Brot" bakery where the island's bakers sell a homemade wholegrain spelt bread. The banquet rooms at the Comturey restaurant have spectacular views of the lake and are a great venue for family occasions or company events as is the subtropical Palm House on the palace terrace.

This island's chefs have also taken inspiration from the annual theme "Sun, Moon and Stars" and will be serving their guests appropriate menus. For example, zodiac sign menus in the Schwedenschenke restaurant or moon menus in the Comturey restaurant. Other gastronomic highlights are the Orchid Soirée (27 April), the Sun Barbeque (14 July) and the Star Night (17 August) in the Palm House or the Harvest Festival Brunch (20 October) in the Comturey restaurant. Mainau Apple Day (21 September) on the forecourt of the Rothaus Seeterrassen restaurant has lots of information about Lake Constance apples, hands-on activities for all the family and also offers tastings. Guests can enjoy a sumptuous close to the year in the Palm House and Comturey restaurant respectively at the traditional Swedish Christmas Buffet (14 November to 21 December), at the Christmas Brunch (25 and 26 December), New Year's Brunch (1 January 2020) and also the Epiphany Brunch (6 January 2020).

## **Mainau Academy**

Mainau has always seen itself as a place of nature education, nature experience awareness and horticulture. Mainau academy's workshops show how this can be applied in everyday life. The topics range from orchid, perennial plants, tub plants and rose workshops to macro photography or diving rod workshops.

Further information: [www.mainau-akademie.de](http://www.mainau-akademie.de)

## **Forest Experience on the Mainland**

Since 2013, Mainau GmbH has not only offered diverse impressions and experiences on the island but – in a totally different way – also on the adjoining mainland. Visitors can actively experience the forest ecosystem and encounter nature on a very personal level in the Mainau Forest Experience under the motto “All outside, Everything's possible”. The Mainau Forest Experience covers an area of 1.6 hectares and has a sensory path with several stations. There's also a 100-metre-long boardwalk rising up to 8 metres above ground, a nature high rope garden, tree houses and numerous climbing parcours up to 25 metres high. This exceptional forest experience combines elements of a classic high rope garden with the appeal of a climbing forest and a unique tree house architecture. The offer is complemented by a beer garden at the nearby former convent St. Katherina. Several cultural events also take place here. The Mainau Forest Experience is reached by foot from Mainau's carpark via the sensory path.

*Visit [www.mainau.de](http://www.mainau.de) for more information.*

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