



Rose Petals



Short Rose-Related Info-Bits to Stay Connected

September 15, 2024 Edition

Shrub Spotlight: *Gabriel Oak*

By Lynn Koba
HRS Consulting Rosarian

Gabriel Oak is an English shrub rose bred by David Austin and introduced in 2019. It is named after the faithful shepherd in Thomas Hardy's novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, which was published in 1874.

Gabriel Oak is a cross between two unnamed seedlings, according to the HelpMeFind website. The website points out that "This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of shrub rose plant named 'AUScrowd', which was originated from the cross-pollination of the two 'unnamed' and unpatented seedlings of *Rosa hybrida*. ...the seed parent has



Photo by Lynn Koba

smaller, pale pink open-cupped blooms compared to the large deep-pink, many petalled rosettes of 'AUScrowd'...the pollen parent has

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HRS Reminders

Postponement of Propagation Workshop-9/21/24

This workshop has been rescheduled to 11/16/24 due to short notice and low signups for the 9/21 workshop.

HRS Officer Elections

It's time to start thinking about nominations for our next slate of HRS Officers who will serve from 2025-2026.

Please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Cathy Matsuzaki at cathymatsuzaki@gmail.com, to let her know if you would be interested in running for any of the following positions: President; Vice President-Internal; Vice President-External; Treasurer; or Secretary.

Deadline for Nominations:

October 10th, 5pm. Voting to take place at General Membership Meeting on October 13th.

General Membership Meeting

Our annual HRS General Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, October 13th**. More details and link to follow.

Fall Rose Show at Pearlridge Mall

After many years, we are excited to announce a return to Pearlridge Shopping Center for our Fall Rose Show. Please save the date: **Saturday, October 26th, 10am-2pm with setup starting at 7am.** More details to follow.

World Federation of Rose Societies Convention May 2025 (Click for More Information)



Portland Rose Spotlight: *Rose de Rescht*



Photo by Myrna Cariaga

By Cathy Matsuzaki

Rose de Rescht is a striking Portland rose known for its deep pink, rich fuchsia-red coloration with a slight purple hue. Some sources indicate that the color may depend on the growing conditions and it may start off as a bright magenta and gradually fade to a purplish tinge as the bloom matures.

Portland roses are a small group of roses resulting from crosses among hybrid gallica, damask, centifolia and hybrid china roses. Portland roses are typically small in size, usually 4 feet tall, are repeat blooming and have very short peduncles (the stalk that attaches a single flower or cluster of flowers to the main stem of the plant). Unlike many Old Garden Roses that flower only once a year, Portland roses have the distinction of offering repeated blooms throughout the growing season. The Portland rose classification was named in honor of the Duchess of Portland.

The exact history and origin of **Rose de Rescht** is uncertain. Research done in France and England by members of the World Federation of Rose Societies Specialized Conservation Committee said that

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smaller, yellow open-cupped blooms, compared to the large, deep-pink, many petalled rosettes of 'AUScrowd'." I am amazed and appreciative of the fact that two of Austin's unnamed seedlings produced such a beautiful rose.

Gabriel Oak is a repeat-flowering Shrub. It is a medium-sized plant, about 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide when mature. **Gabriel Oak** features 3-3/4 inch deep pink blooms and abundant rosettes with up to 135 petals each. The coloring of the blooms range from deep pink in the center which pale slightly towards its outer petals.

Unlike many David Austin roses whose stems tend to nod, **Gabriel Oak's** blooms usually remain upright. However, the blooms may bend downward temporarily after a heavy drizzle due to the weight of the rain drops. This rose has a strong, fruity fragrance. Interestingly, its new leaves are a dark red color and gradually age to become dark green. The canes on my young rose have many small prickles.

Gabriel Oak is suitable to be planted in Zones 4-11. It is best



Photo by Myrna Cariaga at the David Austin Rose Garden, Shropshire, U.K.

grown facing east, south, or west and will grow in all soil types and in full sun. In Hawaii, it does best with some protection from the afternoon sun. It does well in mixed borders, as rose hedges or rose borders, in pots and containers, and as a cut flower.

My **Gabriel Oak** plant is almost two-years old and it is planted in a squat 10-gallon pot. In my yard, I have it placed facing the morning sun and protected from the stronger afternoon sun. It is still spindly-looking but it produces beautiful medium-sized blooms of outstanding color. The blooms have lasted over two-weeks in cooler weather.

This summer, the blooms were

drooping by the afternoon if the pot was not watered in the morning. This was true even if it rained the night before or early in the morning. However, **Gabriel Oak** is hardy and the blooms usually revive when the plant is watered.

