

FACT SHEET

Biltmore by the numbers***America's Largest Home gets ready for Christmas at Biltmore 2018***

- For the Christmas at Biltmore 2018 celebration, there will be 55 decorated Christmas trees inside Biltmore House.
- The largest tree inside Biltmore House is in the Vanderbilt tradition – a fresh 35-foot-tall Fraser fir in the Banquet Hall. The smallest is a table top tree found in the Raphael bedroom.
- It takes around 50 Biltmore staff members to carry in, raise and secure the towering tree into place in the Banquet Hall. The tree is replaced mid-holiday season to ensure a fresh tree for guests to enjoy and for the safety of the house. The replacement tree usually comes into the house at around 4 a.m. on the day it is replaced, and decorating is nearing completion by 9 a.m. when the first guests arrive.
- A lit 55-foot-tall Norway spruce encircled by 35 other illuminated evergreens decorates the front lawn of Biltmore House for candlelight evenings.
- A total of 58 additional decorated Christmas trees are at other estate locations, including the Winery, The Inn on Biltmore Estate, Antler Hill Village and our restaurants. The Conservatory is decorated with potted plants sitting in tree-shaped planters and other natural materials. More than 30 live trees and shrubs decorate other estate buildings.

Lights and candles

- There are around 45,000 lights and 150 candles inside Biltmore House. 135,000 LED and mini lights are found around the estate.
- 46,000 lights illuminate the Front Lawn tree, with 35,450 more on the surrounding trees and shrubs. "Up" lighting accents the poplar trees lining the front lawn.
- 250 luminaries line the driveway and Esplanade in front of Biltmore House.

- Biltmore staff members place and light the luminaries each day at dusk to prepare for guests arriving for *Candlelight Christmas Evenings* tours. They come back to extinguish them at the end of the night.

Ornaments

Five hundred gift boxes, 500 ornaments and 500 LED Edison bulb style electric lights decorate the Banquet Hall Tree. There are 13,000 ornaments used on the other trees inside Biltmore House, and that many again around the estate to add sparkle and seasonal interest. Between seasons, the ornaments are housed in a large off-site warehouse, where they are sorted, labelled, and stored in approximately 1,000 boxes.

Poinsettias and other blooming plants

There are more than 1,000 traditional poinsettias found in the Christmas displays around the estate, along with more than 1,000 amaryllis, Christmas cactus, orchids, peace lilies, cyclamen, begonias, and kalanchoe and potted green plants. There are more than 300 poinsettias just in Biltmore House which are refreshed and replaced mid-season.

Wreaths

Wreaths are made of fresh white pine and Fraser fir, ornamented with golden arborvitae, holly, or other natural materials such as twigs and cones. Artificial bases are decorated with ornaments, berries, faux flowers and ribbon. We place 360 fresh wreaths and sprays along with 130 faux pieces around the estate during the season.

Garlands

We use 7,527 feet of fresh evergreen garlanding during the season, made of mixed white pine and Fraser fir. The garlands are replaced weekly to maintain a fresh look and fragrance for our guests. Faux garlands add another 1,200 feet in Biltmore House and around 1,500 feet in other areas.

Ribbons and bows

We use 1,000 bows inside Biltmore House with twice as many at the other estate venues. We use everything from narrow cording to 8-inch-wide ribbons to make the bows. We decorate with velvets, metallics, satins, burlap and printed cottons. The amount of ribbon that is needed to make a bow ranges from 5 yards for a bow used on fresh garland on the Grand Staircase, to 15 yards to make a tree topper bow for a 16-foot tree like you might see in the Tapestry Gallery or Banquet Hall. In addition to the large 35-foot tree in the Banquet Hall, there are two 16-foot trees flanking the large triple fireplaces on the opposite side of the room. The design for these trees will feature a series of ribbon swirls using a total of around 1,000 yards of ribbon.

There are 11 full-time floral designers and 14 part-time floral staff members. It takes help from Engineering, Housekeeping, Museum Services, Horticulture, Guest Services, Security, Events, and so many other departments on the estate to make "Christmas at Biltmore!"