



'La Reve Crystal'
(see sources for more info)

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
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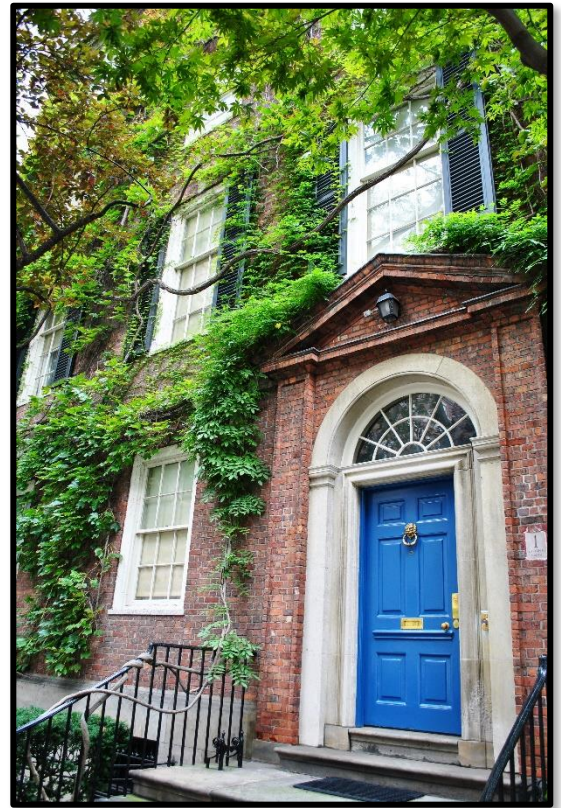
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A Mystery at Sutton Place!

Numerous accolades can be found describing Manhattan's Sutton Place: "Sutton Place is perhaps the most upscale neighborhood in all of Manhattan," "Sutton Place: New York's Happy Place," "Sutton Place is unremittingly gorgeous," Sutton Place can be described as New York City's little piece of London."

Long Island entrepreneur Effingham B. Sutton was the founder of the Sutton Line and Cromwell Steamship Line. He was one of the few businessmen who secured a fortune during the 1849 California Goldrush by running clippers ships between New York and San Francisco. Sutton began constructing brownstones in Manhattan between 57th and 58th Streets in 1875 in an attempt to establish a residential neighborhood near the East River. Today, the neighborhood runs from 53rd to 59th Streets between First Avenue and the river. After a period of decline the area was rejuvenated in the 1920's by the arrival of the Vanderbilts, Morgans, and other wealthy families. It was and continues to be the home of well-known celebrities and has been featured in numerous movies.

In 1997 Sutton Place relocated 925 miles south to my garden in Georgia – 'Sutton Place,' the rose, that is. In one deep dive catalog search earlier the previous fall, I had encountered a rose named 'Sutton Place,' advertised as a single, red & white bicolor Shrub with glossy foliage hybridized by J. Benjamin Williams. Although intrigued by its description, I was puzzled as well because I had talked with Mr. Williams several years earlier about some of his single-flowered rose introductions and had asked if there were any I needed to be on the lookout for in the near future. He told me to keep my eye out for an orange pink single-flowered Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora that would be named 'Sutton Place.' I discovered later there was an entry in *Modern Roses X* for 'Sutton Place' – indeed an op Grandiflora hybridized in 1991; its parentage was given as 'Queen Elizabeth' x ('Carla' x 'Command Performance'); the flowers were described as light pink with salmon pink edge, with large, fragrant single blooms borne singly and in small clusters (p. 588).



1 Sutton Place North, setting for the 1948 film, "Sleep My Love"

given as 'Queen Elizabeth' x ('Carla' x 'Command Performance'); the flowers were described as light pink with salmon pink edge, with large, fragrant single blooms borne singly and in small clusters (p. 588).

