

**FAMOUS FLORIBUNDA ROSES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDEN  
“DIMITRIE BRANDZA” ROSARIUM IN BUCHAREST**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Since the beginning of time, flowers have been a way to celebrate all the major events in our life. Roses breeders captured moments in history from famous painters like ‘Paul Gauguin’ or great personalities such as ‘Queen Elizabeth’, to melodies that we are remembering since the first time we heard them, like Gershwin’s ‘Rhapsody in Blue’. In this paper we will try to highlight some floribunda roses that are famous by their name and the importance they represent for the collections of roses.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Roses like all flowers have been an inspiration for breeders, through the diversity of chromatics and fragrance. These real "painters" selected important characters and played with the palette of colors and aromas, giving birth to real "masterpieces" that have marked important events, world personalities or the commemoration of loved ones. From one of the first roses created to make sweets (‘Rose de Rescht’ in France, 1840) until today when there are over 40,000 cultivars, roses have been given names that remind us of important personalities such as ‘Queen Elizabeth’, ‘Leonardo da Vinci’, ‘Paul Gauguin’, Other were created to remember the loved ones such as ‘Judit’ created by Stefan Wagner in his wife honor. In this paper we highlight some floribunda roses that are famous by their name or the importance they represent for the collections of roses (Wagner, 2002).

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Like all those owning rose collections, we are interested in the ones that made an impact in history or have something unique, like the name. The presented cultivars are from the rose collection of the Botanic Garden "D. Brandza" - University of Bucharest. In this collection there are approximately 300 cultivars represented by 5000 bushes. We will present some of the most famous floribunda cultivars.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

‘Judit’ (Figure 1.)

Origin: ‘Rosabunda’ × ‘Circus’

Bred by Stefan Wagner, Romania 1996.

Description: Bushes of medium vigor up to 70 cm/40 cm. The leaves are glossy with leathery texture. Flowers are light yellow with darker center and up to 30

petals. Mild fragrance. Blooms in flushes throughout the season. It was created in memory of his beloved dead wife (Wagner, 2002).



Figure 1. 'Judit' (Photo orig.)  
**'Leonardo da Vinci'** (Figure 2.)

Synonyms: 'MEIdeauri'

Origin: seed 'Sommerwind' x pollen 'Milrose' x 'Rosamunde'.

Bred by Alain Meilland, France 1993.

Description: Vigorous with 150cm/ 120cm. Flowers are light pink with up to 80 petals and a mild, tea fragrance, cluster-flowered in small clusters, old-fashioned, quartered bloom form. Continuous bloom throughout the season. The leaves are medium size, glossy, dark green, dense and leathery foliage. This rose was created in honor of the great Da Vinci (Quest-Ritson, 2008).

Awards: 1993 - Monza Rose Trials - Monza Gold Medal



Figure 2. 'Leonardo da Vinci' (Photo orig.)

**'Paul Gauguin'** (Figure 3.)

Synonyms: 'DELstrichoc', 'Nadia Santini'

Bred by G. Delbard, France 2006.

Description: Medium vigor with 100cm/ 60cm. Flowers are yellow and pink in stripes when they bloom and turn in scarlet pink, with no fragrance and up to 25 petals. Blooms in flushes throughout the season.

Awards: 2010 - Glasgow Rose Trials - Glasgow People's Choice (www.helpmefind.com)



Figure 3. 'Paul Gauguin' (Photo orig.)

**'Queen Elizabeth'** (Figure 4.)

Synonyms: 'The Queen Rose', 'Queen of England'

Origin: 'Charlotte Armstrong' x 'Floradora'.

Bred by Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, United States 1951

Description: Vigorous bushes, 160/60 cm, with erect and long branches. Dark green large, leathery, glossy leaves. Convolved flowers (38-40 petals), large (10 cm), solitary or grouped. Delicate pure pink petals, weak fern moss or woody fragrance. Pointed buds. Good resistance to diseases. It is suitable for planting in small groups, hedges or solitary (Quest-Ritson, 2008). The flowers are arranged sometimes in a stylish menorah shape.

Awards: 2015 - Biltmore - Best Established Rose-Biltmore International Rose Trials

2000 - Court of Show / Honor - Lower Cape Rose Society Show

1999 - Best Grandiflora Spray or Specimen (CRS) - Huronia Rose Society Show  
Queen of Show (CRS) - Huronia Rose Society Show

1979 - WFRS Rose Hall of Fame (The World's Favorite Rose) - World Federation of Rose Societies Convention

1967 - The Hague Golden Rose - The Hague Rose Trials  
 1960 - National Gold Medal Certificate (ARS) - American Rose Society Show  
 1957 - Gertrude M. Hubbard Gold Medal (ARS) - American Rose Society Show  
 The Hague Gold Medal - The Hague Rose Trials  
 1955 - All-America Rose Selection - All-America Rose Selection Rose Trials  
 Gold Medal - Royal National Rose Society (RNRS) Show or Trials.  
 PIT President's International Trophy (Great Britain) - Royal National Rose  
 Society (RNRS) Show or Trials.  
 1954 - Portland Gold Medal - Portland Rose Trials



Figure 4. 'Queen Elizabeth' (Photo orig.)

