

A rose by any other name...

It's Spring Carnival and Melbourne Cup time and nothing says this more than the stunning rose display at Flemington.

Roses can bring colour and scent to any garden and they are relatively resilient. After all, they are closely related to the blackberry!

There are hundreds of roses on the market which can make the task of choosing one a little daunting. However, by answering the three simple questions below and talking to your local nursery, your decision will be made a lot easier.

1. Where do you want to grow the rose?
2. What colour do you want?
3. What type of flower (shape, scent, repeat flowering)?

Your answer to the first question will determine the type of rose you are after. For a border or under taller plants, then the answer is a carpet rose. For something to add colour to a garden bed then the solution is a bush rose. A standard rose will give a more formal look and, if you want to cover a wall or an arbour then the answer is a climbing rose. Your answer to the second and third questions will help narrow the search to your colour and flower preference.

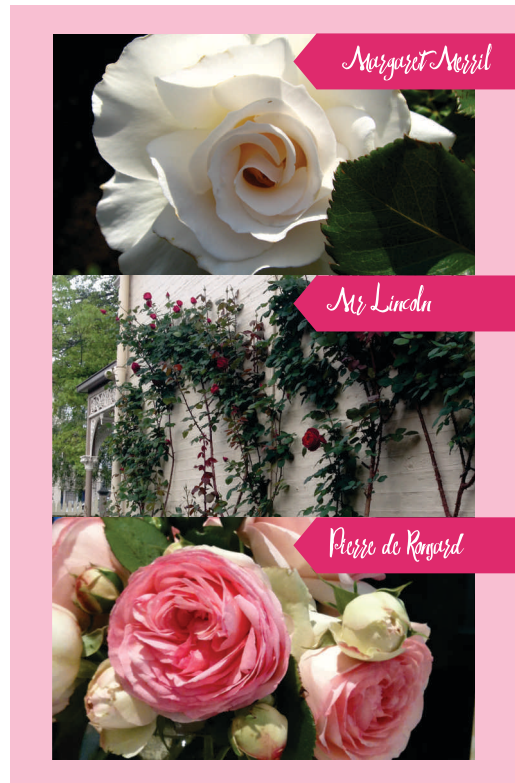
Or if you are after an even simpler choice, here are some of my favourites that I know do well in Melbourne gardens.

Margaret Merril

A floribunda rose with beautiful, white, scented flowers. Its flowers are a classic rose shape and appear in clusters on the bush. It will repeat flower after light pruning. Margaret Merril is available as a shrub or standard rose. The latter makes an excellent alternative to the somewhat overused Iceberg.

Just Joey

A beautiful hybrid tea rose with large coppery orange flowers that pale to soft pink at the edges. This rose looks sensational as a standard rose in any garden. The lush foliage and stunning flowers sit high and majestically above the rest of the garden planting.



Mister Lincoln

If red is your colour then Mr Lincoln is your rose. A large flowered rose with deep red flowers that hold their colour and don't fade with age as some red roses do. It is available as a shrub but I prefer it as a climber. The arching canes sit beautifully against a wall and present colour for the world to see.

Pierre de Ronsard

A true climbing rose with large, double, pale pink blooms. This versatile climber looks great against a wall or scrambling over an arbour. The delicate colour, form and scent of the flowers is exquisite.

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