

Coming Up Roses

12 classic beauties that thrive in the desert Southwest

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"A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE," wrote Gertrude Stein in 1913. While this adage may hold true for many varieties of this garden darling, it doesn't necessarily apply to every type recommended for the low desert. With our mild winters, dry springs and falls, and scorching summers, some varieties simply do better than others.

We asked Dona Martin, an American Rose Society consulting

rosarian and president of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society, to recommend her favorites for the Valley of the Sun. Several of her choices include All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winners—a designation given to roses that offer the best traits with regard to disease resistance, flower production, color and fragrance. Here are her top 12 picks.



'ST. PATRICK'—*hybrid tea*

Description: Large, lightly scented deep-yellow blooms tinged with green.

Best traits: Slow-opening flowers; produces perfectly formed double blossoms; its green color comes from chlorophyll in the petals, which gives the blooms an increased ability to withstand high temperatures; AARS winner.

ROSE TYPES

Climbers: Strong plants that produce long, arching canes with blooms of various forms, shapes and colors. They can be trained to grow over or around arbors, fences, trellises and walls.

Floribundas: Characterized by their ability to bear profuse flowers in large clusters, with more than one blossom in bloom at any one time.

Grandifloras: These roses are similar in height and form to hybrid teas but produce more sprays.

Hybrid teas: The most commonly known class of modern roses, they produce large, long-stemmed blooms (usually one per stem).

Miniatures: Smaller versions of modern hybrid teas and floribundas, with blooms up to 1 inch in diameter.

Polyanthas: Continuous bloomers, these roses are characterized by a profusion of flowers, about 1 inch in diameter, that form large sprays.

Shrubs: Noted for their hardiness and sprawling shape, shrub roses produce large quantities of flowers, singly or in clusters. They often resemble old garden roses in shape and form but are recurrent bloomers and usually have a strong fragrance.

SOURCE: MESA-EAST VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY

'FOURTH OF JULY'—*climber*

Description: Large clusters of semi-double red-and-white-striped ruffled blooms.
Best traits: Vigorous climber; excellent repeat bloom; strong sweet-apple scent; hardy; disease-resistant; AARS winner.





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1. 'FLOWER GIRL'—*shrub*. Description: Produces pendulous clusters of butterfly-like small pastel-pink-and-cream flowers. Best traits: Vigorous, showy bloomer; consistent performer; mild apple fragrance; hardy. **2. 'BEE'S KNEES'**—*miniature*. Description: Small blooms of hybrid-tea form come in multiple colors including yellow-and-pink; offers a slight scent. Best traits: Vigorous bloomer; more color appears as the blossoms open; excellent flower form. **3. 'WING DING'**—*polyantha*. Description: Puts out hundreds of deep-red, mildly fragrant flowers. Best traits: Prolific bloomer; eye-catching as both a single plant or in groups; long-lasting blossoms that are uniform in shape. **4. 'MARILYN MONROE'**—*hybrid tea*. Description: Apricot color with elegantly shaped flowers and thick petals. Best traits: Likes hot weather; excellent disease-resistance; delicate citrus fragrance; suitable for cutting; good rebloom and vase life. **5. 'SEXY REXY'**—*floribunda*. Description: Medium-pink rosette-shaped flowers with a mild aroma. Best traits: Masses of attractive ruffled blossoms; prolific grower; disease-resistant; excellent bedding rose. **6. 'WILD BLUE YONDER'**—*grandiflora*. Description: Clusters of ruffled deep-purple

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roses with bright-yellow stamens. **Best traits:** Strong citrus and rose fragrance; camellia-like form; deeper colors with cooler temperatures; AARS winner. **7. 'MOLINEUX'**—*shrub*. **Description:** This David Austin English rose features many-petaled golden-yellow blooms that open to apricot-color centers. **Best traits:** Continuous bloomer; extra vigorous; highly perfumed. **8. 'MARMALADE SKIES'**—*floribunda*. **Description:** Five to eight tangerine-orange blooms on each stem bearing a mild scent. **Best traits:** Blooms continuously; a single cluster can produce a full bouquet; makes an exceptional hedge rose; disease-resistant; AARS winner. **9. 'GEMINI'**—*hybrid tea*. **Description:** Well-shaped coral-pink blossoms form—in singles and clusters—on long stems. **Best traits:** Vigorous bloomer; scent is reminiscent of fresh papaya; disease-resistant foliage; ideal for cutting; considered to be one of the best-performing hybrid teas; AARS winner. **10. 'JULIA CHILD'**—*floribunda*. **Description:** Small clusters of butter-yellow blossoms. **Best traits:** Blooms in the heat of summer; vigorous grower; many flowers to a stem; disease-resistant foliage; sweet licorice perfume; fully petaled flower; AARS winner. ☐ *See Sources.*



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