



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tour two historic house museums in King William Historic District for one special price

The [Steves Homestead](#) and [Villa Finale](#) museums have forged a new joint collaboration!

Now, visitors to the beautiful King William National Register Historic District can purchase one adult combo ticket for the special price of \$12 and enjoy self-guided tours of both house museums and their grounds, located only one block apart.

The Homestead is an elegant three-story Victorian mansion, located in the King William Historic District at 509 King William. Prominent San Antonio architect Alfred Giles is thought to be the designer of the native limestone structure, which features a striking mansard roof with decorative iron cresting. It was built in 1876 for Edward Steves, founder of San Antonio's first lumber company, and donated to the [San Antonio Conservation Society](#) in 1952. The Homestead reflects the sophistication of this historic neighborhood, which was settled in the 1800s by prominent German families, and offers visitors the rare opportunity to imagine living the lifestyle of wealthy families of this era. On display at the Homestead are furnishings, fixtures, and decor that help bring the family's stories to life. The property also features original outbuildings, including the first indoor swimming pool built in San Antonio.

Villa Finale is a magnificent estate, located one block north of The Steves Homestead at 401 King William Street. It was originally designed by architect Francis Crider in 1876 as a four-room home constructed of Texas limestone for hardware merchant Russell Norton. The house underwent several additions until the Italianate tower was completed by 1906. After several owners, the property was purchased in 1967 by preservationist and philanthropist Walter Nold Mathis, who spent more than two years restoring the home (which had been converted into a rooming house) and filling it with his collections of decorative arts and furniture. Thereafter, he bought a dozen more houses in King William, performed essential conservation work on them, and then sold them to preservation-minded individuals who would continue their restoration. Upon his death in 2005, his bequest left his entire estate to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which opened Villa Finale as one of its 27 [National Trust Historic Sites](#) in October 2010. It is the only historic site of the National Trust in Texas.

The Homestead / Villa Finale combo tickets can be purchased at either site. The \$12 combo ticket is for a self-guided tour at each museum, to be used on the same day of purchase. Self-guided tours at each museum can be enhanced by use of Smartphones, QR codes, and/or self-guided maps. The Homestead is open daily from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except for major holidays. Villa Finale is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, with self-guided tours (of first floor only) offered Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. In the case when either The Homestead or Villa Finale is not open, the combo ticket holder can do a self-guided tour of the open museum on the day of purchase, and then tour the other museum on the immediate next day it is open for self-guided tours. Members of the San Antonio Conservation

Society, the National Trust, and *Friends of Villa Finale* may enjoy free admission at their respective sites. Free on-site and/or street parking is available at both museums.

GUIDED TOURS: Both museums also offer guided tours (which are not included in the combo ticket price):

- The Homestead offers daily guided tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost for a guided tour is \$10 for adults; \$7.50 for seniors 65+, active military, and students; free for San Antonio Conservation Society members and children under 12. The first floor is wheelchair accessible. Please call 210-225-5924 or e-mail fvarga@saconservation.org to confirm guided tour availability or to arrange for guided group tours.
- Villa Finale offers guided tours of the entire house on Tuesdays at 1 and 2:30 p.m. and Wednesdays through Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Admission price is \$10 for adults; \$7.50 for military (active duty or retired), seniors and students with a current I.D.; \$7.50 for children ages 8 - 12 (minimum tour age 8); and free for *Friends of Villa Finale* and National Trust for Historic Preservation members. The first floor is ADA accessible. Space for guided tours is limited, so please call ahead 210-223-9800 to reserve a spot.

Check www.saconservation.org and www.villafinale.org for more details.