



WFRS REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

Middle & Eastern European Members of the World Federation of Rose Societies

Issue 3 / December 2023



'PEGASUS' (Lukasz Rojewski, Poland)

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EDITOR'S NOTE



2023 has been a good year for our region. We welcomed the Slovak Rose Society as the 40th member of the WFRS. The Arboretum Volcji Potok in Slovenia received the WFRS Garden of Excellence Award. On the 2nd of June a lovely celebration was held in the Arboretum when the plaque was unveiled.

Mr. Stanislav Konstacky is the new Rosa Klub CR's president and we look forward to working together in good health and joy.

Lukasz Rojewski's roses won the highest awards at rose contests in Europe. Daniele Geffroy Konstacky tell us about the outstanding event in Le Roeulx where 'Pegasus' was chosen the Golden Rose and also The Rose of Le Roeulx.

In our region there are two rose trial gardens, one in Hradec Kralove and one in Warsaw. We have reports from both gardens. While the Rose Garden in Hradec Kralove celebrated the 50th anniversary last year, the Rose Garden in Warsaw will held the 5th trial next year, on the 24th July when the Botanical Garden of Polish Academy of Sciences celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Some of us attended the 15th Heritage Rose Conference held in Brussels and there is a report about the highlights of the week.

The Swedish Rose Society will be our host for the next Heritage and Regional Rose Conference, in Kalmar, between 2-6 July 2024. And we already have detailed information about the 20th World Rose Convention held in Japan.

My best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a peaceful, joyous and full of beautiful roses New Year 2024!

We can make the world a better place with roses!

Angela Bokor

Romania

WFRS Vice-President Europe

angela1710@hotmail.co.uk



VOLČJI POTOK ARBORETUM

Danièle Geffroy Konšťacký, Czech Republic, Rosa Klub CR

Some places are unforgettable, Volčji Potok is one of them!

If you look on the map of the European Union, you see a small country with a very narrow coast on the Adriatic, the Alps, rivers, lake Bled, a beautiful scenery as a whole. Then you meet some of its two million inhabitants and discover how active, innovative, environmental dedicated and successful in their projects they are.

I cannot forget the moments we spent in Maribor, Ljubljana, Piran and the different rose gardens we were lucky enough to visit during the Regional Congress organized in 2017 by the Slovenian Society of roses and the World Federation of Rose societies.

Volčji Potok was a magnificent discovery : some kilometres north-east of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia with around 300 000 inhabitants, the Arboretum Volčji Potok offers all over the year breathtaking views and walking paths among its trees, bushes, gardens and rose gardens.



We were amazed to discover the rich collection of Czech roses and their splendid flowering in June 2017.





'MORAVA' , Strnad 1969



'ZLATA PRAHA' Jan Böhm 1931



'LEA' Josef Urban 1973



Rosa Klub – Zlata růže Hradec Králové in Volčji Potok

In Spring 2022 we admired the collection of tulips, every kind, well labelled and colourful





The World Federation of Rose societies WFRS delivers the award of **"Garden excellence"**. Volčji Potok received it in 2022, a well deserved distinction!

"The rose garden boasts collections of some 1,178 cultivars and 5,000 plants of all historical and modern classes, most particularly Floribundas and Hybrid

Teas. The goals of these collections are, above all, disease resistance and the unique assortment of central and eastern European-bred varieties, all of which have very little or no need of chemical treatments. [...]

The upper garden, some 0,7 hectare with 600 varieties, is extremely pleasing with ample space to enjoy an overall display of the numerous ways of presenting roses. [...]

From the lower garden a panoramic landscape may be viewed. Informal beds of roses are densely planted with seasonal 'companions', making their relationship so much more significant and enjoyable."

A short video of 3 minutes can be watched on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csf6Bwa4jX8>



Photo: ©Matjaž Mastnak

UNVEILING THE PLAQUE GARDEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR ARBORETUM VOLCJI POTOK

Angela Bokor, Romania

At each WFRS Rose Convention the most outstanding rose gardens around the world are awarded by WFRS the *Garden of Excellence Award*. Last year, in Australia, the Arboretum Volcji Potok in Slovenia received the honourable award, which places their rosarium among the best rose gardens in the world.



In the Arboretum Volčji Potok in Slovenia there is a professional and dedicated team which established a nice collection of both modern and historic roses, with more than 1200 cultivars and varieties. One of the goals of the collection is to gather the roses created in Central and Eastern Europe.



