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World Rose News



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Editor's Message



Shireen Deoraj

Hello, Rose Lovers.

Winter has settled over the Southern Hemisphere but here in tropical Durban, the weather is still warm and temperate, although the mornings are chilly, and the roses will flourish for a while longer. Pruning will commence from mid-July onwards and pruning demonstrations have already begun in preparation for this annual rite. Now is also the time to plant new roses or move existing roses to better locations in the garden.

It has been a busy quarter in the rose world with the successful hosting of the Heritage Rose conference in Nanyang and Shanghai, China. This issue covers the conference in detail, from the pre-conference tour to the conference itself in Nanyang and the post-conference tour in Shanghai. Our sincere gratitude goes to Ms Ines Diaz de Licandro, the Vice President of South America, Mr S S Gadre, President

of the Madhya Pradesh Rose Society, and Marga Verwer, our Executive Director, for their informative reports and beautiful photographs taken at the conference.

Heritage roses have been growing in South Africa for over three centuries. On 1 November 1659, Jan van Riebeeck picked the first rose in the Cape. That rose was *Rosa centifolia*, also known as the Provence Rose or Cabbage Rose. Nine years later, Centifolias and Persian roses were found growing very well in Cape gardens. As settlers trekked inland, the Centifolia, Damask, Bourbon, Gallica, Moss roses and *Rosa chinensis* went with them and were planted on platteland farms, towns and mission stations. The second wave of Heritage roses came with the 1820 settlers and other groups who settled in the Eastern Cape and the Karoo.

South Africa has a Heritage

Rose Society, and the honorary president, Dr Gwen Fagan, now in her 101'st year, has been championing the survival of these historic blooms for over twenty years. She has identified and collected old roses from cemeteries, mission villages and other hidden corners of the Cape and recorded their history in her beautifully illustrated book, 'Roses at the Cape of Good Hope'.

She also designed and established a number of Heritage rose gardens, including the garden at Boschendal Wine Estate in Franschhoek, the formal gardens at Welgelegen in Mowbray, which now form part of the University of Cape Town campus, and the jewel in the crown, The SA Rosarium in Bedford, Eastern Cape. Dr Comyn presented at the conference in China on how the rosarium is preserving historic roses in South Africa.

Another safe haven for old roses was created in Somerset

*Madame Isaac Pereire,
an old Bourbon rose from my garden.*



East by the late Cathy Lynn Estermann, who sadly passed away in June 2026. She was the daughter of Heather Leppan, fondly known as “the rose lady of the Karoo”. Heather tirelessly promoted old roses and when she passed away in 2009, she had the biggest heritage rose nursery in the country. This nursery was lovingly maintained and nurtured by Cathy, who moved more than 2000 roses growing in her mother’s garden to the sanctuary in Somerset East, which is a registered historical site. The ‘Heatherby’ rose, named after Heather in recognition of her work, takes pride of place.

Last, but not least, here at the Garlington Estate in Hilton, we have the Midlands Rose Society Heritage Rose Gar-

den. Boasting over 146 varieties of heritage roses dating between the 1500’s and 1945, the garden features four colour-themed beds encircling a central lawn. My favourites in this garden are “The Bishop’, ‘Russelliana’, ‘Felicia’ and of course “Dorothy Perkins’, which gives the most stunning show in spring.

It is my fervent hope that more rose lovers around the world get to know, appreciate, and most importantly, preserve the heritage roses before they disappear completely.

References:
[gardenandhome](#) & [thegardener](#)



President's Message



Sushil Prakash



Collection of Standard Rose, Nanyang

This quarter began with a lot of excitement preparing for the convention in China.

There were 15 people from India, and we arrived in Nanyang on the 24th of April 2026. I already knew what China had to offer as I had visited the Chinese convention in 2019 but the view I saw in China surpassed all my expectations. China had always been one of my favourite destinations for roses and the meticulous way the convention was organised

was indeed incredible. Many congratulations to the Chinese Rose Society to have made this possible.

We saw the beautiful rose gardens, the great planning of hotels and convention centres, many cultural events, participation of Nanyang citizens, especially children and we visited museums and theme gardens apart from listening to experts. Every small need of the delegates were taken care of by the Chinese Rose Society and

Mr. Shiwei (aka Williams). Just imagine that Indian food had been arranged for the Indian delegation!

To see the Rose city with Roses lining the streets and big expanse of spaces with Rose bushes left us all enthralled. The highlight of the convention was that we could visit Shanghai – one of the most modern cities of the world and enjoy their beautiful gardens there. I also took the post tour to see the wonderful gardens

Visit to Rose Nursery, Nanyang





and the plethora of fauna the country had to offer.

I will not go into the details of this very successful convention, as you will read articles on the Pre and Post tour written by Ms. Ines Diaz de Licandro, Chairperson of the Conservation and Heritage Committee. She has done a marvellous job in taking the readers on a vir-

tual trip of these tours. Mr S. S Gadre has written about the main conference from 24th to 28th April, and the readers will surely find it interesting.

Our special thanks to Ms. Henrienne de Briey, Chairperson of the WFRS Convention and the Liaison Committee, who put so much effort in making the convention successful.

Also, thanks to our Executive Director, Ms. Marga Verwer and Treasurer, Ms. Claudia Hacker for all the support in conducting the meetings.

After the beautiful experience of China, I visited the Chelsea Flower Show on 19th May 2026. The beautiful stands displayed a variety of flowers, both known and unknown. I had the chance to meet the representatives of rose breeders from David Austin, Peter Beales and Harkness at their stands. The show gardens on display were fascinating. The Chelsea Flower Show is a must visit on my travel list.



Flower display in Chelsea



David Austin's stand in Chelsea



Dinner in Volčji Potok

From 4-5 th May I was invited to Ljubljana's Programme of International Rose Forum at Arboretum Volčji Potok by Ms. Breda Copis and the host, Mr. Mathias Mastnak , Executive Director of the Arboretum . I was here in 2017 for the WFRS Regional Convention when the upper rose garden was newly laid. This time, I saw it in its full glory. We had a guided tour of the Upper Rosari-

um which has beds of modern roses mixed with pergolas , rose arches and columns to give it depth. The Papal rose garden is a new concept with Roses from the Vatican and Castle Gondolfo. It is like a place of Rose Pilgrimage. After lunch there was a guided tour of the Lower Rosarium (Regional collection, Hybrid Musks, Slovenian found roses). I really enjoyed spending the day

with my rose friends in such a beautiful location.

I am now looking forward to the Rose Trials in Baden Baden, Saverne , Bagatelle & Kortrijk , from 15th to 19th June 2026.



With the host in Ljubljana

Executive Director's Message



Marga Verwer

In the Netherlands we are in the full rose season now. After a very cold period it changed into almost tropical temperatures, which gave a growth spurt for all plants. The roses are in bloom at this moment; we can enjoy them at their best. Unfortunately, wetter conditions changed into rainy days. Hopefully it will be for a short period only. Although I shouldn't say this as we desperately need the water with the ground water level being too low. Water is becoming more and more important. Who would have thought twenty years ago that we would face a water shortage in present times.

The climate change is visible everywhere. I attended the rose trials in Madrid and Faenza (Bologna). There it was visible that we were already a little bit too late to see all the roses in full flower. This doesn't mean we cannot judge them, as most of the time some flowers

are left. Both trials are in the south of Europe. What a difference with the north, where they suffered from very low temperatures during the winter. This resulted in the plants being thrown back that much, that they had to start again as being just planted. This isn't a great situation for an international rose judging day, of course. Therefore, for one trial the decision was made to cancel it this year. The differences per region in Europe are enormous.

We were outside of Europe at the end of April, when we attended the Heritage & Conservation Conference in Nanyang and Shanghai, China. You can find the reports in this June edition of World Rose News. It was exciting to see the roses in exceptional forms and dimensions and also planted everywhere in the city. The quantity of plants is enormous! The cit-

izens clearly love roses as they visit the gardens in large numbers. It was an enjoyable and informative conference, with excellent lectures, beautiful gardens and an exceptionally friendly welcome everywhere.

The rose season is now for me limited to visits in Europe. Europe is large enough to give variety in landscape, culture and rose gardens. Of course, at the other side of the world, they find themselves probably in winter. I wish all of you an exciting and rewarding rose season, or a relaxing winter period.



17th International Heritage Rose Conference

April 24-28, 2026

Nanyang & Shanghai, China

Pre-Conference Tour

Conference Tour

Post-Conference Tour



Pre-Conference Tour

by Inés Díaz de Licandro

The Heritage Rose Convention China 2026 Pre-Tour was a delight: a gathering of friends who share a passion for heritage roses on a tour of Sichuan, a province in western China with a rich culture, history, and geography.

The base for this pre-tour was the capital, Chengdu, a city that was founded in the 4th century BC during the Shu kingdom and whose prehistoric founders included the Sanxingdui culture. Once the starting point of the Southern Silk Road, today Chengdu is the main metropolis of western China with more than 22 million people. Located in the center of the Sichuan plain, known as the “Land of Abundance” due to its favorable climate and excellent irrigation from the ancient system built in Dujiangyan. It is the land of pandas, ginkgo biloba, boast-

ing a cuisine rich in spices, recognized by UNESCO.

The group of 26 rose lovers toured Sichuan for a week, enjoying the many cultural and rose-related activities.

Chengdu’s modernity and dynamism were striking, with its futuristic buildings and wide avenues lined with cedar trees, ginkgo bilobas, maples, and numerous flowers such as azaleas, roses, and bougainvilleas. The care given to the trees with protective supports, the cleanliness, the safety, and particularly the respect and care shown to the elderly and children were also remarkable. The main square, Tianfu, is a vibrant and spacious hub of flowers and serves as a confluence point for subway lines and major avenues. The Chengdu Museum and the Science and Technology Museum are im-

posing buildings located there.

Some of us drove to the Pidu district, on the outskirts of the city, stands the Science Fiction Museum, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects. Opened in 2023 for the World Science Fiction Convention, it is a landmark of parametric architecture. Its 59,000 square meters simulate a star cloud that appears to float above Jingrong Lake. The building’s striking design features a curved roof that collects solar energy and provides natural ventilation, seamlessly integrating the structure with its natural surroundings. It’s a delight for adults and children alike, who visit the cultural center with their educators. A prototype of the Hugo Award for innovation is on display there.

Sichuan Opera singer



Tianfu Square





Science Fiction Museum

Just as Chengdu surprises with its modernism, it is also admirable for its rich history. Ancient neighborhoods like Jin Li Street captivated visitors with their colorful shops selling fruits, tea, wood carvings, fans, jewelry, silk, and various other specialties. The former governor's residence, a beautiful wooden building with intri-

cately carved timber framing and walls covered in silk brocade, was particularly noteworthy.

Ancient Chengdu streets. Silk weaving and rose tea tasting

The Tibetan quarter called "Little Lhasa" is home to the largest Tibetan population outside of Tibet. There, vis-

itors can wander among the stalls selling antiques, paintings, carvings, necklaces and local semiprecious stone beads, mingling with locals, many wearing traditional Tibetan outfits or playing mahjong on the sidewalk.

Green spaces in Chengdu are remarkable, such as the

Chengdu - Jinli Road





Chengdu. Botanical Garden

Chengdu. Manhua Manor

Chengdu Botanical Garden, which attracts the attention of visitors, particularly the rose garden with its arches and soaring structures, as well as its modern rose beds.

Manhua Manor, in Chengdu's Xindu District, is also known as the "Sea of Flowers." It's divided into more than twenty themed areas, including the French Rose Garden, the Peony Garden, and numerous seasonal flowerbeds. It's an entertainment center with cultural exhibits, where many local women come to take photos in the flower-filled areas wearing colorful rental dresses. The enormous 300-meter-high glass-floored bridge spans the garden, offering spectacular panoramic views so many dared to cross the bridge while defying dizzying sensations.

Chengdu's nightlife invited us for strolls amidst modern lights and also along the beautiful Jin River and the ancient Anshun Bridge. The renowned Sichuan opera is based on the mask-changing spectacle, as well as dances in beautiful and colorful costumes, juggling, and puppetry. The perfor-

mance also included tea tastings, refreshing drinks, and a choice of gifts such as massages, ear cleaning, or tea sets.

Sixty kilometers northwest of Chengdu, we visited an engineering marvel located between the Chengdu Plain and the Tibetan Plateau: the Dujiangyan Irrigation System. Built from the 3rd century BC onwards to contain and control the waters of the Minjiang River, a tributary of the Yangtze. This system, the oldest in the world without dams, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and remains of great importance today for controlling

river flows, preventing floods, and irrigating the fertile agricultural plain of Chengdu. Despite the cloudy and gray day, we were fascinated by crossing the suspension bridges, observing the system from different points, and strolling through the Qingxi Garden with its centuries-old Lagerstroemia indica trees, bonsai, and topiary art. Here we also met many groups of young students with whom the interaction is always friendly and fun.