The rose I had ordered and received was as advertised, a gorgeous, single-flowered red and white bicolor. The broad petals are mostly white with broad rose-red edges. Enhancing the bicolor effect is a bold display of burgundy red filaments and stamens. I find that I have to regularly pinch side-buds to get a one-bloom-per-stem flower but when done that one bloom may be as much as 4.5" in diameter. The foliage

'Sutton Place' by Stephen Hoy

is glossy and moderately black spot resistant and the plant grows quite vigorously, producing long stemmed individual blooms and sprays. But what was its correct name? *Modern Roses X* listed another single-flowered red and white bicolor Williams variety named 'Windmill' hybridized in 1992. Its parentage is listed as 'Handel' x ('Love' x 'Double Feature'). It was first introduced by Hortico in their 1998-99 catalog (p. 25). A unique feature highlighted by Mr. Williams was the tendency of the flower petals to recurve upwards creating the distinctive appearance of a . . . windmill. By 2000 'Windmill' could also be purchased from Roses Unlimited.

People soon began noticing that photos of 'Sutton Place' looked virtually like photos of 'Windmill.' With the amazing connectivity provided by the internet and specifically by www.helpmefind.com/roses individuals began to ask questions about the ARS color designation of 'Sutton Place' relative to its registration. In 2005 both its color and classification were officially changed to red blend and Grandiflora respectively.

So, what's up? Well-known rosarian Bill Kozemchak recently shared some insight into the issue. In 1999 Ben Williams attended a Penn-Jersey district meeting at which he gave away bare-root plants of 'Windmill.' Those who received the rose began to notice that although the color was identical there was a noticeable difference in the appearance of the petals. Some had a rose with twisted, windmill-like petals and some had a rose with flat, overlapping petals. It appears Ben distributed plants of two different varieties. And it seems the confusion continued relative to its commercial distribution (see Cliff Orent photo). Still a mystery? Yes! But that doesn't mean we can't enjoy growing this/these exceptionally beautiful rose/s.

On Being a Good Sport

Numerous roses are known for the significant number of sports they have randomly generated. By definition, a sport is a chance genetic mutation that results in some unique difference in the appearance of the foliage, flower color or form, or branch structure. In roses this usually manifests as a climbing variant or flower color variant, although form sports are known. Flower color sports are frequently not stable and will often revert back to the original cultivar. In my garden I have a 'Blushing Knock Out' that has a branch of its sport parent 'Knock Out.' The color combination is spectacular. Three varieties stand out for the number of sports that have appeared over time; 'Peace' has nineteen registered sports, but likely many more that are unregistered,



Top: 'Sutton Place' by Stephen Hoy
 Middle: 'Windmill' by Cliff Orent
 Bottom: 'Windmill' by Bill Kozemchak



‘Ophelia’ has twenty-three registered sports, and ‘Mme. Edouard Herriot’ has a whopping twenty-nine. Following, is the tale of another rose that has produced several wonderful sports.

In 1969 Reimer Kordes introduced an orange-apricot variety he named ‘Westerland.’ It was named for an upscale beach resort community on the island of Sylt, just off the North Sea coast of Germany. Its twenty or so petals are an ever-changing, climate-based blend of orange, apricot, peach, and pink shades that are deliciously clove scented. For this last trait it won an award from the New Zealand Rose Trials in 1973. Both parents are Floribundas (‘Fredrich Wörlein’ x ‘Circus’), and as one might expect, the blooms arrive in generous sprays. The foliage has above-average resistance to black spot and as such received an ADR certificate in 1974 (German rose trials for

disease resistance and flower power). Its habit of growth has resulted in some confusion regarding classification. In climates with more cold weather ‘Westerland’ grows four feet or so in height and width. Too vigorous for a Floribunda, it was classed by the Kordes family as a Shrub. However, in areas with longer warm seasons growers discovered it often reached heights of eight feet or more, much like a climbing rose. The dose of *R. rubiginosa* in its family tree via ‘Cläre Grammerstorf’ almost certainly explains that. With time ‘Westerland’ began to receive more and more international acclaim; in 1993 the Royal Horticultural Society honored it with its Award of Garden Merit.

