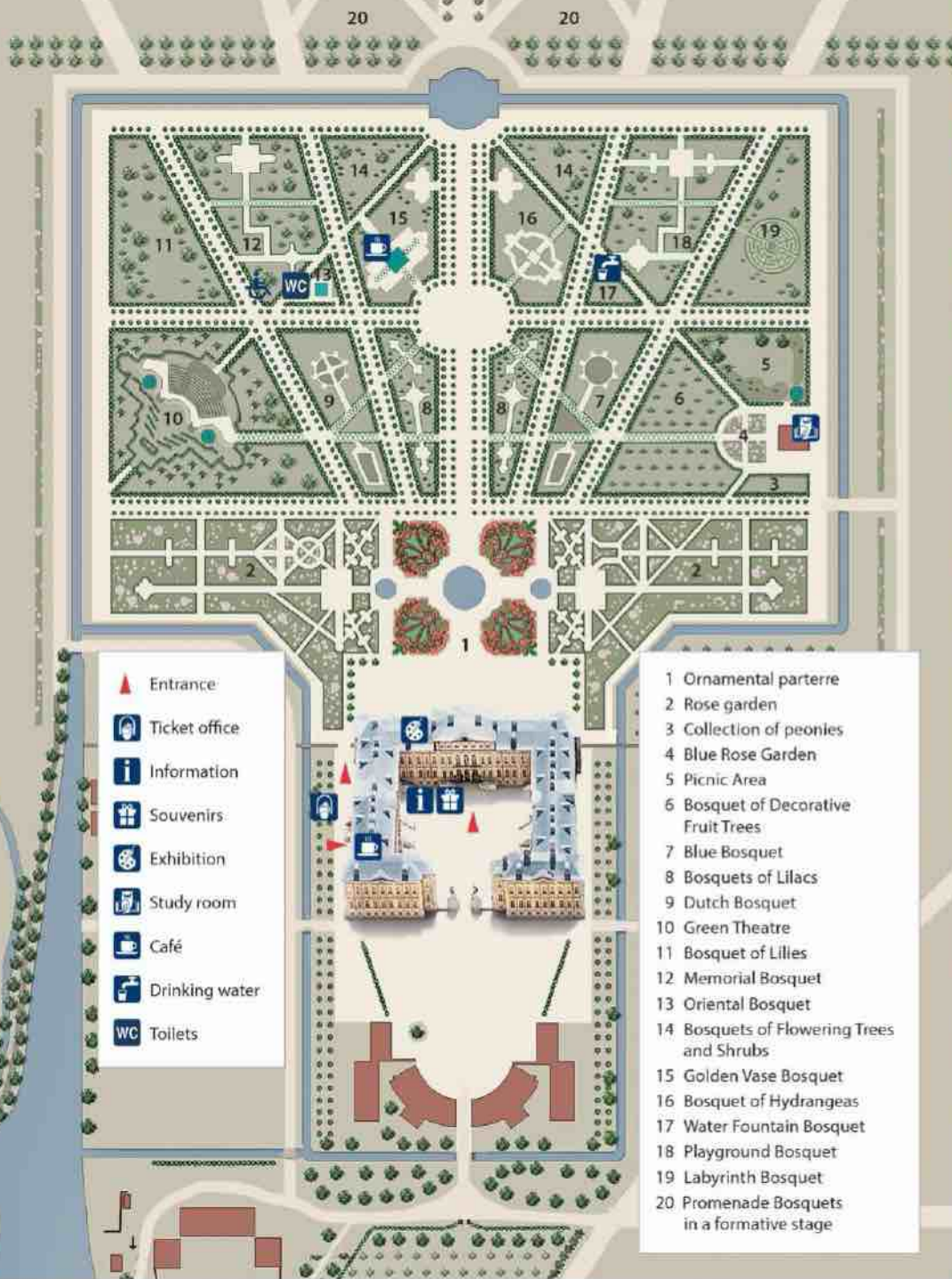
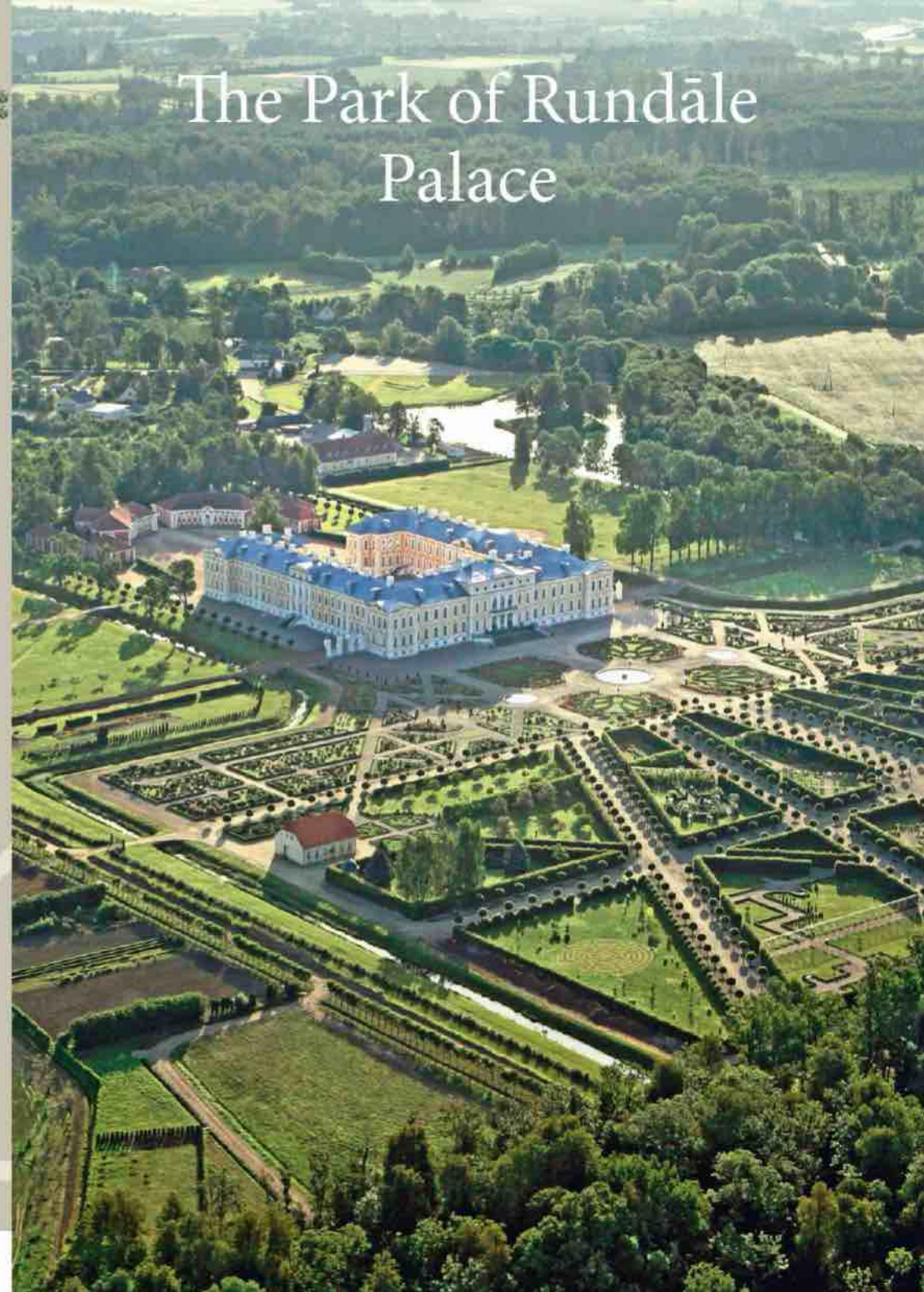


