



Ringling Grounds and Gardens Fact Sheet

Mable Ringling's Rose Garden

- The 27,225 sq. ft. garden was completed in 1913 and is patterned after a wagon wheel, which is a traditional Italian garden design.
- None of the original rose bushes planted by Mable survived, but many of today's 1,200 rose plants are of the same variety planted by Mable herself.
- It consists of roses introduced between 1867 and 2002. There are Tree Roses, Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, miniature roses, shrubs, and Old Garden Roses.
- A rose dedicated to Mable Ringling is also featured in the garden.
- The garden is accredited by All-American Rose Selections and was named the 2006 most outstanding All-America Rose Selections Public Rose Garden in the nation.

The Secret Garden

- The Secret Garden was started by Mable Ringling.
- Mable placed all the plants that were given to her in the Secret Garden while wintering in Sarasota at the *Cà d'Zan* mansion. She would entertain her houseguests by touring them through the garden and showing off the plants.
- A myriad of plant varieties continue to grow in the garden today thanks in part to The Driftwood Circle of the Sarasota Garden Club.
- John, Mable and John's sister Ida Ringling North are all buried just beyond the Secret Garden.

The Dwarf Garden

- The Dwarf Garden, reminiscent of romantic 18th- and 19th- century German and Italian gardens, was originally installed by Kenneth Donohue, the second Museum director, between the north wing of the Museum of Art and the free-standing building that housed the Historic Asolo Theater from 1958 to 2004.
- The garden is peopled with amusing stone statues that John Ringling brought from Italy and although modest and discreet, served as a symbolic link that bonded the visual and performing arts at the Ringling.
- The cherished space exists not too far from the theater once again. The garden was relocated on the south side of the John M. Mckay Visitors Pavilion in 2007.

Banyan Trees

- The historic grounds are home to a terrific variety of trees including the incredible Banyan Trees.
- These huge trees have roots growing from its branches to the ground.
- These Banyan trees are native of Southeast Asia.

