

A photograph of a park bench in front of a wall covered in autumn foliage. The foliage is a dense, vibrant mix of red, orange, and yellow leaves, likely ivy or a similar climbing plant. The bench is made of light-colored wood with ornate, dark metal cast-iron armrests and legs. It is positioned in the lower foreground, slightly to the left. The background is a thick wall of colorful autumn leaves, creating a textured and warm backdrop. The overall scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of a quiet autumn day in a park.

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**THIS
EDITION:
European
Autumn**

WANDER to WONDER

WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.
G.K. Chesterson**

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editor's note

Welcome to the 38th edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on the European autumn—the changing colours of the leaves in the Northern Hemisphere. The photographs were taken predominantly in Paris, France, and Tbilisi, Georgia.

Until next edition, with another theme,

Martina

MARTINA NICOLLS



what is autumn?

Autumn is one of four seasons (summer, autumn, winter, and spring) that occur in a temperate climate. Autumn occurs between the hottest months of the year (summer) and the coldest months of the year (winter).

One of the main visible features of autumn is the falling of leaves from deciduous trees. In winter, the trees are bare, and in spring, trees begin sprouting shoots which become new green leaves. Evergreen trees do not shed their leaves.



autumn 2019 dates

Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere in 2019 began on Monday, September 23. It ends on Sunday, December 22.

The autumn start and end dates can be determined using the astronomical calendar or the meteorological calendar.

In the astronomical calendar, the dates are based on the changing position of Earth in relation to the Sun and their equinoxes and solstices. In the Northern Hemisphere autumn starts at the September equinox, which occurs every year between September 21-23. Autumn ends and winter starts at the December solstice, which occurs every year between December 20-23. In the Southern Hemisphere autumn lasts from the March equinox (March 19-21) to the June solstice (June 20-22). The length of the astronomical seasons varies between 89-93 days.

In the meteorological calendar, seasons are based on climatic conditions and the annual temperature cycle. While the exact definition of a season's timing and length can differ in different areas based on local conditions, in most of the Northern Hemisphere meteorological autumn is generally defined as the three months of September, October and November, with the season starting on September 1 and ending on November 30. The length of the meteorological seasons is less variable and is fixed at 90 days for winter in a non-leap year (91 days in a leap year), 92 days for spring and summer, and 91 days for autumn.

There is no "official rule" for which definition to use. Different countries have different conventions. Most of North America and Europe use the astronomical calendar, while Australia and New Zealand use the meteorological calendar.

Season	Start		End	
	Meteorological	Astronomical	Meteorological	Astronomical
Spring	March 1	March 19 to 21 spring equinox	May 31	June 20 to 22 summer solstice
Summer	June 1	June 20 to 22 summer solstice	August 31	September 21 to 23 autumnal equinox
Autumn	September 1	September 21 to 23 autumnal equinox	November 30	December 20 to 23 winter solstice
Winter	December 1	December 20 to 23 winter solstice	February 28 (29)	March 19 to 21 spring equinox





to autumn by john keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Source: Poetry Foundation





Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris



words by andrea gibson

“Autumn is the hardest season. The leaves are all falling, and they're falling like they're falling in love with the ground.”

Source: Goodreads



words by john donne

"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face."

Source: Goodreads





words by jim bishop

“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.”

