

# RINGLING LEGACY: *Self-Guided Itinerary*

One of the most fantastic treasures of the Roaring Twenties, The Ringling has welcomed visitors to southwest Florida for nearly a century. When following this itinerary, you will step back in time to the world of brilliance, beauty, and cultural splendor that John and Mable Ringling created.

## ORIGINAL CIRCUS MUSEUM

**LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN AND MABLE RINGLING FILM** A great place to begin your journey is in the original Circus Museum, where you can view the film: *The Life and Times of John and Mable Ringling*. Shown every half hour, this film introduces you to the uniquely American story of the Ringlings.

**WISCONSIN TRAIN CAR** In the early 20th century, owning a private railroad car was a symbol of extreme wealth and stature, equivalent to owning a private jet today. The Wisconsin was used by John and Mable to travel around the country with the circus and back and forth between their homes in New York and Sarasota. Peer inside this 79-foot-long Pullman car to get a sense of how the rich and famous traveled in style.

## BAYFRONT GARDENS

**THE SECRET GARDEN** The Secret Garden was an outdoor retreat where Mable could plant florae she received as gifts from friends and guests. Today, it has been replanted as a butterfly and palm garden but still maintains the original eclectic feel. If you wish to pay your respects to John and Mable, you can visit their final resting place on the edge of the garden.

## CA' D'ZAN

**FIRST FLOOR WALK THROUGH** (*Requires a separate ticket*) Ca' d'Zan stands as a testament to the American Dream of the Roaring Twenties. As you enter the Ca' d'Zan you step into the lives of John and Mable and their personal architectural vision, which combined their love of Italy with their desire to emulate the extravagant lifestyles of the American elite.

## MUSEUM OF ART

**BUILDING OF A PALACE BY PIERO DI COSIMO** One of the most important Renaissance paintings in the Museum of Art, this panel may represent an allegory of the art of building. You may notice some similarities between the building in this image and the design of the building you're currently standing in. When John purchased this painting in 1928 he was in the early stages of building this museum and may have felt a special connection to the subject.

**COURTYARD** John's vision for Sarasota included the creation of a school of art and to this end, he purchased over 50 bronze casts of Greek, Roman and Renaissance sculptures to fill the Museum's courtyard and serve as exemplars for students to study. Although John's dream of founding an art school never materialized, the Museum of Art fulfilled his desire that it "promote education and art appreciation especially among our young people."

