England has some of the finest gardens in the world from dramatic historic landscapes designed by ‘Capability’ Brown to fragrant English rose gardens. 2016 is the year of the English garden so come and join us for a sensory experience as we hand pick 20 of the most exciting...

1. **The Alnwick Garden, Northumberland**
   Designed by celebrated international garden designers Wirtz and described by the Duchess of Northumberland as “an inspiring landscape with beautiful gardens, unique features all brought to life with water”. The garden brings joy to all who see it, from stunning spring blossoms to fragrant roses, striking water features and geometric ornamental gardens, including one of the largest collections of European plants. Visitors will delight in the roots and shoots vegetable garden to learn all about planting and see the bees making honey. Stop off for lunch at the tree-top restaurant, located in one of the world’s largest wooden tree houses.

   alnwickgarden.com  
   +44 (0) 1665 511350

2. **Arley Hall & Gardens, Cheshire**
   One of the finest gardens you will see, noted for its historical interest and the largest double herbaceous border in England. Explore the stunning gardens and take a walk in the informal grove where you’ll see more than 20 sculptures by local artists including a life-size cow and her calf! Children can enjoy the adventure playground and willow dome den or even build their own with sticks.

   arleyhallandgardens.com  
   +44 (0) 1565 777353
3. **Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens, Northumberland**

Belsay Hall has been in the same family since the 13th century owned by gardening enthusiast, Sir Charles Monck and his grandson Sir Arthur Middleton. The grade I registered heritage garden in Belsay Hall's extensive grounds has been restored with a real attention to detail. Seasonal trees, shrubs and flowers ensure brilliant colour throughout the year. Not to be missed is the dramatic quarry garden with its ravines, pinnacles and exotic plants.

english-heritage.org.uk  
+44 (0) 1661 881636

4. **The Beth Chatto Gardens, Essex**

Beth Chatto and her late husband, Andrew, have created a stunning garden from an old car park (it's just 15 acres), using water-thrifty plants that will amaze and delight all who see it. A real hidden gem, the garden includes a water garden, woodland area, scree beds and gravel garden. The art of planting at its best.

bethchatto.co.uk  
+44 (0) 1206 822007

5. **Biddulph Grange Garden, Staffordshire**

An extraordinary Victorian garden, created by James Bateman for his collection of plants from around the world and now looked after by the National Trust. Visitors can take an amazing global journey from Italy and the pyramids of Egypt to a Victorian take on China including the oldest surviving golden larch from the 1850s.

nationaltrust.org.uk/biddulphgrange  
+44 (0) 1782 517999

6. **Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire**

Over 2,000 acres of ‘Capability’ Brown landscaped parkland, noted as “the most beautiful view in England”; the Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The award-winning formal gardens, commissioned by the 9th Duke of Marlborough, include a secret garden, the majestic water terraces, a fragrant rose garden and the grand cascade and lake. Visitors can enjoy The Pleasure Gardens, take a ride on the miniature train, get lost in the giant maze and visit the tropical butterfly house.

blenheimpalace.com  
+44 (0) 1993 810530

7. **Burghley House, Lincolnshire**

A 300-acre deer park set in the grounds of Burghley House, the gardens landscaped by ‘Capability’ Brown include his signature lake and avenues of mature trees. The Historical Garden of Surprises is just that – hidden from the outside it features obelisks, statues, flowing water and fountains where visitors of all ages are encouraged to take a paddle on a warm day. The Contemporary Sculpture Garden, opened in 1994 is dedicated to exhibiting innovative sculptures. Children can explore the garden, discover insects and solve puzzles with the Gruesomely Grubby Gardens tour.

burghley.co.uk  
+44 (0) 1780 752451
8 Burton Agnes Hall and Gardens, East Yorkshire
Set in the grounds of the magnificent Burton Agnes Hall, the award-winning Elizabethan gardens showcase over 4,000 different plants, a national collection of campanulas and more than 100 yew topiary bushes. There is so much to explore, including a classical pond with a fountain and pebble mosaic garden, herbaceous borders and woodland walk including wildlife sculptures.

burtonagnes.com
+44 (0) 1262 490324

9 Cambridge University Botanic Garden, Cambridge
Cambridge University Botanic Garden opened in 1846 by John Henslow, mentor to Charles Darwin and houses over 8,000 plants from around the world, including nine national plant collections and an arboretum. The garden has been designed to be visited throughout the year; highlights include the scented garden, buzzing bee borders and winter garden. Step inside the glasshouse to discover huge cacti, exotic plants and tropical rainforest.

