

400th Anniversary Romanov Tour 2013

This year's tour centred around the 400th Anniversary of the Romanovs and included many new sights. Below are some of the highlights with a little bit of history.

Peter the Great's Summer Gardens have been newly restored to its former splendour. It included new fountains, covered walkways/arbours and new trees and bushes. Restorers had referred to historical drawings. Ninety of the 91 original sculptures had been replaced. The only remaining original was the statue of the Treaty of Nystad.



Moving on after lunch guests visited The Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood and St Michael's Castle.

The Church was built on the site where Alexander II was assassinated. The walls and ceilings in the Church are completely covered in very fine mosaics. The Church has undergone restoration over a period of 30 years. Most recently the Holy Gates have been restored.

Residence of Emperor Paul I, St Michael's Castle, built to the south of the Summer Garden is different on each side. Unusually it has rounded corners. It's also surrounded by water – making it an artificial island. Emperor Paul I was obsessed by his fear of assassination and ironically was killed 40 days after moving into the residence.



Guests strolled in the gardens of in Peterhof, enjoying the magnificent fountains. After lunch the group moved on to the Chinese Palace in Lomonosov, the private retreat of Catherine the Great, famed for its 'Glass Beaded Salon'.



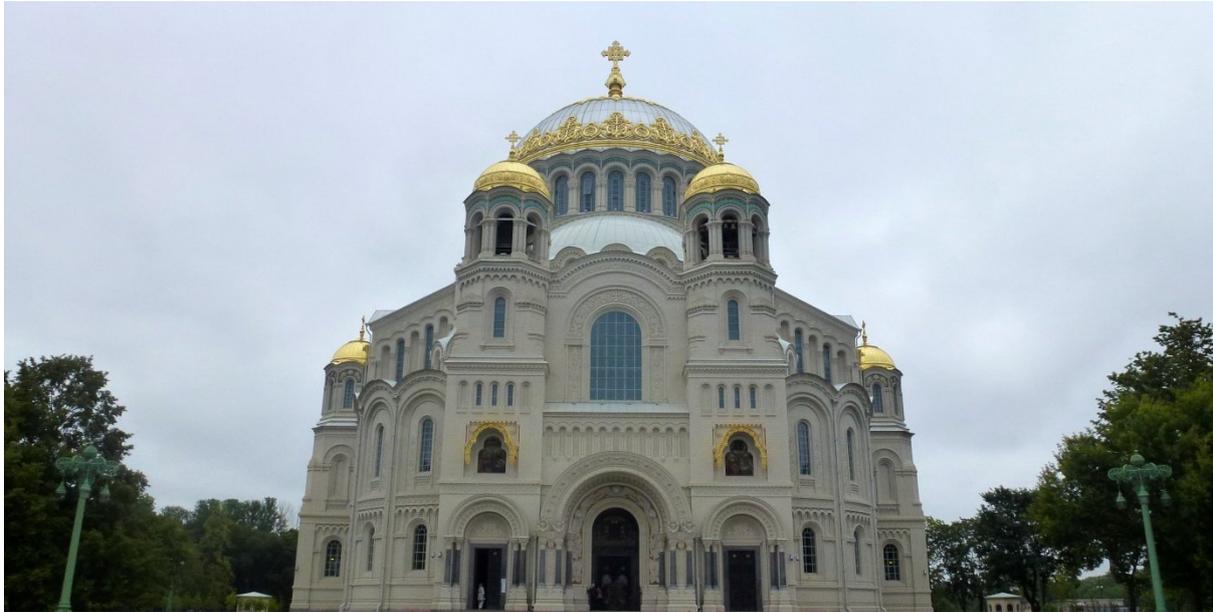
The scene above is an example of one of the glass beaded tapestries depicting birds, and exotic flowers.

Pavlovsk Palace. The Empress Catherine II of Russia gave this land to her son, Paul I and his wife Maria Feodorovna to celebrate the birth of their son, Alexander I of Russia. The Scotsman, Charles Cameron, the official architect of Catherine the Great was commissioned to design a palace on a hillside overlooking the Slavyanka River. Pavlovsk Palace became the home of Maria Feodorovna, after the death of her husband.