There are four thematic rose gardens: the Upper Rose Garden with mostly modern, disease resistant varieties, a Lower Rose Garden with historic roses, then a collection of roses representing EU countries and the Papal Roses, a collection of about 60 varieties with names related to the church (popes, saints, orders, places of pilgrimage).

Well maintained, all plants are labelled and visitors can use an interactive map to search for cultivars. I was pleased to see pupils visiting the rose garden with their teacher who talked to them about roses.



Breda Copi, president
of the Slovenian Rose Society

On the 2nd of June 2023 we had the ceremony of unveiling the plaque. The event was well attended by both members of the Slovenian Rose Society and general public.

You can have a virtual walk of the rose gardens on the website <https://bit.ly/4am9IFn> and, I can assure you, the Arboretum is worth visiting in summer!

AN OUTSTANDING ROSE EVENT IN LE ROEULX

Danièle Geffroy Konštacký, Czech Republic, Rosa Klub CR

At the beginning of September 2023 the "Royal Concours de roses nouvelles" in Le Roeulx, Belgium, celebrated its 60th anniversary and its new name : "Le Festival de la Rose".

Last year, for the 40th anniversary of our trial "The Golden Rose of Hradec Králové" our friends from Belgium were among the international participants. They warmly invited us to their celebration, remembering our first visit to their trial in 2013 when Dr Koula and Dr Konštacký were considered as very special guests from a Central-Eastern European country.

Le Roeulx is an attractive small town with a very active Municipality and many rose friends taking part every year in the preparation of the trial. This year it was really impressive!

Three of us decided to go, Václav Koula, Stanislav Konštacký, the new president of our Czech Rose society, and Danièle Geffroy Konštacký.



Leaving early, we succeeded in overcoming the distance of 1 100 km in 10 hours, and were able to attend the "Apéro" reception organized on Thursday evening at the castle. The Prince and Princess de Croy had accepted to receive the participants in the Great Hall of their residence, usually closed to the public

On Friday, September 1st, the trial was launched. The garden was beautifully prepared, but it rained heavily the whole morning and the jury and their evaluation sheets were soaked, even under the umbrellas. The Prince and Princess de Croy were present during the morning under a large tent where a new rose bred by Thomas Proll for Kordes was christened at noon.



In the afternoon the sun was shining again over the garden. After lunch and before the proclamation of the results, Dr Konstacky was given the floor to congratulate the "Bourgmestre" of Le Roeulx and all the Belgian rose lovers for the 60th anniversary of their Royal trial.

Dr Koula and Dr Konstacky handed over a Bohemian cristal vase cut with "60e Royal Concours du Roeulx" written on. They were hugely applauded and the Bourgmestre thanked his Czech friends saying the partnership between Belgian and the Czech Republic was reinforced every year.

The trial 2023 included 135 cultivars of new roses from 34 breeders from 12 countries. The highest score in the category "Floraison en bouquet, fleurs simples" was awarded to *Pegasus* by Lukasz Rojewski from Poland.

Among the full-flowered roses, a Gold Medal went to Kordes' rose, still under the code KO 10/7483-03, and the *Grand Prix du Roeulx* went to Lukasz Rojewski's rose *Pegasus*.

A rose from Jan Spek Rosen named Spekgocart/Cartoon had an award and the rose under the code SIR 2870 from Sirpe-Roseaie Guillot received the prize for the Best Fragrance.



Members of the permanent and international committees as well as city officials and the organising team attended the ceremony. The *Royal Concours* is really the focus of attention of all the small town.

Finally we gathered in the evening in the pub where the local beer St-Feuillien is brewed



On Saturday, September 2, we had to go back home while Le Roeulx opened the Rose garden to the public.



During the whole weekend "Le Festival de la Rose" offered many attractions for the younger and older ones and a very successful sale of containerized blooming roses.

Our short trip to Le Roeulx was such a wonderful day and friendly, cooperative meeting that we feel sure our partnership with breeders and rose gardens from all over Europe was strengthened.

Once again many, many thanks and congratulations to all our Belgian friends who organised that outstanding event artfully decorated!