LAYOUT OF THE RUNDĀLE PALACE BAROQUE GARDEN



The Park of Rundāle Palace





The location map of Rundāle Palace by Rastrelli, 1735/1736



The Baroque Garden of Rundāle Palace



Climbing-rose arcade



Pavilion in the Picnic Area



Pavilion in the Oriental Bosquet



Memorial Bosquet

THE PARK OF RUNDĀLE PALACE

The grounds of Rundāle Palace ensemble amount to 85 hectares including the French Baroque garden which covers 10 hectares, and fully retains its original layout designed by Francesco Rastrelli in 1735/1736. It is the most important historical garden in the Baltics.



Dutch Bosquet

The garden was created at the same time as the palace was constructed between 1736 and 1740. According to the gardener Christopher Weyland's report in 1739, 32818 lime trees, 500 chestnut trees and 188 oak trees, 95 pear trees, 155 apple trees, 40 plum trees and 20 cherry trees were planted in the garden. Weyland also reported the planting of 2338 lime and chestnut trees in the forest park.

After the Duke had returned from exile, work on the garden continued. Records of a celebration in 1767 describe a large area with three pools. In 1768 a pond was created to supply water to the canals. Circa 1777, during the reign of the Duke Peter, two orchards and a hop garden were established. A report from 1794 refers to apricot and peach gardens where trees had to be covered with blankets of straw and moss during winter. From 1774 to 1781 the park was encircled by an adobe wall from which only small fragments remain to this day. Later, in Count Valerian Zubov's time, large orchards were established north of the palace.

Throughout the 19th century trees in the park were still planted according to Rastrelli's original design. Only the parterre area underwent changes with added circular flowerbeds, a few planted fir trees and pyramidal poplars. Count Pyotr Shuvalov had ordered chestnut tree alleys to be planted beside the palace, yet the last remnants of these alleys were removed in 1975.

The park's renovation plan was prepared by the Institute "Giproteatr" in Leningrad between 1975 and 1977. Trimming of overgrown trees commenced in 1976. The first foot-path was laid in 1978, while the first lime tree in the alley was planted in 1984.