The remains of the Sanxingdui culture, a mysterious civilization of southern China during the Shu kingdom, were first

Downtown Chengdu. Anshun Bridge





Quingxi Garden

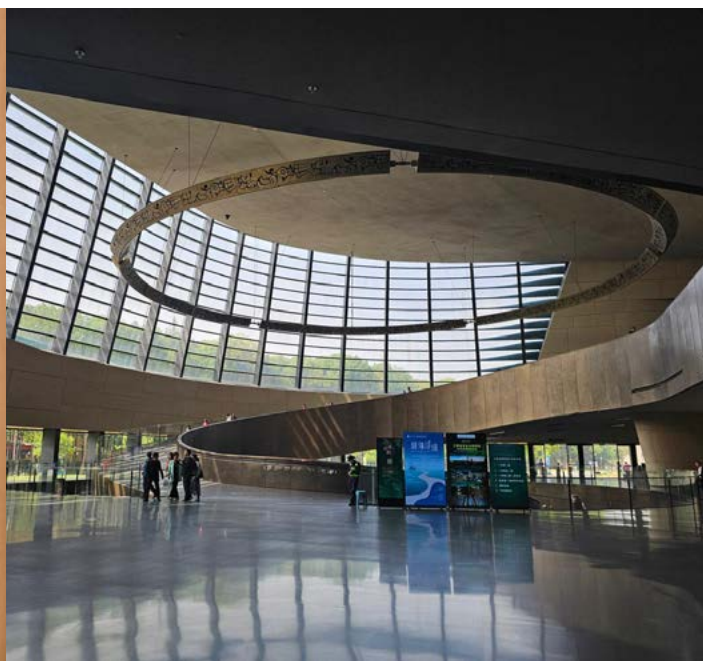
discovered in 1929 by a farmer. Later, in 1987 and 2021, major archaeological discoveries of thousands of bronze, gold, ivory, and jade artifacts were made. These discoveries are considered one of the most important finds of the 20th century because the history of China was rewritten: previously, it was believed that Chinese civilization originated solely in the Yellow River Valley, and

Sanxingdui demonstrated the existence of other advanced and simultaneous cultures in other regions. The wealth of the materials found reveals the prosperity and organization of this culture, of which no written records exist.

The visit to the Sanxingdui Museum in Guanghan, 40 km north of Chengdu, was one of the highlights of the pre-tour.

Visitors were impressed by the bronze masks and heads (some covered in gold leaf) with angular human features, enormous slanted eyes, huge pointed ears, and in many cases, bulging eyes, designed to be placed on totem poles. Also on display were bronzes depicting birds, dragons, snakes, and tigers, which the Chinese identified as the quadrants of heaven, as well as the famous bronze tree.

Sanxingdui mask and head, Sanxingdui Museum



These Sanxingdui bronzes were considered by some experts to be even a more significant find than the Terracotta Warriors of Xi'an and have sparked curiosity due to their similarities with artifacts from the Inca and Maya empires.

After visiting the Sanxingdui Museum, we were welcomed by Zhu Bensheng at his Flower Stream Valley farm. There, we admired their beautiful rose garden and the company's research and breeding facilities. We observed the rose hybridization process: petal extraction, fertilization, and labeling by skilled workers whose speed resembled buzzing bees flitting from flower to flower. We appreciated the numerous varieties obtained and the many rose species used in the hybridizations. And what a surprise to see the recent hybridizations between roses and rhododendrons!

While in Sichuan, a visit to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, located just a few kilometers away,



is a must. This non-profit government foundation was established in 1987 with the rescue of just six giant pandas and the goal of their preservation. Today, it houses the largest concentration of captive pandas, no longer endangered but merely vulnerable. In addition to giant pandas, you can also see red long-tailed pandas and their cubs, all of them in bamboo forest habitats.

In the final stages of the Pre-

tour, we visited Heidi's Garden (also known as the Dragonfly Garden) in Chengdu's Shuangliu district. Roses, many in shades of lilac, were displayed in large pots, on arches, and in flowerbeds, alongside a sea of flowers in various hues.

Finally, a highlight of the Pre-tour: the trip to Mount Emei (also known as Omei), a sacred mountain where Buddhism took root in China before spreading eastward. Emeishan lies on the border between the Sichuan Basin and the Himalayan foothills and is a scenic area, protected by UNESCO for its rich biodiversity. There are over 3,700 plant species from 1,271 genera and 280 families, many of which have been identified on Mount Emei for the first time. Ninety-four species are protected, and more than 100 are endemic. Many of these are endangered because they are found nowhere else. This remarkable diversity represents 10% of China's total flora (Chinese-Japanese and Chinese-Himalayan flora), en-



Heidi's Rose Garden

compassing tropical, subtropical, temperate, and subalpine regions. On a winding journey through dense vegetation, in various shades of green and reddish hues, we interacted with wild monkeys and finally we reached a point near 3,000 meters above sea level, where *R. omeiensis* thrives amidst a sea of pink, red, yellow, white, and violet rhododendrons. On a cloudy day, the presence of the monumental rhododendrons in bloom, emerging from the mist, surrounded by abundant vegetation covered in mosses and lichens, was breathtakingly beautiful. There, in that habitat, stood *R. omeiensis*, without flowers, its stems covered in numerous sharp prickles and young shoots. Such beauty! The occasional drizzle didn't matter... the magnitude of the beauty made us reflect on the need to preserve nature, avoiding hu-

Mount Emei
Rhododendrons and R.omeiensis at Mount Emei



Hot pot in Chengdu

man actions that endanger it.

On the last night we had our farewell dinner for this first stage, with a delicious and very spicy hot pot in downtown Chengdu.

This pre-tour was a fabulous experience, which would be followed by an even better Heritage Convention, where participants enjoyed fruitful exchanges in high-level conference sessions and visits to important nurseries and gardens. Beyond that, those who

participated in this experience not only deepened their knowledge and experiences but also strengthened the bonds of friendship that the Rose always fosters.

The Pretour group





Arrival of the Indian delegation

Nanyang and Shanghai, China

China Roses: Past, Present & Future

by S S Gadre- President, Madhya Pradesh Rose Society



Mr S S Gadre

On arrival at the Nanyang airport, we were taken to the Rose Hotel by bus, which had been especially arranged for us. We were greeted at the hotel and were allocated Delegate Bags containing details about the conference. After lunch, delegates were taken to the local Rose nurseries. It was great to see Roses all along the roads, throughout the city. Another thing we noted was that our buses were given a pass, they were never stopped.



We visited nurseries where thousands of rose plants were being developed for sending to market. It was a new experience as plants were developed by grafting instead of budding. In the evening at the Meet

and Greet at the hotel, we met a number of Rose friends from all over the world. The second day started with the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Conference. It was a big building with beautiful Roses



and seasonal plants. The local dancers welcomed us and then we entered the Grand Theatre. The Chinese Rose Society President gave his welcome

address, followed by WFRS President, Sushil Prakash and an address by the Chairlady of the Conservation and Heritage Committee, Ines Diaz de

Licandri. A new variety of Rose, 'Light of Nanyang', was unveiled by Immediate Past President Diana Vom Berg and Past President Henrienne de Briey. A cultural program was performed by local artists. The spectacular opening was well choreographed.

From there we were taken to Germplasm Park. It was a nice garden with hundreds of roses systemically planted. After refreshments, we were taken to the Nanyang World Rose Grand Garden. This is a public park with lots of local visitors. A Thanksgiving spring is built at the back of the garden, because Nanyang is the head of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, and Beijing is the end of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project.

After lunch we went to the convention centre where lectures were arranged by experts. The moderator for the session was Mrs. Helga Brichet.

The first lecture was delivered by Dr. Luo Le, on "Newly





found wild Roses in China”. He informed us that while previous records in Flora of China listed 82 and 93 species respectively now the number has gone to 86 and 53 varieties, and 26 forms.

The second lecture was given by Dr. Yuki Mikanagi from Japan. She spoke on “Wild Roses from Japan”. She mainly spoke on a book written by her and its English translation that was presented at the 20th WFRS convention in Fukuyama, Japan. She was awarded a WFRS Literary

Award for the original Japanese version at the 19th World Rose Convention in Adelaide. Her statement “To understand roses, you must understand wild Roses” struck a chord. She stated that there were 17 wild Roses in Japan which she presented in detail.

The third lecture was delivered by Martin Stott from the UK. His subject was “The Journey of Chinese Roses to Europe and their Impact”. He explained that in the 18th Century, Roses began arriving from China to Europe

and other parts of the world which changed the Rose world completely. A brilliant speaker, he involved the listeners in his story telling and made them sit up and listen to the journey of Roses through various colonies set up by the English on the coast of China.

The fourth lecture was by Clement Cherreyron from France. He considers roses from a dendrologist viewpoint more than a horticultural one and has gathered a collection of rose species. He specialized in organically grown heritage



and species roses. He tried to balance conservation and propagation of rare heritage roses with the general need for undemanding and prolific roses.

After this lecture, members of the Indian Rose Society presented the 21st World Rose Convention programme with pictures in Bhopal, India. Pre- and post- tours and hotels were also shown to all those present. During the presentation all delegates from India stood near the stage displaying Indian flags.

On the third day there were lectures by experts from around the world in the Convention Hall. The fifth speaker was Prof. Jian Hongying. His topic was “Phylogeography and conservation genetics of *Rosa Chinensis* var. *spontanea* and *R. lucidissima* complex”. *Rosa Chinensis* var. *spontanea* and *Rosa lucidissima* complex are morphologically very similar key ancestors of modern roses which holds a high importance in rose research



and breeding. Both species are highly endangered. A phylogenetic study was conducted to assess the genetic variation between the two species and make conservation recommendations.

The next speaker was Hella Brumme from Germany. She spoke about the Europa Rosarium in Sangerhausen - the World's Largest Rose

Collection. This garden has 8700 different Roses. It was founded by the 'Association of German Rose Lovers', and was jointly operated by the association and the town until 1948. The town took over the Rose Garden in 1949. Hella presented the development of the rose collection in the garden from its beginning to the present day.





The third speaker was Dr. Zhao Shiwei from China. His topic was “Everlasting beauty - the history and symbolic meaning of China Roses in China”. According to him, the characteristic recurrent blooming gives China roses an irreplaceable position in the world of rose breeding. The history of China rose varieties with recurrent blooms recorded in text or images dates back more than a thousand years. Unlike Europe, roses are much less mentioned in poems, songs, calligraphy and paintings compared to peonies and cherry blossoms in China.

The final speaker for the day

was William McNamara from the USA. His presentation was “Wild Roses in Asia & Quarryhill Botanical Garden”. A small number of seeds and voucher specimens were collected mainly from Sino - Himalayan and Sino-Japanese floral regions, two of the world’s great floras. He said that one of their primary goals was to preserve wild germ plasm and to make that available to researchers and other scientific establishments. He stated that a little more than a hundred years ago several roses made their way to the east from China which became a major influence in the breeding of new hybrid Roses.

Then came the presentation of the 2027 San Diego WFRS Regional Convention.

After lunch, we visited a primary school and although it was a holiday, all students had come in their uniform and were very happy to show their talents in different fields. They played in a band, showed us how to make paintings, how to colour clothes, calligraphy, paper cutting, and so many other things. We were just thrilled to watch the students.

Thereafter, we went to the CTM traditional Medicine Culture Park where a number of medicinal plants were planted. Some were known, others not. It was very well maintained. All plants bore nameplates. From here we were taken to a public park. Since it was a holiday, hundreds of people were there to see the roses of which there were thousands. The park was about 50 meters by 500 metres - a meadow of colours.

On the last night in Nanyang there was a gala dinner with music and cultural programmes. During the





dinner, the Flag of the Regional Convention was handed over to San Diego where the following convention will be held next year. A number of cultural and musical items were performed by local artists.

The next day we left the hotel after breakfast as we had to go to Shanghai in the afternoon. We visited the Nanyang Handynasty (200 years ago) Stone Carving Museum. Here we were introduced to the beautiful old carvings. Traditional dances were performed by

local artists wearing traditional dress.

From the museum we were taken by battery operated carts around Wollongong Cultural Park to sit and enjoy the natural beauty with ponds and old structures.

We arrived in Shanghai in the evening. After checking into the hotel, we took a walk along the streets where we saw Chinese food courts and some local shops.

The next day we went to the

Shanghai Botanical Garden. Here we had four lectures by experts.

The first lecture was given by Yu Chao from China. His topic was “More than beauty: A comprehensive use of roses”. According to him roses are renowned for their ornamental value, dominating the global flower market. Beyond aesthetics, their rich nutritional and bioactive compounds hold significant potential for cosmetics, food and medicinal applications. China, as a primary centre of rose diversity, harbouring over 95 locally distributed species providing abundant resources for scientific exploration. Meanwhile, key pigment compounds were characterised in rose petals, providing valuable insights for breeding nutritionally enriched varieties.

The second lecture was given by Pat Toolan from Australia. Her subject was “Why Australians love Heritage Roses”. She spoke on her own



love for old roses. She has a group who visit old roses in gardens, cemeteries or roadsides. She was enchanted with their history, perfume and their different growth habits to the usual HT roses, which were planted in most gardens. She captivated the audience with her story describing her experience in detail through photographs.

The third speaker was David Comyn from South Africa. He explained “The South African Heritage Trust’s contribution to the conservation of old roses”. He mentioned that there were no indigenous roses in South Africa. They arrived with a series of immigrant waves, because of their horticultural and historic value.

The Trust collects, propagates and distributes heritage roses and can be found in the village of Bedford.

The next speaker was Michael Shoup from the USA. His subject was “Preserving the legacy: safeguarding heirloom roses from a Texas Rose rustler”. He advocated for the preservation and appreciation of Heritage Roses, and his presentation demonstrated how the history and beauty of these timeless flowers has established him as a leading authority in horticulture.

The last speaker of the convention was Chen Danyan from China. She mainly spoke on one of her books, “Seven Sisters”, in which she described the ancient Chinese

roses woven into local history as a living botanical testament. As an award-winning writer and documentary editor she showed ancient roses which entwined her family across the globe through photographs.