'POLONICA' (Lukasz Rojewski, Poland)
Honourable Mention in Hradec Kralove, 2023

HRADEC KRALOVE IN 2023

Danièle Geffroy Konštický, Czech Republic, Rosa Klub CR

At the confluence of the European river Elbe and its affluent Orlice Hradec Králové is not far from the summer and winter resorts of the Krkonose and the Orlické mountains where many of its inhabitants have a “chata” for the weekends or their holidays. All generations meet in this town of a hundred thousand inhabitants, many students being in its University and the Medical and Farmaceutical faculties.



Rose Trial Garden of Hradec Králové

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF NEW ROSES



Its rich cultural programme – exhibitions, concerts, theatre, conferences - includes the International trial of New Roses. The Rose garden has opened in 1972 and we celebrated its 50th anniversary in June last year as well as the 40th anniversary of the Trial. It was a splendid day and our evaluating committee and organising team could meet two breeders you all know for their success in the different New rose competitions Thomas Proll for Kordes, Germany, and Martin Vissers, Belgium, together with our friends from the International Jury and rose gardens from France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Slovenia. A new rose by Martin Vissers was christened for



‘MAURITIA (Tantau Roses, Germany)
Golden Rose of Hradec Kralove, 2023

this event : 'Libuše Šafránková'.

On June 17. 2023 we met for the Golden Rose of Hradec Králové, the Golden Rose being this year *Mauritia*, by Tantau, Germany.

All the winners can be seen on our webpage
<http://www.rosaklub.cz/Rosetrial-EN/Winners/Results-2023>

The day was perfect, sunny, not too warm, and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere created by the concert and admired the particular beauty of the roses this year. As usual, the garden was open to the public during the two following weeks and we had a record number of visitors!

Some days later we received the visit of our rose friends from Slovakia. We had met previously but they wanted to know more about the trial and the rose garden to start their own rose contest.

We are in autumn now and preparing the rose garden for the winter. The roses have been cut, the earth turned over, the new roses for the trial 2025 have been received from the breeders and we still have the full range of autumnal colours.

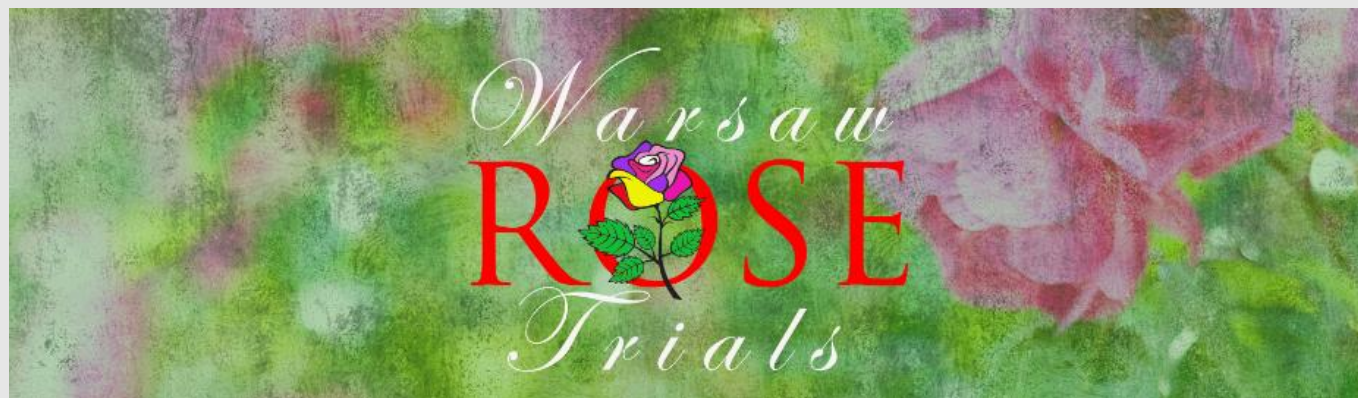


In February 2023 our Rose Society elected its new president - Stanislav Konštický.



THE WARSAW ROSE TRIALS AND THE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN POWSIN

Kamila Rakowska-Szlązkiewicz, Poland



In the world of rose trials, a new idea was put forward in 2020. Well, at least an effect was visible than, because planning and working started already in 2017. In Warsaw, the capital of Poland, a new contest called The Warsaw Rose Trials has been prepared. It takes place in the wonderful Botanical Garden of PAS (Polish Academy of Sciences), where there is also the National Collection of Roses. The Trials are organized by the Botanical Garden in close cooperation with the Polish Association of Rose Breeders.

