



# NEWS RELEASE

## American Rose Society

P. O. Box 30,000 • Shreveport, LA 71130-0030  
8877 Jefferson Paige Road • Shreveport, LA 71119-8817  
Phone: 318-938-5402 • Fax: 318-938-5405 • [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ANNOUNCING THE 2021 WINNERS OF THE AMERICAN ROSE CENTER INTERNATIONAL ROSE TRIALS

**Shreveport, LA** — The Best Roses of the Trials were awarded at a Celebrity Luncheon on October 30, 2021. It was the First Annual Rose Trials Awards Presentation for the American Rose Center, which followed the morning's Celebrity Judging – the final judging of 2019 rose entries.

Rose trials have been a long-held tradition especially in Europe. Today, there are 28 Rose Trials locations in 16 countries around the world, including the U.S., where rose breeders offer their finest rose introductions to be grown in trial grounds for at least two years before winners are announced. Other trials in the U.S. are located at Portland, OR, Rose Hills, CA and Mesa Valley, AZ.

The American Rose Center initiated its Rose Trials in 2019 as a goal of the Garden's master plan and the Great Garden Restoration Project. The site of the Trials is the magnificent Windsounds Carillon Tower, a 30' tall sculpture within the grounds of America's Rose Garden. After the roses in trials were judged for two years, five times per year, the time came for final judging and presentation of awards.

Winner of the ARC GOLD MEDAL for the Dr. J. Horace McFarland Award for Most Outstanding Rose of the Trials is the Grandiflora Rose 'SWEET SPIRIT'. Breeder of the rose is Alain Meilland of the House of Meilland, France. Introducer of the rose is Star Roses & Plants.

The rose, 'Sweet Spirit' "was created by artificial pollination wherein two parents were crossed, which parents had previously been studied in the hope they would contribute the desired characteristics. The male parent was the 'Radrass' variety," code name for the revolutionary rose 'Knock Out' by Will Radler (which helps to explain its disease resistance). The rose, classed as a Grandiflora, is described as "deep pink, mauve reverse. Strong, damask, fruity, sweet fragrance. Up to 35 petals. Average bloom diameter 3.75". Blooms are large, very double, in small cluster form. Blooms in flushes throughout the season." (*House of Meilland*) Foliage is dark green and semi-glossy. Plant height is 3-4 feet.



'Sweet Spirit' was first awarded the Jane Owen & Quintin T. Hardtner, Jr. Award for Best Grandiflora Rose before taking the Gold Medal, and swept these additional top awards:

Virginia K. Shehee Award for Most Fragrant Rose;  
William J. Radler Award for Most Disease Resistant Rose;  
Dr. Joseph & Marion Klima Award for Best Garden Impression Rose.

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Other award-winning roses were:

American Rose Society President's Award for Best Hybrid Tea Rose: 'SWEET MADEMOISELLE', bred by Alain Meilland for the House of Meilland; introduced by Star Roses & Plants. This garden beauty is described as "old fashioned", with 48-68 petals, fragrant, large to 5", in a luscious rose-pink with orange-pink shades. The bush is large, up to 72" tall, and healthy. (RIGHT, TOP)



Dr. Charles & Carolyn Beaird Award for Best Climbing Rose: 'HIGH WIRE FLYER', bred by Will Radler; introduced by Star Roses & Plants. The bloom is described as "hot pink" with very slight fragrance. Foliage is dark green, semi-glossy and very healthy. Already a winner in the American Rose Trials for Sustainability, it has received a rating of 8.5 (of 10.0) in the 2022 Handbook for Selecting Roses. (RIGHT, BOTTOM)



ARS President Emeritus Dr. Jim Hering Award for best Miniflora Rose: 'TRUE LOVE', aka "Red Captain," bred by Ping Lim; introduced by Altman Plants. It is a low growing rose, up to 18" in height, which produces blooms of a powerful red. Blooms are very full, with 40 or more petals. (BELOW)



American Rose Center Committee Award for Best Shrub Rose in Bush Form: 'TRUE PERFUME', aka "Lady First", bred by Ping Lim; introduced by Altman Plants. This rose produces pretty pink blooms on a lovely bush, with healthy foliage. With a name that includes "perfume," it has to be fragrant.

Volunteers of America's Rose Garden Award for Best Shrub Rose in Groundcover Form: 'OSO EASY DOUBLE PINK', bred by Alain Meilland; introduced by Spring Meadow. It is a low growing, pretty pink rose with 17-25 petals. (LEFT)



Rose descriptions, in part, from [www.helpmefind.com](http://www.helpmefind.com)

Media Contact: Jon Corkern, Executive Director • [executivedirector@rose.org](mailto:executivedirector@rose.org) • 318-938-5402

**About the American Rose Society:** The American Rose Society is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1892 to promote the culture, preservation and appreciation of the rose and to improve its standard of excellence for all people through education and research. Its headquarters is located in Shreveport, Louisiana, at the American Rose Center, home of "America's Rose Garden."

**About the American Rose Center:** The American Rose Center was established in 1974 and serves as the national headquarters site for the American Rose Society. The Center is the largest public garden in the United States dedicated to roses.