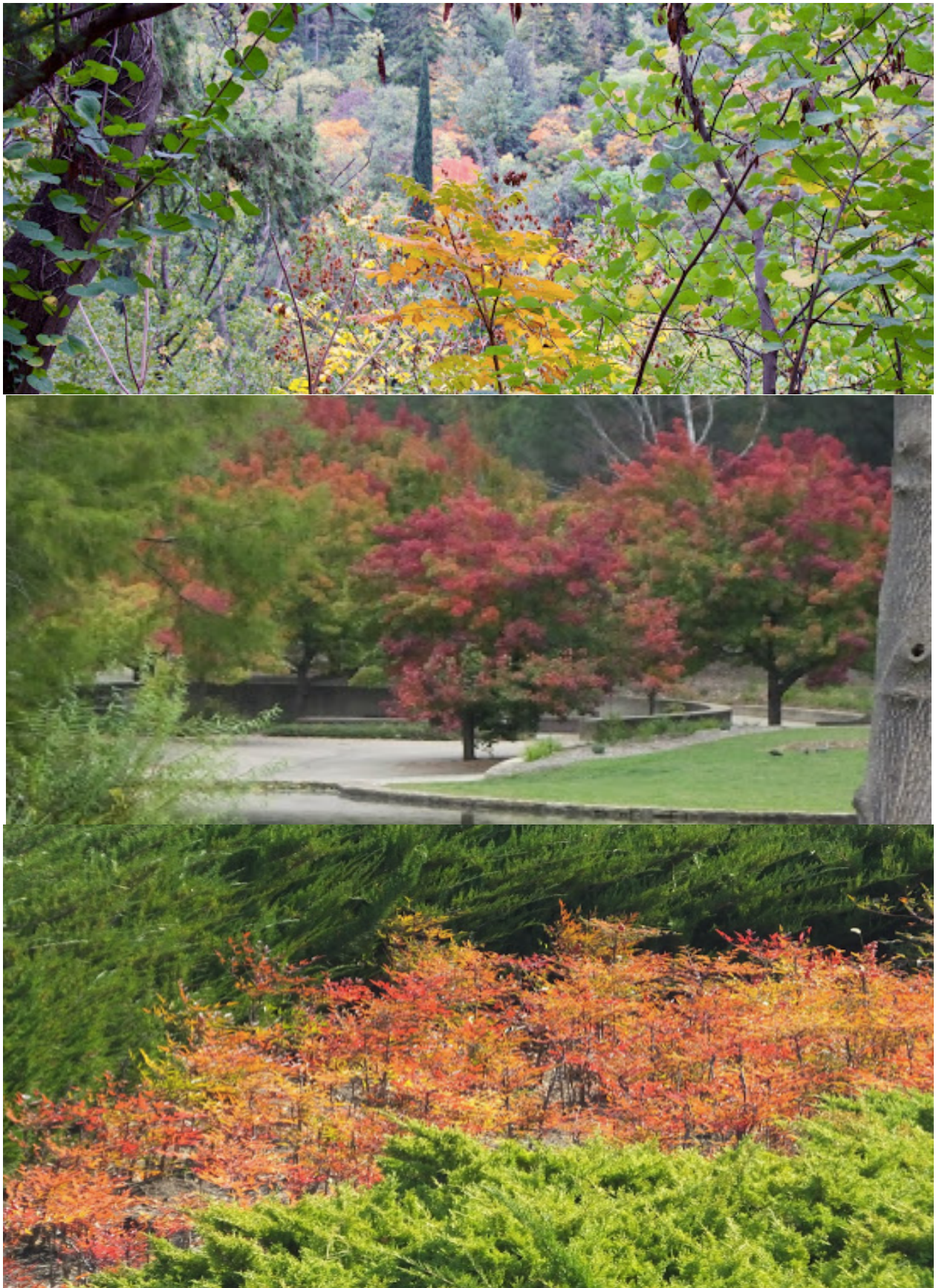
Source: Goodreads



Botanical Garden of Georgia, Tbilisi



The Seine, Paris



words by sanober khan

“you make autumn mist
taste like champagne

and turn winter rain
into the elixir of life itself.”

Source: Goodreads



Versailles, France





words by mehmet murat ildan

“When everything looks like a magical oil painting, you know you are in Autumn!”

