

# World Rose News

The Newsletter of the  
**WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES**

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**'Limoncello'**  
**JPMattia Cover**

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The holiday season is upon us. The roses in the Northern Hemisphere are taking the winter off while in the Southern Hemisphere the roses are in the heat of summer.

We have updated information on the World Rose Convention in Japan. Registration for the Pre and Post Tours, Convention and Hotels are now open. Make sure you register now as the "early bird" fee ends 31 Jan 2025.

We also offer several Vice President Reports in this issue.

Our cover rose is 'Limoncello' (MEIjecycka), a ground cover rose from the House of Meilland, first introduced in 2008.

My photograph for this issue is 'The Impressionist', a climbing rose hybridized by my late friend John Clements of Heirloom Roses in Oregon.

Enjoy!

Steve Jones, Fiddletown, CA, United States



'The Impressionist' (CLEpainter) (LCI, Clements, 2000)

*Note: All photos and articles are by the Editor, unless otherwise noted*

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Do you receive our sister publication  
*by any other name?*

This publication is from the WFRS Conservation & Heritage Rose Committee and covers species, old garden, and historical roses and the efforts to collect and save them.

The latest edition is available at this link:

[bit.ly/BAON30](http://bit.ly/BAON30)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2022-2025

December 2024



Photo: Diane vom Berg

Diane vom Berg

It's summer here in Adelaide. We have experienced very dry conditions, however, our Spring saw our roses perform their best in a number of years. Rose Shows were held throughout Australia during October and November. The Rose Society of Victoria celebrated their 125th Anniversary combining the celebration with The National Rose Society of Australia Rose Championship and National Annual General Meeting in Melbourne early November and it was attended by delegates and rose enthusiasts from around Australia.

I am pleased to report our global sponsorship agreement with FELCO has been extended for another year. I thank Henrienne de Briey for her liaison with FELCO as this will again greatly assist the WFRS. The company is a worldwide leader in the production of high precision professional secateurs and pruning tools. It is pleasing to see many member countries promoting this association. There will be further updates to our FELCO association throughout the coming year.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to consider attending the upcoming convention in Fukuyama, Japan, May 2025. Further details can be found in this edition of WRN as early bird registration is closing soon. Or you can follow the links on the World Federation Website to view the latest updates to all programs, including the options for the pre and post tours, as they will both be a truly global experience.

I want to thank the Executive Committee, the Chairman of our Standing Committees, Editors, Members Countries, Associate Members and Breeders Club Members for their support and commitment of the World Federation of Rose Societies during 2024 and I look forward to working with you in 2025.

Wishing you all a festive season filled with peace, joy and roses.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Derek Lawrence**

December 2024

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It's that time of year again where we all undertake some form of retail therapy, either by visiting the high street or by surfing the internet, in the hope of discovering something unusual to continue the seasonal tradition of exchanging gifts. Even though trends and tastes have changed over the centuries, the gesture of acquiring, preparing and bestowing something of value to family or friends is absolutely magical. It is practised by people all over the world in joyful celebration of the festive period.

The custom of exchanging presents extends long before the founding of Christianity, with the ancient Romans conducting festivals – in particular the celebration of Saturnalia, where thanks were given to the bounty provided by the Agricultural God Saturn.

Nowadays, the average person will not just buy two or three gifts for their closest friends and relatives, but on average will buy more. However, it is important to consider that the reason why people exchange gifts is chiefly to show affection and appreciation of others, which is a commendable quality.

Finding the ideal gift is not always an easy task as we frantically explore the shops, amid a sea of eager, but somewhat disgruntled Christmas shoppers. I may have found the answer, which can be realistically achieved and prevent any further possible stress. As an enterprising rosarian, I would suggest a gift to encourage someone to discover the sheer pleasures of the rose. A fragrant rose bush may be the answer? Or how about a pair of FELCO secateurs for someone to prune their beloved cultivars? A book about the *Genus Rosa* to increase their knowledge? Or even, gift Membership to a rose society? Or volunteering to offer your services to help them in their garden or freely assist in a community garden? If the gift is for someone of the younger generation, that's even better. You will be introducing them to the sheer joys of growing roses, which will act as a lasting legacy for many years to come. Or how about toiletries that contain rose products, such as perfume, hand cream or bath oils? Or a bottle of rose petal wine or confectionary that contain rose botanicals? The opportunities are endless. Rosarians are renowned for being a creative bunch and can conjure up something which is truly inspirational by merely using the power of imagination.

Since the dawn of time giving presents has been an act of kindness to others, and just like roses, is something that will most likely be celebrated and enjoyed for many centuries to come.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!



London's Regent Street by Jamie Davies by courtesy of Unsplash

## ROSE NEWS

*From the Executive Director:*

I am writing to advise you that following an Executive Committee ballot to ascertain approval of recommendation made by the President to appoint Mr. Richard Grabowski as my successor, when I retire my the role during the 20th World Rose Convention.

In accordance, and in observation of our current protocols and procedures, I am very pleased to advise you that Mr. Richard Grabowski of California, USA will commence the role as WFRS Executive Director at the planned Executive Meeting Number Two, being held in Fukuyama Japan on Saturday 24th May 2025.

### 2026 Regional Convention

As previously reported as being approved by the WFRS, the Argentina Rose Society has recently withdrawn their proposal to host the 2026 Regional Convention. We are looking for a host country to have a Regional Convention in 2026.

### **NOTICE!**

**Early bird registration for WRC has been extended!**

**The date for early bird registration for the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama, Japan has been extended to the end of January 2025! If you are planning to attend, register now before the rates go up!**

### Big news:

For those who have not gotten their airfare, Japan and All Nippon Airlines are offering free domestic airfare when you are flying internationally to Tokyo, Japan. But you must book all air travel at the same time to qualify.

### Rose Trials—Rochford, England

Congratulations to Kordes Roses for winning the Best Rose Award at this years rose trials at Rochford. The rose is a climbing rose named Perfumy Silvetta, hybridized by Thomas Proll.



Perfumy Silvetta (photo courtesy Kordes website)



Rochford Rose Trials—Above from left: Thomas Proll of Kordes, Kerry Austen and Paul Rochford from Rochford.



## WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Angela Bokor, VP for Central and Eastern Europe

After a mild winter, the summer of 2024 was hot in Central and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, the roses thrived and we could admire their beauty. At the end of the summer, I visited several rose gardens.

The first one was Márk Rosarium in Acsád, Hungary. It has a collection of more than 1000 varieties of roses, mostly bred by Márk Gergely, the most prominent Hungarian breeder, but also from Szilveszter Győry and Stefan Wagner (rose breeders from the region). On the list of varieties registered at the National Centre for Biodiversity and Gene Conservation there are also historical roses bred by Rudolf Geschwind, Michael Horvath, and Rudolf Palocsay. A relatively new rosarium, it was founded in 2013. The maintenance has been done by the president of the Márk Roses Friends Association, Pocs Margit with little help. As the rosarium is the only place where the roses bred by Márk Gergely (more than 700 varieties) can be found, it is important to support this garden. Thanks to sponsors, the WFRS was able to help Márk Rosarium with a 4000-euro grant.



Márk Rosarium

Next visit was at the Rose Garden in Olomouc, Czech Republic. More than 50 years old, the 3,5 ha rosarium displays a large and varied collection of species, historical and modern roses. Under the professional management of the director, Jiri Malaska, the rosarium was revamped and new varieties are constantly added. Jiri is a dedicated rosarian and organizes lectures and workshops to share his knowledge about roses. Every year a rose festival is organized, and this year a rose bred by Lukasz Rojewski, 'Rosarium Olomouc' was baptized during the festival. The rosarium is well maintained, all the varieties are labeled and there are also resting places and benches where the visitors can spend a relaxing time. The collection was declared as the National Collection of Roses and has a special area with roses bred by Czech and Slovak breeders. The rosarium was nominated for the WFRS Garden of



Excellence Award and in my opinion, it really deserves that. For those who want more information about Olomouc Rosarium, there is an article by Jiri Malaska in one of our Regional Newsletters <https://bit.ly/3ZHVY4j>



Left: 'Arpad-hazi Szent Ersebet Emleke' (syn. 'Heilige Elisabeth', Márk Gergely, 1988), Right: A visit to Olomouc Rosarium



Left: 'Rozárium Olomouc' (Lukasz Rojewski, 2024)



Right and below: Aflopark

Aflopark is a private garden in central Poland. Based on an old garden with fruit trees (which are preserved) the garden has several



parts nicely interconnected. With a huge variety of species, plants and with collections of echinaceas, daylilies, hydrangeas, clematis and peonies and roses which is a place for the common visitor who wants to relax and also for the specialist who can deepen his knowledge about plants.

When I visited in September, the roses were in full bloom, with new growth and healthy foliage. There are around 550 varieties and there is an area where the roses are planted by colour. A newly opened part is the Victorian Garden where roses are planted, mostly bred by Lukasz Rojewski.



Aflopark has something special that makes you

wish to go back.

Kutno, in Poland, is the City of Roses and has been so for more than 100 years. In 1912, the Eizyk brothers started a nursery near Kutno and were offering over 900 varieties of roses. Their wish was that Kutno to become a city of flowers. Later, Boleslaw Wituszynski bred roses which are still growing in Kutno: 'Kutno', 'Marylka', 'Kopernik'. Every year the City Council and the Cultural Centre organize the Rose Festival and in September 2024, the 50<sup>th</sup> festival was a special and spectacular event. As usual, the Polish Rose Society was involved, organizing the Rose exhibition both for professional producers and amateurs.