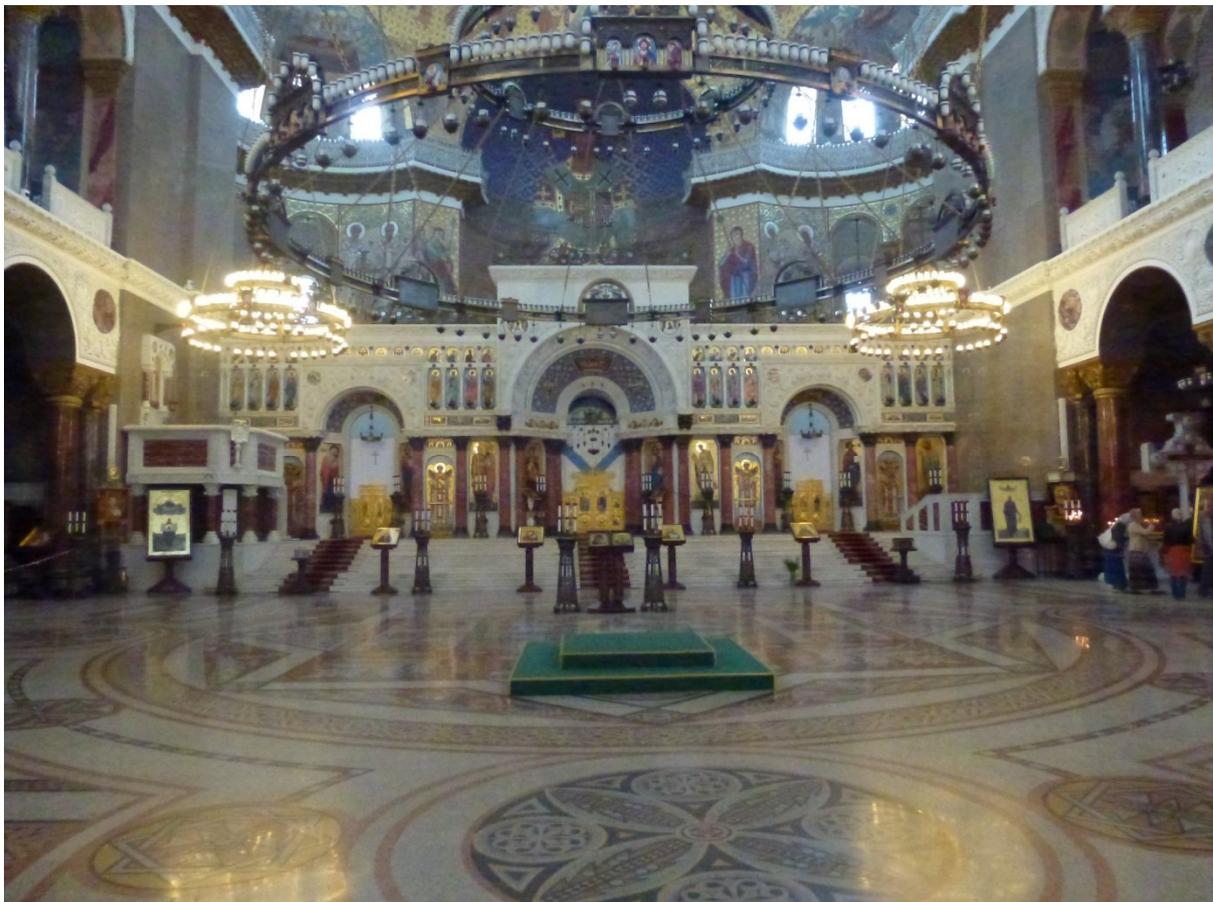


After the outbreak of the Second World War, thousands of objects and documentation were packed and stored away. The Germans occupied Pavlovsk Palace for two and half years. When Soviet troops arrived after Pavlovsk was liberated on 24 January 1944, the Palace had already been burning for three days. A hollow shell without a roof or floors was left. Restoration began and the restorers used only the original variants of the architectural decoration of those created by Cameron, and subsequently Brenna, Voroykhin and Rossi.