After lunch, we were taken on a tour to different gardens of the park. Although it was raining, we were still able to enjoy the different sections of the botanical garden. The most beautiful section was that of Cactus and Succulents, which were in full bloom and had beautiful colours. We then left for the airport for our flight to Delhi.

We thoroughly enjoyed the conference, and the experience will be etched in our memory for a long time.



Post-Conference Tour

by Inés Díaz de Licandro

The Heritage Rose Convention China 2026 Post-Tour was the grand finale of the event.

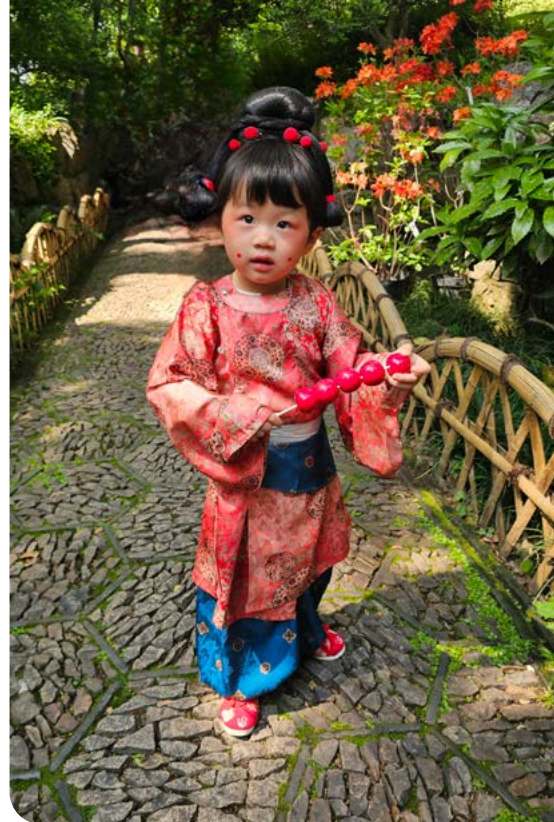
Shanghai, the great Chinese financial metropolis and the surrounding cities was the focus of this experience.

Classical Chinese gardens in Suzhou, considered the highest expression of the sacred Chinese gardening art were our first destination. Rooted in over 3000 years of history, they reached their maximum splendour between 1350 and 1900, during the Ming and Quin dynasties.

These masterful landscapes seamlessly blend nature, architecture and art to create miniature worlds of profound harmony and beauty. These

retreats for poets, scholars and philosophers combine rock-work, architecture, water and plants in conceptions based on the combination of miniaturisation, asymmetry, framings and hidden vistas. “Heaven exists, and paradise is on Earth” is the underlying philosophy of their conception.

We first visited the Linger Garden, relevant for its rockeries and architectural layouts and later, the Humble Administrator’s Garden, the largest and most famous for its maze of interconnected islands, pavilions and bridges. Even if it was a grey and rainy day, each step offered a new and fabulous surprise!



Linger Garden





The Humble Administrator's Garden



*Rain was not an obstacle for our joy, especially when we found *R. banksiae*. The useful and beautiful Convention umbrellas!*



Silk Museum, Suzhou

Suzhou is also the famous “Capital of Silk” due to the premium mulberry silk and intricate embroidery. Weaving machines are exhibited in the Silk Museum, with many antique silk garments.





Our next destination was Wuxi, a small city in China, with a 7,5 million population! Minibuses and a small boat led us to Taihu Turtle-Head Peninsula Scenic Area Park with a beautiful lake, gardens, centenary trees and ancient ships navigating around.

Wuxi is a modern city, with some beautiful ancient city areas such as Liangxi which are crowded, lively, colourful and full of relics of past times. The azalea gardens and Buddhist temple were amazing! As well as tea there were jewelry, silk and other typical shops in commercial streets and we were delighted to socialize with young teenagers and children who loved to approach to us and practise their English!



Teenagers in Wuxi loved to socialize with us and Shiwei Zao was waiting for us, a nice surprise!



On 1st May, we continued our trip visiting LANG ROSA, the biggest rose breeder in China. Mr. Jiang Zhengzhi, who we had previously met during the Pre-tour, was kindly waiting for us together with his team and did an interesting presentation about their research. Beautiful vases with amazing roses accentuated the site.





The Lang Rosa business was founded in 2008 and has already bred more than 200 new roses. Located in Changshu, NW of Shanghai, it spreads over 17 hectares. Annual sales of rose bushes exceed 3,000,000 supplying not only the Chinese market but also other countries abroad. We visited the impressive greenhouses with the collection of rose species as well as fabulous new roses.



The President of the WFRS, Mr. Sushil Prakash together with Mr. Jiang Zhengzhi, LANG ROSA

Martin Stott interviewing Mr. Jiang Lorna enjoying the climbing roses!

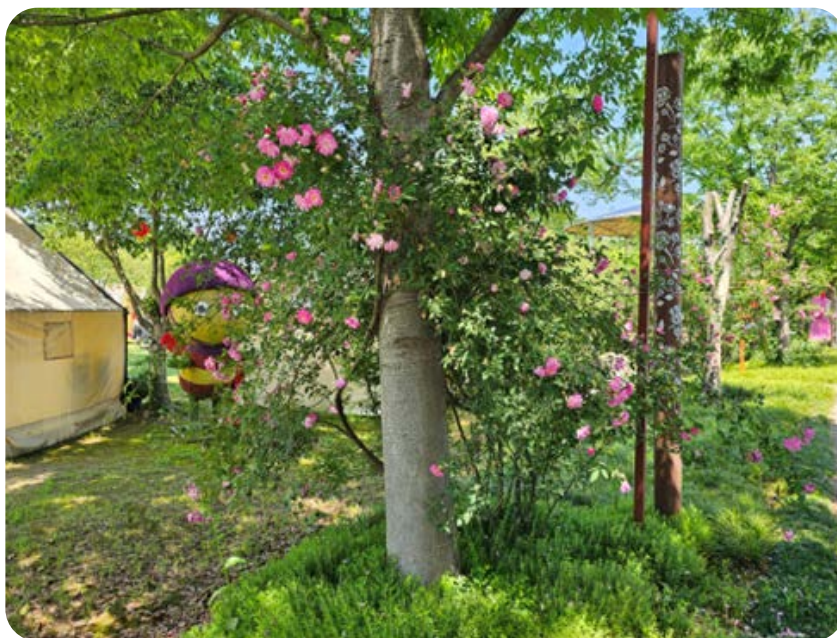


Lang Rosa has also been researching for a long time to obtain the much-desired blue rose. They have bred some roses crossing “blue-violet” roses as ‘Blue Moon’ and ‘Blue Ribbon’, they also research on stronger and disease-resistant crossings to avoid mildew, on crossings with other colours such as orange, observing the stability of “blueish tints” on subsequent generations.

It was undoubtedly an enriching experience in a cutting-edge business that we were very grateful for.

Near Wuxi, we headed later to a very nice rose garden focused on the public. Arches and beds comprised very few rose varieties, but the general composition was very impressive. We then plunged into Shangxianhe Wetland Park and a beau-

tiful collection of China roses interspersed in beds and in the landscape. I was delighted to find a bed of tea roses so much alike to ‘Archiduc Joseph’ with a delicious fragrance.



The Rose Garden, Shanghai Botanical Garden

The final step of the Post tour was a visit to Shanghai Botanical Garden where we visited the Rose garden and the Rose Research Nursery. The Shanghai Engineering Research Centre organised an interesting symposium with an insight about 'Innovation and

Application of Rose Resources in Cities'.

The Post tour ended in downtown Shanghai. Some delegates left for the airport and others stayed in the biggest Chinese city for a few more days. Goodbyes are always melancholic. But we all know

that we shall meet again soon at future Conventions, in trials and while travelling to our friends' countries. This experience has been a fabulous one; others will surely come!

Shanghai Botanical Garden: rhododendrons and azaleas were impressive.





VP Report Australasia

Hayden Foulds

The New Zealand Rose Society celebrated a successful 2025 with rose shows, international trials, and community events promoting rose culture and new rose varieties.

Winter 2025 saw free rose pruning demonstrations held around New Zealand. These are a great way for our local rose societies to engage with the public to demonstrate rose pruning. It's also a good way to highlight Felco products especially secateurs.

The New Zealand Rose Society continues to produce two publications for its members. The New Zealand Rose Review contains reviews of new roses, top favourites and rose trial ground winners supported by advertising from rose nurseries around New Zealand. The New Zealand Rose Annual contains a range of articles from New Zealand and abroad with

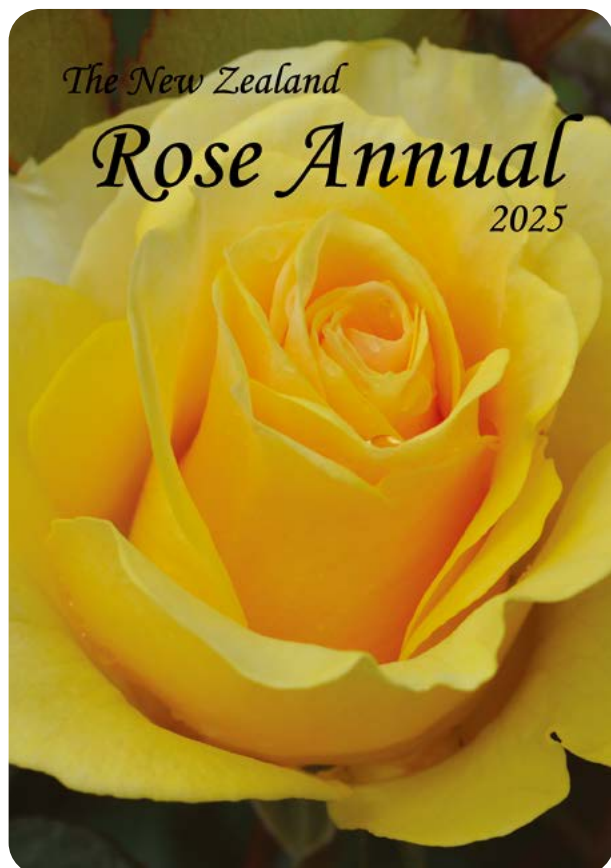
These are a great way for our local rose societies to engage with the public to demonstrate rose pruning

coverage of the World Rose Convention in Fukuyama a feature of the 2025 edition.

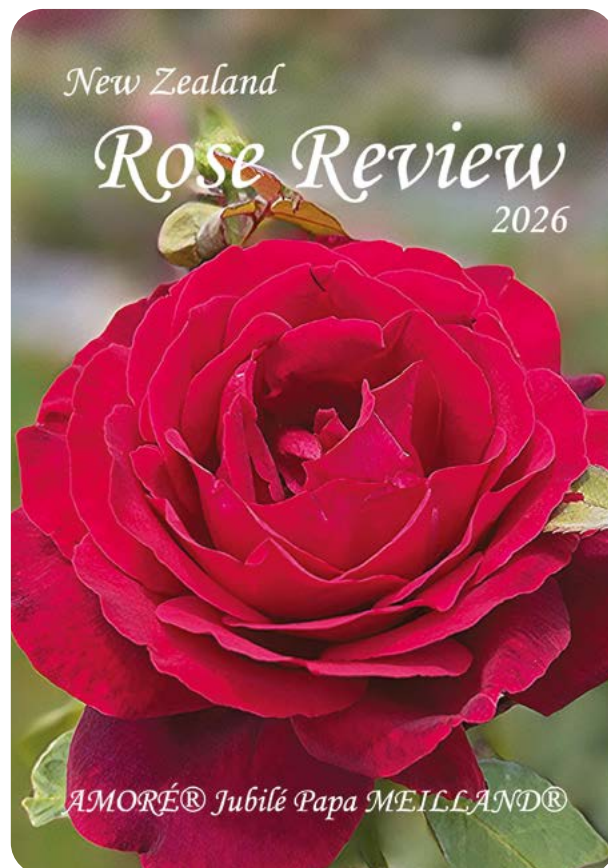
The New Zealand Rose Society also produces its own calendar which continues to be a major fundraiser for local rose societies and provides good promotion for the rose society.

In September, Lois Tabb passed away. There has been a tribute to Lois published in a previous issue of World Rose News and many knew Lois around the world. In her later years, Lois kept a very keen interest in the activities of the World Federation of Rose Societies. Here in New Zealand, we will remember her most for her role as Convenor of the 10th World Rose Convention in Christchurch 1994.

Rose shows in New Zealand start in late October and continue through until early December. These are events that are open to the public and are another way of promoting roses and the rose society.



Cover of the 2025 New Zealand Rose Annual



Cover of the 2026 New Zealand Rose Review



*Cover of the 2026 New Zealand
Rose Society Calendar*

The New Zealand Rose Society Calendar for 2026

The 2025 National Rose Show and Convention was held in Hamilton. It was hosted by the Waikato Rose Society who celebrated their 80th anniversary in 2025. Auckland, Hutt Valley and Canterbury Rose Societies also celebrated their 80th anniversaries

The Champion of Champions for Large Roses went to a decorative bloom of 'Joan Monica' exhibited by Janet Pike of the Waikato Rose Society. The Champion of Champion for Miniature type roses went to a fully open of 'Irresistible' exhibited by Sheree Gare of the Waikato Rose Society. Janice Walker from the Northland Rose Society won the award for the best exhibit in the special section class with an entry in the class 'Roses in a Gift Box'

The 2026 National Rose Show and Convention will be hosted by the Canterbury Rose Society in Rangiora from November 20-22nd while the 2027 National Rose Show and Convention will be hosted in Palmerston North from November 19th – 21st.