Left: Baptism of 'Rozane Kutno' (photo KDK Kutno)

Right: 'Kutno' (Boleslaw Wituszynski, 1965)



After the grand opening ceremony, three roses were baptized: 'Kardynal Stefan Wyszynski' (Kordes), 'Wislawia Szymborska' (Tantau) and 'Rozane Kutno' (Rojewski Roses) and for the last one I had the honour to be the godmother.



Left: statue of Boleslaw Wituszynski in Kutno, Right: Rose exhibit in Kutno

Being an anniversary edition, on behalf of the WFRS I handed out congratulation certificates to Kutno City Council, Kutno Cultural Centre and the Polish Rose Society.



Certificates from WFRS (Photo KDK Kutno)

In February 2024, Szilveszter Győry, a Slovak amateur rose breeder, passed away. A former ship engineer, he started breeding roses after retirement and he left us about 200 rose varieties, mostly miniatures and micro-miniatures. He named his roses after historical places and personalities. The majority of his roses can be seen in the Rosarium in Acsád and the Slovak Rose Society also planted some in Dolna Krupa, in the park of Chotek manor house. One of the regional newsletters is dedicated to him <https://bit.ly/41nNBfy>

For those interested I can send the complete list of roses bred by Szileszter Gyory written by him with detailed information about the rose and its name.



In autumn news came from Erich Unmuth, the well-known rosarian who created a unique collection near Baden, that the Rosenkultivarium was in danger, as the municipality of Baden wants to terminate the loan agreement for the land and remove the roses. I have been in contact with Martina Greňová Šimkovičová (a Slovak journalist who collaborated with Erich Unmuth in the past) and Behcet Ciragan trying to find a solution to stop losing those valuable roses. I think that WFRS should seriously think about saving that treasure trove.

Wish all my rose friends a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year 2025! ‘



Right: From Top: Győry roses, 'Babszem Janko', 'Cassovia', 'Kalevala'



## WFRS VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

By Zhao Shiwei, WFRS Vice President, Far East

On April 9, 2024, I went to Sanya to attend the International Rose Festival. Sanya is a tropical city in Hainan Island. The Yalongwan Rose Valley was started about 12 years ago. It has become an important tourist attraction and resort in Sanya. The cosmetic products made from rose essentials are impressive. Guests from Bulgaria and Mauritius attended the festival and shared their love about roses. An art exhibition about roses was also held at the time.



Above: Sanya Cultural Festival, Right lower: Author lecturing at Sanya

The Pierre-Joseph Redoute Art exhibition and Seminar was held in Shenzhen Artron art center from April 13 to May 12, 2024. The exhibition was organized by Southern China Sci-tech University, Shenzhen Time Landscaping Co. Ltd, and the Chinese Rose Society. All the art works were collected by Mr. Zheng Nan who managed to collect from Europe. Together with the art exhibition, a rose show was held, focusing on China roses that were painted by Redoute. I attended the exhibition and gave a talk during the opening ceremony. Professor Tian Song and Dr. Wang Guoliang gave lectures to the audience after the exhibition.

Shenzhen is warm and the climate is subtropical. It's not the best place for rose cultivation. However, Shenzhen people like the roses so much that the rose garden was built 30 years ago. Every year, a rose show is held in the Renmin Park in

Shenzhen. Shenzhen Time Landscaping Co. Ltd was engaged in promoting and growing roses in subtropical cities. They cooperated with Meiland International to seek heat-resistant roses and made good progress.

I went to Shenzhen for another trip on May 18 to attend the opening ceremony of a rose library in Xiangmihu Park. The Rose Library is adjacent to Xiangmihu Park and they have a big rose garden. Dr. Wang Guoliang and I gave lectures to the public, talking about the history and culture of roses.

In April and May, we went to Ningbo to assess the rose garden at Ningbo Botanical Garden as a candidate for WFRS Award of Garden Excellence. The garden is fantastic with modern roses, species roses and old China roses. Many new wedding couples came here to take wedding pictures. The local government also has designated the garden as a place of marriage registration site, just because the rose is the symbol of love.

In July, I went to attend the Nordic Roses held in Kalmar, Sweden. Miss Naizhe Ji from China also attended the convention. She is the first ever scholar winner for young people by WFRS. With the funding from WFRS, she attended an International Convention for the first time. She was every excited to meet rosarians from many countries. She was happy to visit rose gardens and learn from the lectures. She said: It was really a great honor to attend the convention. I have gained a lot from this trip. I hope that I can attend the rose convention and hope more young people will fall love with roses.

In April, the most exciting rose exhibition this year was the Rose Competition of Chengdu Horticultural Expo 2024. Roses from more than 70 organizations or companies were part of the competition. Among them, the new varieties were very exciting. As more and more rose breeders take efforts in breeding new varieties, a lot of new varieties are issued. Some of them are of good quality in repeat-blooming and disease resistance.





Above: Ningbo Botanical Garden Rose Garden, Right: Kalmar Convention: from left, Friends Scholarship winner Ji Naizhe, Gala Dinner singer Sophie Zelmani, WFRS Vice President Inger Schierning



Next year in Beijing, there will be an international symposium on rose research and cultivation. It is organized by the rose group of International Society for Horticultural Sciences. At the same time, there will be a rose show and competition. The venue is in Mentougou District, Beijing. A new rose garden will be finished in the near future. We will encourage members from Chinese Rose Society to attend the exhibition.

## FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER 2024

A REPORT BY JI NAIZHE

I am extremely honored to have been awarded the WFRS Friends of the Federation Scholarship, which led me to participate in the WFRS Regional Convention & Heritage Roses Conference Sweden (or called NORDIC ROSES 2024 ). This was my first time attending an international conference overseas.

The NORDIC ROSES 2024 was held in Sweden in July, a month characterized by long daylight hours and pleasant temperatures, making it the best season to admire roses in Sweden. Our itinerary mainly covered southern Swedish cities such as Kalmar, Helsingborg, and Jönköping.



Left: Kalmar Opening Ceremony with WFRS President, Diane vom Berg, Right: Rose alley in Kalmar Rose Garden

During the convention, we attended numerous rose-related presentations. We also visited five distinctively styled rose gardens: Solliden Palace & Garden on the island of Öland, Fredriksdal Rosarium in Helsingborg, Sofiero Palace & Garden in Helsingborg, Rosenlund Rosarium in Jönköping, and Kalmar Rose Garden in Kalmar. We also toured the Rose Gene Bank at the Agricultural University of Alnarp in Skåne and the newly established International Rose Trial at Rosenlund Rosarium. The itinerary was intense yet enriching. Beyond lectures and tours, the organizers seamlessly integrated the beauty of Sweden and roses into the entire trip. The Baltic Sea outside the congress center, dinner at Borgholm Castle, lunch buffet in the rose garden, all left us with deep impressions and fond memories.

In terms of rose presentations, experts from Sweden, the UK, the USA, India, Japan, Denmark, Poland, and other countries presented. These speakers held diverse professions, including botanists, journalists, pianists, landscape designers, ecological



Left: Rugosa in Garden at the Gene Bank, Alnarp, Right: Fredriksdal Rosarium

archaeologists, historians, breeders, and exhibitors. Most of them held certain positions in their respective national rose societies or the World Federation of Rose Societies. The reports covered various aspects such as the construction of gene banks, rose gardens, roses in painting art, and the history of rose breeding from perspectives such as women, amateur breeders, different countries, and key germplasm.

For me, as a young breeder and scientific researcher, absorbing knowledge about roses from multiple aspects is highly beneficial. Especially gaining a multi-faceted understanding of the history of breeding not only allows for a deeper comprehension of breeding strategies that can be applied to my breeding work but also helps to appreciate roses and even rose-related artwork.

Regarding the rose garden tours, the Swedish Rose Society was very thoughtful in selecting the rose gardens. All five gardens had their unique characteristics. Solliden Palace & Garden and Sofiero Palace & Garden are Swedish royal gardens, while Fredriksdal Rosarium is a historical rose garden which is divided into one section with historical roses and one section where the roses are arranged in various color themes. Rosenlund Rosarium was awarded the international prize 'Award of Garden Excellence' in 2022, making it the first Swedish rose garden to receive this honor. The garden displays diverse rose planting methods such as flower corridor, beds, hedges and borders. The garden is also good at plant combination. The climbing rose and the apple tree constitute a rose tree, resulting in an aesthetically pleasing structure that enhances garden landscape. Furthermore, the climbing rose in combination with *Actinidia kolomikta* forms a flower corridor. *Actinidia kolomikta*, commonly known as hardy kiwi or Arctic kiwi, is characterized by its lush foliage and small edible fruits. When these two plants are paired together, they enrich the visual effects of the corridor. Kalmar Rose Garden is a child-friendly rose garden with a small area and diverse functions, suitable for children to play and adults to relax. It also boasts a rich variety of plants and a rose corridor designed according to children's height. It provides a reference for creating small gardens in urban spaces.



Left: Solliden Rose Garden, Right: Rosenlund apple tree & roses

I also took many photos of these five rose gardens for reference and learning. Besides breeding and scientific research, our daily work also involves the application of roses. In the two months after returning to China, I participated in a rose garden construction project. The trip to Sweden also provided me with many references.

The convention also gave me the chance to meet many new friends and reconnect with old ones. After the convention, Mrs Girija Viraraghavan from India and I reconnected, leading to the introduction of varieties bred by her husband, Mr. Viru Viraraghavan, to the Fairy Lake Botanical Garden in Shenzhen, China, which is currently underway.

In summary, acquiring the scholarship has greatly broadened my international perspective in the field of roses and laid a good foundation for my future work. It is a treasure in my life. I feel very fortunate to be the first recipient of 'WFRS Friends of the Federation Scholarship' and hope that more young people will develop a love for roses, pursue their rose careers, and join the family of the World Federation of Rose Societies!