As the Warsaw Rose Trials is a novelty in this part of Europe, which is colder than rest of western part, some of rose breeders could worry about low temperatures in winter. However it doesn't present a problem. Roses in Poland just need winter protection. And the same happens in the Botanical Garden. All roses both in the collection and meant for Trials are covered for winter with pile of soil or bark. It is sufficient for roses from 6A USDA zone to survive even harsh winter.

The garden was established in 1974 as a research facility and it was opened for visitors in 1990. The Garden has an area about 40 hectares and lies on the outskirts of Warsaw. It's easily accessible by public transportation as well as by the car.

The subject of PAN Botanic Garden's activity is scientific research in experimental and applied botany, biotechnology and plant genetics, applied ecology, broadly understood nature conservation and protection of biological diversity as well as the popularisation of knowledge about the natural sciences.

Some of the Garden's main tasks include in particular:

- the establishment and maintenance of collections of plants and the maintenance and development of a seed bank;
- scientific research on the basics of the protection of biodiversity on a genetic, population, species and ecosystem level as well as environmental protection;
- training of researchers and specialists with special qualifications in botany, genetics, biotechnology, ecology and gardening;
- running didactic activities for students in higher education as well as for primary schools and secondary schools in botany, genetics and plant biotechnology, gardening, ecology and wildlife protection;
- the dissemination of knowledge of the natural sciences, agriculture and forestry, especially topics concerning human plant use and the problematic of the threats posed to wildlife and the protection of nature and the environment;



LUDjealousa 'Nomzamo'
(Ludwig Taschner. South Africa)

Gold medal, section A—Hybrid Teas

- organising plant collections and exhibitions available to the public for the purposes of popularisation and education as well as recreational and cultural purposes.

The Rose Collection of the Botanical Garden was founded in 1998, and in 2008 acquired a status of a national collection assuming the name of the National Collection of Rose Cultivars. This is the largest collection of roses in the country and it is important on a world scale in terms of diversity of cultivars and species.

Today we are reorganizing the collection – some place are not good anymore for roses, part of varieties needs replacement, but everybody who works with roses knows that nothing is given forever. We hope to finish those works in 3 seasons.

Because roses which are sent for the Warsaw Trials are also part of the national collection, and need good exposition -it also made us to think how to make the garden more flexible but also modern.

It is not a secret that now breeders are paying big attention to healthiness of roses and most of the new varieties just look better than older ones from last century. Sometimes it is wise to choose better variety and switch it with some roses from '80. It is a long process of rebuilding connected with planting new varieties for Warsaw Rose Trials, and believe us it is not always simple and easy.

However we invite you especially now to our Botanical Garden, to be a witness of changes. Of course not only roses are habitants of 40 hectares garden. You will find here also rich collection of trees which are gathered in arboretum part, interesting part with polish flora, where plants are shown in mountain scenery with real trails for visitors.

Roses belong to the whole ornamental plants collection with perennials and other shrubs. Part of it is taking also wonderful glasshouses with collections of tropical and mediterranean plants together with succulents. We can't forget also part with usable plants like - orchards, vegetables and herbs.

Let's go back to Warsaw Rose Trials. Rose contest has two sections - A and B. Section A is meant for new roses which are not on the market yet, and section B offers place for roses which are present on the market, however not longer than 3 years. Quantities needed for both sections are stated in the table below.

Group of roses	Section A	Section B
Floribundas and hybrid Teas (F, HT)	5	15
Park and shrub roses (PK, S)	5	15
Patio roses (Patio)	5	15
Groundcovers (GC)	5	15
Climbing roses (CL)	3	5

Roses are accepted every year in autumn till the end of December and in spring from March till the end of April. All breeders are welcome to send as many varieties of roses as they wish, The Botanical Garden can guarantee a lot of space.

For Section A we have built a completely new place in the Garden. It is an area about 0,25 ha with fence. Roses are planted in squares - 5 pieces in each, and in their second season they are judged. Only climbers wait 3 seasons to show their full charm. Test field A is closed for visitors, the only possibility to take a look there is with the guide during our rose events.

Roses for section B are planted in a main collection called New Rosarium. Place is open for the public, and shrubs are mixed with perennials and annuals. It is one of the most colorful places in the garden during the season. Roses are judged 3 times, or if weather conditions doesn't allow for that than 2 times. First and second testing is with our group of judges, however these are not employees of the garden. People connected with roses nurseries, rose associations, horticulture specialists but also collectors and garden media. The final judging takes place at the end of August, and gathers about fifty people from European rose world. We judge roses according to the criteria of WFRS.



