



Washington D.C.

ROMANIAN GARDEN





ANDREI MURARU
AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA TO
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Welcome to the Romanian Garden, a captivating space in Washington, DC. As the Ambassador of Romania to the United States, it is my pleasure to extend an invitation to explore this garden, which has been crafted to reflect the essence of Romania.

Established as an outdoor space that pays homage to the memory of remarkable Romanian figures and honors our national identity, the Romanian Garden was designed to be a dynamic environment for promoting Romanian projects and a means of raising awareness regarding compelling elements of Romanian architecture and folk art.

Hand painted flower pots with traditional Romanian motifs, willow fences, memorial benches, wood sculptures, wood painted artwork, a hand carved milestone from Romania's longest walking trail and a little Romanian library are housed within its walls.

We invite you to immerse in the beauty and history of Romania through this garden. It is a space where every corner tells a story and every visit leaves a lasting impression. Join us in experiencing and celebrating these Romanian stories, right here in the capital of the United States.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT





VIA TRANSILVANICA

WAYSIDE CROSS

AROMATIC HERB GARDEN

HAND-PAINTED VASES

DEDICATED BENCHES

LIBRARY

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the LIBRARY

THE LITTLE ROMANIAN LIBRARY: A LITERARY HAVEN

Dive into the Romanian literature with our Little Romanian Library. Here, books in English by renowned Romanian authors such as Mircea Cărtărescu, Norman Manea, and Gellu Naum reveal the Romanian thought and imagination. Each book, from “Solenoid” to “The Hooligan’s Return,” is a gateway to understanding Romanian culture.

The Little Romanian Library has been curated and generously donated by the Washington DC-based organization Romanians of DC.

BOOKS CURRENTLY IN THE COLLECTION

Mircea Cărtărescu

Solenoid
Nostalgia

Magda Cârneci

FEM

Emil Cioran

On the Heights of Dispair

Liliana Corobca

Censor’s Notebook

Norman Manea

The Exiled Shadow
The Hooligan’s Return
October, Eight o’Clock Stories

Gellu Naum

Zenobia

Marin Sorescu

Censored Poems

Nichita Stănescu

Wheel with a Single Spoke and Other Poems

Eugene Ionesco

The Bald Soprano and Other Plays

Gabriela Adameşteanu

The Encounter

Tristan Tzara

Approximate Man and Other Writings

Mircea Eliade

The Myth of the Eternal Return

Răzvan Petrescu

Small Changes in Attitude

Dan Lungu

I’m an Old Commie!

Lucian Dan Teodorovici

Matei Brunul

Filip Florian

Little Fingers
The Days of the King

Gabriel Liiceanu

The Păltiniş Diary

Lucian Boia

History and Myth in Romanian Consciousness
Forever Young: A Cultural History of Longevity from Antiquity to the Present
The Weather in the Imagination

Neagu Djuvara

A Brief Illustrated History of Romanians

H.R. Patapievici

Flying Against the Arrow: An Intellectual in Ceauşescu’s Romania

Matei Vişniec

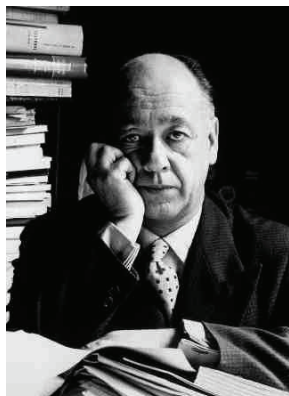
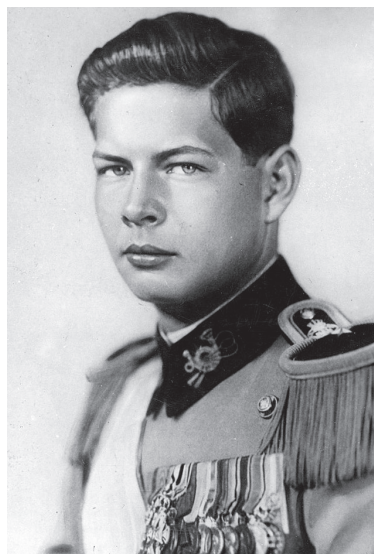
Dinner with Marx
How to Explain the History of Communism to Mental Patients and Other Plays
Mr. K Released

DEDICATED BENCHES

MEMORIALS *of* VALOR & VISION

The garden's dedicated benches honor Romanian luminaries, from King Michael I's brave heart to Elisabeta Rizea's defiant spirit. Each bench tells a story of courage, creativity, and legacy, inviting visitors to pause and reflect on Romania's enduring spirit.

*Pictured from bottom left clockwise:
King Michael I of Romania (1921 - 2017),
Elisabeta Rizea (1912 - 2003),
George Enescu (1881 - 1955),
Smaranda Brăescu (1897 - 1948),
Eugene Ionesco (1909 - 1994).*



**GREAT ROMANIANS
 HONORED**



AROMATIC HERB GARDEN *and* TRADITIONAL FLOWERS



The aromatic herb garden hosts a selection of traditional herbs central to Romanian daily life, as well as the National Flower of Romania, the peony.

PARSLEY (PETROSELINUM CRISPUM)

Parsley holds a revered place in Romanian culture for its culinary versatility. Its cultivation benefits from Romania's fertile soil, making it a symbol of natural abundance and health.