This David Austin rose has good disease resistance. Blackspot is minimal. Although I don't follow a regular fungicide application schedule, **Gabriel Oak** doesn't seem to be as susceptible to Blackspot as some of my other roses. **Gabriel Oak** hasn't had a problem with Powdery Mildew either. I try to practice good plant hygiene by picking off any damaged leaves and keeping the area clear of debris to keep any diseases under control.

Spider Mites have occasionally feasted on **Gabriel Oak**, so too have Chilli Thrips. However, the damage is usually light and **Gabriel Oak** seems to be fairly resistant to them.

I believe you would enjoy having this rose in your garden, especially if you have a spot where it can be protected from the harsh afternoon sun.

Source: <https://www.helpmefind.com/gardening/1.php?l=2.8317>

Portland Rose Spotlight: *Rose de Rescht*

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this "rose was originally introduced about 1880 as a Persian rose", whereas other resources said that its origin is French. According to Wikipedia, "It seems that this rose originating in Iran was reported in the year 1880 in England, then in the year 1890 in Germany, but it was then forgotten and was not reintroduced to England until 1940-1950, when it was rediscovered in Rasht", Resht or Rescht (spellings differ), a city which is the capital of Gilan Province, Iran located along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea.

Nancy Lindsay, an English garden writer, is to be recognized for

rediscovering this rose in 1945 and she brought it back to the United Kingdom where it was reintroduced about 1950.

Rose de Rescht features an elegant old-fashioned bloom form, fully double, packed with a 50-petal count, although some say it may consist of up to 100 petals. The rose size varies from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches in diameter. The blossoms may be diminutive in size, but its stunning and vivid coloring together with its intense damask old rose fragrance is sure to draw you in closer.

Some sources indicate that **Rose de Rescht** is a good continuous bloomer while others say it gives

repeated flushes during the late spring and summer with scattered blooms into the fall season. A *flush* is a period when a rose bush produces an abundance of new blooms all at the same time, making it a stunning sight to behold and the ultimate photogenic specimen.

Rose de Rescht is a vigorous rose that has an upright growth habit and forms a compact and neat shrub with lush rough-textured medium to deep green foliage. It can reach heights of 3 to 4 feet and widths of 2-1/2 to 3 feet at maturity and has good disease resistance.

Although you probably will be

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By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

What exactly is an “English Rose?” The term English Rose was coined by none other than the Father of English Roses, David Charles Henshaw Austin in the 1970’s. It’s important to note that English Roses are not a category of rose variety itself but rather, they are a subclassification of Shrub Roses.

David C.H. Austin (1926 – 2018)



crossed some Gallica roses which were Old Garden Roses (OGRs) - roses bred before 1867 with modern roses such as Hybrid Tea or Floribunda roses. His goal was to create a “new old-rose” by taking the characteristics of OGR roses such as their elegance and fragrance and combining them with the characteristics of modern roses which were much more disease-resistant and had the ability to repeat-bloom. In his lifetime, David C.H. Austin introduced an

astounding 200+ new rose varieties to market.

In 1990, his son, David Austin, Jr. joined David Austin Roses and together, they expanded their business to Europe, the U.S., and Japan. The legacy continues as David C.H. Austin’s grandsons have also joined in the family business.

Source:

<https://www.davidaustinroses.com/pages/david-c-h-austin>

Armchair Traveler: *David Austin Rose Garden* Shropshire, England - U.K.

By Marsha Yokomichi
HRS Master Rosarian

This month’s featured rose garden is the **David Austin Rose Garden** in Shropshire, England (U.K.). Any visit to the west mid-lands of England, bordering Wales, should include a visit to this stunningly beautiful rose garden. Because it is located far off the beaten path, it is very conceivable that visitors to this remote area of England would have the sole purpose of heading specifically to this very location. One wouldn’t usually find oneself in this neck of the woods unless you intentionally sought a visit to the **David Austin Rose Garden**.

You could say that I saved the best for last as this is the final featured



rose garden that I will be covering from Myrna’s and my trip to London and Paris earlier this summer.

Located almost three hours from London, Myrna and I made the trek to the **David Austin Rose Garden** by taking a two-hour and ten-minute train ride from Euston Station to the city of Stafford. There, we rented a car and drove another 40 minutes to arrive at our destination. The trip was not an easy one as we found ourselves driving down single-lane country

lanes surrounded by lush green brush to either side of our car during the last 15 minutes of our journey. Quite a harrowing experience in any car but this one was made even more daunting because we had to drive into the brush to give-way for on-coming agricultural vehicles and other rental cars of rose-loving fans.

After turning onto Bowling Green Lane and clearing the last of the brush surrounding our car, we came to a clearing and the **David Austin Rose Garden** suddenly appeared before us almost as if it was an oasis. There, we drove past the gates lined with breathtaking *Kew Garden* roses (covered in our August

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unable to find **Rose de Rescht** at local garden centers, it can be found on the David Austin Roses website. This hardy rose thrives in sunlight but is also shade tolerant. These vibrant-colored and perfumed petite rosettes make a beautiful choice for your garden used in borders, hedges or containers.

