Casa Romantica’s 10 Signature Gardens

1. Courtyard
   - The king palm trees were planted in the 1920s
   - The gardens are known for the split-leaf and heart leaf philodendron in the beds near the Main Salon
   - Both of the large hanging staghorn ferns were donated, and their favorite snacks are rotten banana peels!

2. Cactus Garden
   - There are specimens from all over the world here
   - The handled pot was made by a local watch maker in the 1920s
   - The orchid cactus with magenta blooms and the euphorbia are actually succulents

3. Butterfly Garden
   - We are a designated Monarch Way Station: A safe home for butterflies
   - Heavy feeders in this garden include roses, angel trumpet, hibiscus, and orchid trees

4. Native American Garden
   - Gardens contain plants that the Native Achajamen people used
   - Canyon live oak acorns were used as flour and paste for food
   - White sage leaves were bundled and burned to create “smudge sticks” to protect from evil spirits

5. Spanky Chang Children’s Garden
   - Spanky, the dog topiary, is named in honor of the benefactor’s beloved Jack Russell Terrier
   - Plants such as kangaroo paws, yellow button flowers, sticky monkey flowers, and lion’s tail are meant to inspire children’s imagination
   - The yellow aloe opposite Spanky is of the medicinal variety

6. Story Circle
   - The Story Circle is a popular spot for guests to sit and enjoy the spectacular ocean view, and is also a beloved photo destination

7. Coastal Bluff/Ocean Terrace
   - The yucca in the center was planted in the 1920s
   - The bell to the right of the yucca is a reproduction of an iron bell which lined El Camino Real c. 1927
   - The opuntia, commonly called ‘Prickly Pear Cactus,’ is near the fence and is original to the home
   - The yucca rostrata is a new addition to the garden

8. Herb Garden
   - Our experimental garden contains all types of herbs and produce, including tomatoes, cantaloupe, strawberries, carrots, sage, curry and artichokes
   - The scented geraniums provide natural bug control

9. Native Bowl
   - This area is dedicated to California Natives including ceanothus and laurel sumac
   - The Beauty of the Butterfly, our outdoor sculpture, was commissioned and installed in 2017
   - At the top of the pathway our barrel cactus area features an old specimen donated by Ruth DeNault, one of our founding members

10. Woodland Garden/Amphitheater
    - Plants and trees in this garden are typical of one might find in a California forest
    - Monterey cypress tree, Santa Barbara daisy, ironwood tree, redbud tree, and Douglas iris are all native to California
    - The raised succulent beds at the top of the amphitheater were added in 2016
    - The Bougainvillea, a prolific bloomer, is the official flower of San Clemente
    - The cypress trees lining the northwest border were donated by Gavin Herbert and are the same as those at the Western White House
Casa Garden Guide

Casa Romantica sits on 2.5 acres of beautiful coastal grounds home to more than 33 gardens tended to by many dedicated volunteers. Of those 33 gardens, Casa Romantica is known for 10 signature gardens with unique looks and specimens that grow and change seasonally. Take a relaxing stroll through our gardens and find inspiration for your own!

Guide to Map Locations
1 - Courtyard
2 - Cactus Garden
3 - Butterfly Garden
4 - Native American Garden
5 - Spanky Chang Children's Garden
6 - Story Circle
7 - Coastal Bluff/Ocean Terrace
8 - Herb Garden
9 - Native Bowl
10 - Woodland Garden/Amphitheater

Water-Wise Plants
- Sea Lavender
- Lion’s Tail
- Succulents
- Nevin’s Woolly Sunflower
- Cacti
- Bush Violet
- Sage
- Lavender
- Pin Cushion Flower
- Mexican Primrose
- Scented Geraniums

Public Hours
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am to 4 pm
Friday - Sunday 10 am to 2 pm