(All photos courtesy of the author.)



Left: Sofiero Palace, Right: Friends Dinner, From left to right: WFRS President Diane Vom Berg, Executive Director Derek Lawrence, Author Ji Naizhe, WFRS President Emeritus Helga Brichet

## ROSE HISTORY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Compiled by Ludwig Taschner

Roses are not indigenous in the Southern Hemisphere. It is recorded that rose plants were brought along with Jan van Riebeeck. Subsequent settlers brought roses with them, often cuttings rooted in potatoes. Dr Gwen Fagan did tremendous research and this was published in her by now world-famous book *Roses of the Cape of Good Hope*.

It is not by chance that so many of these old treasures are found on farms in the Karoo. The old roses, now regarded as Heritage Roses grew into formidable dense shrubs and in such a way shading and protecting their roots. A second wave of roses were brought to the Grahamstown region with the 1820 settlers. It was only very recently that a rose known in the region as 'Grandmother Wiggill' was identified to be *Rosa moschata plena* and propagated from a shrub still growing on a farm. Presently plants of this rose are shipped by Ludwig's to descendants of the Wiggill family. The Heritage Rose Society of South Africa was and is

involved in several regional "memory gardens" actual Heritage Rose Gardens showing as many of the old roses grown the odd hundreds of years ago.



*Rosa rubiginosa*

Another rose that arrived at that time was *Rosa rubiginosa*, the Eglantine Rose also known as the apple scented rose due to the distinct apple scent that exudes from the leaves, not the petals. This rose set hips easily. Birds ate the hips and distributed the seed around the countryside. Rose seed will only germinate after it has been subjected to frost. This is the reason why this rose has become a nuisance all over the edges of the Drakensberge which experience a cold even snowy winter. Hips are still being harvested and processed for medicinal purpose, but also for rose hip jams and other edible products.

These early wild roses grew relatively easily from slips or runners and were obviously distributed from farm to farm. The five petalled white *Rosa canina* aka "Dog Rose", *Rosa laevigata* or the Cherokee Rose is still seen growing over fences mostly in the Western Cape.

Well over a hundred years ago a specialist rose nursery was established in Grahamstown issuing a catalogue listing over a thousand varieties. Likely the rose plants offered for sale were all grown on their own roots. (Unfortunately, I have not been able to get hold of such an old catalogue).

Nurseries that were established in the Western Cape to propagate fruit trees (peaches, plums, apricots, apples which also belong to the Rosacea family) by budding and grafting on a root stock included roses into their programme. The novelty roses of the days were already hybrids of the tough European types and the much more tender, but also repeat flowering roses that came from China. They did not have such natural vigour and did much better when bud grafted onto a root stock.

I came across a catalogue from a Parys Nursery on the Vaal River of 1928 listing around a thousand varieties. Checking them through I found that we still propagate and sell about twenty of them these days.

All rose plants were still field grown, dug up in winter (June/July) and shipped bare root to the private customers all over the country and also exported to Mozambique, Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe), Angola, Zambia and Mauritius.

Several Rose Nurseries had agreements representing new rose hybrids from Rose Breeders in Europe and the USA.

Rose Shows and Exhibitions were held during October in many cities and towns. The executive of ROSA (Rose Society of South Africa) was attending the initiation meeting of the WFRS in NZ. A World Rose Convention was organised and held in Pretoria in 1979 and later two Regional World Rose Conventions.



*Rosa laevigata*

In the decades of 1960 to 2000 florist type cut roses were grown in fields under 30% shade cloth for local and very much for export to Europe in our growing season from October until April.

Over the past 25 years the growing of florist type cut roses moved to Kenya and now also to Ethiopia, being on the equator where they are able to produce year-round without additional heating and lighting, as has happened in Ecuador and Columbia.

From a slow start after much experimenting with timing and soil mixes Ludwig's pioneering work to propagate and grow rose plants from inception, still budded on rootstock, in black 1-gallon plastic plant bags worked out well. By then garden centres popped up everywhere and they were very pleased to be able to purchase rose plants in flower for re-sale on a regular basis. The growing and selling of bare root garden roses has virtually come to a stop in South Africa.

However, it was not just the rose plant production that was changed, but also the release of new varieties. Whereas it was custom for rose nurseries to order budwood of new varieties (which now arrived by air) from rose breeders in Europe and the USA, re-propagated from them and released a new variety, these were too often to be short lived since they were not really suitable for South Africa's hot climate.

Ludwig Taschner had been in correspondence with rose breeders for some years and was given exclusive agreements for testing their new varieties for a number of years. It meant annually budding a few plants of several hundred numbered varieties, planting them out, caring for them and observing their performance with regard to sun hardiness, vigour, quick re-flowering, fragrance, firm petals that do not wilt in the hot sun and very much a certain hardiness to fungus diseases.

Corresponding with the breeders on the performance of their roses Ludwig Taschner was given the green light to name and release of their new varieties which did not perform in the colder climates. Over the past 40 years Ludwig's selected over 300 varieties many of these named in honour of SA personalities and places and some have found their way to Australia and the Sunshine regions of the USA.



Ludwig Roses

## DEREK LAWRENCE, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EXPLORES...

### THE MAGIC OF MOTTISFONT

Mottisfont Abbey, located near Romsey in Hampshire, England, has many attractions to offer. Sheltered in the valley of the River Test, it's a splendid twelfth century Priory and country estate, with surrounding imposing landscape and resplendent gardens. It was gifted to Britain's National Trust organisation in 1957. A swift flowing tributary of the River Test runs through the grounds, supplying a copious amount of water to the estate. Over the centuries, this immense asset gave rise to the name Mottisfont – "the meeting place by the fountain." However, the 'jewel in the crown' of the grounds is shrouded within the confines of Mottisfont's walled garden. During midsummer, rosarians and like-minded rose lovers from all corners of the globe converge through its gates to revel at the masterpieces and treasures that form the United Kingdom's '*National Collection of Old-Fashioned Roses*' (pre 1900). Visitors are able to enjoy the subtle colour tones and heavy fragrances emitted by the blooms, that has been captured in the past by the finest Dutch masters, and by such assiduous rose collectors like Empress Josephine at Malmaison.

This year marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the collection was officially recognised for its prowess in the conservation of old-fashioned types. The collection within the walled garden was created, through the diligence and absolute determination given by the eminent English rosarian and Gardens Advisor to the National Trust, Graham Stuart Thomas. He was a great advocate of heritage roses. During the 1960's, old varieties were generally out of favour with the general public, but as a distinguished plantsman and author, Mr. Thomas felt compelled to write a trilogy of rose books between 1955 – 1965 to ensure that everyone could become fully aware of the fine characters of older types. His diligent literary efforts proved fruitful, and the public became mesmerised by the charms that older cultivars have to offer.

The primary objective at Mottisfont was to conserve the old French varieties, but over the years, many rare and unusual historical cultivars have been added. Graham Stuart Thomas was mindful of the site's immense potential. The area was originally the site of the kitchen garden and contained established trim boxed hedges, crossing central pathways, which focused on eight sentinel Irish yews around a pool and fountain. It was a superb example of perfect geometry. The large walling not only embraced the overall design, but would protect any vulnerable rose species from prevailing strong winds and bouts of heavy frosts. The Trust's Centre in the nearby City of Winchester were most supportive of the project by arranging a joint appeal with assistance from the Royal National Rose Society to raise the sums required to purchase the roses and plants required to furnish the garden. Rosarians from around the world acknowledged their passion for older types, by generously donating money. By 1972, the garden was reasonably well established, and thus opened its gates to an adoring public. Initial visitor numbers were very encouraging, which was testimony for their growing appetite for antiquated cultivars. The herbaceous borders were cleverly planned by Graham Stuart Thomas, where they admirably demonstrate the virtues of restricted palette of colours, to enable subtle harmony with the gentle hues from the roses. Over half a century later, Mr. Thomas's skilful legacy lives on. On careful observation, the visitor becomes conscious of how perfectly schemed the plantings are.



Right: Entrance, Right: Arbors near Garden Wall

In 1982, a decade after the garden was initially founded, the adjacent land to the north became available. This enabled further expansion of the collection; to accommodate rare varieties; which had been acquired by Mr. Thomas from the German National Rose Garden at Sangerhausen. The box hedge lined paths and stepping stones invite visitors to move from the perimeters of the garden between the masses of herbaceous plants, which provide ample colour and interest after the majority of the roses have finished flowering. Fine examples of the plantings include: campanulas, dianthus, hardy geraniums, peonies and aquilegia. The

latter are allowed to self-seed, but are thinned out when they germinate. Several old apples trees and surrounding walls support lanky growers and old climbers. Varieties to swoon over are: 'Lady Hillingdon', 'Gloire de Dijon', 'Alister Stella Gray' and 'Seven Sisters'. A number of magnificent climbing cultivars adorn the arches which gracefully clothe the walkways. These include: 'Princess Marie', 'Mme Sancy de Parabère', 'Debutante', 'Blush Boursault' and 'Adélaïde d'Orléans', the latter named after one of the daughters of the Duc d'Orléans by the Duke's gardener, in 1826.



'Debutante'

As you stroll around the gardens, it makes you feel that you're drifting back into the passages of time. A treasure trove of roses await to be discovered by the unsuspecting visitor; whether you are a seasoned expert of old roses, or new to the notion of growing these gorgeous legendary varieties. The collection is so inspirational, it simply encourages you to seriously consider the concept of preserving these cultivars for the enjoyment of future generations. Today the garden contains over 1,000 individual rose plants and over 417 varieties.