‘Westerland’ has been used quite a bit in numerous breeding programs [Ed. note; it appears in several of the newer, very popular yellow and apricot



‘Westerland’ by Kordes Roses



Kordes’ roses]. Two extremely healthy, second generation varieties that are in my garden include: ‘Golden Gate,’ a fragrant, non-fading bright yellow Large-Flowered Climber from Kordes, and ‘Apricot Drift,’ a very double, apricot Meiland introduction and part of the popular Drift series. A German variety bred by Jay-Jay Berger, ‘Noortje,’ caught my attention on the www.helpmefind/roses.com list of first generation descendants (‘Westerland’ x unknown).

‘Golden Gate’

Photo by Stephen Hoy



Top: 'Apricot Drift'
Courtesy Wikipedia Commons
Bottom: 'Autumn Sunset'
Photo by May Kald

Top: 'Noortje'
Photo by Jay-Jay Berger
Bottom: 'Jacob's Robe'
Photo by Sue Brown

In 1986, the first of a number of sports of 'Westerland' appeared in the New Hampshire garden of heritage rose enthusiast Mike Lowe. Although apricot yellow is predominant, several of the shades found in 'Westerland' make their presence known. In all other aspects, fragrance, disease resistance, and habit of growth, 'Autumn Sunset' is very similar to its sport parent. Personally, I find its color easier to blend into the rose garden and think it should be more widely grown.

Several offspring of 'Autumn Sunset' are on my wish-list. The first, 'Jacob's Robe,' is a Large-Flowered Climber bred by Tom Carruth and introduced by Week's Roses in 2008. Its parentage is 'Autumn Sunset' x 'Playboy,' and all the colors you might expect appear in this variety. Unfortunately, it is no longer

marketed, but Tom recently posted a story about recovering this variety for the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Another rose, recently ordered, is 'Golden Opportunity,' a Large-Flowered Climber that has both 'Autumn Sunset' and 'Julia Child' in its parentage.

Several sports of 'Westerland' have been discovered in Europe. The first, 'Steinacher Gold,' was discovered by German rose grower and hybridizer Peter Schwörer in 1993. It doesn't appear to have been distributed but is listed on www.helpmefind/roses.com. Photos give the impression that this sport is more pink than its parent. [Ed. note; Schwörer's home town is also the community in which Father Georg Schöner grew up before eventually settling in California. After becoming the headmaster of the Georg-Schöner-Schule in Steinach, Schwörer's interest in growing and breeding roses began. He has extensively researched Schöner's life and work and done presentations in Germany and California.]



'Golden Opportunity'
Photo by Spring Hill Nurseries

Another sport of 'Westerland' seems to have appeared circa 2000 in two different locations – in the Austrian garden of Erich Unmuth and in the German garden of Werner Ruf. Registered as 'Korona' (not to be confused with the Kordes variety) in the U.S. and known as 'Gelbe Westerland' in Europe, some have speculated that it is identical to 'Autumn Sunset.'



Above: 'Steinacher Gold'

Photo by Peter Schwörer

Right: 'Gelbe Westerland'

Photo by Martin Weingart





'Lemon Meringue' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

Lastly, 'Lemon Meringue' is a sport of 'Autumn Sunset.' It was discovered by William Radler in 2003. In all respects it is similar to its parent but butter yellow in color. Via Messenger William informed me that 'Lemon Meringue' occurred as a basal break on his plant of 'Autumn Sunset.' He valued both the latter and 'Westerland' for the degree of black spot resistance they possessed and for their winter hardiness. When the first bloom opened he attributed the pale color to fading, but upon seeing the same light yellow color on further blooms he knew he had a sport. He reached out to Tom Carruth, then at Weeks Roses, to see if the company was interested since they carried both 'Westerland' and 'Autumn Sunset.' It was introduced by Weeks in 2005 but has subsequently been dropped from their catalog.

