



*'Sunny June'*  
Photo by Stephen Hoy

# Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,  
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses  
Volume 10, Issue 1  
Spring

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## My Favorite David Austin Rose

If you have been growing roses since the late 80's to early 90's you will remember you began seeing something altogether new in rose catalogs – English Roses. One catalog stated, “These new hybrids are the culmination of nearly 40 years of research and rose breeding. They are the result of crossing old roses with modern bush roses. Their form and flower, delicacy of coloring and their rich fragrance can be compared with the Damask, Gallica, and Alba roses of years gone by. But unlike these, they flower repeatedly throughout the season, have a wider colour range and are disease resistant. English Roses have the feel of informal, old country garden roses. They'll be a delight in any garden large or small.” (1992 *Jackson & Perkins Roses*, 36.) I ordered four varieties to sell at the family nursery and greenhouse business where I was employed ('Graham Thomas,' 'Heritage,' 'Mary Rose,' and 'Othello'). David Austin, born on 16 February 1926, grew up the son of a farmer, immersed in the agricultural culture of the Shropshire countryside. As a young man he was introduced to the world of plant hybridizing through a friend of his father's, Mr. James Baker, a local nurseryman.

In 1947 David was given a copy of Edward Bunyard's book *Old Garden Roses* for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. One highly recommended rose, the Hybrid Spinosissima 'Stanwell Perpetual,' captured his attention. It was unique in its class for having the form of the old garden roses, but with a continuous sequence of bloom. Mr. Bunyard wrote of this wonderfully perfumed rose, “We might develop a race of 'Stanwells' of varying colours as this is the only variety which flowers perpetually, due, in my opinion, to the introduction of Damask blood” (p. 85). A vision was born in the young man's mind – new roses in the style of old roses!

Traveling counter to the direction of commercial rose growers and hybridizers of the time, David Austin began collecting Albas, Gallicas, Damasks, and other old rose types. A growing friendship with Graham Stuart Thomas began in the early 1950's, further broadening his appreciation of the OGR's. During the next decade he experimented with numerous crosses of the



'Marinette'  
Photo by Al Whitcomb



'Marinette'  
Photo by Rosa Linda Morgan

once-blooming types with the modern, repeat-flowering hybrids in an effort to create roses that captured his dream.

With the introduction of 'Constance Spry' in 1961 his vision began to take shape, a very comely shape! Initially, Mr. Austin's rose creations were not thought to be commercially viable, but a spectacular display of 'Graham Thomas' and 'Mary Rose' at the 1983 Chelsea Flower Show catapulted his English Roses into international acclaim ('Graham Thomas' was voted a world rose hall of fame cultivar in 2009 by the World Federation of Rose Societies).

With his passing on 18 December 2018 David Austin, Sr. will join history as one of the greatest rosarians of all time. With more than two hundred forty varieties to his credit in a broad range of colors, sizes, and fragrances, with petal counts ranging from five to more than one hundred, he assuredly leaves behind a legacy that rose enthusiasts around the world will prize as long as roses are grown.

Is it possible to pick one rose favorite? Not likely, however I will, in tribute, single out my favorite David Austin rose.

In the mid 1990's Mr. Austin made a cross with two of his previous introductions. The seed parent was the very free-flowering 'Lucetta' (AUSemi), an upright growing variety with large, saucer shaped, ruffled, semi-double blooms of soft, shell pink with a touch of honey yellow at the base of the petals. Rich yellow stamens accentuate the hushed tones of the nicely fragrant flowers. Mr. Austin described it as tough and reliable. A six-year study carried out by the Chicago Botanical Garden beginning in 1990 found that 'Lucetta' was among the best of the roses evaluated for disease resistance [pre - 'Knock Out'].

The pollen parent was an older David Austin variety, the single to semi-double 'Redcoat' (AUScoat). My favorite comment about this rose was written by Claire Martin, former Curator of Rose Collections at the Huntington Botanical Garden and early Austin rose advocate: "A sanguine grenadier standing to attention with aplomb, 'Redcoat' simply will not be ignored in the garden" (*100 English Roses for the American Garden*, 184). Its parentage is given by Mr. Austin as 'Parade,' x an English Rose. Mr. Austin stated that he used the Gene Boerner climber 'Parade' to add vigor to the English Roses (*Old Roses and English Roses*, 132).

