

Drayton Hall Culinary Programs Group Tours

Entertaining Connoisseur Tour

Lasting up to two hours and led by senior interpreters, the Entertaining Connoisseur Tour provides a fascinating look at the entertaining styles of the rich and famous in the 18th and 19th centuries. The presentation will describe the lavish preparations involved in hosting visitors to the plantation, both travelers and family, during the holidays and for special family events. Foods that would have been served to visitors will be discussed as well as information from Charles Drayton's diary about food stuffs grown on the plantation. With a leisurely pace, the Entertaining Connoisseur Tour provides visitors with the time and flexibility to freely ask questions, photograph, videotape, and immerse themselves in that period of Drayton Hall's history. 1½ - 2 hours. By reservation only. Please contact Debbi Zimmerman, Group Tour Coordinator, at 888-349-0588 ext 2630 for reservations or by email debbi_zimmerman@draytonhall.org

Carolina Gold Rice Connoisseur

Lasting up to two hours and led by senior interpreters, the Carolina Gold / Rice Connoisseur Tour will introduce visitors to rice cultivation and its importance to South Carolina, particularly in the 18th century. Drayton Hall was the "headquarters" of a vast network of as many as fifty other Drayton-owned plantations where rice was grown in inland water swamps that were drained into the Ashley River – but it was the labor, knowledge, and skills of its enslaved Africans that made production viable and the plantations prosper. Information from the diary of Charles Drayton, who owned Drayton Hall from 1784 - 1820, will describe the growing and processing of rice and will include information about the economies of scale and the task system that assigned daily jobs to the enslaved workers. With a leisurely pace, the Carolina Gold / Rice Connoisseur Tour provides visitors with the time and flexibility to freely ask questions, photograph, videotape, and immerse themselves in that period of plantation life at Drayton Hall. 1½ - 2 hours. By reservation only. Please contact Debbi Zimmerman, Group Tour Coordinator, at 888-349-0588 ext 2630 for reservations or by email debbi_zimmerman@draytonhall.org

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Wining and Dining in 18th- and 19th-century Charleston

This program begins at the Heyward-Washington House, where the focus is on 18th-century culinary and entertaining traditions. You will see elaborate table settings and appropriate faux food throughout the house's entertaining spaces; you'll tour the c. 1740 kitchen building to learn about open hearth cooking; and you'll have the chance to visit the laundry area, servants' quarters, and auxiliary kitchen herb garden. Next, you'll travel to Drayton Hall. Excerpts from oral histories and entries from Charles Drayton's late 18th- and early 19th-century diaries open the doors to a world where dances took place in the upper Great Hall and where guests withdrew into smaller chambers for cards and conversation after dinner. You'll find out where festivities took place and what activities were customary in each of Drayton Hall's entertaining spaces. By reservation only. Please contact Debbi Zimmerman, Group Tour Coordinator, at 888-349-0588 ext 2630 for reservations or by email debbi_zimmerman@draytonhall.org