'ORIENTAL SHILLA' (Tantau Roses)
Gold medal, section B, groundcovers

Only Prize of Publicity has a bit simpler judging (points from 0 to 10) to make it more clear and fun for visitors because they are choosing their best rose.

Main prize of the Warsaw Rose Trials is a bit different from other trials, we have Amber Rose. Which of course looks like gold, but it is real amber from Baltic Sea, and rose with silver stem is always made in Gdańsk- wonderful city with huge harbor at north of Poland.

Beside typical prizes in categories we have some special awards like – Photographer's Choice, Fragrance Award, already mentioned Public Award and Cristal Rose which is a special prize from Polish Association of Rose Breeders.

This year we had new, very important award – Rose of Warsaw, which is chosen by Warsaw Greenery Authority. It is a great opportunity for the winner to be in touch with Warsaw and make something special with chosen rose like baptizing or planting it in a special place in town.



'CAYENNE' (Kordes Roses)
Gold medal, section B, shrubs

First Warsaw Rose trial took place in 2020, and winner was 'Flora Colonia' from Kordes Roses. 2nd WRT also belonged to Kordes – winning rose was 'Feurio'. 3rd Amber Rose went to France to Meilland, for 'Scarlet Bonica'. This year was again for Kordes and 'Für Elise' which was an absolute bomb during the trials. She won not only main Prize, but also Fragrance Award, Public Award and Golden medal in floribunda section B.

We are looking forward for the next year Warsaw Rose Trials. We can call it a small jubilee, because it will be 5th WRT, but we will have also anniversary of 50 years of Botanical Garden of Polish Academy of Sciences. We will do our best to make the atmosphere a bit special!

All needed information, results and forms to join the Warsaw Rose Trials are available at the website: www.warsawrosetrials.pl
Botanical Garden website: www.ogrod-powsin.pl
Polish Association of rose Breeders: www.hodowcyroz.pl

Coordinator of Warsaw Rose Trials
Kamila Rakowska-Szlązkiewicz
info@warsawrosetrials.pl
0048 604 605 287



'FÜR ELISE'

The Amber Rose of Warsaw

THE HIGHEST AWARD FOR ROSES CREATED IN OUR REGION



'IWONA'

(Lukasz Rojewski, Poland)

Golden Rose - Kortrijk, 2023

Bronze Medal – Baden-Baden, 2020
Honourable Mention – Hradec
Kralove, 2022

Photo: Angela Bokor

On the 23rd June 2023 at the International Rose Contest in Kortrijk, Belgium, 'Iwona' was awarded the *Golden Rose Medal*.

Bred by Lukasz Rojewski in Poland, 'Iwona' is a compact shrub with small, glossy, medium-green foliage and lemon-yellow buds which open to single, white flowers, about 8cm in diameter. Blooming continuously throughout the season, it is a hardy shrub, very disease and frost resistant.

This high award follows the Bronze medal awarded in Baden-Baden and the Honourable Mention in Hradec Kralove.

‘PEGASUS’

(Lukasz Rojewski, Poland)

Golden medal

Grand Prix de la Ville du Roeulx

- Le Roeulx, 2023

Photo: Lukasz Rojewski



On the 1st September 2023 at the International Rose Contest in Le Roeulx, Belgium, ‘Pegasus’ was awarded the *Golden Medal* and also *Grand Prix de la Ville du Roeulx* in the Floribunda with single flowers section.

Bred by Lukasz Rojewski in Poland, ‘Pegasus’ is a small bush, growing to 1 metre high, with very good resistance to diseases. The breeder describes it as ‘covered with bright and white, snow-like flowers that, when moved by the wind resemble spread wings’. The fragrance is a ‘sensual floral note with a linden sweetness addition and also intoxicating jasmine accompanied by a dried meadow after rain fragrance’

The roses created by Lukasz Rojewski can be seen on his website rojewskiroses.com and can be bought from various nurseries in Poland. Give them a try, they will embellish your garden and offer joy to your soul!

HERITAGE ROSE CONFERENCE – BRUSSELS - JUNE 2023

Angela Bokor, Romania

The 15th International Heritage Rose Conference was held in Brussels, Belgium between 5-9 June 2023. At the opening ceremony at the Vaudeville Theater we were welcomed by the convenor, Henrienne de Briey.