A trip to Kronstadt – Peter the Great shipbuilding island (Kotlin). Founded by Emperor Peter the Great in 1704 as a maritime fortress and naval base.



One of the beautiful sights in Kronstadt was the Naval Cathedral of St Nicholas a Russian Orthodox Cathedral built in 1903-1913 as the main Church of the Baltic Fleet and dedicated to all fallen seamen.



No visit to St Petersburg would be complete without a trip to Tsarskoye Selo and The State Hermitage Museum, Catherine's Palace and Alexander Palace.



An opportunity to see some of the world's finest works of art and treasures. History brought to life by our wonderful guide.

The ballet is synonymous with Russia and our guests were honoured to see a wonderful production of "Don Quixote" at the Mariinsky Theatre.



Our unique surprise Romanov Black Tie Dinner and Concert was in The Pavilion on the Island. Guests were wined, dined and entertained in an historical setting - an amazing experience !



Lastly, our guests joined our Chairman, Philip Birkenstein, during his presentation to the Mariinsky Legislative Parliament of Theo Fabergé creation Mariinsky 400th Anniversary Romanov Egg in front of a mass of press and TV reporters.



This beautiful creation in crystal, gold and silver is a celebration of the interior decoration of the Mariinsky Palace, all white and gold. The top of the Egg takes its design from the dome of the Rotunda of the Palace.

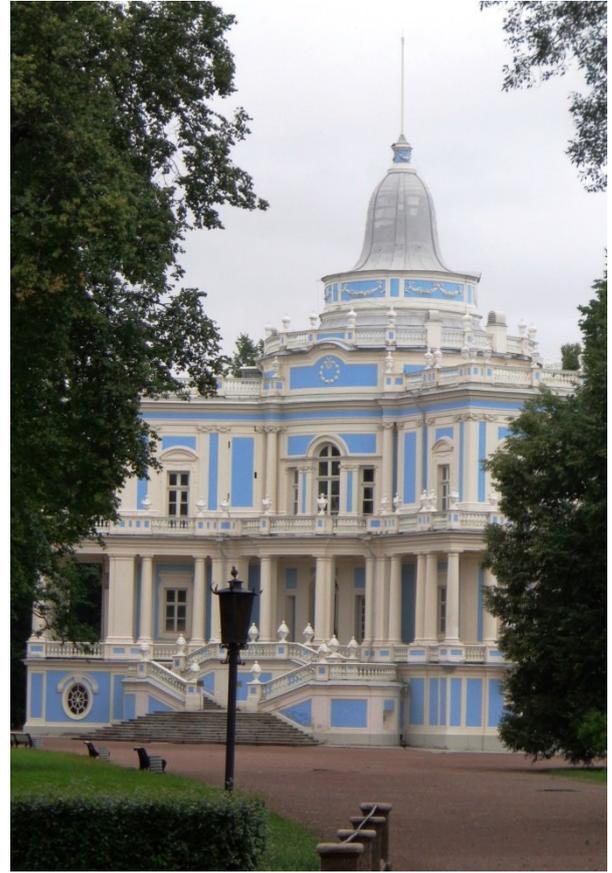
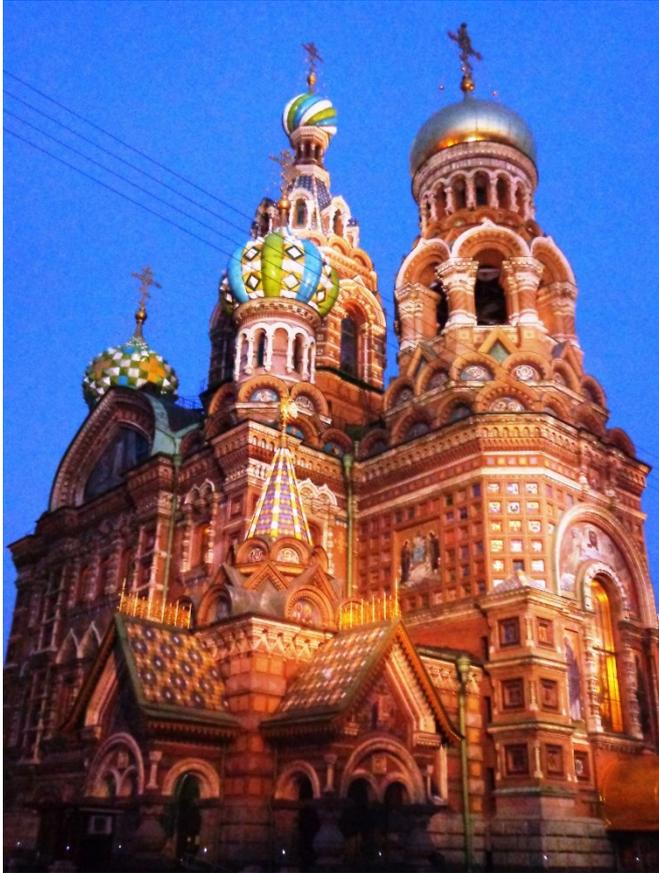
This design uniquely has two surprise compartments. On opening the Egg, the Romanov Griffin with sword and shield in hand, eyes set with sparkling sapphires. Alongside the griffin is Theo Fabergé's