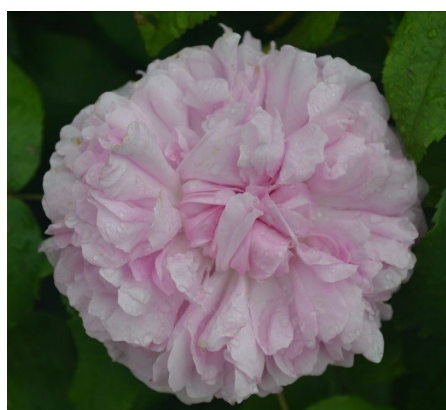
I must confess that I have an increasing fondness for Moss roses. Botanically, they are in fact evolved from the form of Damask roses, that have developed a moss-like growth on the sepals of their blooms. If you gently stroke the prickles, they emit an additional resinous scent. These masterpieces

were very popular during Victorian times. Fine examples to be seen are: 'Général Kiéber', 'Gloire de Mousseux', 'Laneii' and 'Mme Landeau'.

Hybrid Perpetual types are crosses between Damasks and Chinas. Queen Victoria's reign saw a proliferation of the genus, which has quite large blooms. In many respects, they were the forerunners to the Hybrid Teas, and would have been exhibited on the show benches during Dean Hole's tenure as the first President of Britain's National Rose Society. As I wandered around the site I have found these superb HP cultivars: 'Desirée Fontaine', 'Her Majesty', 'Lady Stuart', 'Duke of Edinburgh' and 'Rose du Roi'.

Other curious and jewel-like treasures to enjoy are: 'Prosperity', a Hybrid Musk, 'Victor Parmentier', a Gallica, 'Jacques Cartier', a Portland, 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam', a Hybrid Tea, 'Little White Pet', a Poly-Pom type and 'Sir Joseph Paxton', a Bourbon.

The current Senior Gardener, Michael Harvey said, "Summers are getting hotter and drier and roses don't do well in the heat. The red-brick walls hold the heat later in the evening than they used to. We're also seeing more storms, and the moisture and warmth together are causing an increase in pests and fungal diseases. Going forward, we might need to make some changes if we want to conserve these roses for the future."



Left: 'Jacques cartier', Right: 'Honorine de Brabant'

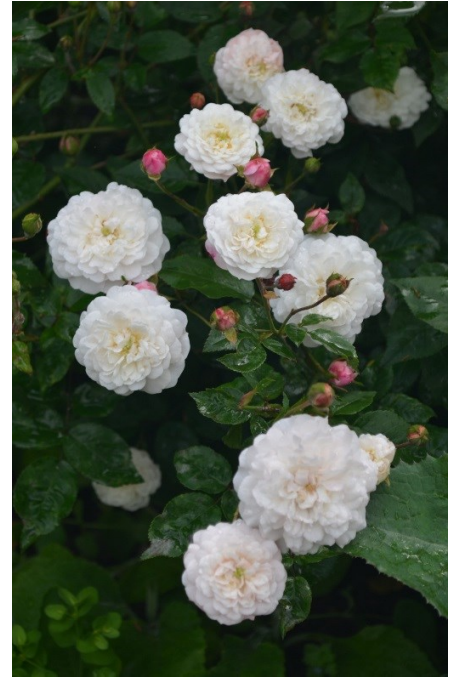
I must confess that I'm not an expert of older types, but am fully aware that Mottisfont's magnificent walled garden is more than a mere rose collection. It's a living catalogue that chronicles the development of the modern rose to the present day. In midsummer, those gates are flung open, and warmly welcome many thousands of visitors whom will marvel at the spectacle. If you have never been enticed by the oldies, I thoroughly recommend that you come to



England and visit the gardens. I promise that you'll be enthralled by the roses; which are exceptionally unique, rather mystical, deliciously fragrant and elegantly beautiful.

*(Photos courtesy of author.)*

## MORE MOTTISFONT ROSES



Above: Left: 'Mme de la Rochelambert', Middle: 'Golden Wings', Right: 'Little White Pet'

Below: Left: 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam', Right: 'Rose du Roi'





## EXPERIMENTING ON GENETICS WITH THE 'ICEBERG' ROSE

By the Asociación Chilena de la Rosa

At the beginning of this year, with all of the members of the Asociación Chilena de la Rosa, we started a friendly competition with the idea of manually hybridizing a new line of Chilean roses.

From the western deep south part of the world, our local association has been experimenting with some techniques based on Mendel's basic genetic laws. For this purpose, we were taught about the opportunities the rose 'Iceberg' had to offer.

The competition started on March, when we were returning back from summer holiday and we all gathered in the morning in the Parque Araucano Rose Garden for a manual pollination introductory lesson. After that, with materials in hand we collected pollen from closed rose blooms, that where in the "marshmallow" stage, and saved it in plastic small containers. Then, we were divided into groups to plan the strategy by choosing some probably great "mothers" for the next step of the project.

The only rule was to hybridize on 'Iceberg' to develop some research about the qualities of these mega-popular rose, which can be seen all over the country; from desert conditions to the coldest places in the Chilean Patagonia and is a classical selection for public places for its hardiness and pest resistance.

### *About 'Iceberg' Rose*

'Iceberg' is a floribunda rose that was cultivated in Germany by the German breeder Reimer Kordes in 1958. It became one of the best well known roses in the world. In 1958, 'Iceberg' was awarded a Gold Medal by the Royal National Rose Society. The cultivar was selected as the "World's Favorite Rose" in 1983, by the World Federation of Rose Societies and appears in its "Rose Hall of Fame".



Left: 'Cl. Iceberg', Right 'Iceberg' bowl

The resistance and popularity of this variety, which is found both as a shrub and as a climber, has seen widespread use, because it can adapt to many varieties of soil, but it grows better in a more acid soil that is fertile and loose, for good drainage. Another of its many qualities is that it also grows well in full sun and can do well in semi-shade.

'Iceberg' bears large clusters of medium sized lightly double, pure white flowers, sometimes tinged with pink in late summer. It flowers from early in the season until late in autumn. There is a light sweet fragrance that attracts pollinators.

It is ideal for mixed borders or simple rose borders and it can also grow in pots or containers and is extremely disease resistant, vigorous and floriferous.

The parents of the Iceberg are 'Robin Hood' and 'Virgo', the first being a floriferous dark pink medium size Hybrid Musk, and the second being a white Hybrid Tea rose, with big and healthy aspect.

As we have been discussing, at simple sight, the 'Iceberg' took the color from her mother but the habit and structure as her father. Both parents are vigorous and resistant.

Some reversive experiments have been done with the 'Iceberg' to go back to their parents, crossing 'Iceberg' as the mother *and* the father. That way, as the laws of Mendel says, it should revert closest to the parents. This reversion is done under the assumption that the natural laws will work but they have not been proved yet. We need to see the results in summer on the flowering season to make any conclusions.

#### *Testing for new roses*

After we collected pollen from our chosen varieties from the Parque Araucano Rose Garden, we gathered as small teams to cross pollinate the selected roses from our own gardens. To develop roses on a public park seems to be an impossible mission because of the lack of control. So we started choosing controlled mothers to keep an eye on the process and the development of the desired "red bud".

Recently, in autumn we have been collecting our labeled rose hips, and harvesting seeds to save them carefully labeled for future tracking. And the upcoming weeks we will be sowing our seeds in trays and keeping them in the fridge for at least 3 months.

On experimenting, you never know how the results will turn out, but every hybridizer has come up with new roses along that path. As with Kordes, David Austin, Meilland and other big hybridizer houses, hand pollination is the way to go to produce new rose varieties to offer to the market. Although you get new sprouts it does not mean that the new rose will be a superb new variety. In fact, it takes between 4 to 10 years to release a new worthy variety.

Sometimes the crossing goes on Mendel's recessive path, and the results are plants that are weak or not as pretty than the parents. But in time, it's a lottery and see if you get the best characteristics of both parents and you get a unique gem.

That's all of this about, playing the lottery to have fun and keeping our fingers crossed!



## **2025 WFRS INTERNATIONAL TRIALS**

	<b>Trial</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	<b><i>Shreveport</i></b>	USA	*
2	<b><i>Monaco</i></b>	Princ. of Monaco	No trials 2025
3	<b><i>Barcelona</i></b>	Spain	9-5-2025
4	<b><i>Rome</i></b>	Italy	17-5-2025
5	<b><i>Madrid</i></b>	Spain	23-5-2025
6	<b><i>Tokyo</i></b>	Japan	May/October
7	<b><i>Lyon</i></b>	France	6-6-2025
8	<b><i>Bologna</i></b>	Italy	7-6-2025
9	<b><i>Hradec Kralove</i></b>	Czech Republic	14-6-2025
10	<b><i>Nyon</i></b>	Switzerland	**
11	<b><i>Baden-Baden</i></b>	Germany	17-6-2025
12	<b><i>Saverne</i></b>	France	18-6-2025
13	<b><i>Paris</i></b>	France	19-6-2025
14	<b><i>Kortrijk</i></b>	Belgium	20-6-2025
15	<b><i>Nagaoka City</i></b>	Japan	May/October
16	<b><i>Den Haag</i></b>	Netherlands	3-7-2025
17	<b><i>Belfast</i></b>	Northern Ireland	4-7-2025
18	<b><i>Warsaw</i></b>	Poland	23-8-2025
19	<b><i>Le Roeulx</i></b>	Belgium	5-9-2025
20	<b><i>Hertfordshire</i></b>	Great Britain	9-9-2025
21	<b><i>Rose Hills</i></b>	USA	No trials 2025
22	<b><i>Adelaide</i></b>	Australia	22-10-2025
23	<b><i>Gifu</i></b>	Japan	May/October
24	<b><i>Hamilton</i></b>	New Zealand	16-11-2025
25	<b><i>Palmerston North</i></b>	New Zealand	22-11-2025

\* = no international judging day in 2025

\*\*= no international judging day, and last year Nyon trials

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The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) is comprised of 40 national rose societies from all around the world. The list below also annotates their year of joining the WFRS.