With 140 participants from 25 countries, it was a good occasion to meet our rose friends and make new friendships. From our region five members attended, two from Slovenia, two from Poland and one from Romania.

During the week we had a busy but exciting programme, with interesting and informative lectures and visits to rose garden with large collections of heritage roses.

The venue of the conference was the Cercle Gaulois in the Parc de Bruxelles, with a very nice lecture hall where the lectures were presented each morning. In the afternoons we visited rose gardens in various locations.

The first visit was to Widooie private estate, an old castle with a large garden with over 350 varieties of roses. A huge 'Sally Holmes' was waiting for us to admire her.

The second garden was at castle Hex where the China Roses planted by the first owner, Count Charles von Velbruck, still exist.

The collection was enlarged by Countess Michel d'Ursel and today there are 1400 roses of 500 varieties, mostly historic roses. On the second day we visited the rosarium in the Meise Botanical Garden.



Henrienne de Briey at the opening ceremony



Cercle Gaulois – the venue of the conference

The collection of roses is relatively new, but we saw there nice specimens of both old and modern roses. There is also a large collection of species. At Meise we could see a part of Crepin's famous herbarium which comprised 43 000 specimens.



'Sally Holmes' on the wall of Widoioie castle



roses in the Castle Hex garden



garden part at castle Hex



gate at Castle Hex





Gallicas in the Meise Botanic Garden

'Lens Flair'



Rosa rubiginosa var. *Magnifica*



Crepin's herbarium

Vrijbrockpark was the next garden we saw that day.

With 10000 roses of 800 varieties, the garden has two parts, one for modern roses and one where the old garden roses are planted. We finished the day with a delicious dinner in the park.

On the third day it was Le Roeulx, the rose trial garden, where we participated to the baptism of the rose created by ILVO to honour the Prince Wauthier de Ligne.

The last day was reserved to Coloma, a large garden with 60000 roses of about 3000 varieties. In the garden there are sections presenting the roses bred in different countries.



Vrijbrockpark



'Anda' (Polyantha, Lens, 1980)



'Prince Wauthier de Ligne'



'Coloma' (M. Vissers, 1987)

Hybrid Musks
Coloma Rose Garden



roses at Coloma



Romanian roses at Coloma



Closing dinner



Svein Osen receives the WFRS flag for the next convention

UPCOMING WORLD ROSE CONVENTIONS

Next year the Swedish Rose Society will be our host for the **16th International Heritage Rose & Regional Convention**, between 2-6 July 2024. The registration is open and you can book until January 31st 2024 at an early bird fee www.nordicroses2024.com/


The Heritage Rose Association "Österlenrosor" offers what seems to be a nice rose tour before the convention in Kalmar, between 29th June – 1st July 2024. Details at <http://bit.ly/3RrSjm4>
Please have a look and I hope to see you in Sweden!

Nordic Roses 2024

Experience Roses in the Famous Nordic Light

Join our Rose conference for knowledge, inspiration and wonderful meetings. Journey through Sweden, Finland, and Norway on three unique and mesmerizing tours.


Main Tour se
July 2 – July 6



Explore the Roses of Sweden

Immerse yourself in the enchanting history of roses and rose gardens in Sweden. Visit rosariums and iconic landmarks in Kalmar, Skåne and Jönköping.


Pre-Tour fi
June 25 – July 1



Discover the Beauty of Finland

The land of 1000 lakes and unique roses. Visit gardens in Helsinki, Turku and Wasa.

Post-Tour no
July 7 – July 14



Final in the Magic World of Norway

The views, in combination with some spectacular rose gardens will stay forever in your memory. Visit Gudbrandsdalen, Trollveggen, Alesund and Bergen.

Tickets to the Pre-Tour is not sold on this website

Join our *lovely rose tour* in Österlen!

Österlenrosor celebrates twenty years 2024.

We would love to share our beautiful roses
with rose lovers from near and far!

Join our lovely rose tour in Österlen!

Welcome to three lovely days at Österlen - the landscape of roses. 29 June – 1 July 2024.

Beautiful Österlen has long been a landscape of roses. The rose has adorned the farmers' gardens and been cared for in the fishing villages. At Rosentorget in Simrishamn, the heritage rose association "Österlenrosor" has collected several hundred old roses from the villages of Österlen, a unique cultural heritage that testifies to the region's love for the rose.

