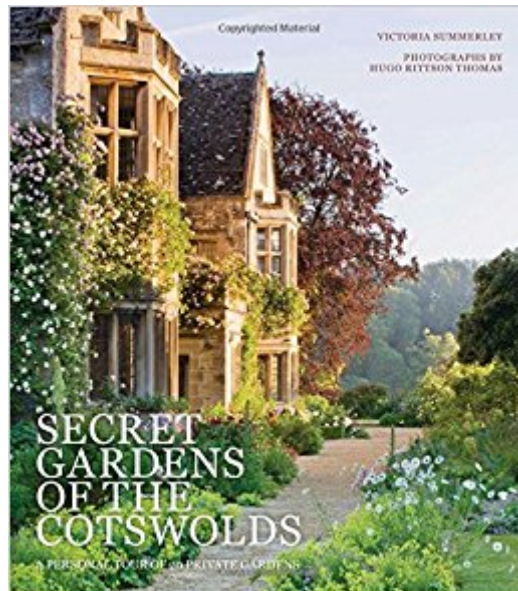




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# Secret Gardens Of The Cotswolds



## Synopsis

Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds is a captivating photographic portrait of the greatest British gardens and the lords, ladies and gardeners who own and manage them, with a focus on the counties of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. It features 20 gardens designed by some of the leading contemporary garden designers from across the world. The lively text explores the design and planting achieved and the rich tradition of garden making in this beautiful corner of England. This is a very personal view by photographer Hugo Rittson-Thomas and journalist Victoria Summerley, both residents of this green pocket with more than its fair share of beautiful and interesting gardens. Some of the gardens are strictly private, while others are regularly open to visitors, but all can now be savoured and enjoyed along with those who know them best. *~\*~*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cornwell Manor "The stone figure known as the Fiddler stands in the centre of a formal parterre, planted with box, peonies and Portuguese laurels. Beyond is the Spring Garden, and the enormous beech (top right of the picture), thought to be 200 years old".

Burford Priory "The colour scheme on the chapel side of the garden is hotter, with fiery dahlias raising the temperature."

Daylesford House "The Orangery houses dozens of citrus trees, and biological controls are used to deter pests."

Rockcliffe "Topiary is a huge part of the design at Rockcliffe, whether to provide evergreen interest, structure or just an element of fun."

Kingham Hill House "The magnificent borders behind

Kingham Hill House are planted with delphiniums, campanulas and foxgloves."      Stowell Park  
"The terrace at Stowell Park faces west, and in summer the late afternoon sun heightens the honey colour of the Cotswold-stone walls."

Walcot House "Mown paths, meadow grass and a wooden jetty give a countrified air to the area around the carp ponds."      Westwell Manor "Each of the garden  
rooms at Westwell has its own distinct character. Some features, such as the wicker hurdles around the vegetable beds, or the wisteria pergola, are traditional, while others, such as the diagonal lines of lavender in the Breakfast Garden, or the Black Water (with its Venetian-style mooring) are more contemporary in feel."      Sarsden "Statuary and ornamentation are themes at Sarsden, as exemplified by the lead figures of a shepherd and his sweetheart at the entrance to a path between two yew hedges, the carved stone of an antique well head, and the group of bronze deer beneath a cedar of Lebanon at the entrance to the park."

Sezincote "The Persian Garden, with its octagonal central pool, was inspired by a visit to India. It was created by Lady Kleinwort in 1965."      Ablington Manor "Yew topiary rises from the lawns like the ramparts of an ancient castle."      Asthall Manor "Sculpture on show in the garden competes visually with the spires of lupins and an echium."

Eyford House "The terrace border has a colour scheme of mainly red and bronze, and is hedged on one side by lavender."      Cotswold Wildlife Park "The dark foliage of the dahlias is echoed by the purple-black leaves of Phormium      Platt Black      alstroemerias and Rudbeckia hirta      Cappuccino      Eastleach House "The blues and purples of the clematis on the pergola are picked up by the soft blue of the nepetas planted beneath."

An alluring reminder of some of the country's most charming gardens with a helpful gazeteer listing those open to the public. A beautifully illustrated book that offers an insider's view of some of the Cotswolds' most beautiful private gardens. This is not just another picture book, but a useful guide and aide-memoire for the seasoned garden visitor. 'Victoria and Hugo use their local knowledge and passion to spectacular effect, getting right under the skin of each garden and family who owns it...this enchanting book depicts paradise found' - an alluring

reminder of some of the country's most charming gardens with a helpful gazeteer listing those open to the public' 'This delightful combination of informative text with beautiful images which conjure up each garden to perfection, is the ideal companion for a chilly February afternoon, or indeed a lazy summer afternoon spent planning the next inspiring garden visit.' 'This is a great coffee table book that you can dip into to get some inspiration for your own garden.' 'Victoria and Hugo use their local knowledge and passion to spectacular effect, getting right under the skin of each garden and family who owns it...this enchanting book depicts paradise found' 'This is a great coffee table book that you can dip into to get some inspiration for your own garden.'

Hugo Rittson-Thomas is one of the UK's leading portrait photographers. He started his career in the art world, studying at Central St.Martin's and Goldsmiths University of London, and took part in the landmark exhibition Temple of Diana alongside Tracey Emin at The Blue Gallery in 1999. In 2012 he was privately commissioned to photograph the Cotswolds gardens of Eyford House, Corwill Manor and Asthall Manor and has worked alongside acclaimed garden photographer Andrew Lawson. Victoria Summerley is an award-winning garden journalist and ex-editor of the Independent newspaper in the UK. She lives in Bibury, Gloucestershire, the village once described by William Morris as 'the most beautiful village in the Cotswolds'.

This is a lovely book. It reminds me of two of my all-time favorite books on gardens and their owners--'The Englishwoman's Garden' and 'The New Englishwoman's Garden' by Milne and Verey. The pictures are gorgeous and the accompanying text describes the history of each garden as well as the recent story of the each property.

Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds contains many beautiful photographs of lovely gardens, but few of them match the description of "Secret". The word implies hidden away, enclosed, an enchanted space. These gardens are, apparently, rarely seen but they are seen occasionally; they do not fit my definition of a secret garden. Many of them can be seen from miles away. One book of mine: Private Gardens of Paris, comes closer to the description secret. Call it Little Known Gardens of the Cotswolds and it would be less misleading, more accurate. James Ridewood

Hard to believe anything this beautiful actually exists. These gardens are an inspiring look at what can be achieved with an artistic eye for colors, textures and patterns. of course, the architecture seals the deal.

Love this book - will use it as gifts for friends.

This book was a most pleasant surprise. The photography was stunning. It drew you in as though you were right there visiting each estate personally. All in all a lovely experience and a delightful way to spend an evening.

Beautiful

Fantastic book. Very well written and beautiful illustrations.

Beautiful.

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