**'Rhapsody in Blue'** (Figure 5.)

Synonyms: 'FRAntasia'

Origin: seed 'Summer Wine' x pollen 'International Herald Tribune' x {'Blue Moon' x 'Montezuma'} x {'Violacea' x 'Montezuma'}}

Bred by Frank R. Cowlshaw, U. K. 1999.

Description: Medium vigor with 160/50 cm, Flowers are plum purple when open and fade to slate blue with lighter reverse, 13-17 petals. The leaves are medium, glossy, medium green foliage. The fragrance is mild to strong, musk. Very resistant to diseases, susceptible to blackspot (Roger P. & Martyn R., 2004). It was created for anyone that love Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue"

Awards: 2018 -Hamilton - Best Shrub Rose - New Zealand Rose Trials

2003 - RHS - Rose of The Year (Great Britain) - Royal Horticultural Society

Show

1999 - RNRS Gold Medal - Royal National Rose Society (RNRS) Show or

Trials



Figure 5. 'Rhapsody in Blue' (Photo orig.)

**'Rose de Rescht'** (Figure 6.)

Synonyms: 'Rose de Resht'

Bred by unknown, France 1840

Description: Medium vigor with 120/50 cm. Flowers has a strong, damask fragrance, petals are purple and red, up to 50. Average diameter 6-7 cm. Spring or summer flush with scattered later bloom. Petals are used to make sweets like gem, syrup and candies or cosmetics like soap and perfume (Quest-Ritson, 2008).

Awards: 2001 - Victorian (ARS): ARS Fall National Show; California Coastal Rose Society Rose Show; Central Florida Rose Society Show; Chesapeake & Delaware Society Rose Show; Del-Chester Rose Society Show; Forest City Rose Society Show; Gateway Rose Society Show; Glendale Rose Society Show; Greater Harrisburg Rose Society Show; Huntington Rose Society Show; Illinois/Indiana District Show; Lake Superior Rose Society Show; Lewis County Rose Society Show; Lodi-Woodbridge Rose Society Show; Long Island Rose Society Show; Nashville Rose Society Show; Northeastern Illinois Rose Society Show; Portland Rose Society Show; Southern Tier Rose Society Show; Temecula Valley Rose Society Show; Topeka Rose Society Show; Valley Rose Society Show

2000 – Genesis: San Francisco Rose Society Show

Victorian (ARS): Austin Rose Society Show; California Coastal Rose Society Rose Show; Contra Costa Rose Society Show; Dallas Rose Society Show; East Bay Rose Society Show; Fair Friends of the Rose Show; Greater Rochester Rose Society Show; Lower Cape Rose Society Show; Minnesota Rose Society Show; Nashville Rose Society Show; Olympia Rose Society Show and Pacific Northwest; District Show; Portland Rose Society Show; Rhode Island Rose Society Show; San Antonio Rose Society Show; Topeka Rose Society Show; Twin Cities Rose Club Show

1999 - Victorian (ARS): Albuquerque Rose Society Show; Austin Rose Society Show; Cleveland & Northeastern Ohio Rose Society Show; Colonial/Penn-Jersey Joint District Show; Contra Costa Rose Society Show; Corpus Christi Rose Society Show; Denver Rose Society Show; Forest City Rose Society Show; Greensboro Rose Society Show; Huntsville Twickenham Rose Society Show; Lodi-Woodbridge Rose Society Show; Milwaukee Rose Society Show; Milwaukie Rose Society Show; Northeastern Illinois Rose Society Show; Redwood Empire Rose Society Show; Roanoke Rose Society Show; San Antonio Rose Society Show; San Diego Rose Society Show; Seattle Rose Society Show; West Pasco Rose Society Show

1998 - Victorian (ARS): Baton Rouge Rose Society Show; Patrick Henry Rose Society Show; Tidewater Rose Society Show; West Pasco Rose Society Show

1993 - RHS Award of Merit - RHS Award of Merit.



Figure 6. 'Rose de Rescht' (Photo orig.)

Breeders will not stop creating new cultivars of roses. That's why roses will always be present in our gardens and find a way to be part of a major event or to remember us about a personality or a loved one. From famous painters to commemorating queens (Wagner, 2010). The Rosarium from the Botanic Garden in Bucharest will always try to expand by adding new and famous cultivars for people to enjoy.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The rose, a real "Queen of flowers", had an impact throughout history, by commemorating important people or simply by reminding of the loved ones.

Roses still remain an important element in all gardens where they will bring a nostalgic air and ennoble the landscape.

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