I found it interesting that the origin of the word "sport" in the English language refers to a "pleasant activity" or "an activity that offers amusement." AND, to my further delight, by the mid-19th century it was a term often used to describe a "stylish man." Who knew growing roses was an example of good sportsmanship?

I'm So Excited!

In the 1980's a Florida couple, Jim and Diann Giles, played a big role in selling roses grafted on *R. fortuniana* to folks in the Deep South District of the American Rose Society. We didn't discover that Diann had gotten bitten by the hybridizing bug until years later. Among a small group of her roses that are highly regarded locally, including 'Colonial Days,' is a nearly single Hybrid Tea named 'Excite.' The watermelon rose-red shaded petals contrast sharply with deep green foliage. Among my collection of single Hybrid Teas it more closely resembles 'Mrs. Oakley Fisher' in habit of growth and flower power than the long-stemmed 'Dainty Bess.' It could easily be described as everblooming, producing large 4-5" flowers in sprays of three to five. No information was ever released regarding its parentage however, 'Excite' inherited an



'Excite' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

above average tolerance to black spot. My friend Allen Whitcomb has used it in his hybridizing and has introduced what I consider to be several beautiful seedlings, including one registered variety named 'Rhapsody in Red.'

Couldn't resist the reference to the 1982 Pointer Sisters hit!



'Rhapsody In Red' - Photo by Al Whitcomb

From The Editor

I've posted several pictures to Paul Zimmerman's Rose Gardening Facebook page that reveal how crazy our weather has been here in central Georgia. A small number of my roses are blooming – in January. Several days ago I worked outside in a t-shirt and jeans. A week later it's 45°F. Timing when to prune based on our warm/cold/warm/cold weather cycles is getting more difficult. And, to make it more challenging, it's becoming more common for me to have to actually defoliate some roses as I am doing my "winter" pruning.

On Sunday, January 23rd I got the news that my close friend, Col. Allen Whitcomb, had passed away in the last twenty-four hours. To make it even more difficult than it was, that day I was celebrating my eighteen year liver transplant anniversary. Let's celebrate those who have made our lives richer! Also remembering – Bob Martin, Anne Belovich, David Elliott, and Richard Anthony.

Sources & Contact Information

'La Reve Crystal' – caught you!! Not real.

'Sutton Place' – contact me for cuttings/trade

'Windmill' – ???

'Westerland' – Antique Rose Emporium – www.antiqueroseemporium.com, Chamblee's Rose Nursery – www.chambleerose.com, Edmunds' Roses – www.edmundsroses.com, Heirloom Roses – www.heirloomroses.com, High Country Roses – www.highcountryroses.com, Roses Unlimited – widely available in Europe, several nurseries in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand

'Autumn Sunset' – Heirloom Roses - www.heirloomroses.com, Rogue Valley Roses – www.roguevalleyroses.com, retail outlets that sell Weeks roses, numerous European sources

'Jacob's Robe' – out of commerce

'Golden Opportunity' – Spring Hill Nurseries – www.springhillnursery.com, High Country Roses – highcountryroses.com

'Lemon Meringue' – Regan Nursery – www.regannursery.com. If you live in the Chicago area it is available on-site at Gethsemane Garden Center (no shipping).

'Excite' – contact me for cuttings/trade

'Rhapsody in Red' – contact me for cuttings/trade

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Please feel free to share this newsletter!



Above: 'Irene's Delight' - 'Autumn Sunset' x 'William Baffin' - Bred by Mike Lowe - Photo by Cherrie

Below Left: 'Lemon Meringue'
Photo by Stephen Hoy

Below Right: 'Excite' x 'Paul Ecke, Jr'
Rose and photo by Al Whitcomb

