

ARTS & CULTURE // GALLERIES & VENUES

'Gilded Age' fans will swoon over these 7 historic sites

As you wait for Season 2 to begin, tour these real-life Gilded Age treasures



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Louisa Jacobson (left) as Marian Brook and Cynthia Nixon as Aunt Ada Brook on HBO Max's 'The Gilded Age' — Photo courtesy of Alison Cohen Rosa/HBO

Love is in the air (and on the air) as viewers eagerly await Season 2 of Julian Fellowes' "The Gilded Age." Will love prevail despite the struggle between Marian Brook's old-money family and Larry Russell's nouveau riche parents, whose self-made fortune turns the social order of high society on its head?

This historical series on HBO Max has sparked renewed interest in the mansions and architecture that sprang up between 1880 and 1900, known as the Gilded Age. While the majority of these buildings have long been demolished or replaced by more contemporary buildings, some remain immaculately preserved and open to the public. Whether a guided tour or self-paced, you can walk (or waltz!) the grounds and interiors of these gilded gems.

The Breakers, Newport, Rhode Island



Scenes from 'The Gilded Age' were filmed at The Breakers — Photo courtesy of Discover Newport

One of the original Gilded Age mansions, [The Breakers](#) was built between 1893 and 1895 by Cornelius Vanderbilt II, one of the richest men in America. It was here that the Vanderbilts escaped the oppressive heat of New York, summering in the seaside community of Newport. The Breakers' Great Hall includes 50-foot-high ceilings and all the opulence of the era, so it's no surprise that some of these rooms were used to film scenes set at the Russell home for the HBO Max series. The Breakers was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1994.

Marble House, Newport, Rhode Island



Marble House reportedly contains \$7 million of marble — Photo courtesy of Discover Newport

The Breakers and Vanderbilt Mansion weren't the only Gilded Age homes built by the Vanderbilts. There was also [Marble House](#), built between 1888 and 1892, by William Vanderbilt as a birthday present for his wife. Marble House and The Breakers triggered the transformation of Newport as a sleepy, modest summer escape to a playground for wealthy Manhattanites. Designed by architect Richard Morris Hunt, Marble House was believed to be inspired by Versailles' Petit Trianon, costing approximately \$11 million. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006.