

World Rose News

The Newsletter of the
WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES

September 2021 / Volume 32 / Number 3



'The Imposter'
JP Mattia Cover

2ND EDITION OF THE CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE LA ROSE NOUVELLE DE NYON IS A HUGE HIT

By Jean-Luc Pasquier & Hester Macdonald, Photos ©Michel Perret, ADN Ville de Nyon, with permission

The second edition of the Swiss trial was a huge hit with breeders, the juries and invitees. It took place on 26 June 2021, having been delayed, like several other European competitions, due to poor spring weather. Despite 87mm of rain having fallen in the 7 days before the competition, the roses were in superb condition.

The competition is globally unique, it is a “zero treatment” trial, with no biological or chemical treatments permitted. This is to reflect the increasing awareness of rose growers and gardeners for zero treatment plants, and the efforts of breeders to meet these needs.

For this second edition, the first roses arrived in March 2019, for the park, ground-cover and climbers, and the second arrivals were in March 2020 for the remaining categories. The roses were watered, were weeded by hand, and were fed with compost. The excellent and dedicated team at the Services des Espaces Verts et Forêts (parks, gardens and forests) of the Ville de Nyon (SEVN) did an incredible job maintaining the rose garden, and continue to do so, as the roses for 2022 are already in place and thriving.



Drone photo of the rose garden and judging

Under the auspices of the World Federation of Rose Societies, the judging is undertaken by the Permanent Jury, who assessed the roses up to 14 times, plus an international jury on the day of the competition. Both juries are staffed with professionals, experts and keen amateur growers, who are delighted to participate in the trial. The Présidente of the Jury was Monique de Clarens, member of the permanent jury of Bagatelle, member of the commission of roses for the SNHF, member of the international jury for Barcelona, Madrid, Rome, Lyon, Baden-Baden, Le Roeulx, Monaco, Belfast (and previously Geneva), and Chairman of the WFRS Awards Committee from 2012 to 2018.

The points were awarded according to the WFRS standard, 30 points for the plant, 30 points for flowers, 30 points for disease and pest resistance and 10 points for fragrance. There is also a separate permanent jury for fragrance, containing several “noses” who visited on multiple occasions while the roses were in flower over the 2 or 3 years.

Medals were awarded according to the points, 73 points and over for a gold medal, 68 to 72 points for a silver medal and between 63 and 67 points for a merit certificate. The Rose d'Or is the variety with the most points, in any category. The Coupe du Parfum is awarded by the fragrance jury.

The organisation of the trial is managed by a sub-commission of the Société Romande des Amis des Roses et d'Horticulture, with significant support from the SEVN.

90 new roses, 30 breeders, 13 countries!

The first edition in 2020 included 88 varieties, with 27 breeders and 13 countries. 2021 has proved even bigger with 90 new roses, 30 breeders and 13 countries! With an incredible 127 varieties in the trial for 2022, the organising committee has now instituted restrictions on how many roses can be entered by each breeder, from 2023, as space is limited in the rose garden.

The winner of the Rose d'Or is awarded to the rose with the highest overall score, and was won in 2021 by 'Circle of Life®' bred by Rosen Tantau in Germany.



Rose d'Or Winner: 'Circle of Life®'

The winner of the Coupe du Parfum was won by the 'ORAgidel' rose (no commercial name as yet) bred by Roseraies Orard, France. It was described by the "noses" as containing "excellent rose notes, geranium, iris, violet and powder."



Coupe du Parfum Winner 'ORAgidel'



Left: Scan for full rose trial results, Right: New label for garden

A new label

The trial has given rise to a new label “Nyon Zero Traitement” (shown above) that is available to be used by any medal winners, on their marketing, communications, or in store. It is intended to support the breeders in their efforts to create disease and pest resistant roses, and to help consumers choose roses that match their zero treatment expectations.

A new rose!

The trial day was crowned by the baptism of a new rose, the lovely SWEET FRIENDLY ‘Christina Meylan’ named for the wife of Gérald Meylan, Commissaire of the Trial. Gérald, as many of you will know, is a WFRS Past President, and has helped to create, supported or organised, rose trials across the world. After 55 years of active involvement in rose trials, he will be retiring, and the rose is a thank you to his wife “Thanks to Christina, I have had the chance to live this passion, and the honour is due to her.”

The rose is a Meilland creation, part of their FRIENDLY range, and it perfectly matches the values of the Nyon trial. It is floriferous, nectar-rich, fruits abundantly to provide a wildlife food source in winter, and is very resistant to pests and diseases. It is ideal to add to any garden or park, to support biodiversity and add a touch of beauty wherever it is planted.



Left: Baptism of the rose ‘Christina Meylan’, From left to right: Alain Meilland, Jean-Luc Pasquier, Christina Meylan, Gérald Meylan

Right: Jean-Luc Pasquier does the baptism honours with Christina Meylan (middle), Gérald Meylan (right)