Argentina (1977) - Rose Society of Argentina  
Australia (1968) - National Rose Society of Australia  
Austria (2001) - Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Gartenbau-Gesellschaft  
Belgium (1968) - Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'  
Bermuda (1981) - Bermuda Rose Society  
Canada (1968) - Canadian Rose Society  
Chile (2000) - Asociación Chilena de la Rosa  
China (1997) - Chinese Rose Society  
Czechia (1994) - Czechia Rosa Club  
Denmark (1994) - The Danish Rose Society  
Finland (1997) - Finnish Rose Society  
France (1979) - Société Française des Roses  
Germany (1968) - Deutsche Rosengesellschaft e.V.  
Great Britain (2018) - The Rose Society UK  
Greece (1997) - The Hellenic Rose Society  
Hungary (2008) - Hungarian Rose Friends Society  
Iceland (2007) - Icelandic Rose Society  
India (1968, 1982) - Indian Rose Federation  
Israel (1975) - The Jerusalem Foundation  
Italy (1968) - Italian Rose Society  
Japan (1968) - Japan Rose Society  
Luxembourg (1983) - Luxembourg Rose Society  
Monaco (2012) - Société des Roses de Monaco  
Netherlands (1976) - Nederlandse Rozenvereniging  
New Zealand (1968) - New Zealand Rose Society  
Northern Ireland (1982) - Rose Society of Northern Ireland  
Norway (1988) - Norwegian Rose Society  
Pakistan (1992) - Pakistan National Rose Society  
Poland (1981, 2017) - Polish Rose Society  
Romania (1992) - Asociația Amicii Rozelor din România  
Russia (2007) - Russian Association of Rosarians  
Slovakia (2023) - Rose Society Maria Henrieta Chotek  
Slovenia (2000) - Slovenian Rose Society  
South Africa (1968) - Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa  
South Korea (2018) - South Korea Rose Society  
Spain (1992) - Asociación Española de la Rosa  
Sweden (1994) - The Swedish Rose Society  
Switzerland (1976) - Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde SA  
United States (1968) - American Rose Society  
Uruguay (1985) - Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa

*Note: for website information on the above Member Countries, go to the [WFRS website](#)*

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Associazione 'La Compagnia Delle Rose', Italy

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18 - 24 May 2025	WFRS 20 <sup>th</sup> World Rose Convention - Fukuyama City, Japan Email: <a href="mailto:info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp">info@wrc2025fukuyama.jp</a> , website: <a href="http://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp">en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp</a>
April/May 2027	WFRS Regional Convention—San Diego, CA, USA, Email: <a href="mailto:ruthsgarden@msn.com">ruthsgarden@msn.com</a>
7 - 14 January 2028	WFRS 21 <sup>st</sup> World Rose Convention—Bhopal, India

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Since its introduction in 2010, over 100 individuals from around the globe have donated funds toward the work of the World Federation of Rose Societies. These donors have received invitations to exclusive "Friends Only" functions at WFRS events.

***Become a Friend of the  
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supporting the work of the Federation.***

***Benefits include:***

***Exclusive invitations to "Friends Only" activities;  
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other Friends to exchange rose growing knowledge, information on rose gardens,  
accommodation and other points of interest relative to their region.  
Donations, with the exception of Friends for Life, cover the period  
until the conclusion of the 2025 World Rose Convention in Japan.***

***Friends donor forms can be downloaded from the WFRS website - [www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)***



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ROSE  
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WFRS 20<sup>th</sup>

# WORLD ROSE CONVENTION 2025 in FUKUYAMA

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18th - 24th May 2025,  
A New Future Begins in  
Fukuyama



WFRS 20th  
WORLD ROSE CONVENTION  

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ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

December 2024

Dear Rose Friends,

Due to an unusually mild winter, the autumn blooming season in Japan has been slightly delayed this year. As the autumn season wraps up, preparations are now in full swing for the upcoming spring event. The Day Tour and Pre/Post-Tour destinations are meticulously tending their roses, eagerly anticipating your visit.

So far, we have received registrations from delegates representing 22 countries. Most attendees have opted for the Full-Day Pass, which also grants access to the "Rose Expo," taking place simultaneously. We are delighted to see such strong interest in the Full-Day Pass, which offers the most comprehensive experience of our services.

While the Early Bird registration period was originally set to conclude soon, we are pleased to announce an extension! You can now take advantage of the discounted Early Bird rates by registering by **January 31**. Don't miss this opportunity to secure your spot at a reduced price.

Hotel reservations have also begun. After completing your event registration, please visit the accommodation page to select your preferred hotel and room type.

For those planning to explore Japan alongside the Fukuyama Convention, we've curated special experiences within the program. Day Tours include visits to local rose gardens, the historic townscape of Tomonoura, and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. In addition, our **Pre-Tour** features several options, such as a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Itsukushima Shrine (Pre-Tour 1; [view details here](#)). Similarly, the **Post-Tour** offers multiple options, including a journey to Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital (Post-Tour 1; [view details here](#)).

The World Rose Convention in Fukuyama is a perfect reason to embark on your journey to Japan. The city of Fukuyama, renowned as a town of beautiful roses, and its welcoming citizens eagerly await the chance to meet you.



**Registration**

**Plan Your Perfect Visit: Pass Options in Fukuyama**


The World Rose Convention in Fukuyama offers participants two flexible options: the Full-Day Pass and the One-Day Pass, allowing you to tailor your experience to your schedule and interests.

**Full-Day Pass**

With the Full-Day Pass, you gain access to a wide range of activities, including:


- **Ceremonies** such as the Welcome Reception and Opening Ceremony (*displayed in light and dark pink*).
- Themed **lectures** held every morning, with four sessions per day (*displayed in red*).
- **Afternoon Day Tours**, where you can visit various destinations. On May 20, 21, and 23, participants can choose from four options (A - D). On May 22, the itinerary follows a fixed schedule for Course E (*displayed in blue*).

The Full-Day Pass covers all programs, except for the Farewell Dinner (held on May 24), which requires an additional fee for both Full-Day and One-Day Pass holders.

- Yellow : Additional fees apply for the Farewell Dinner and Closing Ceremony.



**One-Day Pass**

For those unable to attend the entire event, the One-Day Pass offers a flexible alternative. This pass allows you to:

- Select specific lectures or events that interest you.
- Participate in the Welcome Reception, Lunch Party and Farewell Dinner for an additional fee.
- White : Marks programs requiring an additional fee exclusively for One-Day Pass holders.

For detailed information about the lectures and their themes, please visit:

[https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program\\_conference/](https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program_conference/)

		Program	
18 Sun.	AM		
	PM	Welcome Reception 	
19 Mon.	AM	Opening Ceremony	
	PM	Lunch Party 	Guided walk Rose Expo inspection
20 Tue.	AM	Lectures 「Roses in Asia」	
	PM	Day Tour A or B or C or D	
21 Wed.	AM	Lectures 「Conservation」	
	PM	Day Tour A or B or C or D	Fukuyama Street Dining
22 Thu.	AM	Day Tour E	
	PM	Friends' Dinner	
23 Fri.	AM	Lectures 「Disease Resistance」	
	PM	Day Tour A or B or C or D	
24 Sat.	AM	Breeders Panel Lectures 「New Techniques」	
	PM	Farewell Dinner and Awards Presentation 	



## How to Register for the Full-Day Pass

For those who wish to enjoy a full experience of the World Rose Convention while exploring various destinations in Fukuyama, the Full-Day Pass is the ideal choice. To participate in all programs, please follow the steps below:

### Step 1: Register for the Full-Day Pass

Access the online registration page (<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>) and fill in the following information:

- **Participant Information:** Name, Rose Society (or None), Expo Attendance, Email, Address, Arrival Details (Date/Method), Phone Number
- **Emergency Contact Information**
- **Preferred Pass Type**

*Note: You can update your arrival details later.*

Additionally, please indicate your attendance for the following events:

- Welcome Reception (May 18 evening)
- Opening Ceremony (May 19 morning)
- Lunch Party (May 19 afternoon)
- Fukuyama Street Dining (May 21 evening)
- Closing Ceremony (May 24 evening) (additional fee required)

*Note: The details you enter can be modified after registration.*

Once all the information is entered, please complete your registration.

### Step 2: Select Day Tours and Hotel Reservations via My Page

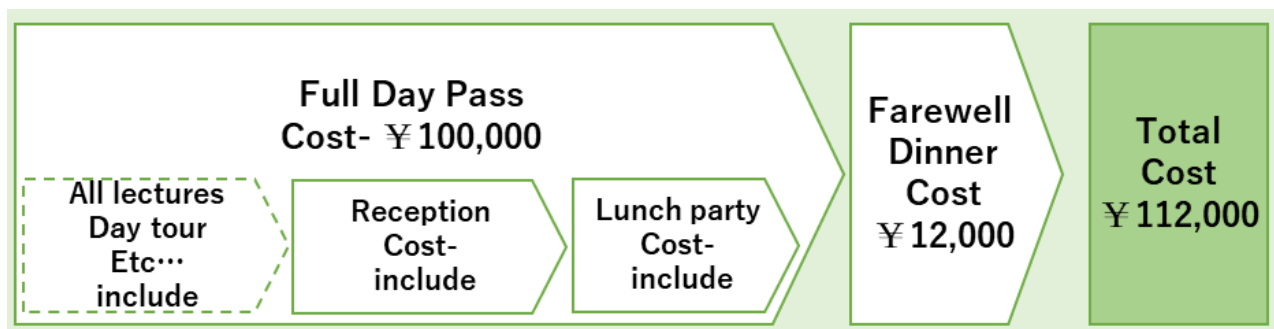
After completing your registration, you will be able to access **My Page**. On My Page, you can:

- Choose your Day Tour destinations
- Make hotel reservations
- Edit any information entered during registration

### Step 3: Payment

Once you've reviewed your selections, proceed to make your payment through My Page. If you're uncertain about attending the Farewell Dinner, you can first complete payment for the Full-Day Pass only, and add payment for the Farewell Dinner later, until 5:00 PM (JST) on April 30th.

