



Villa's entrance, Cennet Koyu, Bodrum, Turkey



**Ermanno Casasco**  
*"Of a Wandering Gardener"*

by Giorgia Mauri  
photos from Ermanno Casasco's archive

Ermanno Casasco

Di un giardiniere errante

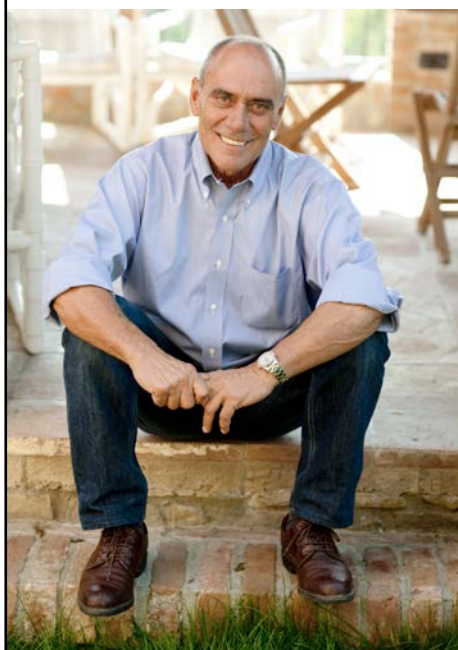


Maestri di Giardino Editori

*Of a Wandering Gardener* is the new book by Ermanno Casasco, edited by Maestri di Giardino Editori. Inclined to the captivating anecdote as little as to the solemn existential reflection, Ermanno Casasco's book runs through its inevitable kaleidoscope of people, landscapes, gardens, sometimes in the synthesis of a seemingly rapid but never distracted glance. A voyage through a journey, divided in three sections, and led by an "I" within an infinite present in which one can continuously discover, try, plan and work, where everything is always new and there is no time to allow oneself to be moved. At least in writing. Because the Wanderer knows exactly when **it is necessary to stop**, suddenly, highlighting the turning points, the lessons learned and those given, the challenges to oneself upped to the limit with the excuse of a craft employed to continually push back its own frontiers. Here too, as in other celebrated "green" autobiographies, along with the plants and the garden you can see the world. And you see it as it really is.

**Ermanno Casasco** has always worked on assignment (never chasing tenders or competitions) designing and creating real works of landscape (not only parks or gardens but also large estates that he has restored) in Italy, Switzerland, France, Morocco, the United States, the Caribbean, Australia, Polynesia, Russia, Turkey and Kurdistan.

He was born in the Parma Apennines. Educated in England and in California, he graduated with a degree in Industrial Chemistry. In 1977 he began working as a gardener, and in 1979 he attended a four-year course in Landscape Design at the Merritt College in Oakland, California, US. Since 1994, he has been the Professor of garden design at the Agricultural School of Parco di Monza; green design teacher at the School of Castello Sforzesco in Milan and gives seminars at the Accademia di Brera in Milan.



Ermanno Casasco

In 2011, 23 founders decided to connect their skills and experience in gardening giving birth to *Maestri di Giardino*, which means "masters of gardens", contributing to raise and spread the art of landscape design. *Maestri di Giardino* is a group of Italian gardeners whose worldwide experience is at the service of private or public. Journalists, cultural promoters, architects, pr and experts in the field work with them focused on the association's goal. *Maestri di Giardino* is also editor about gardening and landscape design. It has already edited many books and *Of a Wandering Gardener* by Ermanno Casasco, preface by Arnaldo Pomodoro, is having big success.

[www.maestridigiardino.com](http://www.maestridigiardino.com)



Garden, Cennet Koyu, Bodrum, Turkey



Villa's terrace, Cennet Koyu, Bodrum, Turkey

"A garden must be beautiful all the time. It sounds odd, but, in spite of having created gardens the world over, I still haven't thought about the garden of my life. Perhaps because every time I start a new garden I'm bursting with enthusiasm for that one, and each time it seems the best. I like making gardens anywhere, I have no preferences because **each place teaches me something new**. The Italian climate can vary enormously. In the south you can use large plants capable of creating an "**instant garden**". But nothing can compare to the beauty of northern gardens because their foliage reveals and marks the seasons. My favorite plants are those which enhance the sense of time passing in a garden: flowering plants, and leaves which change colour and fall revealing harmonious forms. The garden must be beautiful the whole year round, not just in spring when the roses, rhododendrons, geraniums or impatiens burst into bloom.

I like groups of shrubs at the edge of a lawn, both the more tidy one from pittosporum to boxus, and the wilder ones. I delight in vigorous-growing flowering shrubs such as the dogwoods, lagerstroemias, oleanders and hydrangeas. This is what modern gardens are about: they must be designed with spaces and volumes that create both a strong and an ordered impression. **Order and disorder:** bushes and a lawn that looks like a natural glade, an unrestricted micro-landscape, easy to manage. This is how I conceive a garden: order and disorder.

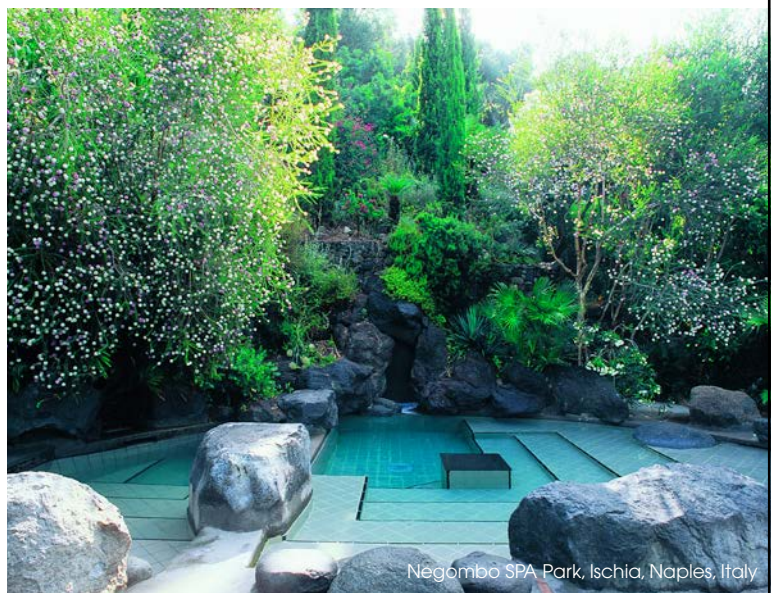
If I had to say what my really favorite plants are then I would choose olive trees, oaks, beeches, cypresses and palms. Among flowering plants I prefer shrubs, especially cornus floridas because, like the whole family of the viburnums, they are ornamental, discreet and showy at the same time.



Swimmingpool in the garden, Cennet Koyu, Bodrum, Turkey



Garden, Ayvalik, Turkey



Negombo SPA Park, Ischia, Naples, Italy

For me, the olive tree is the emblem of the Mediterranean garden which hasn't just one face but thousands, of the peoples and cultures that gave the Mediterranean its history. "Mare nostrum" as the Romans called it, was a melting place of civilizations from Asia, Africa and Europe, and here, more than anywhere else, cultural exchanges were constant and took root. In this bed of civilization the Mediterranean garden was born and continues to evolve.

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Garden of a rebuilt ex-monastery, Alibey, Turkey