November is also rose trial season with two rose trials held in New Zealand in Hamilton and Palmerston North

The New Zealand Rose of the Year competition was held in Hamilton in mid-November. This trial is judged solely by public voting over four days, with rosarians and other VIP's judging on the final day prior to the winners being announced.

The overall winner of the New Zealand Rose of the Year went to 'Centurion' (Somserlow) bred by Rob Somerfield of New Zealand. This also won the best New Zealand raised rose. Rob also won the award for Best Hybrid Tea with 'Endless Summer' (Somanteen).

Bob Matthews of New Zealand won the Childrens Choice Award with 'Hokey Pokey' (Mattcone).

International rose breeders also featured among the awards with Kordes of Germany winning best floribunda with 'Bee Scene' (Korfliaumi) and Meilland of France winning Most Fragrant Rose with 'Francis Meilland (Meitroni). David Austin of England won awards for the Best Climber with 'The Wedgwood Rose' (Ausjosiah) and the Best Shrub rose with 'Boscobel' (Auscousin).

As part of the awards presentation, there was also an unveiling of a bed of roses bred by Sam McGredy who instigated the New Zealand Rose

***The overall winner of the
New Zealand Rose of the
Year went to 'Centurion'.***



Lois Tabb



2025 National Rose Show Champion of Champions for large roses 'Joan Monica' exhibited by Janet Pike. ©Sheree Gare



Champion of Champions for miniature type roses 'Irresistible' exhibited by Sheree Gare. ©Sheree Gare.



'Roses in a Gift Box' exhibited by Janice Walker was the winner of the special section classes at the 2025 National Rose Show. ©Janice Walker.



'Centurion' © Glenavon Roses

of the Year trial and was a strong supporter of it for many years.

The New Zealand Rose Society International Trials are located in Palmerston North and are judged by a panel of rosarians over two years. The trials are strongly supported by the Palmerston North City Council with the Mayor of Palmerston North Grant Smith, along with

his wife Michelle and several city councillors in attendance.

The local Member of Parliament, Tangi Utikere also is a regular attendee and has described the awards as one of his must attend events of the year.

Local Palmerston North rose breeder John Ford won the Gold Star of the South Pacific for the highest scoring rose in trial and the Silver Star of the City of Palmerston North for the best New Zealand amateur bred rose with 'Eye Light'(Forlight). John also won a Certificate of Merit for 'Silky Smooth' (Forfree).

Colin Dickson of Northern Ireland won the Nola Simpson Novelty Award and a Certificate of Merit for the climber 'AMORÉ® Irish Sunset' (Dictoken). Rob Somerfield of New Zealand won a Certificate of Merit for 'Çosmic Rose' (Somcrystal).

With the festive season over, attention turns back towards roses in the new year with the first events on the calendar Rose Ranfurly Days. These were instigated by Sam McGredy as fun, friendly days where rose societies compete against one another as groups. There are three Ranfurly Days, two in the North Island and one in the South Island

The Lower North Island Ranfurly Day was held in Masterton, hosted by the Wairarapa Rose Society and was won by the Hutt Valley Rose Society.



'Silky Smooth'



'Endless Summer' © Glenavon Roses



'Eye Light'



'Cosmic Rose'

In the South Island, Rose Ranfurly was hosted by the North Otago Rose Society in Oamaru with the local host society winning it. During the event, NZRS President Adrian Bullen presented the Frank Penn Memorial Award for service to a local rose society to Maureen Viggo. Maureen has been a member of the Otago Rose Society since 1990, has served in numerous positions on the committee up until last year since then and is also a life member.

The Upper North Island Ranfurly was held in Hamilton and hosted by the Waikato Rose Society who won the shield.

On the Heritage Roses scene, Heritage Roses New Zealand has a new President with Sarah Howell taking on the role. Their quarterly journal is now gone partially digital with two produced electronically and two in hard copy which has helped to stabilise their financial situation.

By the time this report is published, our new website at www.nzroses.org.nz would have been launched and our NZRS AGM for 2026 held in Hamilton.



2026 Frank Penn Memorial Award winner Maureen Viggo of the Otago Rose Society with NZRS President Adrian Bullen. © Gillian Vine



AMORÉ® Irish Sunset'



VP Report

South America

Inés Díaz De Licandro

The South American rose community had an active and successful 2025, highlighted by international conventions, heritage rose conservation projects, new rose gardens, educational events, and vibrant exhibitions across Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay.

In May 2025 I was re-elected by the WFRS Council as VP for South America, and I was also appointed to my new position as Chairwoman of the Conservation & Heritage Committee (CHC). These roles mean to me a great challenge for the next three years and at the same time it is a joy to represent our southern region in this organisation.

As Vice President for South America of the WFRS I am pleased to report the highlights of the activities in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

One of the main objectives for Vice Presidents in 2025 was to spread information about the WFRS: its objectives, activities, awards, members and friends. Two Zoom lectures about the WFRS were organised with the presence of Mr. Sushil Prakash, our President, connected from India! Members were delighted with this kind of interaction.

The three countries are always informed about the importance of sponsorship as a finance resource in the organization. Thus, when organizing pruning events, FELCO tools are used and adverts have been incorporated in publications and media.

Information about the upcoming Heritage rose convention in China has been spread to members, through the official sites and with translation into Spanish for non-English speaking members through e-mails and my personal social media sites.

People have been invited and contacted to become friends of the WFRS as well as life friends.

Attracting new people to join rose associations is an important must worldwide. The incorporation of Asociación Argentina de Horticultura as a WFRS associate member last May has been a regional success. In 2025, the Asociación Argentina de Rosicultura (AAR) has welcomed a new Branch in Chivilcoy which has held many remarkable activities: lectures, workshops and their first spring rose show! In the same way, the Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa Filial Colonia Valdense, the sixth Uruguayan branch, has been remarkably active and members showed great enthusiasm at their first rose exhibition, street parades and lectures.

WFRS World Rose Convention, Fukuyama, Japan

For the WFRS World Rose Convention held in Japan 2025, the South American delegation was represented by 14 Uruguayans, an Argentinian and a Chilean.

The Fukuyama World Rose Convention was a success in all senses: roses, lectures, organization and meetings.

On this occasion, I participated in the Committee meetings and later, I was re-elected as VP of the WFRS for South America and as Chairwoman of the Conservation and Heritage Committee. I am also very thankful to the Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa (AUR) and to the evaluators, Mrs. Susana Ferrer and Mr. Lluís Abad, for promoting my book 'Heritage Roses in Uruguay: Legacy of Generations' for the Literary Award given at the final Gala dinner. The book has also been on display at the Uruguayan stand at the Osaka World Fair (04-10 2025). Its review by Lluís Abad was published in November edition of BAON.

The Fukuyama World Rose Convention was a success in all senses: roses, lectures, organization and meetings. Music and Japanese gastronomy were the highlight of the Friends of the WFRS dinner in Tomonoura, an opportunity that enthusiastic members love to join.



Meet & Greet Ceremony, Fukuyama



Rose Parade, Fukuyama



Welcome ceremony, Fukuyama





Rose competition



Roses in Hakone Gora Park



Yuki Mikanagi, Friends' dinner, Tomonoura



Uruguayan stand in Osaka World Fair



Girija Viraraghavan an me, happy with our awardsOsaka World Fair



Lecture in Brooklyn Botanical Garden, NY

Heritage Rose Foundation New York Convention

In June, I flew from Tokyo to New York to attend the Heritage Rose Convention organized by the Heritage Rose Foundation (06-08 2025). I gave two lectures; first, at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and later, at the New York Botanical Garden, focusing on my research in Uruguay about heritage roses and the Prado Montevideo Historical Rose Garden in Prado. It has been an excellent exchange of information with heritage rose experts including Stephen Scaniello, Mike Shoup, Anita Clevenger, Stephen Hoy, Malcolm Manners and many others.



Attendees in The Jay Estate, NY



Stephen Scaniello, Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden





Rose gardens

The creation of new rose gardens as well as the preservation of the historic ones must be highly promoted.

The Asociación Chilena de la Rosa (ACR) has continued with its support to the Municipality of Las Condes concerning the Santiago de Chile Rose Garden.

The Rosedal El Carmen in Brandsen, Argentina is well maintained and new varieties and rose bushes are being planted. Both the Argentinian Rose Society and the Uruguayan Rose Society visited the collection during 2025.



Rosedal El Carmen, Brandsen, Argentina (10 2025). AUR members with the owner, Mrs. Viviana Dagande. Rosa chinensis var. spontanea: my favourite rose in Viviana's collection

I visited the Rosedal de Palermo in October 2025. It showed a good level of maintenance. Some rose events are held here, attracting many visitors. At the pruning 2025 season, cuttings have been offered to hundreds of rose lovers once again. Argentinian heritage rose experts have succeeded in introducing some relevant old garden roses in this rose garden and are currently working for the incorporation of their identification tags.



Palermo Rose Garden, Buenos Aires (10 2025)

Concerning the Montevideo Historic Rose Garden, its restoration and maintenance began slowly in 2024: a fence has been introduced to protect the core of the rose garden, thus preventing the presence of intruders, damage, and theft of plants. At the same time, visiting hours have been established, and there are guardians.

The central roundabout has been restored and painted, the historic water fountain has also been repaired; the famous Feux Follets sculpture has been reinserted, graffiti was removed, a wooden trellis was partially restored and reinserted in the pergolas. Lighting is functioning, as is watering. Many companion plants have been planted

in parterres to fill gaps for the time before the original collection of roses is reinserted.

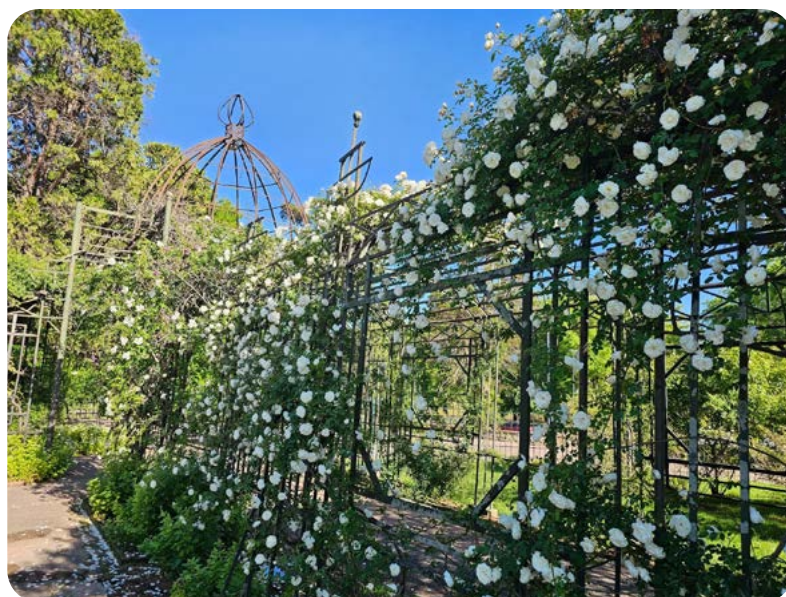
The team of gardeners has more stability and has worked preserving beds and substrates, taking good care of plants and reintroducing some varieties that had been kept within the nursery into the core rose garden (e.g. 'Rosa banksiae var. normalis').

The main collection of roses has not been imported yet; nevertheless, the Municipality shows it has a serious interest in doing so as soon as enough funds are available.

The great improvement in maintenance is appreciated.



Montevideo Rose Garden. Spring 2025





Lectures, workshops, research

The three countries offered to members interesting monthly lectures, including Michael Marriot's lecture on David Austin roses in Argentina, Charles Quest-Ritson's about Rose Conservation in Uruguay and Ricardo Acuña's about the 'Development of new lines of roses for food' in Chile.

Pruning workshops are always organised in order to teach new and younger members. In Chile, the pruning of the Santiago de Chile Rose Garden is the responsibility of the ACR.

A photography course took place in Argentina last June, as members showed a special interest in taking good pictures of their varieties.

Research is also a matter of interest: Chilean rosarians have sowed and pollinated reversions of 'Iceberg' and other varieties of diverse types of pollination.



Pruning day in Marco's Nursery with Mónica Howlin



AAR photography course



Visiting rose gardens during the Garden Week



Final AUR 2025 promenade – Laura Terra's rose garden

Promenades and trips

Argentina organised a “Garden week” in October, an excellent occasion to visit rose gardens, as well as a nursery and a peony field in Estancia Ave María. Chilean rosarians visited two rose nurseries this year.

The AUR organised a promenade to Punta Ballena and Punta del Este in April and later a 4-day trip to Argentina visiting two major heritage rose collections: Mrs. Beatriz Santa Coloma's collection in Santa Coloma and Viviana Dagande's Rosedal El Carmen, both in Buenos Aires Province. The Estancia El Carmen rose collection has more than 3000 heritage rose varieties, and it also has the biggest iris collection in South America. Accommodation

was at San Antonio de Areco, the epicentre of “gaucho” traditions. The tour ended with a final visit to the Rosedal de Palermo, in Buenos Aires. Already in November, the AUR organised a one-day promenade to Punta Ballena and Portezuelo hills, where members visited Mrs. Laura Terra's rose garden and tossed wine at a cellar and restaurant on the coastal hills.

Members of the Western AUR branch travelled to Montevideo to visit the Prado Montevideo Rose Garden.

I was present at the inauguration of the rose pergolas at Tarariras in Colonia.