*The cost for full participation in all programs is as follows (Early Registration rates).*





For those who can't attend the entire schedule but still want to participate in the Convention, the One-Day Pass is a great option. To register for the One-Day Pass, please follow the steps below:

**Step 1: Register for the One-Day Pass**

Access the online registration page (<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>) and enter your participant information, emergency contact details, and preferred pass type.

First, complete this part of the registration process for the One-Day Pass.

**Step 2: Select Day Tours and Hotel Reservations via My Page**

After completing your registration, you will be able to access My Page. On My Page, you can select your Day Tour destinations, make hotel reservations, and edit the information you entered during registration.

Please note that Day Tour destinations vary depending on the date.

▼Day Tour schedule

May 2025	20 Tue. Afternoon	21 Wed. Afternoon	22 Thu. All day	23 Fri. Afternoon
	A. Sera Kogen	A. Sera Kogen	E. Full of Peace and Culture, "The city of Water" Hiroshima	A. Sera Kogen
	B. Encounter with Anne	B. Encounter with Anne		B. Encounter with Anne
	C. Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens	C. Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens		C. Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens
	D. Tomonoura, and Shinshoji temple	D. Tomonoura, and Shinshoji temple		D. Tomonoura, and Shinshoji temple

Details of Day Tours can be found here: [<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>]

**Step 3: Payment**

For One-Day Pass holders, it is also possible to attend additional events, such as:

- Welcome Reception (JPY 5,000)
- Opening Ceremony (free)
- Lunch Party (JPY 3,000)
- Farewell Dinner and Closing Ceremony (JPY 12,000)

*The costs for attending these additional events are as follows (Early Registration rates):*



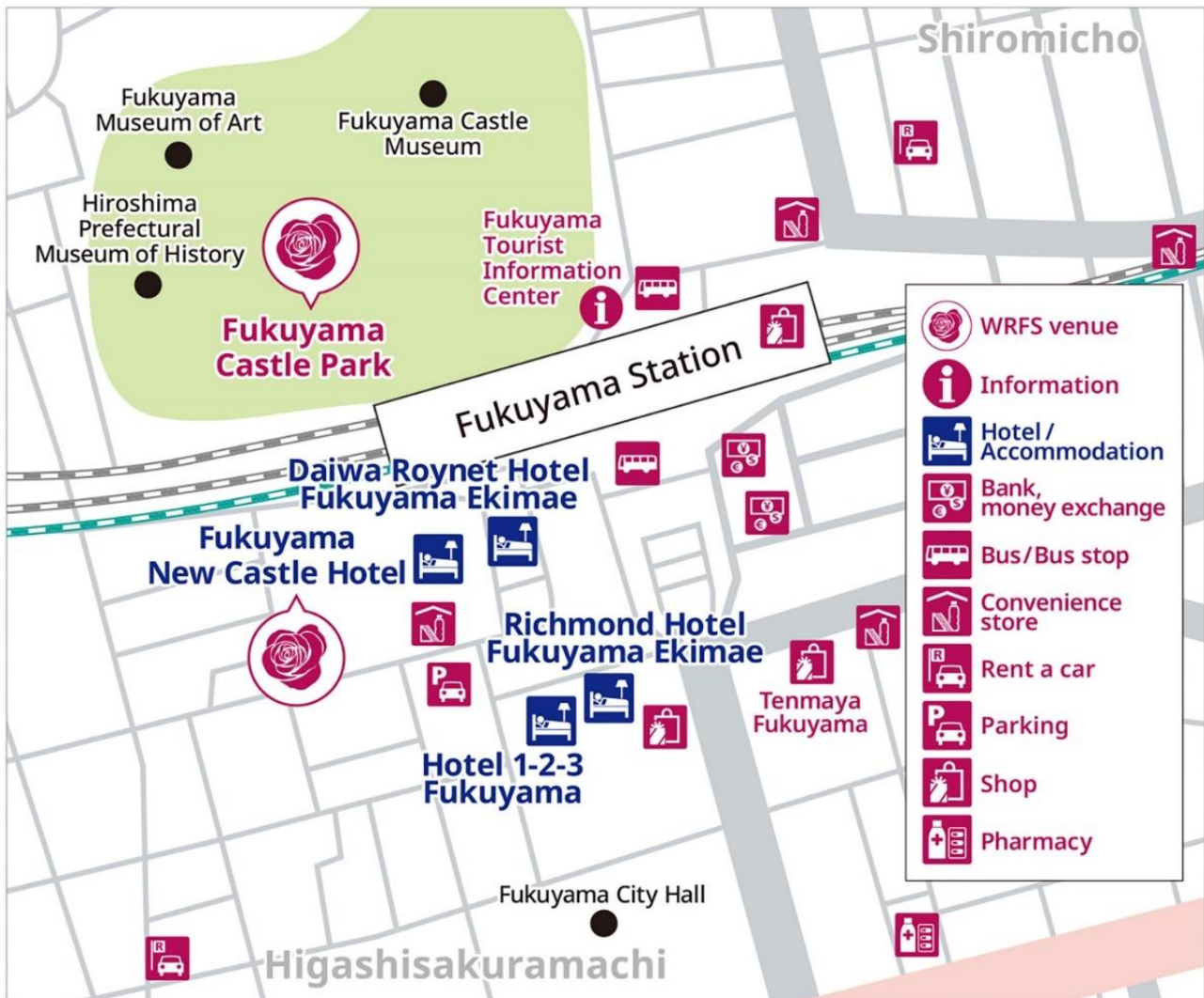
If you have any questions about the registration process, please feel free to contact the WRC2025 Registration Desk at ([wrc2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp](mailto:wrc2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp)). We will respond within three days.



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## Accommodation

We have a sufficient number of rooms in a range of price categories available near the venue. Special rates are being offered for the delegates. Reservations can be made on the website after completing your event registration, so please book early.



### Official Hotels

- Fukuyama New Castle Hotel / Convention Venue
- Daiwa Roynet Hotel Fukuyama Ekimae / 1-minute walk to the venue
- Richmond Hotel Fukuyama Ekimae / 5-minute walk to the venue

Each hotel is fully prepared to ensure a comfortable stay for all guests.

For more details on room types and prices, please visit:

<https://www.knt.co.jp/ec/2025/wrcfukuyama-hotel/en/>



**Day Tours**

As part of the WRC2025 in Fukuyama, we offer a selection of exciting Day Tours from the 3rd to the 6th day of the event. Day Tours are included in the registration fee. While the Full-Day tour to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Botanical Garden on May 22, titled "Hiroshima: A City of Peace and Culture," is fixed, on May 20, 21, and 23, you can choose your preferred destination from four different tour options.

May 2025	20 Tue. Afternoon	21 Wed. Afternoon	22 Thu. All day	23 Fri. Afternoon
	A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers	A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers	E. Full of Peace and Culture, "The city of Water" Hiroshima	A. Sera Kogen: a Fascinating Highland Surrounded by Flowers
	B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour	B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour		B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour
	C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals	C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals		C. <Recommended> Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals
	D. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green	D. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green		D. Tomonoura, the Japan Heritage port town, and Shinshoji temple in the season of fresh green

Both the Full-Day Pass and One-Day Pass offer the option for accompanying persons to join Day Tours with the delegates through the **Accompanying Person Pass**.

We would like to particularly introduce the following options, which offer a special opportunity to experience Fukuyama’s Community Spirit through roses:

- **B: Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour**
- **C: Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals**





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## B. Encounter with Anne, and Lakeside Affectionate Handcrafted Rose Garden Tour

### Holocaust Education Center

The history of community development through roses in Fukuyama began as a symbol of recovery from the devastation of war, with roses deeply cherished by the citizens as a symbol of revival. As a result, the people of Fukuyama have a strong connection between Roses and Peace. At the Holocaust Education Center in the city, a rose called ‘Souvenir d’Anne Frank’ is planted, and students are actively involved in propagating it.



In this tour, you will have the opportunity to hear from the students about their efforts and actions. These students, who love peace, are dedicated to passing on the painful history of the Holocaust. The Holocaust Education Center in Fukuyama was established in 1995 by Mr. Otsuka, who had a personal connection with Otto Frank, Anne Frank’s father. Through interactions with the students, you will feel how deeply Mr. Otsuka’s vision has been embraced by the local community, resulting in a growing number of meaningful actions.



### Garden Tomitani

Garden Tomitani won the Grand Prize in the Local Garden Category at the 2024 Fukuyama Rose Garden Competition. This rose garden is entirely managed by local volunteers, and delegates will have the chance to enjoy the stunning roses along with the warm hospitality of the local community. The garden's landscape during the rose season, with its



adjacent pond, the blue of the sky, the red nishikigoi in the water, and the white of migratory birds, will leave visitors in awe. Here, the local volunteers who manage the garden will warmly welcome you. In a space where you can leisurely enjoy time with friends, such as the pergola dome and arches, you will experience the living rose garden that plays an integral role in community development.