In the Baroque era bosquets resembled a small forest and contained a variety of shrubs and trees popular in the 18th century. The surrounding hedges were made of hornbeam, a popular choice of tree in the stately gardens of Europe. *Bosquets of Lilacs* (8) were the first to be created in 2003, followed by the *Dutch Bosquet* (9) a year later. In 2004, with the performance of *Rinaldo* by G. F. Handel, the *Green Theatre* (10) opened to the public. It was fully completed only in 2016. The *Blue Bosquet* (7) featuring arbours and a collection of blue and white flowering plants was created in 2007. In 2009, the Museum's staff began to plant flowering trees and shrubs (14), and reconstructed the *Bosquet of Lilies* (11), previously made up of wild lilies. A memorial site (12) was founded in 2011 to honour the victims of the Franco-Russian War of 1812 and World War I. The labyrinth of *Labyrinth Bosquet* (19) was completed in 2018.

The *ornamental parterre* (1), which is the focal point of a Baroque garden, was created between 2004 and 2006. The pools and a fountain designed by Rastrelli, were completed in 2008.

Pergolas – covered alleyways for promenades – are also a characteristic feature of the Baroque garden. The first vine pergola connected the Gardener's House to the Green Theatre. In 2008 two sections of pergolas were created by the Dutch Bosquet and the Blue Bosquet and in 2011 by the Memorial Bosquet and the Playground Bosquet.

Rastrelli's design shows pavilions for resting situated in the bosquets. The first pavilion was turned into

a *Picnic Area* (5) after the design of Veitshöchheim Court Garden. The *Golden Vase Pavilion* (15) beside the central alley accommodates a cafe, while the pavilion in the *Oriental Bosquet* (13) houses restrooms. It is designed in Chinese style, which gained great popularity during the 18th century. Donations made by visitors made it possible to build a historical seesaw and wooden sculptures in the *Playground Bosquet* (18). The *Water Fountain Bosquet* (17), intended as a drinking fountain, in the treillage arch was reconstructed in the style of the arch at Marly Palace. Work has commenced on recreating the original *Promenade Bosquets* (20) in the forest park.

The Duke's greenhouse was originally situated beside the adobe wall northeast of the palace. Plans have already been drawn up to reconstruct it for nurturing

plants and providing winter storage for exotic plants. Another greenhouse, built in the 19th century, was situated northwest of the garden.

The restoration of fruit tree orchards commenced in 2018. Apple-tree varieties popular in the 19th century manor gardens were planted on the west side together with contemporary cultivars commemorating the achievements of Latvian propagators. Another orchard featuring the most prevalent fruit-tree and berry bush breeds during the reign of the Duke Peter has been planned for the east side.

Thematic exhibitions on the ground-floor of the Palace are devoted to historical gardens. In the study room of Gardener's House visitors can see lists of plants grown in the garden of Rundāle Palace.

THE ROSE GARDEN AT RUNDĀLE PALACE

The rose garden (2) is located in the front part of the French garden on both sides of the ornamental parterre and covers about one hectare of land. English roses resembling old garden roses are planted in the area closest to the parterre. Modern roses are arranged by colour: white, pink and red to the west; yellow, orange and light pastel colours to the east. Three areas on both sides of the far end of the garden are devoted to historical varieties and wild roses, used in the hybridization of modern roses.

Records from 1738 mention 16 roses planted in pots in the Duke Ernst Johann's greenhouse. While according to records, the Duke Peter received 160 rose plants: 50 hundred-petal roses (*Rosa centifolia*), 30 French roses (*Rosa gallica*), 30 Damask roses (*Rosa damascena*) and 30 multicoloured English 'York and Lancaster' roses (*Rosa damascena variegata*). Today the "Duke's Rose Garden" features species that very likely grew there during the reign of the Duke Peter. Amongst these species are the earliest known varieties imported to Europe after the Crusade. There are also rose beds dedicated to other owners of the palace. The rose garden of Count Zubov and two gardens devoted to the Counts Shuvalov cover the period from 1795 to 1914.

While most historical plant varieties bloom only once a year from late May until mid-July, modern cultivars, on the other hand, can flower repeatedly until the first frost. The rose gardens with a range of species in terms of forms and hybrids are also very interesting in autumn when visitors are captivated by the variety of colours and shapes of rose hips.

To introduce visitors with the process of contemporary rose hybridization, 52 circular flower-beds have been given over to 72 rose propagators from 17 countries. A large area of the garden is dedicated to a Latvian rose garden, which features varieties of park roses propagated by Dzidra Rieksta. The northern side of the garden is devoted to the collection of *Rosa rugosa* roses. A rose hedge defines the garden on the east and west sides, whilst the Blue Rose Garden (4) is situated in front of the Gardener's House.

The Rose Garden Project commenced in 2005 with financial support from "Latvijas Mobilais Telefons". The garden was created with significant help from the Latvian National Armed Forces and many volunteers. In total, there are 2230 rose varieties, including 600 historical varieties, growing in the garden of Rundāle Palace.