Beatriz Santa Coloma's heritage roses



Beatriz Santa Coloma's heritage roses



Estancia Santa Coloma: 'Lady Hillingdon'



Typical Argentinian lunch with Beatriz



he group with 'Marie Van Houtte' in the background



Delegates sitting at Gómez Square



San Antonio Cathedral



San Antonio de Areco: 'gaucho' art



Estancia El Carmen, Brandsen; the rose pergola



Iris vase and XIXth vitraux at El Carmen



Palermo Rose Garden, Buenos Aires



AUR Western branch delegates visit the Montevideo Rose Garden



The recently inaugurated Tarariras rose garden



Alicia Clavell, former President of Tarariras Rose Friends

Rose exhibitions

In Argentina Rose exhibitions had been organised at several sites: the Buenos Aires spring rose show in Naval Center, at Olivos Port; in Córdoba and in Chivilcoy branches.

In Uruguay. Rose spring shows were held In October and November in Montevideo, Dolores, Tarariras, Punta del Este and Colonia Valdense.

Chile. On November 7, 2025, the Chilean Rose Society organised the Rose Festival as usual, in the Rosaleda del Parque Araucano.



Córdoba rose show – Oct 2025 Chivilcoy rose show: “Roses in my garden” – Nov 25



he Queen of AUR Colonia Valdense Branch rose show



Tarariras rose association rose exhibits



AUR Montevideo rose show – 11 25



Festival de la Rosa, Parque Araucano Rose Garden, Santiago de Chile

Heritage roses

Concerning research on heritage roses, I rose-rustled two villages: Libertad and Juan Soler and ‘Wedding Day’ has been identified at the nursery of the Montevideo Rose Garden.

Focusing on preservation, I started a project for the reproduction of heritage roses selecting a relevant heritage rose for each of the villages where I have rose rustled. As a startup, I have already contacted the Maldonado Municipality in order to begin with the declaration of 3 roses as heritage of the cities:

- For Maldonado: ‘Etoile de Lyon’, Tea bred by Jean-Baptiste Guillot fils
- For San Carlos: ‘MASC07-Té de Borges’, Non-identified Tea rose
- For Pan de Azúcar: ‘Professeur Ganiviat’, Tea bred by Jean Perrier

I have worked together with the AUR branch Colonia Valdense to declare the Noisette ‘Duarte de Oliveira, bred by François Brassac, as heritage of Colonia Valdense.

The selected roses are being reproduced but it is not an easy task because there are only a few people able to do grafting.

Preservation in Valencia, Spain, the rose ‘E. Veyrat Hermanos’ (A. Bernaix, 1894) - being heritage of the Veyrat family - has been reintroduced in Spain in 2024. Having worked jointly with Roberto Duato Veyrat since 2019, we are now very proud to see the rose growing strongly at the Monforte Historic Garden.

My own lectures and articles

During 2025 I gave seven lectures in Uruguay and abroad. I also wrote several articles, including ‘The arrival of roses to Uruguay’ for the Indian Rose Society.



**“ROSES ARE OUR
RESPONSIBILITY
AND THEY GIVE US
PLEASURE, JOY AND
FUN!”**



Join US to witness the rich cultural heritage of INDIA

It is our pleasure and privilege to invite you all to the 21st World Rose Convention to be held in Bhopal, India from 7th to 13th January, 2028.

We are planning a wonderful convention for all of you in our beautiful country.

The pre & post tours will give you chance to peek into our rich cultural heritage, which is a priceless tapestry of diverse traditions, values, and arts passed down through generations. It defines our unique identity and serves as a timeless bridge connecting our historic past to our future.

During the convention, you will get a chance to visit the two UNESCO World heritage sites- Buddhist Monument SANCHI (250 BCE.) & Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (30,000 to 40,000 BCE) near Bhopal.

We are excited and look forward to hosting you during the convention and making your stay comfortable and memorable.

Dipa Prakash
President -Organising Committee
World Rose Convention 2028, Bhopal, India.



WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES



21ST WORLD ROSE CONVENTION

January 7-13, 2028
Bhopal, INDIA



Hosted by
MADHYA PRADESH ROSE SOCIETY BHOPAL, INDIA

Under the aegis of
THE INDIAN ROSE FEDERATION



21st WORLD ROSE CONVENTION
BHOPAL





We look forward to welcoming you to San Diego to celebrate, refresh and renew your love of roses at the

San Diego World Rose Symposium!!

You will enjoy the company of other enthusiastic rosarians as we explore the wide range of rose growing choices we all have. Exciting speakers will be covering a variety of other topics as well, including hybridizing and garden design to ensure diverse rose culture, the health-giving properties of rose growing, and even some rose history. There will be opportunities to bond with exhibitors, rose conservationists and prominent rose mentors of the present and past, too.

The 5-day Symposium will be both the 2027 WFRS Regional Convention and the 2027 ARS Convention, and it will include America's 2027 National Rose Show. It will be the first WFRS Convention to be held in the United States in over 30 years. Attendees will have an opportunity to attain or renew their ARS Consulting Rosarian designation. There will be a full day of garden exploration including some of San Diego's best private rose gardens and the WFRS Garden of Excellence in Balboa Park, and attendees will join in the Grand Dinner-Dance Celebration of the San Diego Rose Society's 100th Anniversary!

Whether you come for just the Symposium or incorporate the adjoining Pre- and Post-Tours to enjoy more gardens and cultural highlights of California, we are confident the event will be a dynamic, not-to-be-missed experience!



Our venue, an extension of the city's relaxed and inclusive atmosphere, will be the world-renowned Bahia Resort Hotel, located on a sandy Mission Bay beach, three blocks from the Pacific Ocean.

Registration at the discounted Symposium hotel rate opens June 15, 2026.
<https://www.bahiahotel.com/>



Join us as the love of roses is our universal language to help us transcend borders and preconceived notions for an amazing learning experience!

Symposium Program

Friday, April 30, A Learning Day

Morning and afternoon lectures cover rose history, soil and water, pests and diseases, Integrated Pest Management, heritage roses and the benefits of rose care for rose growers. Enjoy a *Welcome Lunch* with fellow attendees on the Palm Terrace.

Saturday, May 1, A Rose Show Day

Dynamic learning sessions built around the mid-day opening of the National Rose Show will include Rose Judging, Showing Roses, Photography and Arrangement Tips, Tool Care, Helping Others Grow Good Roses, and Making Optimum Fertilizing Choices. Mingle with Judges, Exhibitors and other rosarians at a *Hosted Lunch*.

Sunday, May 2, A Celebration Day

Hybridizers, including Tom Carruth and Ping Lim, and Rose Growers including Tyler Francis will talk about the past, present and future of our beloved flower. Other topics will include chemical safety as part the core rose care curriculum. A longer lunch break will be featured to allow attendees to explore local dining options, and the evening's 1927-themed SDRS Centennial Anniversary and ARS Awards *Dinner Celebration* promises to be magical.

Monday, May 3, A Garden Tour Day

Local Rosarians' garden tours will be featured surrounding our tour of the Balboa Park Rose Garden with a *Catered Lunch* and free time in the park. *Breakfast snacks* will be provided, and the day's events will wrap up with a *Cocktail Reception* back at the hotel featuring a presentation by noted garden designer Paul Zimmerman.

Tuesday, May 4, A Gala Closing Day

Morning lectures will cover chemical-free rose growing choices and the latest innovations in biological pest controls as attendees enjoy a *Gala Brunch*, rare rose auction, and the WFRS Closing Ceremony to wrap-up the event.

Registration for the Symposium and Pre- and Post-Tours
opens June 15, 2026.

Look for more information at sandiegorosesociety.com/2027





Pre-Tours

Three 1-day Pre-Tours are scheduled, all in the San Diego area so you can enjoy the sights without too much time on the road. You can sign up for each tour separately to pick and choose the activities that most appeal to you.

Tuesday, April 27, Sights of San Diego Bay and Coronado

You will visit the Cabrillo National Monument and the Old Point Loma Lighthouse with their sweeping views of the city, the bay and the Pacific Ocean. A visit to the San Diego Maritime Museum is also planned, along with *Hosted Lunch* near the historic Hotel Del Coronado. Visits to the home gardens of two or more of San Diego's best rosarians are also planned. The tour will include *breakfast snacks* and *afternoon snacks*, and of course we will take the scenic route!

Wednesday, April 28, San Diego Botanic Garden and Coastal Sights

The San Diego Botanic Garden in the San Diego area's Northern Coastal region displays more than 5,000 plant varieties and has 15 gardens that represent different areas of the world. The tour will include *Hosted Lunch* at a waterfront restaurant in nearby Del Mar and a scenic ride between those attractions and visits to two or more of our best rosarians' home gardens. *Breakfast snacks* and *afternoon tea snacks* will be provided.

Thursday, April 29, San Diego Zoo Visit, Including a Botanical Tour

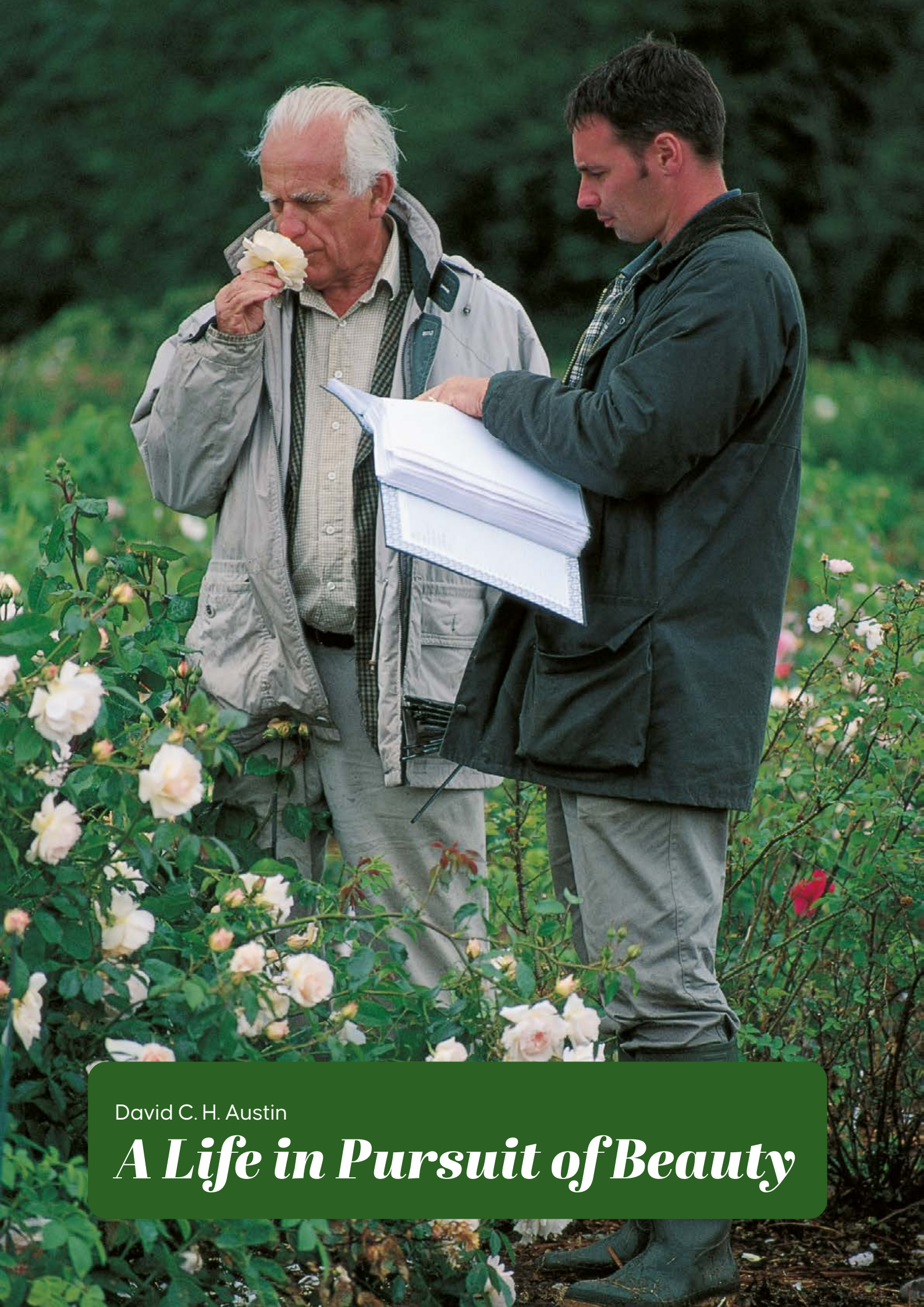
The "World Famous San Diego Zoo" is celebrated for both its fauna and flora. Our visit will include a 90-Minute Botanical Bus Tour as well as a *Catered Lunch* and free time to enjoy more of the zoo on your own. *Breakfast snacks* will be provided, and on the way back to the hotel you'll enjoy a stop at yet another lovely home garden, where you can enjoy a side of *wine and cheese* with the roses.

Post-Tour

We are fortunate to have renowned rose expert and tour planner Paul Zimmerman leading our comfortably-paced 8-day post tour. Throughout the tour he will share insights on rose growing, garden design and sustainable practices while guiding participants through some of Southern California's most beautiful and interesting gardens and landscapes and other unique destinations.

