A logo with a letter and flowers

AI-generated content may be incorrect. ***A black and white logo with a rose

AI-generated content may be incorrect.***

**NEW ENGLISH ROSES LAUNCHED TO CELEBRATE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF JANE AUSTEN’S BIRTH**

Harkness Roses 1879, the oldest rose growers in the UK, will launch two new roses as part of the Jane Austen Collection at this year’s RHS Hampton Court Flower Show to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen’s birth.

The Jane Austen Collection has been produced in partnership with Jane Austen’s House; the Hampshire cottage where Jane Austen lived for the last eight years of her life and where she wrote, revised and published her novels. A donation from the sale of each rose will go to Jane Austen’s House which is an independent charity.

The stunning new varieties that took Harkness Roses twelveyears to develop through our special breeding process has created two roses with exceptional resilience, beauty and fragrance. The roses are named after two of Jane Austen’s novels, *Persuasion* and *Emma,* which Jane Austen wrote whilst living at her home in Chawton, now Jane Austen’s House.

**Persuasion**

**A close up of a flower

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

The first impression is striking: the strength and depth of the deep pink colour commands attention. Bold yet bright, it radiates energy and confidence. Once the eye adjusts to this vivid intensity, the form of the flower delivers a second surprise: *Wow*! With over 80 petals crowding in a lavish display, the bloom appears almost chaotic at first glance. But then, order emerges from the exuberance, and the complexity reveals itself in its breathtaking beauty. The light, spicy fragrance adds a subtle charm, while mid-green foliage with a glossy sheen provides the perfect foil for the flamboyant flowers. Reaching up to 1.2 metres in height, this is a true statement plant - bold, beautiful, and impossible to ignore in any garden setting.

**Emma**

**A close-up of a pink rose

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

Each row of petals unfurls gracefully, forming a proud, well-shaped, and exquisitely beautiful bloom. With 40 petals arranged in nature’s perfect symmetry, the flower creates a joyful circle of soft elegance. A dominant light to rose pink hue lends a delicate charm, catching the sunlight with a gentle twinkle. The fragrance is light and fruity, yet delightfully uplifting. Contrasting deep green foliage enhances the blossoms, making each flower stand out vividly. Supported by a strong, sturdy plant, this rose reaches a mature height of approximately 1.0 metre, making it an ideal choice for both garden beds and decorative borders.

Harkness Roses 1879 is the oldest rose breeder in the UK and have a world leading reputation for growing stunning varieties of roses. Their unrivalled pedigree has earned Royal approval as suppliers for the Royal Family dating back to Queen Victoria, who purchased roses from Harkness and Sons in the 1890s.

The two new roses are part of the Jane Austen Collection and a donation from the sale of each rose will go to Jane Austen’s House.

Jane Austen’s House Director Lizzie Dunford says: “The launch of these two new roses is a wonderful way to celebrate the 250th birthday of one of the world’s most beloved authors. Here at Jane Austen’s House, we are delighted that gardeners will be able to have a part of Jane Austen’s legacy in their gardens.”

Managing Director, Philip Harkness, commented: *“*The Jane Austen Collection, which we have produced in collaboration with Jane Austen’s House, is a wonderful journey through the versatility and range of modern roses. ‘Emma’ adds a classic hybrid tea bush rose to the collection; ‘Persuasion’ brings a strength of colour, rarely found. These join ‘Sense and Sensibility’ and ‘Chawton Cottage’, two climbing roses of completely different styles, and ‘Jane Austen’ and ‘Pride and Prejudice’, two outstanding floribunda bush roses. We are proud to celebrate Jane Austen’s legacy through these unique and beautiful plants*.”*

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Harkness Roses 1879**

* World-leading breeders, Harkness Roses 1879, is the oldest rose growing company in the UK.
* The company was founded in 1879 in Bedale, Yorkshire, by brothers John and Robert Harkness.

Now based in Hitchin, Harkness Roses remains a thriving, family-run business with more than 200 varieties grown and bred from its dedicated breeding programme led by Managing Director Philip Harkness and his team.

* Harkness Roses 1879 has a long history of supplying and creating the nation’s favourite flower for the Royal Family, dating back to Queen Victoria who purchased roses from Harkness and Sons in the 1890s.

They have also created unique variety of roses named in honour of the late Queen, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and Diana, Princess of Wales.

* Harkness Roses 1879 has won many awards over the years for their exquisite beauty, superb fragrance and award-winning quality. With a collection growing every year, welcoming new varieties, Harkness roses promise to captivate and endure.

For every rose sold we are proud to donate £2.50 to Jane Austen’s House. ‘Emma’ and ‘Persuasion’ are available to buy at [roses.co.uk](https://www.roses.co.uk/)

The selling price is £24.99 for bare root or £29.99for a 3-4 litre potted rose.

For more information, please contact media@harkness1879.com

**About Jane Austen’s House**

Jane Austen’s House in Chawton, Hampshire, is an ACE accredited museum set in the house where Jane Austen lived and wrote. It is the most treasured Austen site in the world. It was here that Jane’s genius flourished and where she revised, wrote, and had published all her major works*: Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma, Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion.*

The Museum holds an important collection of objects associated with Jane Austen, including letters written by Jane and personal effects belonging to her and her family. Particular highlights include her jewellery and the table at which she wrote her much-loved novels.

Jane lived at what is now Jane Austen’s House for the last eight years of her life. She moved here in 1809 with her mother, sister Cassandra and friend Martha Lloyd after a period spent living in lodgings. The house was owned by Jane’s brother Edward, who had been adopted by the wealthy Knight family and had since inherited the Chawton Estate. The house – a 17th century building – was offered to the women rent-free for life.

In May 1817, after a period of ill health, Jane Austen left the village to seek medical treatment in Winchester. She died two months later, on 18 July 1817. Jane’s mother and sister continued to live at the house for the rest of their lives. In 1845 the house was split into three dwellings to provide homes for staff on the Chawton estate and the building remained in this state until it was put up for sale in 1947. After an appeal by the Jane Austen Society, the house was bought by Mr T.E. Carpenter who turned it into a museum dedicated to the life and works of Jane Austen, opening to the public in 1949.

**Jane Austen’s House Press Images**

**[Press Images available to download.](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/sufqaf9386bdeb0aqf9xr/AB_bcFpL-j12Xr7NBaPylgE?rlkey=klr15nllpd60upzxz9fvxjmcz&st=8eal79af&dl=0)**

Please use listed credits or the credit: Jane Austen’s House.

**Contact for Jane Austen’s House:**

Amelia Harvell, Head of Marketing and Communications

[Amelia.Harvell@janeaustens.house](mailto:Amelia.Harvell@janeaustens.house)

ENDS