

# Rose Suma Rikyu Park: A Fragrant Oasis in the Heart of Kobe

## A Blossoming Legacy: The Story of Suma Rikyu Park

Nestled in the vibrant city of Kobe, Suma Rikyu Park stands as a testament to the enduring love for nature and beauty. Its origins can be traced back to the Edo period (1603-1868), when wealthy merchants sought solace and tranquility amidst the bustling urban landscape. They created elaborate gardens filled with fragrant flowers, tranquil ponds, and elegant tea houses, transforming the area into a sanctuary for relaxation and contemplation.



### Rose: Suma Rikyu-Park (Kobe City Story series Book 5)

by Elinor LeBaron

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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One such merchant, Koemon Hamaguchi, was particularly captivated by the allure of roses. In the early 1900s, he traveled extensively to Europe, where he marveled at the diverse varieties and exquisite blooms of these captivating flowers. Upon his return, Hamaguchi dedicated himself to cultivating a magnificent rose garden in his own backyard.

Over the years, Hamaguchi's passion for roses blossomed into a grand obsession. He collected over 1,000 varieties of roses from around the

world, nurturing them with meticulous care in his garden. As his collection grew, he generously shared his knowledge and love for roses with the community, hosting rose exhibitions and inviting visitors to admire their beauty.

In 1941, Hamaguchi donated his beloved garden to the city of Kobe, ensuring that its enchantment would continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. The garden was renamed Suma Rikyu Park and opened to the public, becoming a cherished destination for locals and tourists alike.

### **A Symphony of Blooms: The Rose Collection**

Today, Suma Rikyu Park boasts an extraordinary collection of over 100 varieties of roses, each with its own unique charm and story to tell. From classic hybrid teas to fragrant damasks, from vibrant floribundas to delicate climbers, the park's rose collection is a testament to the diversity and beauty of this beloved flower.

Visitors can wander through the park's manicured paths, surrounded by an explosion of colors and fragrances. Each variety of rose blooms at a different time, ensuring that the park is a vibrant tapestry of blooms from spring to autumn.

In the spring, the park explodes into a kaleidoscope of colors as early blooming roses, such as 'Sunsprite' and 'Golden Celebration,' burst forth with vibrant petals. As the season progresses, classic hybrid teas like 'Peace' and 'Mister Lincoln' take center stage, showcasing their elegant blooms and rich fragrances.

The summer months bring forth a profusion of floribundas and grandifloras, their clusters of densely packed blooms creating a vibrant spectacle. Varieties like 'Summer Snow' and 'Iceberg' add a touch of pristine elegance to the park's summer palette.

As autumn approaches, heritage roses and shrub roses steal the show. These time-honored varieties, such as 'Old Blush' and 'Constance Spry,' offer a glimpse into the rich history of rose cultivation. Their delicate blooms and nostalgic fragrances evoke a sense of timeless beauty.

### **Capturing the Essence: Photography and Art**

Suma Rikyu Park has long been a favorite destination for photographers and artists, who are drawn to its enchanting beauty and inspiring atmosphere. The park's roses provide endless opportunities for creative expression, whether it's capturing the vibrant hues of a single bloom or creating dramatic compositions of the rose-filled landscape.

Photographers can find endless inspiration in the park's diverse rose collection. The intricate patterns and textures of the petals, the interplay of light and shadow, and the harmonious colors create stunning subjects for artistic interpretation.

Artists, too, find solace and inspiration within the park's tranquil surroundings. The beauty and fragility of the roses, the gentle rustling of leaves, and the sweet fragrance of blooms ignite their creative spirits. Paintings and drawings inspired by Suma Rikyu Park have been featured in exhibitions both in Japan and abroad.

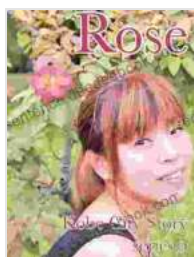
### **A Fragrant Oasis: Enjoying the Park**

A visit to Suma Rikyu Park is an experience that engages all the senses. Visitors can stroll through the rose gardens, inhaling the sweet fragrances that permeate the air. The park also features a delightful tea house, where guests can sip on traditional Japanese tea while enjoying the serene atmosphere and admiring the surrounding blooms.

For those seeking a more immersive experience, guided tours are available, providing insights into the history, horticulture, and cultural significance of the park. Visitors can learn about the different varieties of roses, their origins, and the care and attention that goes into maintaining this enchanting garden.

Suma Rikyu Park is a true gem in the heart of Kobe. Its exquisite rose collection, tranquil atmosphere, and rich history make it a destination that delights and inspires visitors of all ages. Whether you are a rose enthusiast, a nature lover, or simply seeking a moment of peace and beauty, Suma Rikyu Park offers an unforgettable experience.

As the seasons change and the blooms come and go, the park remains a constant source of joy and wonder. It is a place where nature's artistry and human ingenuity intertwine, creating a fragrant oasis that will forever hold a special place in the hearts of all who visit.



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