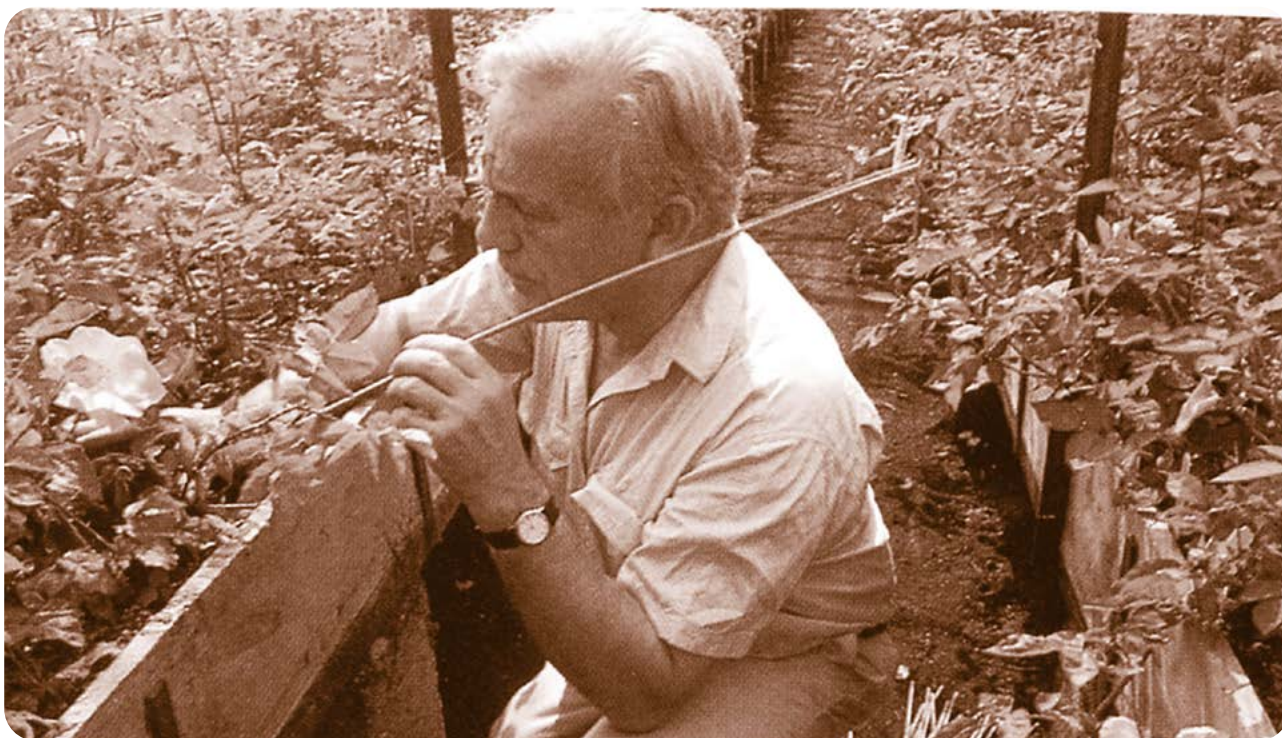
The **Wednesday, May 5 through Wednesday, May 12** itinerary will include a visit and garden tour with Hybridizer Ping Lim, a visit to the legendary Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens, an excursion to Hollywood with a stop at the TCL (formerly Grauman's) Chinese Theater, a tour of the Getty Center Gardens, and a visit to the historic Virginia Robinson Gardens. The Central Coast portion of the trip will include visits to Otto & Sons Nursery, Rose Story Farm, and Neuhaus Farms, all major producers of roses in the US, each with unique charms. Iconic Hearst Castle and Warner Brothers Studios will round out your adventure. Lodging at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena and the Cambria Pines Lodge will be included in the tour, and dining opportunities will be a combination of hosted and on-your-own meals with recommendations to guide you. The tour will leave from and return to the Bahia Resort Hotel, with a hosted farewell dinner with your fellow garden enthusiasts and a comfy room for the final night included in the tour.

Tour size will be limited to ensure a quality experience.



David C. H. Austin

A Life in Pursuit of Beauty



One hundred years after the birth of David C. H. Austin, it is tempting to measure his legacy in numbers. More than two hundred roses bear his name. His varieties are grown and admired around the world, and the nursery he established in rural Shropshire became one of the most influential rose businesses of the modern era.

Yet those who knew David would likely tell a different story. They would speak not of awards, sales or international acclaim, but of a quiet, thoughtful man whose life was devoted to a simple idea: that roses could be more beautiful than they were.

Born in Shropshire in 1924, David's love of plants began at an early age. Encouraged by his grandmother's gardener, he grew flowers and vegetables that were sold locally in Albrighton. Later, as a young man, a copy of *Old Garden Roses* by Edward Bunyard sparked a fascination with the beauty, fragrance and character of historic roses. At a time when modern Hybrid Tea roses dominated British gardens, David felt something important had been lost.

Rather than choosing between old roses and modern roses, he began to imagine a rose that combined the best qualities of both. It was a deceptively simple vision, but one that would occupy him for the rest of his life.



The path was far from easy. Early breeding work brought disappointment after disappointment. Seedlings were lost to disease, progress was slow and finances were often uncertain. There were

moments when David considered abandoning the project altogether. Yet he persevered, encouraged by his wife, Pat, whose faith in his work remained steadfast throughout the difficult years.

Persistence became one of David's defining qualities. While others sought quick results, he was prepared to think in decades. The rose world would eventually celebrate his achievements, but for many years he worked in relative obscurity, driven not by recognition but by the conviction that his goal was worth pursuing.

Those who met David for the first time were often surprised by his reserved nature. He disliked publicity and rarely sought the spotlight. In conversation he could appear shy, sometimes speaking very little. Yet among roses, particularly in the seedling glasshouses, he became an entirely different person.

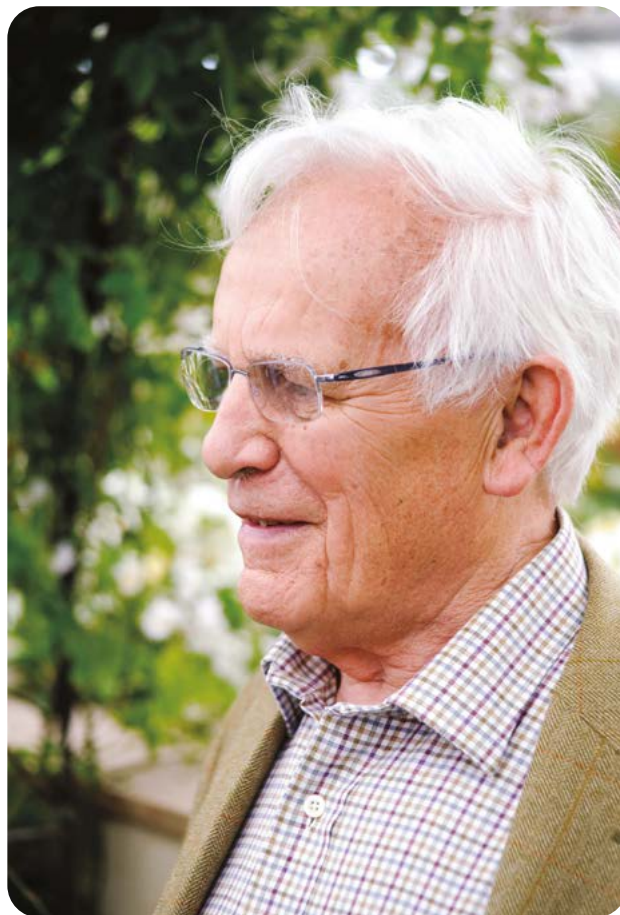
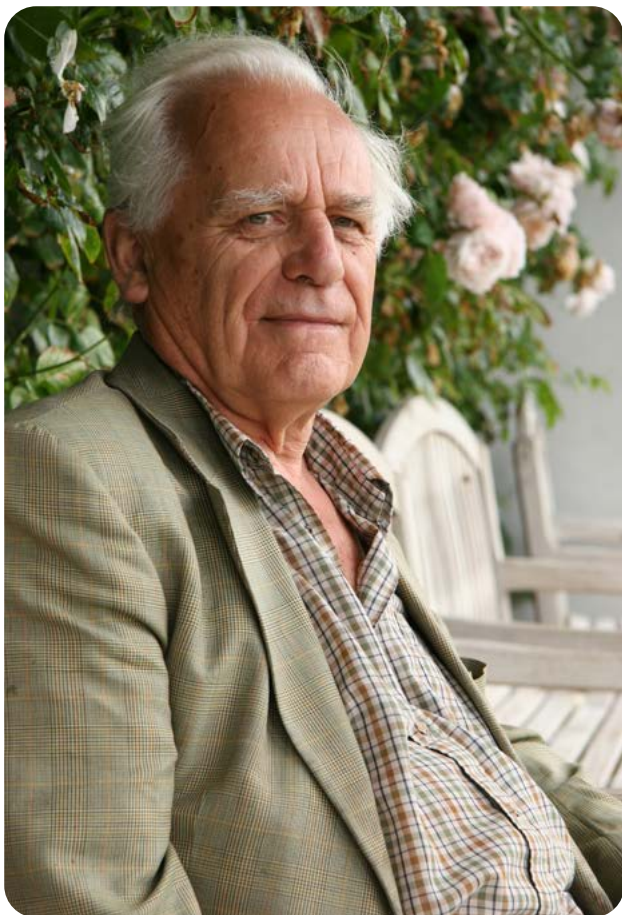
Visitors often remarked on the transformation. Surrounded by young seedlings, David's quiet reserve melted away. He would speak with enthusiasm and delight about future possibilities, discussing individual plants as though they were old friends. Breeding was not merely his profession; it was the great passion of his life.

That passion was fuelled by a deeply creative mind. Despite being dyslexic, David loved literature and drew inspiration from it throughout his life. Many of his roses bear the names of authors, poets and literary characters, reflecting a lifelong appreciation for storytelling and language. He was also a poet himself, publishing a collection of verse, *The Breathing Earth*, in 2014.

The connection between poetry and roses was perhaps more natural than it first appears. Both were expressions of the same instinct: a search for beauty, emotion and meaning in the world around him. David often spoke of charm as an essential quality in a rose. It was not something that could be measured or quantified, yet he recognised it instantly when he saw it.

Throughout his life, David was fortunate to find kindred spirits who shared his passion for roses. Among the most important was the renowned plantsman and writer Graham Stuart Thomas. At a time when old roses had largely fallen from fashion, both men recognised their beauty, fragrance and garden worth. Graham became a trusted friend and supporter, encouraging David's vision when it was still far from widely accepted. Their friendship was founded on a





shared belief that roses should possess not only good garden performance, but also grace, character and charm.

In later years, David found another close collaborator in Carl Bennett. As David became older, Carl worked alongside him in the breeding programme, helping to bring his ideas to life and ensuring that the work continued to move forward. Their daily conversations revolved around seedlings, potential crosses and the endless possibilities that lay within the next generation of roses. Together they developed many of the varieties that would be introduced in the years and decades that followed.

Visitors would often ask David whether he had a favourite rose. It was a question he found difficult to answer. Not because he lacked affection for the roses he had introduced, but because his attention was always drawn to the possibilities that lay ahead.

David rarely spoke of having a favourite rose. He cherished the varieties he had introduced, but breeding was, for him, an ongoing pursuit rather than a completed achievement. There was al-

ways another seedling to assess, another cross to make, another opportunity to move a little closer to the ideal he held in his mind.

That search for beauty, fragrance and charm never left him. It was not perfection in the strict sense that he sought, but the belief that each generation of roses might reveal something even more captivating than the last.

David Austin passed away in 2018, leaving behind a collection of roses that continues to flourish in gardens around the world. Yet his greatest legacy may be something less tangible. He changed the way gardeners think about roses, reintroducing fragrance, romance and natural beauty to a flower that had become increasingly defined by technical perfection.

He was not a businessman who bred roses. He was a breeder who happened to build a business. His life's work was guided by curiosity, patience and an unwavering belief that beauty mattered.

Above all, he remained what he had always been: a breeder captivated by possibility, happiest among his seedlings, quietly searching for the next beautiful rose.



Barry Slabbert

The Future is Ancient:

Wild Roses as Living Fossils in South African Garden Design

In a recent interview I was asked what the future of Art & garden design looks like for South Africa. Being rose obsessed, the words simply flowed out of me: “The future is ancient.” It wasn’t scripted. It felt like the roses themselves were whispering through time. And nowhere does that prophecy feel more alive than in the gardens of South Africa- where we can let ancient wild rose species reclaim their rightful place in contemporary landscape design. Think instead of oversized, unpruned shrubs scrambling up old trees, draping over farm fences, and spilling across embankments in a riot of single-petalled blooms and glossy hips. These are not relics to be museum-ified. They are time-travellers, living fossils ready to star in our modern, sustainable gardens.

Roses have been on Earth far longer than we have. Fossil evidence shows the genus *Rosa* dates back at least 35 million years, with some of the earliest described specimens- *Rosa hilliae*-unearthed in the Florissant Fossil Beds of Colorado in the late 19th century. These primordial blooms survived ice ages, continental shifts, and dramatic climate upheavals, yet they still look remarkably like the wild roses we can plant today. In an era of climate anxiety and calls for rewilding, what could be more exciting than inviting these anachronistic beauties back into our landscapes? They are low-maintenance, disease-resistant powerhouses that support pollinators, birds, and soil health while looking utterly contemporary in their raw, untamed glory.

