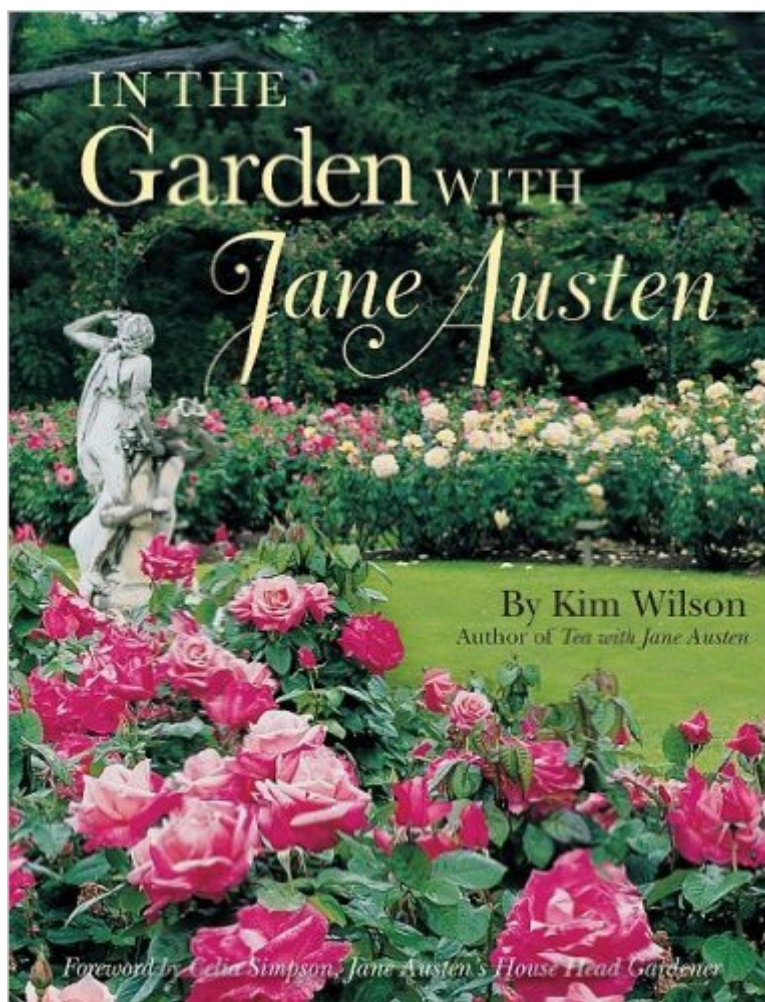


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In The Garden With Jane Austen



Synopsis

Bringing Jane Austen's gardens "real and fictional" to life with excerpts from her novels and letters, period songs, poetry, and illustrations, this charming recollection offers tips for creating English gardens alongside Austen. This lavishly illustrated exploration with color photographs of gardens associated with the writer offers a rich experience to admirers of both Austen and gorgeous gardens. Complete with a reference section that includes important dates in Austen's life, locations and dates of her houses, and a map of 1809 England, this delightful book is perfect for the history and garden enthusiast alike.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (25 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

"To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure, is the most perfect refreshment." Fanny Price, *Mansfield Park*, Chapter 9 It seems quite fitting that a quote from Jane Austen's character Fanny Price, who is an astute observer of natural beauty, should open this book with such a succinct statement expressing her delight in being planted on the bench in Sotherton's parkland to enjoy the serene beauty of the green landscape around her. Verdure is not a word that one runs across very often in contemporary writing but we should, because it vividly describes a scene and sensations in one word. It is no leap of the imagination that Fanny's creator Jane Austen gave her such sentiments, for Jane dearly loved nature herself and included references to it and gardening in her novels and letters. Author Kim Wilson must be a Fanny Price too, sensitive and observant to nature's beauty as her new book *In the Garden With Jane Austen* is a verdurous delight, introducing

us to Austen's affinity to nature through the gardens she would have experienced in her own homes, family members and public gardens of Georgian and Regency England. This beautiful little volume is packed full of quotes from her novels and letters referencing her characters experiences in the garden and her own love of garden cultivation. It has always appeared to me that some of the best plot development in her novels happened while her characters were walking and I am reminded that her heroine's Elizabeth Bennet, Catherine Morland, and Emma Woodhouse were all proposed to in a garden or on a woodland path. Hmm? Should we take a clue from this ladies and get your men outside?Ms.

(Note: This review is of the 2011 edition published by Frances Lincoln Limited, which is hard cover and includes seventy color photographs, twenty-five period drawings, and five garden plans.)Kitchen gardens, extensive shrubberies, enchanting vistas, labyrinths, gothic seats, hermitages - wouldn't you just love to live in Jane Austen's time and have all these natural and picturesque settings surround you? While I love the modern conveniences and freedoms of the twenty-first century, part of me longs to live in a time where a large portion of a family's food came from their backyard and walking in the garden was an almost daily activity. Spending most of her life in the country, Jane Austen was a great admirer of the outdoors and saw her fair share of beautiful and extensive gardens. Don't you wish you could do the same? Wouldn't you just love to go on a walking tour of English period gardens?Well, if a trip to England or traveling back in time aren't viable options for you, I would suggest picking up *In the Garden with Jane Austen* by Kim Wilson. Reading the informative details and facts about different gardens and gazing at the sumptuous and verdant pictures is the next best thing to being there is person! Through these images and descriptions readers can travel to Chawton Cottage, Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth House, Stoneleigh Abbey, and various other scenic locations. The photographs are not only breathtakingly beautiful, but useful in displaying what the text is talking about. The large size and high quality of these photographs are perfect for seeing small details and flowers. Similar to *Tea with Jane Austen*, Ms. Wilson organizes her book into five chapters that center on different types of gardens.

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