The outcome of this cross was a slim-figured, pearlescent pink seedling of fifteen or so petals. The rose was named 'Marinette,' the name by which friends knew Marina Sulzberger Berry, Vicomtesse Camrose [Ed. note; the Sulzberger family own the *New York Times*. Family members of her husband, Adrian Berry, 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount of Camrose, were one-time owners of London's *Daily Telegraph*]. As its blooms begin unfurling 'Marinette' hints of Hybrid Tea form, but then the blossoms open unabashedly and strike a pose that requires more than a lingering glance. Often 4" or more in diameter the flowers sit atop long cutting stems and emit a hint of the myrrh fragrance reminiscent of Mr. Austin's first introduction 'Constance Spry.' The qualities of this variety are further enhanced by a resistance to black spot that is exceptional. 'Marinette' has become a must have in my garden.



'Marinette'  
Photo by Stephen Hoy

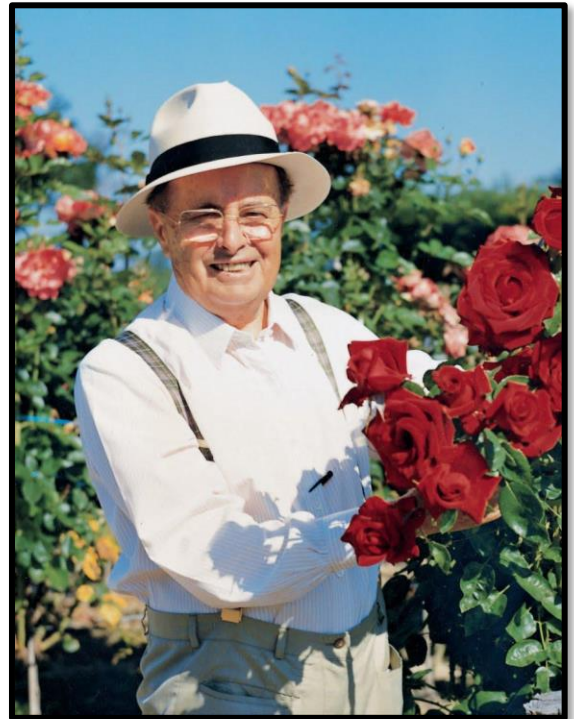
## From the House of Delbard to the House of Grimaldi

The name Delbard has been familiar to rose growers for more than half a century. The founder of the Delbard Pépinières et Rosarais, Georges Delbard (1906-1999), began his horticultural career growing and selling fruit trees on family acreage in the village of Malicorne in northwest France. In 1947 he wrote and published, *Les Beaux Fruits de France*, a richly illustrated and exhaustive work covering all facets of fruit cultivation. When André Chabert joined the firm in 1955 the nursery began breeding and growing roses for the garden and florist trade. Sons Guy, Henri, and grandson Arnaud continue the legacy.

For a brief period in the late 1980's-early 1990's Henri Delbard spent time visiting the Bear Creek Gardens in California [Ed. note; Armstrong and Jackson & Perkins had merged in 1988 to form Bear Creek Gardens]. In their growing fields several seedlings hybridized by Jack Christenson caught his eye.

Subsequently the Delbard firm obtained budwood of three unique varieties. Because of their interest in marketing the roses Christenson registered them using the Jackson & Perkins breeder code in 1992. A subsequent visit to an art exhibit in Paris inspired Henri to create a group of roses designated as the Painter's Collection and to name the three obtained from Bear Creek after several of France's renowned Impressionist painters - Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin, and Paul Cezanne. After all, the remarkable splashes of contrasting color that made the three roses unique were very reminiscent of these artists' painting technique.

Marketing plans were developed to make the roses available to French rose growers in 1997 and propagation began. In the interim the Delbard family realized they had a similarly colored rose already in their



own seedling beds. It was decided to add it to the collection but name it 'Grimaldi' in honor of Prince Ranier III of Monaco - Ranier Louis Henri Maxence Bertrand Grimaldi III (1923-2005) and the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grimaldi rule of the principality.

In brief, the history of Monaco began in 1215 when Genoan Foulques de Castello began building a fortress on a rock once known as the Fortress of Hercules (the present site of Monaco's royal palace). The Grimaldi family had long served as political leaders of the nearby Republic of Genoa. Rivalry between two medieval Italian factions, one supporting the Pope in Rome (the Guelphs) and one supporting the Germanic Holy Roman Emperor (the Ghibellines), resulted in the family's exile sometime between 1270 and 1276. On a moonless night in 1297 Francesco Grimaldi and a number of companions, all disguised as monks, were admitted to the garrison and quickly overpowered their Genoese/Ghibelline adversaries. The Grimaldi flag has flown over the fortification with few interruptions ever since (the Italian word for monk is *monaco*).