botanic.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0) 1223 336265

10 Chatsworth, Derbyshire
An 18th century ‘Capability’ Brown garden set in the grounds of Chatsworth, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. The garden is famous for its 200ft (61m) fountain, rock garden and surviving Joseph Paxton glasshouses and contemporary sculptures. A great family day out. Younger visitors can enjoy the maze, adventure playground and farmyard.

chatsworth.org
+44 (0) 1246 565300

11 Chelsea Physic Garden, London
Located in a microclimate by the River Thames, the garden was founded in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries to train apprentices in the medicinal qualities of plants. It became one of the most important centres of botany and plant exchange in the world and has a unique collection of over 5,000 edible, useful, medicinal and historical plants. This garden offers visitors a real sensory experience.

chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk
+44 (0) 20 7352 5646

12 Claremont Landscape Garden, Surrey
This historic 18th century garden, described as “the noblest of any in Europe”, was once a duke's retreat and princesses playground, now looked after by the National Trust. Claremont represents the works of some of the best known landscape gardeners including Sir John Vanbrugh, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent and ‘Capability’ Brown. Today’s garden has an impressive grass amphitheatre overlooking the serpentine lake, grotto, Camellia Terrace and Belvedere Tower. A must-see for any visitor in love with English history.

nationaltrust.org.uk/claremont
+44 (0) 1372 467806
13 Great Dixter House & Gardens, East Sussex
Designed by architect Edwin Lutyens as a number of ‘rooms’ and developed in the 20th century by Christopher Lloyd and now by his head gardener, Fergus Garrett. The gardens are known for some of the most exciting planting in England featuring the famous long border with clever successional planting, flower meadow and orchard. Not to be missed is the Peacock garden with its 18 topiary birds, towering above the michaelmas daisy hedges.
greatdixter.co.uk
+44 (0) 1797 252878

14 Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden, Warwickshire
A faithful recreation of an Elizabethan garden which up until 2009 had been lost to the world and is now managed by English Heritage. Visitors can follow in the footsteps of Queen Elizabeth I and experience the delights of this authentic Elizabethan garden, including carved arbours, bejewelled aviary and marble fountain.
english-heritage.org.uk
+44 (0) 1926 852078

15 Kew, Royal Botanic Gardens, London
Kew Gardens, probably the world's most famous garden, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The garden, created in 1759, boasts the earliest and greatest botanic garden, including breathtaking landscapes, historic buildings, along with one of the rarest and most interesting range of plants. Hop aboard the Kew Explorer land train to enjoy the 40-minute tour of the gardens and learn about Kew's plants, trees and history.
kew.org
+44 (0) 20 8332 5655

16 Levens Hall, Cumbria
World famous 17th century topiary gardens, designed by Monsieur Beaumont in 1694 with over 100 individual topiary pieces, some over nine metres high. Many of these towering topiary pieces are geometric shapes but look out for the chess pieces – King and Queen, the Judges Wig, the Howard Lion, the Great Umbrellas, Queen Elizabeth and her Maids of Honour, a Jug of Morocco Ale and four Peacocks.
levenshall.co.uk
+44 (0) 1539 560321

17 Stourhead, Wiltshire
The vision of banker Henry Hoare, described as a “living work of art” when first opened in the 1740s, now looked after by the National Trust. Stourhead provides visitors an English 18th century view of a magical watery garden with stunning temples and follies at every turn, enhanced by a superb collection of plants and 19th century conifers.
nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead
+44 (0) 1747 841152
18  Stowe, Buckinghamshire
A picture-perfect English Garden attracting visitors for over 300 years. Stowe has fabulous views, lakes and temples all joined up with winding paths and a timeless landscape. This garden is a significant example of the English garden style, one not to be missed.

nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe
+44 (0) 1280 817156

19  Studley Royal Water Garden, North Yorkshire
Studley Royal Water Garden is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, looked after by the National Trust. A stunning 18th century water garden with ornamental lakes, mirror-like ponds, statues and follies, built around the romantic ruins of the 12th century Fountains Abbey. This garden has it all; green lawns stretch down to the riverside providing picture-perfect picnic spots, the riverside paths lead to the deer park, home to Red, Fallow and Sika deer, all surrounded by ancient trees.

nationaltrust.org.uk/fountains-abbey
+44 (0) 1765 608888

20  Tresco Abbey Garden, Isles of Scilly
Sub-tropical gardens located on the Isles of Scilly by Lord Proprietor Augustus Smith in 1834. The tropical garden is set in 17 acres and the warm climate and location on a hillside ensure unusual exotic plants from all over the world are in plenty. This garden is unique. Follow the paths which cross the garden and discover towering palm trees, giant red flame trees, blue spires of echium and pink pelargonium. A visual treat for any visitor.

tresco.co.uk
+44 (0) 1720 424108