Source: Goodreads







haiku by matsuo basho

*On a bare branch
A crow is perched -
Autumn evening*

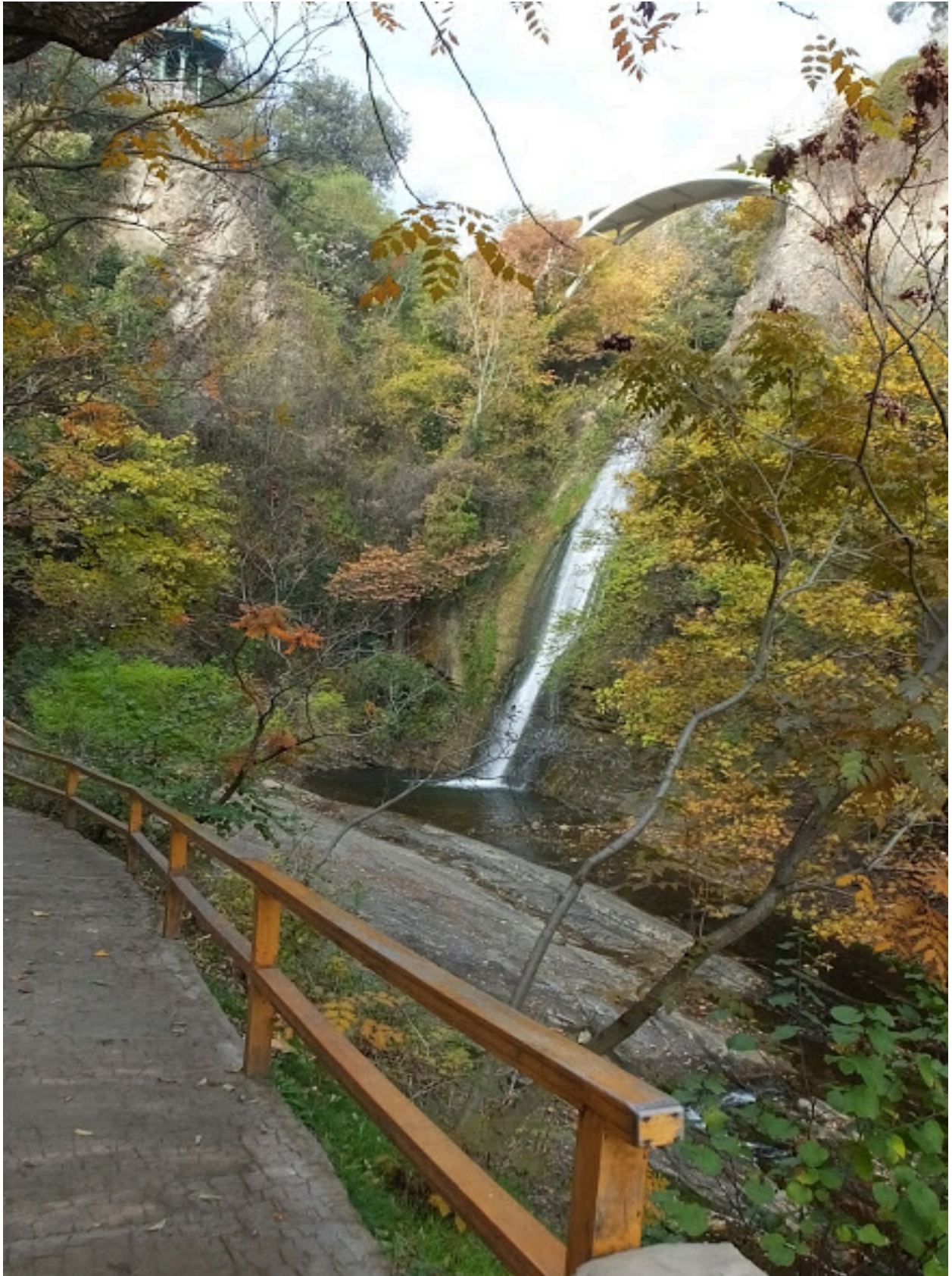
Source: Goodreads





Tbilisi, Georgia





Botanical Garden of Georgia, Tbilisi

the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)
A Mongolian Lament (2015)
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)
Bardot's Comet (2011)
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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