The rose, 'Grimaldi,' is just one of eleven roses named for members of the royal family of Monaco. Hybridized in 1990 by Guy Delbard it is registered as a Floribunda. Its fifteen to twenty petals are coral orange streaked with contrasting brush strokes of blush pink and white. Blooms emit a delicate lemon-rose fragrance and arrive one-per-stem or in small sprays. The bush grows to about three feet in height and width on its own roots. Thick, dark green leaves demonstrate above average resistance to black spot in my hot and humid no-spray garden. 'Grimaldi's painter's palette of colors certainly creates . . . an *Impression*.



Below - 'Grimaldi'  
Photo by Stephen Hoy

Above - 'Grimaldi'  
Photo by Kathy Strong



## Fishing for Salmon – ‘Salmon Wings’

The name Ducher is likely familiar to anyone having grown old garden roses for any period of time. Jean-Claude Ducher (1820-1874) began hybridizing roses in 1835 in Lyon, France’s epicenter of rose culture. Ten years later he organized the first French exhibition dedicated solely to roses. The white China, ‘Ducher,’ the white blend Tea, ‘Marie van Houtte,’ and the buff-colored Noisette, ‘Rêve d’Or’ are just a few of his many enduring creations.

Six generations later Fabien Ducher and wife Florence continue the legacy. They have made a significant effort to reintroduce many of the older Ducher varieties and to offer an impressive collection of classically full-petalled heritage roses. New introductions are selected with a particular emphasis on fragrance and flower power.

In 2010 a uniquely single-flowered rose appeared among that year’s seedlings (Ed. note; no info is given regarding lineage). It was named ‘Salmon Wings’ and added to their catalog in 2011. Its five petals are a luscious salmon pink with occasional streaks of white that create the impression of stripes rather than color faults. The filaments are an intriguing maroon color. My plant is still young so I can’t speak from experience, but I am surmising that its profusion of bloom met their criteria for introduction. ‘Salmon Wings’ has displayed above average, if not excellent, resistance to black spot in my garden.

‘Salmon Wings’  
Photo by Stephen Hoy



## From the Editor

Rose season is upon us in Middle Georgia. Spring came and went in the blink of an eye and summer’s high temperatures have already begun to prompt increased attention to water needs. I’ve been taking photos of established varieties and looking forward to first blooms on new-to-me cultivars. I’ve joined several Facebook pages dedicated to roses and have enjoyed seeing roses grown in several Scandinavian and western European nations, India, and even Vietnam! Check out Old & David Austin Roses, Spinosissima Roses, and Roses N Roses.

The “2018 American Rose Annual” contained some very relevant comments from a number of successful commercial rose growers and hybridizers in reference to disease and insect resistance, the development of roses adapted to extremes of cold, heat, and drought tolerance, and sensitivity to the preferences of up-and-coming gardeners. The following bear repeating.

“A consumer and rose industry survey that we did in collaboration with the Rose Hybridizers Association six years ago indicated that the most important trait for a new rose cultivar is disease resistance. . . More recent consumer behavior research at Texas A&M University showed that adaptation traits such as drought/heat tolerance and disease resistance are more valued by consumers than flower size or foliage coverage.” – David Byrne, Texas A&M University.

“We have found that younger people are very interested in pollinator friendly plants so a rose that shows its stamens is growing in popularity with the next generation of gardeners. We strive for roses that will produce several flushes of bloom per season here (British Columbia, CA). Fragrance is a huge priority for gardeners in our area and they ask for this above form or color or things like self-cleaning.” – Brad Jalbert, Hybridizer, Select Roses.

Regarding Rose Rosette Disease; “There is a lot of effort being made between the industry and academia through the National Clean Plant Network for Roses. . . This is a long term project. . . In the meantime educating the trade and the consumer is critical. There is so much wrong information circulating so consumers need to educate themselves to assist in our efforts.” – Jacques Ferare, Vice President, Star Roses and Plants.

On a completely unrelated note, a project I have worked on for years has finally come to fruition. *Camp Oglethorpe: Macon's Unknown Civil War Prisoner of War Camp, 1862-1864* has been published by Mercer University Press and is in print! Anyone interested in America's Civil War may purchase the book from me, Mercer University Press, Amazon, or Barnes & Noble. Very exciting!

## North American Sources

'Marinette' – Cool Roses, [www.coolroses.com](http://www.coolroses.com); (available in Europe from several nurseries)

'Grimaldi' – Roses Unlimited, [www.rosesunlimitedsc.com](http://www.rosesunlimitedsc.com); (widely available in Europe and Australia)

'Salmon Wings' – Angel Gardens, [www.angelgardens.com](http://www.angelgardens.com); (Rosarie Ducher in France)

'Sunny June' – Rogue Valley Roses; [www.roguevalleyroses.com](http://www.roguevalleyroses.com);

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Thanks to those who generously allow use of their photographs! Also feel free to share this newsletter with others.