Africa has its own ancient rose chapter. *Rosa abyssinica*-the Abyssinian Rose, or Kega in Amharic, is the only rose species recorded as truly native to the continent. This evergreen (or semi-evergreen) prickly shrub or small tree thrives in the Ethiopian highlands, Eritrea, parts of Somalia, Sudan, and even across the Red Sea in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. It grows in upland dry evergreen forests, bushland, dry grasslands, and along riverbanks at elevations of 1,700–3,300 metres. In its habitat it forms thickets, scrambles as

a climber, and is traditionally used as a living fence around rural homes. Its clusters of fragrant white-to-creamy flowers give way to striking orange-red hips. Imagine bringing this African treasure into KwaZulu-Natal midlands gardens. Its highland origins make it a fascinating candidate for our cooler, summer-rainfall altitudes. A botanical bridge across the continent. I will try to obtain cuttings or seed from this remarkable rose to explore its possibilities for future gardens that I design. I have yet to meet this rose and get acquainted with her.

Wild (or species) roses worldwide tell the same story of rugged, oversized beauty. In their natural habitats they refuse to be tamed: they sprawl, climb, and colonise marginal ground with single, five-petalled flowers that bees adore and hips that glow like jewels in autumn. North American species like ‘*Rosa setigera*’ (Climbing Prairie Rose) ramble through thickets and along rivers; ‘*Rosa palustris*’ (Swamp Rose) luxuriates in wetlands; ‘*Rosa rugosa*’ hugs coastal sands. European favourites such as ‘*Rosa canina*’ (Dog Rose) and ‘*Rosa rubiginosa*’ (Sweetbriar) tangle through hedges and woodland edges, their apple-scented foliage adding another sensory layer. Asian stars include the vigorous ‘*Rosa brunonii*’ (Himalayan Musk Rose) and the near-thornless ‘*Rosa banksiae*’ (Lady Banks’ Rose), both legendary climbers that disappear into trees under a cloud of blooms.



© Halma Taschner



This is the aesthetic we need in South African landscape design today, primordial exuberance. In large gardens, public parks, farms, or along embankments, these roses deliver drama with minimal fuss, perfect for our warm, humid summers and occasional midlands frosts. They stabilise soil, create wildlife corridors, and look spectacular when left to their own oversized devices.

Here are my top recommendations for South Africa (all have proven themselves tough in South African conditions - except *R.abyssinica*)

- **‘Rosa banksiae’ (white or yellow forms):**

The ultimate contemporary Rambler for KZN. Nearly thornless, it explodes into thousands of small blooms in spring and climbs fearlessly into old trees, over pergolas, or along farm fences. It thrives in our climate and needs almost no pruning, just space to roam. Ideal for public spaces or large estates where you want effortless, romantic coverage.

- **‘Rosa laevigata’ (Cherokee Rose, sometimes locally called the South African Dog Rose) and ‘Rosa bracteata’ (Macartney Rose):**

Both are vigorous, high-climbing evergreens that have been used for decades as living fences and hedges in South Africa. They scramble beautifully, produce handsome white single flowers, and tolerate heat and poor soils. Perfect for embankments, farm boundaries, or naturalistic screens in big gardens.

- **‘Rosa rugosa’:**

Exceptionally hardy and disease-resistant, this beach-lover handles wind, salt spray (great for coastal KZN), and poor soils. Its large, crinkled foliage and bright hips make it superb for stabilising embankments or creating low-maintenance thickets in public landscapes.

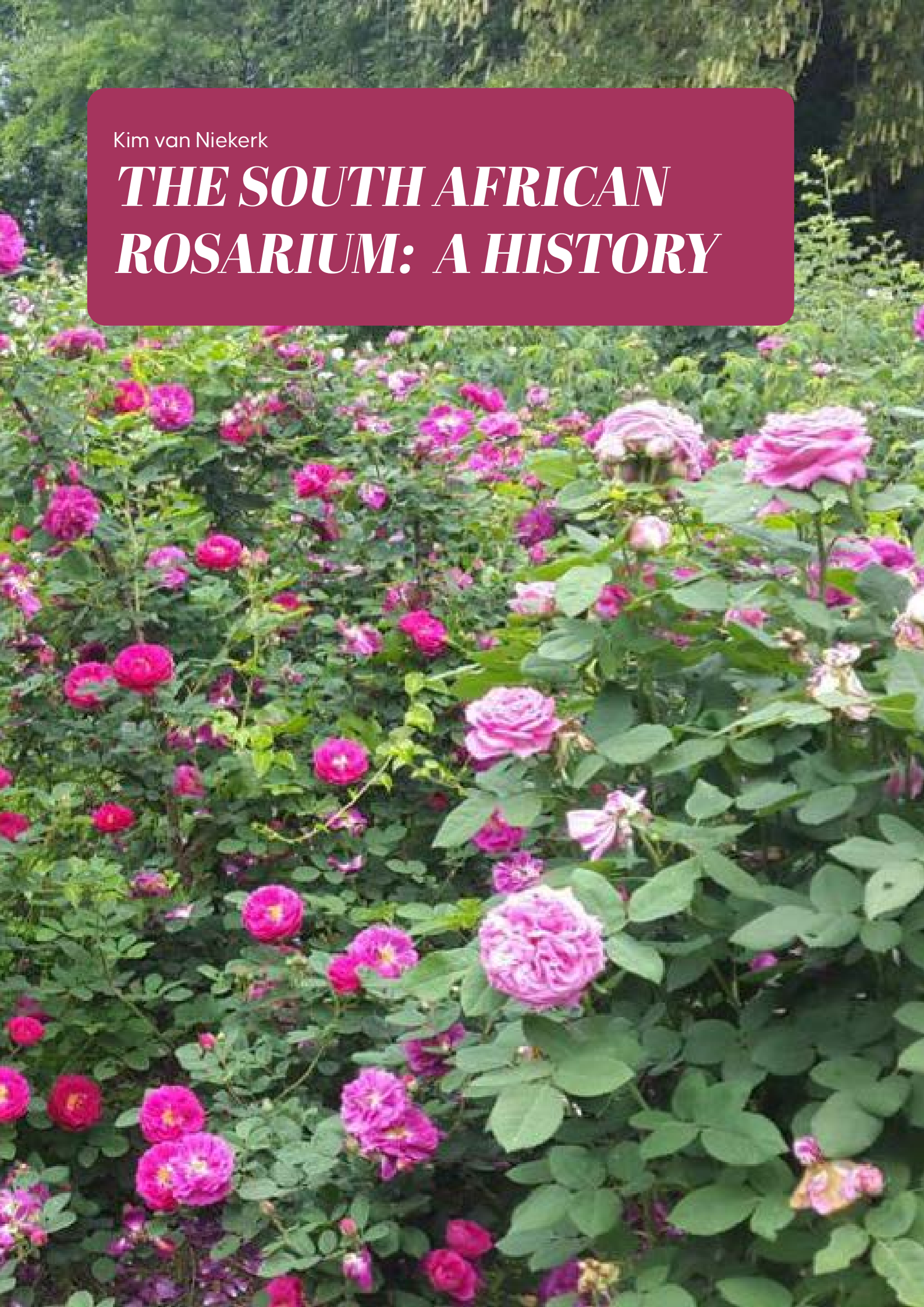
- **Rosa abyssinica (hoping to find it!)**

Its African heritage makes it profoundly significant, this could become a signature plant in the next chapter of South African garden design, lightly fragrant, and deeply meaningful.

Plant them where they can express their true wild selves: let them climb an old acacia or oak, tumble down a bank, or form a thicket beside a stream. Pair them with indigenous companions, aloes, grasses, or proteas, and you create gardens that feel both ancient and utterly now. Just resilient, biodiverse beauty that evolves with the seasons and the climate.

In the end, “the future is ancient” is not nostalgia, it’s hope. When you stand in a garden at dusk and watch a ‘Rosa banksiae’ cascade like a living waterfall over an old stone wall or catch the scent of *Rosa abyssinica* (wistfully manifesting it) on the breeze, you feel the deep continuity of life. These roses have outlasted empires and ice ages. They ask only for a little space and respect, and in return they give us flowers that connect us to our ancestors, to Ethiopia’s highlands, to Colorado’s fossil beds, and to the children who will inherit these same gardens one day.

So go ahead, plant a living fossil. Let it climb, sprawl, and bloom wildly. In doing so, you’re not just designing a garden. You’re writing the next chapter of a 35-million-year-old love story, right here in South Africa. And that, dear rose lovers, feels like the warmest, most exciting future imaginable.

A lush garden filled with numerous roses in various shades of pink and red. The flowers are densely packed, with green leaves and stems visible throughout the scene. The background shows more greenery, suggesting a well-maintained garden or park setting.

Kim van Niekerk

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ROSARIUM: A HISTORY

The South African Rosarium was established in Bedford in the Eastern Cape on a very special piece of land ideal for growing and featuring our beloved Old Roses. The story of the garden's concept, aims and purpose is one that is important to tell.

THE INSPIRATION

On a trip to the WFRS Heritage Rose Conference in Senlis, France in 2007 led by Sheenagh Harris, the then President of the Federation of Rose Societies in South Africa, a group including Wendy Kroon (the Heritage Rose Society of South Africa international representative), Barbara Long (chairlady of the HRSSA), Michele Basson and Kim Van Niekerk, all lovers of Old Roses, attended a meeting together. There we learnt about the work being done in many countries for the conservation of these wonderful old plants and the need to preserve a mother plant of each type of Old Rose. Each country gave feedback on what had happened in the past year. South Africa had no report as we did not have a garden. We also visited other old rose gardens in Italy and France and were inspired

by the educational concept of these gardens of preservation from many aspects. These included teaching ideas such as historical lineage of flora, conservation principles, preserving the earth and nurturing nature, schools and tertiary institutions using the facility for research purposes and propagation and organic techniques.

The idea of an Old Rose sanctuary in South Africa was born from that meeting. We were enthusiastically encouraged by the WFRS Heritage Committee members chaired by Helga Brichet. The garden was born out of the necessity to preserve and perpetuate the valuable genetic

The idea of an Old Rose sanctuary in South Africa was born from that meeting



framed by Great Western rose, left to right, Michelle Basson, Dr David Comyn (current chair of the trust) Barbara Long, Wendy Kroon.



The late Heather Leppan

traits of our old roses brought to the Cape of Good Hope from the early 1600's onwards. The decision was taken to base the initial collection on Dr. Gwen Fagan's extensive research on old roses found in the Cape which is expertly documented in her wonderful book *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*. On our return to South Africa, we approached Gwen to see if she would endorse the concept. She eagerly agreed and offered to design the garden. The wish was that starting a South African Rosarium would put us on the world stage within the Heritage Rose Society.

Before the Rosarium could begin we needed to decide on a mission statement to define the exact purpose of the garden:

- The collection and conservation of roses with historical, national and international interest.
- The preservation and perpetuation of the collection.
- To implement and practice ecologically sustainable methods of cultivation.
- To become an active and recognized member of The International Conservation Committee of Roses and the World Heritage Rose Society.
- To strive for financial self sufficiency and independence.
- To provide historical and botanical significance for additional research and education.
- To facilitate environmental education and community upliftment at grass roots level.

THE LOGISTICS

After many hours of discussion between interested parties, and a few visits by Gwen Fagan to inspect possible sites to house the garden, it was decided that Bedford Village would be the new site for the Rosarium. Many of the interested people were in that area and Gwen had found so many old rose species on the old farms around the Eastern Cape. A few possible pieces of land were identified. Dr David Comyn had the most ideal position which was a hidden treasure on the side of his property. A trust was formed which still currently runs the garden and Dr Comyn and his late wife decided to donate the ground to the trust which holds the title deed.

Gwen Fagan and Jessie Walton made an enormous contribution by visiting Bedford often and producing professional, well researched plans for the garden. We developed the garden with Gwen's guidance of under planting with only South African indigenous plants and herbal

therapeutic plants for the overall health of the garden. This makes it unique.

The soil was virgin soil, and the entire project was undertaken with organic principles in mind and zero artificial fertiliser nor poisons

Barbara Long is an integral cog in this wheel. Her vast knowledge of old roses, her absolute passion for her lifelong work with roses and her ability to identify any old rose anywhere in the world by a mere leaf or petal are invaluable skills. The late Vernon Marias from Grahamstown was also a wealth of knowledge and ended up donating his collection to the Rosarium as his health failed him. Heather Leppan must also be noted for her incredible passion for the old rose, her talent at propagating them and for spreading her desire to adorn every village in the Eastern Cape with old roses.



*Our tour group to Senlis in France at the World Heritage Rose Congress. This picture was taken in Helga Brichet's Garden in Italy
© Sheenagh Harris, 2007.*



Dr Gwen Fagan with Dr David Comyn

hard landscaping and the essential borehole and irrigation systems. Ludwig Taschner donated 250 old roses to the Rosarium and paid for the transport of these roses to Bedford. The trust also managed to arrange for Old Roses to come from Parc de la Tête d'Or in Lyon as they were revamping their old rose section.

To date the garden is thriving and holds many of the Old Rose species, although there is still some work needed.

Dr Comyn, the current chairman of the trust, was recently invited to address the World Heritage Rose Conference in China. Kim Van Niekerk was invited to address the HRG in York, United Kingdom in September last year and donated a copy of Gwen Fagan's book to the Chairman, Michael Marriot, who was delighted. The South African Rosarium is truly established in the world of the Old Rose.

The Rosarium is open all year to anyone wishing to visit it.

