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*The Quest for the Rose* is both a record of the history of this most beautiful and evocative of flowers and the most lavishly illustrated practical reference guide to over a thousand roses throughout history.

The first chapters look at the rose in myth and art and trace its mysterious origins in the ancient Middle East. First depicted four thousand years ago, on the walls of the palace of Minos in Crete, it reached a peak of popularity in classical Greece and Rome. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the rose was much favored by the Dutch flower painters. The early nineteenth century saw a revolution in its cultivation, inspired by the Empress Josephine.

*The Quest for the Rose* also takes readers to modern-day China on a search for the progenitors of today's modern roses, in particular for the "four stud Chinas," ancestors of our hybrid teas.

In the main reference section of the book, roses are divided into groups that include wild and old ones as well as modern roses such as floribundas and David Austin's English roses. Each rose is photographed and described in detail, with practical information about flowering, scent, and height, so it is easy to choose exactly the right rose for your garden. Pocket biographies of important rose breeders provide a background to the continuing development of the cultivated rose. Finally, there is a list



of roses recommended for their availability, health, and ease of cultivation. Illustrated with more than a thousand color photographs that enrich a highly informative text, *The Quest for the Rose* is bound to have a proud place on every gardener's shelf.  
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