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## C. Join Rose Trials Voting! Explore Tranquil Rose Gardens & Meet Locals

This highly recommended tour immerses you in Fukuyama's "Community Development through Roses" initiatives, offering an authentic experience of local culture and horticultural excellence.

### Rose Garden Kanae

Discover the heartwarming story of Kanae Elementary School's rose garden—a postwar symbol of peace and community renewal. This cherished garden not only connects students and residents but also instills civic pride through shared care for its vibrant blooms.



Witness how the Community Spirit through Roses flourishes here, as volunteers and children work together to nurture and beautify the roses surrounding the school grounds. It's an inspiring example of how roses can connect generations and bring communities closer.



### Fukuyama City Gardening Center

Next, visit a scenic hillside facility with breathtaking views of the Seto Inland Sea. Delegates can take part in the "Fukuyama International Townscape Rose Trials," casting your vote for the next outstanding rose variety, chosen for its ease of care and suitability for urban settings. Explore themed gardens, from fragrant rose displays to serene Japanese gardens, and wander through lush orchards. Every corner of this center offers a picturesque scene where nature and innovation blend seamlessly.



### Sanyo Expressway Fukuyama Rest Area

Enjoy a rare rose garden on an Expressway, a welcoming showcase of Fukuyama's charm for travelers. This garden, meticulously maintained by its management company, is a testament to how urban infrastructure and community engagement can harmoniously coexist.



A dedicated parking area ensures local residents can also access and enjoy this space, highlighting inclusivity and city pride.



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Both tours offer an exclusive opportunity to explore Fukuyama's profound love for roses and the civic spirit that flourishes in its communities.

### **Secure Your Spot Today!**

To join these enriching journeys, register for a Full-Day Pass. Pre-selection of your preferred tours is required, so please complete your registration by **February 21st, 2025**.

For more information, visit the official registration page:

<https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>

## Lectures

**Dates: May 20, 21, 23, 24**

We will be holding 15 lectures at the Fukuyama New Castle Hotel near Fukuyama Station. You can learn about the latest fascinating research on roses, especially Japanese and Asian roses, from leading scholars and experts from around the world.



In this edition, we will feature the lecture theme for the third day, May 23, which is "**Disease Resistance**". (Please see past issues of *World Rose News* or visit the Convention website for other lecturers and themes.)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Period**

#### **Maria Eva Giorgioni (Italy): Rose Trial in Bologna and**

Roses are a popular flowering plant in Italian gardens, with at least 24 native species. While hybrid tea roses were common in the mid-20th century, there has been a resurgence of old roses due to their hardiness, versatility, and historical significance. Numerous public and private rose gardens exist throughout Italy, with some specializing in old roses. Several of these gardens host international rose competitions and trials, contributing to the ongoing cultivation and appreciation of roses in Italy.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Period

### **Hayden Foulds (New Zealand): Improving Disease Tolerance in Roses - A Combination of Breeding and Culture**

Roses can be susceptible to various diseases, but the occurrence of disease depends on a combination of a pathogen, a susceptible host, and favorable environmental conditions. To improve the health of roses, breeders have focused on developing disease-tolerant varieties. Good cultivation practices also play a crucial role in maintaining rose health. This lecture will examine how to enhance disease tolerance in roses, focusing on common diseases like black spot and mildew. It will also explore the impact of cultivation practices on disease tolerance and discuss effective management methods.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Period

### **Thomas Debener (Germany): Breeding for Disease Resistance: Scientific and Applied Aspects**

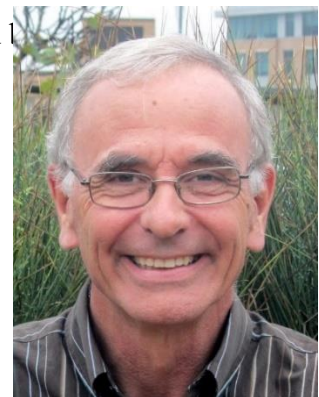
Plants possess diverse defense mechanisms to resist diseases, ranging from physical barriers to complex biochemical processes. Genetic resistance can be broad or specific, with broader resistance typically being more durable. Roses, like other plants, exhibit various forms of disease resistance. While some sources of resistance have been identified and used in breeding, scientific approaches to disease resistance are not widely employed in commercial rose breeding. However, programs like the ADR trials and Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> rose trials offer valuable tools for selecting disease-tolerant varieties.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Period

### **David Byrne (USA): Rose Rosette Disease in the Landscape and its Management**

Rose Rosette Disease (RRD), a devastating disease caused by a virus spread by mites, emerged in the US in the 1990s and significantly impacted garden roses. The rose industry responded with a coordinated research program that led to advancements in diagnostics, understanding of the disease, management strategies, and development of resistant cultivars. While management strategies can help, the most effective approach is using RRD-resistant roses. Current research focuses on understanding the resistance mechanisms and developing tools to accelerate the breeding of resistant varieties.



More details below;

[https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program\\_conference/](https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/program_conference/)



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## Pre-Tours and Post-Tours

Before and after the Convention, we offer three tours, each lasting six days. As the departure and destination points vary for each tour, please review the details carefully and select the course that best suits your interests. To book these tours, please visit the Convention website or see the information below under FAQ.

During the **Pre-Tours**, you will explore the western side of Japan, focusing on its natural beauty and wild rose habitats.

In the **Post-Tours**, you will experience iconic Japanese landscapes, such as the historic Buddhist temples of Kyoto, and visit renowned gardens recognized with the WFRS Award of Garden Excellence.

**Pre Tour 12-17th MAY**

- 1 Miyajima Mountain Rose (*Rosa sambucina*), Seto Inland Sea, and the Japanese Gardens of the Sanin Region
- 2 Tour of the Kuma River Tsukushii Rose (*Rosa multiflora var. adenochaeta*) Colony, Scenic Spots in Kyushu, and Rose Gardens
- 3 Tour of Osaka's Rose Gardens and Osaka Expo 2025

**Post Tour 25-30th MAY**

- 4 Tour of Gardens in the Ancient Capital of Kyoto and Rosa & Berry Tawada, Gifu World Rose Garden Tour
- 5 Echigo Hillside Park Fragrant Rose Garden and North Kanto Rose Garden
- 6 WFRS Outstanding Garden Award-Winning Rose Garden and Hakone, Mt. Fuji Area Tour

Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage early booking for those interested. These special tours offer a unique opportunity to visit famous rose destinations across Japan while exploring the country's rich culture and heritage.

Although you can join just the Pre-/Post-Tours, we encourage participants to combine them with the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama and the Rose Expo to deepen your appreciation of the world of roses.



### ***Registration and General Inquiries***

**Q: How can I confirm if my registration was successful?**

**A:** After completing your registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from the Registration Desk ([WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp](mailto:WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp)). The subject line of this email will be:

*Subject: WFRS 20th World Rose Convention - Registration Entry Notice / 参加申込受付通知 - Registration No.*

This email will include details about your registration status and the information needed to log in to your My Page. Please make sure to keep this email for future reference.

**Q: What should I do if I lose my registration information?**

**A:** If you lose your registration details, please contact the Registration Desk for assistance.

Email address: [WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp](mailto:WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp)

**Q: I am trying to register but cannot submit my application.**

**A:** Please contact the Registration Desk for assistance.

Email address: [WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp](mailto:WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp)

**Q: How do I register a couple for the Convention?**

**Do I need to make 2 separate registrations?**

**A:** If the person registering alongside you wishes to attend the WRC2025 lectures, they will need to register separately from the main delegate. If they do not plan to attend the lectures but wish to join the Day Tour(s), please register them as an Accompanying Person through My Page.

**Note:** If the person does not plan to participate in any part of the Convention program, registration as an Accompanying Person is not required. However, hotel reservations for two people can still be made.

**Q: Can I get help with my visa application?**

**A:** Visa support details, including the application process, will be published on the WRC2025 official website in January 2025. Visa applications will begin in February 2025.

**Q: Can I experience the atmosphere of the Rose Conference by attending the Opening Ceremony, Lunch Party, and Welcome Reception with a One Day Pass?**

**A:** Yes, with a One Day Pass, you can attend the Opening Ceremony, Welcome Lunch, and Welcome Reception, as well as select lectures on the May 20, 21, 23, and 24. For more details on the lectures, refer to: [Our Website \(Lectures\)](#).

Please note that on the May 22, there are no lectures, but you will participate in a day trip to Hiroshima.

Separate fees apply for some events:

- Welcome Reception: JPY 5,000

- Lunch Party: JPY 3,000



**Pass Options**

**Q: What events can I attend with my pass?**

**A:** The Full-Day Pass and One-Day Pass offer different inclusions:

- The Full-Day Pass includes the Welcome Reception (May 18th) and Lunch Party (May 19th).
- The One-Day Pass does not include these but allows access by paying an additional fee.
- The Farewell Dinner (May 24th) requires separate fees for both Pass types.

**Note:** Until April 30th, 5:00 PM (Japan Standard Time), you can register for additional programs along with your main pass (Full-Day or One-Day Pass) through your My Page account. If you're uncertain about which events to attend, you can modify your selections later.