Sources:

<https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/1.php?l=2.5467.1>

[2023 American Rose Society Handbook for Selecting Roses](https://www.americanrosesociety.org/handbook-for-selecting-roses)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_%27de_Rescht%27

<https://heirloomsroses.com/products/rose-de-rescht>

<https://eu.davidaustinroses.com/products/rose-de-rescht>

The HRS Rose Petals newsletter is published on a monthly basis. If you would like to submit an article and or photos, please email to:

myokomichi@hawaii.rr.com for possible inclusion in a future edition.

HRS Rose Petals Newsletter
Marsha Yokomichi, Editor



Armchair Traveler: *David Austin Rose Garden* Shropshire, England - U.K.

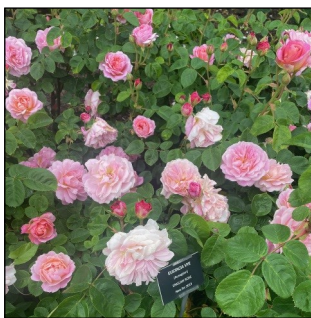
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2024 newsletter) in full bloom. A sense of achievement came over us as we almost couldn't believe we had finally arrived at a rose garden that we have been wanting to visit for many years.



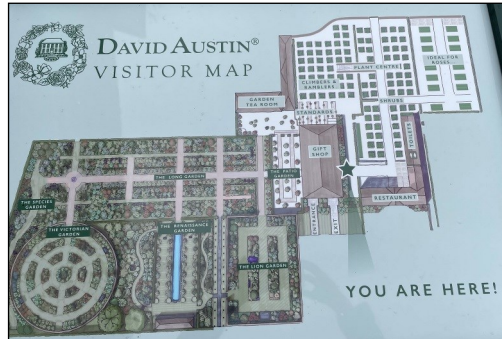
Entrance/Exit to the gift shop and gardens with a live peacock posing in the foreground.

The **David Austin Rose Garden** features over 4,000 roses in six themed-gardens situated on two-acres in the Shropshire countryside. In 2015, the garden received the prestigious *Award of Garden Excellence* award from the World Federation of Rose Societies. It is only one of three rose gardens in the United Kingdom to receive such distinction.



Eustacia Vye, Austin, 2019

I believe what makes this an extraordinary rose garden is not only the beautiful blooming roses but the charming garden vignettes that comprise this garden. Each one being a masterpiece in its own right then connecting to yet another with each passing turn. Lush green grass with bounds of blooming roses interspersed with companion



plantings made each separate vignette truly a delight for the senses. Immaculate garden maintenance by the staff which left no weeds or spent blooms to be seen anywhere meant that the garden was picture-perfect no matter which direction you turned your camera. Simply amazing!

The roses we saw blooming throughout the garden seemed to enjoy the crisp 50-degree (Fahrenheit) temperature and slightly over-cast skies that we experienced during our visit in late May this year. The brisk wind probably made the wind-chill factor seem more like temperatures were



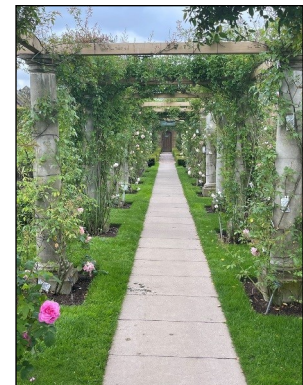
The Lion Garden features a lion sculpture made by the late Pat Austin, wife of David Austin, who was an accomplished sculptress.

in the mid-40s. It's no wonder that some of the rose varieties that we were familiar with from our own plantings in Hawaii seemed a lot

larger in this ideal climate for roses. We even spotted a spray of *Iceberg* roses that seemed like a totally different variety because of its sheer bloom size!



We spent about an hour-and-a-half roaming through the themed gardens at the **David Austin Rose Garden** and reluctantly retreated indoors when our hands felt like they were freezing. Ah, but what better place to take refuge from the cold than in the *David Austin Tea Room*. There, we enjoyed piping hot English tea and freshly-baked scones before heading out to visit the remainder of the garden and of course, the fabulous gift shop, for another hour.



The Long Garden is the central point where all other rose gardens in the David Austin Rose Garden lead.

The **David Austin Rose Garden** is located at Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton WV7 3HB, U.K. They are open seven days a week, 9am to 5pm, and admission is free. You probably won't ever find yourself just passing through the vicinity but a special trip to this exquisite rose garden is surely warranted. Visiting the **David Austin Rose Garden** in the Albrighton is something that should be on every rose lover's bucket list!

Source: <https://www.davidaustinroses.com/pages/david-austin-rose-gardens>

All photos by Myrna Cariaga