unique British Hallmark. On lifting the Egg from the base, a further surprise, the architectural footprint of the Mariinsky Palace in 24 carat gold and sterling silver.



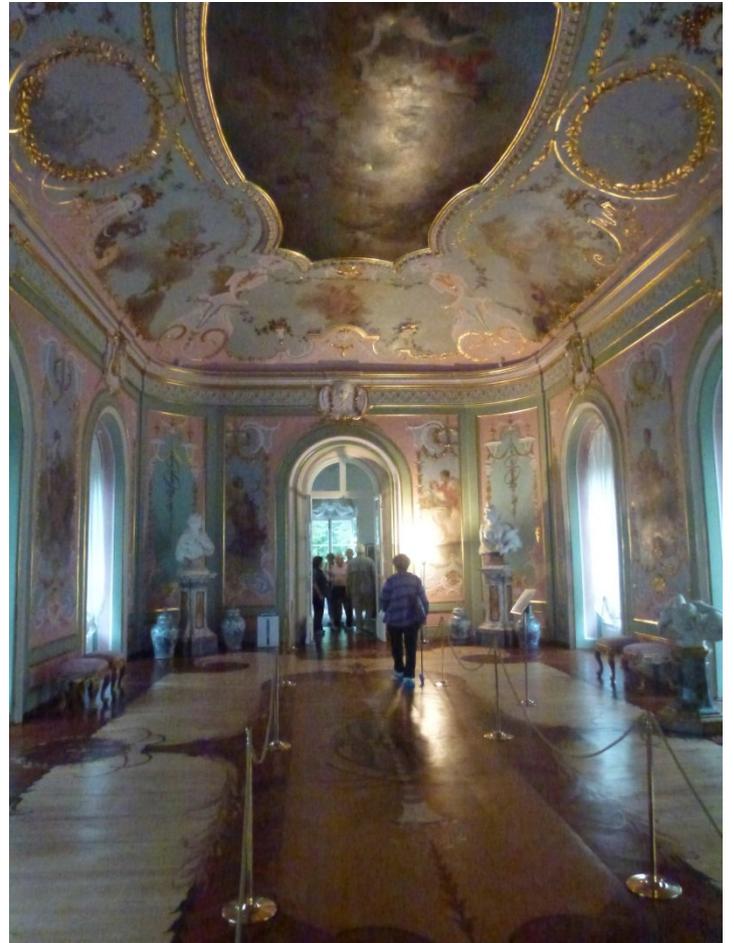
THEO FABERGÉ
Mariinsky Romanov Egg

Gallery of Pictures for the 400th Anniversary Romanov Tour 2013



Beautiful Buildings





Stunning Interiors