**What included in the registration fee**

Registration fee for WRC2025 includes:	Full Day Pass	One Day Pass	Accompanying Person Pass
Lectures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> on applied date(s) only	-
Rose Expo FUKUYAMA 2025	<input type="radio"/>	-	Full Day: <input type="radio"/> One Day: -
Day Tour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> on applied date(s) only	<input type="radio"/>
Lunch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> on applied date(s) only	<input type="radio"/>
Welcome Reception (May 18)	<input type="radio"/>	- Can be applied for an additional fee	
Opening Ceremony (May 19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lunch Party (May 19)	<input type="radio"/>	- Can be applied for an additional fee	
Fukuyama Street Dining (May 21)	<input type="radio"/>	-	-
ID Pass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Convention Kit (Program, Bag, Souvenir)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	-
Morning tea (Snack)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	-

**Payment**

**Q: I get errors in credit card payment.**

**A:** Please contact your credit card company to check the details of the error.

If the error persists, we will provide an alternative payment URL from the Registration Desk.

Alternatively, you may try using a different card for payment.

If the issue is still unresolved, we kindly suggest making a bank transfer.



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**Q: How can I confirm if my registration fee payment was successful?**

**A:** - For payments by credit card, a payment confirmation email will be sent automatically to your registered email address.  
- For payments by bank transfer, an individual confirmation email will be sent as soon as we confirm your payment.

### ***Accommodation***

**Q: Should(Can) I book a hotel myself?**

**A:** Hotel bookings can be made individually or through My Page.

### ***Pre- and Post-Convention Tours***

**Q: I can't log in to the Pre-/Post-Tour system. How can I register for a tour?**

**A:** Pre-/Post-Tour registrations are handled through a separate system from the main Convention registration. You cannot use your Convention registration account to log in to the tour system. Please re-enter your details to create a new account for the tour booking.  
- **Tour Information:** [Tour Details](#)  
- **Tour Inquiries:** [WRC2025-tour@or.knt.co.jp](mailto:WRC2025-tour@or.knt.co.jp)

**Q: Is there a package tour that includes the bullet train, accommodation, and convention registration?**

**A:** WRC2025 offers 5-night, 6-day Pre-/ Post-Convention Tours, but we do not sell individual tickets for transportation to Fukuyama or packages that combine train tickets, accommodation, and registration fees.  
For accommodation, we provide hotel options as part of the convention registration process. Please visit our official website for more information: [Hotel Booking](#).  
If you are unsure how to reach Hiroshima Airport (HIJ) or Fukuyama Station, please contact the Registration Desk ([WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp](mailto:WRC2025-regist@or.knt.co.jp)) for assistance. Once you arrive, volunteers will be available at Hiroshima Airport and Fukuyama Station from May 16 to 18 to guide you to the venue.

### ***Information Updates***

**Q: I still have questions about the convention details, getting around Fukuyama, or access to the venue. Will I receive more information after completing my registration?**

**A:** Yes, we will provide additional details to help you plan your visit, including useful tips for first-time travelers to Japan and highlights of the Convention program. As we approach the end of the Early Bird Registration period and more attendees complete their registration, we will increase the frequency of updates via E-mail.

For detailed information, visit: <https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/registration/>

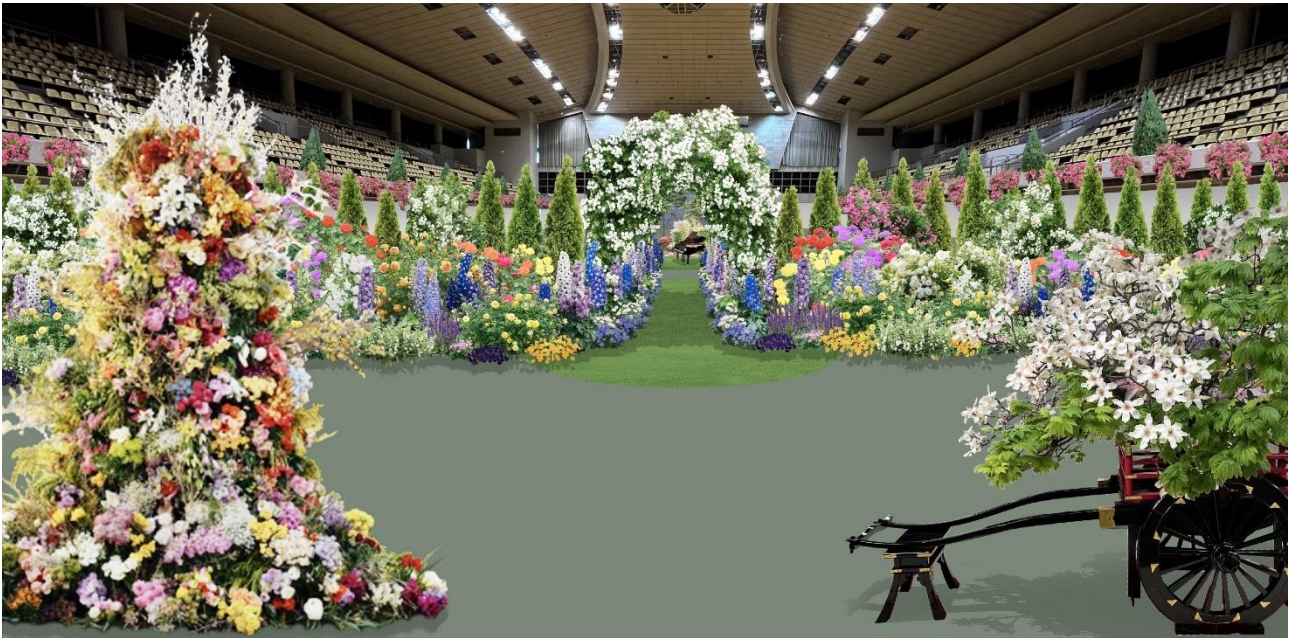




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## Rose Expo

In addition to the World Rose Convention, immerse yourself in a spectacular rose-themed event held at a gymnasium in Fukuyama. A highlight of the event is the traditional *Fukuyama Cut Rose Contest* (or Rose Show), featuring exquisite rose arrangements that showcase the artistry and innovation of rose cultivation.



### Event Details

Taking place during the first three days of the convention, this special event is free for all delegates.

- **Lectures & Seminars**

Join renowned rose experts and enthusiasts for an engaging program of talks, lectures, and seminars, offering fresh insights into the art, culture, and care of roses.

- **Exquisite Entrance Gardens**

Be captivated by stunning entrance gardens designed by celebrated Japanese artists. These displays harmonize Eastern and Western aesthetics, with traditional Japanese rose arrangements providing a unique cultural touch.

### Discover More

For more details, visit the official website:

[https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/roseexpo\\_about/](https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/roseexpo_about/)



## Access to Fukuyama

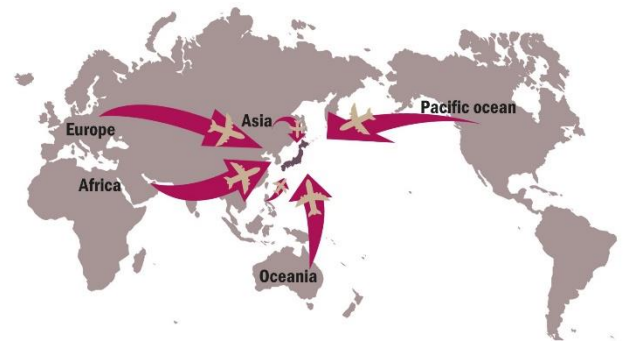
### Narita International Airport (NRT)

Narita Airport, serving the Greater Tokyo area, is a major international gateway, offering an extensive network of 102 routes to 101 cities across 38 countries and 3 regions (as of May 2024). Its global connections make it an excellent entry point for international travelers.

### Other Airports

In addition to Narita, travelers can conveniently access Japan through:

- **Haneda Airport (HND):** Another Tokyo-based hub offering extensive domestic and international connections.
- **Kansai International Airport (KIX):** Located near Osaka, ideal for exploring western Japan before heading to Fukuyama.



### Reaching Fukuyama

From these airports, getting to Fukuyama is straightforward:

- **By Air:** Hiroshima Airport (HIJ) is the closest airport to Fukuyama, with a direct one-hour bus service to the city.
- **By Train:** Fukuyama Station is a key stop on the Sanyo Shinkansen line, providing high-speed connections to major cities across Japan.



### Important Notes for Tour Participants

- **Pre-tour participants:** Confirm the departure airport for your selected tour.
- **Post-tour participants:** Confirm the arrival airport for your tour's conclusion.

### Helpful Resources

- **Visit Japan Web:** Streamline immigration procedures, customs declarations, and duty-free purchases. [<https://services.digital.go.jp/en/visit-japan-web/>]
- **Japan Travel:** Explore sightseeing, transportation tips, and more. [<https://www.japan.travel/en/>]



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ROSE EXPO FUKUYAMA 2025

**Stay Updated**

Stay informed with the latest updates about the convention by visiting our [official website](#).  
Subscribe to our mailing list for announcements and exclusive updates.

We look forward to welcoming you to **Fukuyama, the City of Roses**, and ensuring a memorable experience!

Sincerely,

*Yukiko Shimura*

Yukiko Shimura  
President, Japan Rose Society

*Naoki Edahiro*

Naoki Edahiro  
Chair, World Rose Convention Fukuyama Organizing Committee

# Fukuyama, the City of Roses

Where Roses and Traditions Flourish Together

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Uncover the secrets of Japanese food; Find it in Fukuyama

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(Japanese food)



Fukuyama: Your gateway to all of Japan!

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(Things to do in Japan)



Fukuyama Station (Shinkansen)  
→ 3-minute walk  
→ Venue

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(How to use Shikansen)



Reach HIJ and our volunteers will guide you to the bus.

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WFRS 20th  
WORLD ROSE  
CONVENTION  
2025  
in FUKUYAMA  
第20回世界バラ会福岡大会