LOVAGE (LEVISTICUM OFFICINALE)

Lovage, or 'leuștean' has a pivotal role in traditional Romanian cooking, particularly in enriching the flavors of broths and stews. This herb is celebrated not only for its culinary contributions but also for its historical use in folk medicine. Lovage's robust aroma and taste make it a staple in Romanian kitchens, symbolizing a continuation of age-old culinary traditions.



BASIL (OCIMUM BASILICUM)

In Romania, basil is synonymous with love and celebration, often used to mark significant social and religious events. This herb is also used in traditional health practices for its anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties. Basil is frequently used during Christian Orthodox religious services and household rituals, where it is believed to bring peace and spiritual protection.



CHAMOMILE (MATRICARIA CHAMOMILLA)

Chamomile is cherished in Romanian tradition for its profound calming effects and is widely used in herbal teas to promote relaxation and sleep. Its delicate white flowers and soothing aroma make it a beloved element of Romanian herbal gardens, embodying the connection between natural wellness and heritage.

THYME (THYMUS VULGARIS)

Thyme is celebrated in Romania for its resilience and aromatic properties, used extensively in cooking meats, seasoning vegetables, and in medicinal teas. It is recognized for its therapeutic qualities, including its ability to treat respiratory illnesses and boost immunity. The herb's symbolism of courage and strength is deeply rooted in Romanian culture.



PEONIES (PAEONIA)

Peonies are deeply symbolic in Romanian culture, standing for the strength of love and self-sacrifice. Since 2022, the Romanian peony is the National Flower of Romania, celebrated each year by Romanian communities throughout the world on May 15th.



HAND PAINTED VASES



In our collection of hand-painted vases, each piece tells a story rooted in Romanian heritage and tradition. These vases were crafted and painted by artist Andreia Gliga, drawing inspiration from Romania's archaic motifs and symbols.



THE GREEN AND BLUE FLORAL VASE

This vase features vibrant green vines and blue flowers, echoing the beauty of Romanian gardens. The decorative zigzag pattern around the rim enhances the overall design, creating a harmonious blend of traditional motifs and natural elements. This piece captures the essence of Romanian artistic heritage with its intricate floral embellishments.

THE BLUE FLORAL VASE

Adorned with green vines and a bold blue flower, this vase captures the essence of Bucovina's floral heritage. The vibrant colors and flowing patterns reflect the beauty of Romania's natural landscapes. The zigzag design around the rim adds a dynamic element, emphasizing the vase's connection to traditional Romanian artistry.

THE RED DOVE VASE

This vase showcases two red doves, a symbol of peace and harmony, set against a backdrop of traditional Romanian patterns. The red and black geometric designs around the rim add a bold contrast, highlighting fine details and craftsmanship.

THE TREE OF LIFE

The Tree of Life, connecting earth and heaven, is the central theme of this vase. This powerful symbol represents growth, strength, and the eternal cycle of life. The designs surrounding the tree are inspired by traditional Romanian embroidery and pottery.





the VIA TRANSILVANICA MILE MARKER

A MILESTONE *on the*
JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

The Via Transilvanica mile marker, generously provided by the Tășuleasa Social organization, is the first of its kind outside Romania, and a tribute to the spirit of exploration and connection that defines the Via Transilvanica trail.

The Via Transilvanica is a long-distance trail that stretches over 1,000 kilometers, crossing through some of Romania's most picturesque and historically rich landscapes. Conceived as a cultural and hiking route, it connects the northern town of Putna to the southern city of Drobeta-Turnu Severin, passing through the heart of Transylvania.

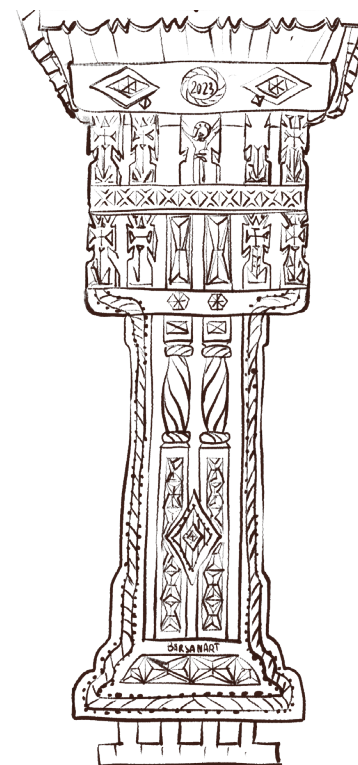
Inspired by famous trails like Spain's Camino de Santiago and America's Appalachian Trail, the Via Transilvanica was inaugurated in 2018 and is divided into segments, each offering unique experiences of Romania's geography, history, and culture.

Mile markers along the Via Transilvanica are individually designed and crafted, showcasing local artistry. The milestone in our garden is a representation of these iconic markers, bringing a piece of the trail's spirit to an international audience.

the THE TRADITIONAL ROMANIAN WAYSIDE CROSS

At the heart of the Romanian Garden stands a *troița*, a traditional Romanian wayside cross, meticulously hand-carved from wood by artisans from Maramureș. The *troița* has deep roots in Romanian history, dating back to the early Christian era. Traditionally placed at crossroads, village entries, or near churches, these wooden crosses serve as both religious symbols and community markers. They are often erected to commemorate significant events, honor the memory of loved ones, or offer protection to travelers and residents alike.

This addition to our garden has been skillfully produced and gifted to us by the craftsmen of BârsanART.





**ROMANIAN GARDEN @ THE RESIDENCE
OF THE AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED STATES**



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