



*Belle and the Beast Topiary*

## A SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

### EPCOT CELEBRATES THE 25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

By Sandra Chambers

**B**e prepared to be wowed by millions of brilliant blossoms, more than 100 festive topiaries featuring favorite Disney characters, 220 mini-floating gardens and Disney-crafted “flower towers” during the 2018 International Flower & Garden Festival. At this 90-day extravaganza, from February 28th to May 28th, guests will also enjoy cuisine from 15 outdoor kitchens and top-notch musical acts.

Epcot’s entrance features a new milestone anniversary topiary garden with legendary icons Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and Goofy. Other favorite topiaries making a return appearance this year include Belle & the Beast, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs and Pixar’s Woody and Buzz Lightyear among others.

This annual event features activities for all ages and interests. Kids will love the brand-new Future World interactive play garden, which offers a play



*A re-designed “Cars”-themed garden*

maze, a sensory garden and an activity zone. A redesigned “Cars” themed garden based on the Disney/Pixar sequel, “Cars 3,” adds more fun activities, like highway bingo, for families.

Many popular gardens from former years will return for 2018, including the popular Water Wise Garden, Bonsai Collection, Shakespeare Garden and the English Tea Garden, which offers a guided tour to learn the history and artistry behind growing and blending tea. A post-tour treat of tea and scones is included. One of the new gardens, a how-to garden, offers visitors garden-ready sustainable ideas and tricks for making their own butterfly house and other outdoor crafts.

More fun awaits as guests sip and savor their way around Epcot’s World Showcase, enjoying chef-inspired cuisine and libations at 15 outdoor kitchens. Each kitchen features its own raised-bed or in-ground garden of herbs that are used in that kitchen’s featured food. Several past food favorites return, such as the Pulled Pork Slider with Coleslaw at the Smokehouse Barbecue and Brews. New flavors have also been added by the culinary team, like the to-die-for Macaron Lollipop at the Fleur de Lys Outdoor Kitchen.

Top off your visit with the popular Garden Rocks Concerts featuring 17 hit makers of the 1960s, ‘70s, ‘80s ‘90s and 2000s in a variety of genres including rock, pop, country, R&B and dance. Some brand new acts for 2018 include country favorites Lonestar, British rock legends Foghat, and Don Felder, formerly of The Eagles.

While most Epcot Flower & Garden Festival events are included with a theme park ticket, many experiences require a separate purchase or a separate admission fee. [EpcotInSpring.com](http://EpcotInSpring.com). 🍷

All photos courtesy of Walt Disney World