THE GARDEN PURPOSE

The concept was born to develop a teaching garden in South Africa which would serve as a preservation area for our beloved roses, an area where ecofriendly gardening methods could be implemented and taught and as a garden of remembrance for people to enjoy. The decision was to base the initial collection on Gwen Fagan's extensive research on Old Roses found in the Cape. Gwen understands the need for preservation, conservation and teaching skills.

The garden should also be seen as a place of peace and tranquility for all people to enjoy, remember loved ones and for learning and nurturing nature.

The response from the greater South Africa and further afield has already been amazing and beyond what we initially thought. The Rosarium was officially launched at the World Rose Convention held in Johannesburg in October 2012. ROSA gifted the South African Rosarium a sum of money that enabled the trust to install



Barbara Long and Debbie Johnson

In tribute

A Life Well Lived

Jill Louise Bennell

May 1936 - June 2026.

Jill was a dear friend and a giant in the rose world. She was the Secretary of the World Federation of Rose Societies from 1997 to 2006. Actually, she was Secretary beginning in 1993 but was instrumental in the process of incorporating the WFRS as a UK registered charitable company in 1997. Throughout her time as Secretary, she guided the WFRS through expansion while placating any differing opinions of its members. With a velvet glove and much good humour, she kept everything organized and running smoothly. Jill became Treasurer in 2006 and remained in the role until 2012. In essence, she gave 19 incredible years of dedicated and distinguished service to the WFRS.



World Rose Convention in Lyon, France in 2015
© Derek Lawrence

In addition, Jill worked for the Royal National Rose Society for over 25 years. In the latter years she served as Deputy Secretary.

Jill was known, loved and respected throughout the rose world. In 2006 she was awarded the WFRS Silver Medal for her leadership role and her service to the worldwide rose community. That same year she was awarded the Royal National Rose Society's prestigious Dean Hole Memorial Medal. She will be missed everywhere.



© Marga Verwer

WFRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

30 April - 4 May 2027

WFRS Regional Convention, San Diego, CA, USA

7-13 January 2028

WFRS 21st World Rose Convention, Bhopal, India



*Alaska,
Kordes Rosen 2005
©Marga Verwer*

FRIENDS OF THE FEDERATION

Since its introduction in 2010, over 100 individuals from around the globe have donated funds towards 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 World Federation of Rose Societies and join a group of generous financial donors supporting the work of the Federation.

Benefits include:

- Exclusive invitations to “Friends Only” activities;
- Individual electronic copy of World Rose News;
- Friends Dinners at each convention will give you the opportunity to participate with 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 2028 World Rose Convention in India.

Friends donor forms can be downloaded from the WFRS website www.worldrose.org

WFRS International Rose Trials

Trial	Country	2026
Monaco	Principauté de Monaco	April 30
Shreveport	USA	May 03
Barcelona	Spain	May 08
Rome	Italy	May 16
Madrid	Spain	May 22
Bologna	Italy	May 30
Gifu	Japan	May/October
Tokyo	Japan	May/October
Nagaoka	Japan	May/October
Lyon	France	June 05
Hradec Králové	Czech Republic	June 13
Baden-Baden	Germany	June 16
Saverne	France	June 17
Paris Bagatelle	France	June 18
Kortrijk	Belgium	June 19
The Hague	Netherlands	July 02
Belfast	Northern Ireland	July 06
Warsaw	Poland	CANCELLED
Le Roeulx	Belgium	September 04
Hertfordshire	Great Britain	September 08
Orléans	France	September 11
Adelaide	Australia	October 21
Hamilton	New Zealand	November 15
Palmerston North	New Zealand	December 06

WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETES

Patron	Yves Piaget
President Emeritus	Helga Brichet

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2025 - 2028)

OFFICERS

President	Sushil Prakash	India
Executive Director	Marga Verwer	Netherlands
Treasurer	Claudia Hacker	Germany
Immediate Past President	Diane vom Berg	Australia
Executive Advisor	Derek Lawrence	United Kingdom

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

AFRICA	Vivienne Black	South Africa
AUSTRALASIA	Gavin Woods	Australia
AUSTRALASIA	Hayden Foulds	New Zealand
CENTRAL, SOUTH & SOUTH EAST ASIA	Dr. Narendra Kumar Dadlani	India
EUROPE	Mireille Steil	Luxembourg
EUROPE	Angela Bokor	Romania
EUROPE	Maria Hjort	Sweden
FAR EAST	Wook-Kyun Kim	South Korea
NORTH AMERICA	Brenda Viney	Canada
NORTH AMERICA	Diane Sommers	USA
SOUTH AMERICA	Inés Díaz de Licandro	Uruguay

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (2025 - 2028)

Council	Sushil Prakash	India
Honours	Sushil Prakash	India
Executive Committee	Sushil Prakash	India
Convention Liaison	Henrienne de Briey	Belgium
Promotions	Diane vom Berg	Australia
International Rose Trials	Jean-Pierre Lelièvre	France
Publications	Angelika Throll-Keller	Germany
Breeders Club	Markus Brunsing	Germany
Awards	Daniel Boulens	France
International Judges	Pauline Martin	United Kingdom
Conservation & Heritage Roses	Inés Díaz de Licandro	Uruguay
Editor	Shireen Deoraj	South Africa





MEMBER COUNTRIES

The World Federation of Rose Societies - WFRS (founded 1968) is comprised at this moment of 39 national rose societies from all around the world, in following order of country. The list below also annotates their year of joining the WFRS.

Argentina	1977	<i>Asociación Argentina de Rosicultura</i>
Australia	1968	<i>National Rose Society of Australia Inc</i>
Austria	2001	<i>Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Österreichischen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft</i>
Belgium	1968	<i>Société Royale Nationale Les Amis de la Rose' - Koninklijke Nationale Maatschappij 'De Vrienden van de Roos'</i>
Bermuda	1981	<i>Bermuda Rose Society</i>
Canada	1968	<i>Canadian Rose Society</i>
Chile	2000	<i>Asociación Chilena de la Rosa</i>
China	1997	<i>Chinese Rose Society</i>
Czech Republic	1994	<i>Czech Rosa Club</i>
Finland	1997	<i>Suomen Ruususeura r.y. - Finska Rosensällskapet r.f.</i>
France	1979	<i>Société Française des Roses</i>
Germany	1968	<i>Deutschen Rosengesellschaft e.V.</i>

Great Britain	2018	<i>Rose Society UK</i>
Greece	1997	<i>The Hellenic Rose Society</i>
Hungary	2008	<i>Hungarian Rose Friends Society</i>
Iceland	2007	<i>Icelandic Rose Society</i>
India	1968, 1982	<i>Indian Rose Federation</i>
Israel	1975	<i>The Jerusalem Foundation – The Wohl Rose Park of Jerusalem</i>
Italy	1968	<i>Associazione Italiana della Rosa</i>
Japan	1968	<i>The Japan Rose Society</i>
Luxembourg	1981	<i>Luxembourg Rose Society – Lëtzebuerger Rousefrënn Association Grand-Ducale des Amis de la Rose</i>
Monaco	2012	<i>Société des Roses de Monaco</i>
Netherlands	1976	<i>Nederlandse Rozenvereniging</i>
New Zealand	1968	<i>New Zealand Rose Society</i>
Northern Ireland	1982	<i>The Rose Society of Northern Ireland</i>
Norway	1988	<i>The Norwegian Rose Society</i>
Poland	1981, 2017	<i>Polskie Towarzystwo Rozane – Polish Rose Society</i>
Romania	1992	<i>Asociatia Amicii Rozelor din Romania</i>
Russia	2007	<i>Russian Association of Rosarians</i>
Slovakia	2023	<i>Rose Society Maria Henrieta Chotek</i>
Slovenia	2000	<i>Društvo Ljubiteljev Vrtnic Slovenije – Slovenian Rose Society</i>
South Africa	1968	<i>Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa</i>
South Korea	2018	<i>South Korea Rose Society</i>
Spain	1992	<i>Asociación Española de la Rosa</i>
Sweden	1994	<i>Svenska Rosensällskapet – The Swedish Rose Society</i>
Switzerland	1976	<i>Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde</i>
United States	1968	<i>American Rose Society</i>
Uruguay	1985	<i>Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa</i>

WFRS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

In following order of country.

Sociedad Argentina de Horticultural	Argentina
Vrijbroek Park Rose Garden	Belgium
The Butchart Gardens	Canada
Geografisk Have	Denmark
Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val de Marne à L'Haÿ-les-Roses	France
Roses Anciennes en France	France
Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France	France
Piccolo Roseto Giovanni Chilanti	Italy
Associazione 'La Compagnia delle Rose'	Italy
Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Caviglia	Italy
Gifu World Rose Garden	Japan
The Rose Culture Institute	Japan
Liga Gaart An Heem ASBL	Luxembourg
Patrimoine Roses pour le Luxembourg ASBL	Luxembourg
Heritage Roses New Zealand Inc.	New Zealand
Amics de les Roses de Sant Feliu de Llobregat	Spain
Rosenlunds Rosarium	Sweden
Société Romande des Amis des Roses et de l'Horticulture	Switzerland
Historic Roses Group of Great Britain	United Kingdom
Huntington Library, Art Museum & Botanical Gardens	United States of America
Columbus Park of Roses	United States of America
Heritage Rose Foundation	United States of America

For more information regarding the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee Chairmen, the Member Countries, the WFRS Associate Members and the WFRS Breeders' Club Members please go to the WFRS website.

BREEDERS CLUB

David Austin Roses	United Kingdom	Emma Weaver	www.davidaustinroses.com
Rose Barni s.s.	Italy	Beatrice Barni	www.rosebarni.it
Alain Tschanz SA	Switzerland	Gisèle & Alain Tschanz	www.rosiers.ch
Roseraies Paul Croix	France	Dominique Croix et Jacques Ranchon	pepinieres-paul-croix.fr
Jean-Pierre Guillot	Tunisie	Jean Pierre Guillot	www.roses-guillot.com
Rosen Tantau KG	Germany	Jens Krüger	www.rosen-tantau.com
Roze Sobieszek	Poland	Mateusz Sobieszek	www.roza-sobieszek.pl
Keisei Rose Nurseries Inc	Japan	Yasuyuki Hisada	www.keiseirose.co.jp
Kenny Rose Breeding Ltd	Ireland	David Kenny	
Kern Select	Netherlands	Emiel Keiren	
Noack Rosen	Germany	Reinhard Noack	www.noack-rosen.de
Lens Roses	Belgium		www.lens-roses.com
Meilland International S.A.	France	Matthias Meilland	www.meilland.com
NIRP International SA	France	Deborah Ghione	www.nirpinternational.com
R.O.S.E. Roses Orard Sélection Edition	France	Pierre Orard	www.roses-orard.com
Roses Forever ApS	Denmark	Rosa Eskelund	www.roses-forever.com
Rose Innovations	U.S.A.	William J. Radler	
Viva International BVBA	Belgium	Martin Vissers	
Viveros Francisco Ferrer	Spain	Matilde Ferrer	www.rosalesferrer.com
David Zlesak	U.S.A.	David Zlesak	
Bolar Roses	U.S.A.	Dr. Suni Bolar	
My Roses Rojewski	Poland	Lukasz Rojewski	
W.KORDES' SÖHNE Rosenschulen GmbH & Co KG	Germany		www.Rosen.de
Roses André Eve	France	Rateau Jérôme	www.roses-andre-eve.com
The Huntington E.L. and Ruth B. Shannon Curator of the Rose Garden	U.S.A.	Tom Carruth	www.huntington.org/
Mooren Roses BV	Netherlands	Geert Mooren	
Pheno Geno Roses B.V.	Netherlands	Biljana Božanić Tanjga	www.phenogenoroses.com
H.& G. Dräger	Germany	Jannik Dräger	draeger-rosen.de



Celebrating 80 Years of Cutting Excellence with FELCO

Innovative tools designed for rose enthusiasts and professionals alike

2025 marks a major milestone for FELCO: 80 years of Swiss-made excellence in pruning innovation. Founded in 1945 by visionary engineer Félix Flisch, FELCO has revolutionized the way we care for plants, from

vineyards to rose gardens, with tools that combine precision, durability, and sustainability.

To celebrate this anniversary, FELCO proudly unveils a special edition of its most iconic tool – the FELCO 2 – 80th Anniversary Edition. This legendary pruning shear, known globally

for its ergonomic design and clean, precise cut, is now available in a unique version featuring a commemorative engraving, gold-cobalt F-GOLD blade coating, and a numbered series — honouring both heritage and excellence.

For rose growers and gardening enthusiasts, FELCO offers a wide array of tools tailored to the delicate art of rose care:



FELCO Ergonomic Pruning Shears:

Whether you're a hobby gardener or a professional rosarian, FELCO's range of pruning shears meets every need. From compact models for fine cuts to the industry's widest ergonomic selection, each tool is designed to deliver precision, comfort, and long-lasting performance.

Not sure which model suits you best? FELCO offers a quick and easy online test to help you find your perfect fit, based on your hand size, cutting habits, and preferred ergonomics.

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Ideal for thicker canes and deadwood, the FELCO 602 combines power with finesse. Its sharp teeth and non-slip handle make it perfect for maintaining healthy rose structures.



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Protect your hands from thorns without sacrificing comfort or dexterity. The FELCO 705 gloves are made from high-quality, breathable leather — your best ally when handling roses.



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Designed for professional and stylish gardeners, these robust yet lightweight bags keep your essential tools within easy reach, whether in the field or the backyard. Available in two sizes.

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Crafted with durable, water-resistant materials, the FELCO 490 apron brings functionality and elegance together. Multiple pockets and reinforced zones make it the ideal companion for demanding gardening sessions.