Österlenrosor celebrates twenty years 2024. We would love to share our beautiful roses with rose lovers from near and far! The tour will take you to some of the landscape's most beautiful rose gardens and nurseries over three days. We will do rose walks and search for roses in the villages and participate in the "Rosfest", the Rose festival in Simrishamn. All under the knowledgeable and inspiring guidance of Österlenrosor's guides Else Olsson and Mia Gröndahl.



Else Olsson

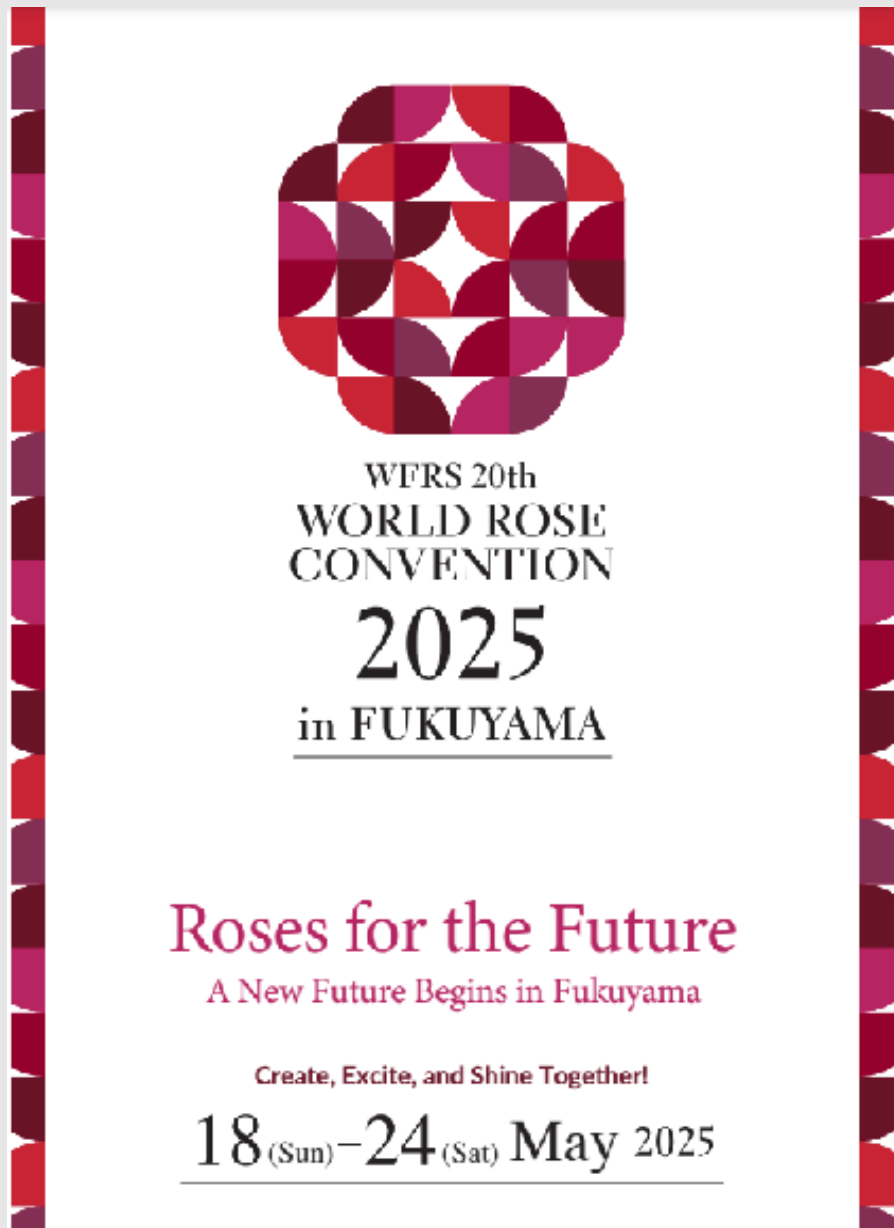


Mia Gröndahl

The 20th WFRS Rose Convention will be held in Fukuyama, Japan, between 18-24 May, 2025

The hosts offer, beside the main tour, 3 pre tours and 3 post tours to choose from.

Detailed information here <https://bit.ly/41m5idv>





Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!
May the New Year bring you
peace and beautiful roses!

Angela Bokor
WFRS Vice-President Europe

