

The Oregonian

Inhale deeply

Portland's signature flower blooms on everything from dishes to desserts

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Everything's coming up roses at stores and eateries in downtown and Northwest Portland. From culinary creations to soapstone art boxes and tableware, the city's signature bloom is a favorite flavor and motif

A TABLE FULL OF ROSES

Christopher Yarrow, owner of **The Monkey & The Rat**, imported striking Vietnamese hand-painted and crafted green soapstone art boxes with carved lids of a raised, deep pink blooming rose. Pretty on their own, they also hold jewelry or pot-pourri. Small, \$26; medium, \$34; large, \$85. 131 N.W. Second Ave.; 503-224-3849; www.monkeyandrat.com

Blooming roses are the focus in the "Rosa" collection of Italian handmade and painted ceramic ware at **La Bottega de Mamma Ro**. Prices are about \$18 for salad plates; \$20 for a cup and saucer set, dinner plate or pasta bowl; and \$60 for a pitcher. Serving pieces also available. 940 N.W. 23rd Ave.; 503-241-4960; www.mammamaro.us

At **Kitchen Kaboodle**, the Cottage Rose line by TAG includes tables linens, glass mosaic votives, earthenware appetizer plates and cake platters, and salt and pepper shakers. Regular prices for those items range from about \$7-\$40; Kitchen Kaboodle has marked down the pieces 10-18 percent. 404 N.W. 23rd Ave.; 503-241-4040; www.kitchenkaboodle.com

PETAL POWER

Portland bakers and bartenders are using rosewater and rose bitters in inventive ways. At **Two Tarts**, bite into "a traditional French almond meringue with rosewater butter cream," as owner Elizabeth Beekley described it. Cookies are 75 cents or \$7.50 per baker's dozen. 2309 N.W. Kearney St.; 503-312-9522; www.twotartsbakery.com

Taste the seasonal light and delicate rose petal gelato at **Alotto Gelato** and pair it with pistachio or vanilla gelato. \$2-\$4.75 for one to four flavors. (Call ahead for availability). 931 N.W. 23rd Ave.; 503-228-1709; www.alottogelato.biz

The Harvest Song Tea-Rose Petal Preserves at **In Good Taste** are pleasantly sweet and textured with rose petals. Owner Barbara Dawson suggests spreading them on toast or putting them on ice cream. 10.2 oz., about \$10; 18.9 oz., about \$13. 231 N.W. 11th Ave.; 503-248-2015; www.ingoodtastestore.com

For distinctive rose-themed drinks, head to the **Driftwood Room** or **Gracie's** at the **Hotel deLuxe** for a Rose City Drop (\$10) – a blend of vodka, fresh lemon and infused rose simple syrup – or The Anthony Hopkins (\$4.50), a sunset-colored non-alcoholic drink of rose syrup, mango puree, soda and orange and lime juices. 729 S.W. 15th Ave.; 503-219-2094; www.hoteldeluxeportland.com

In the Pearl, Kelley Swenson, bar manager at **Ten 01**, mixes rosewater with lime and grapefruit juices, simple syrup, crushed green cardamom and mineral water for a refreshing non-alcoholic Cardamom Grapefruit Fizz (\$5). 1001 N.W. Couch St.; 503-226-3463; www.ten-01.com

Nearby at the **Teardrop Cocktail Lounge**, co-owner Daniel Shoemaker uses house-made rose bitters in three drinks. A favorite is The Rosy Dawn (\$9), with gin, cognac, Curaçao, Cherry Heering, lime cordial and rose bitters. "It tastes like a very layered rich wine punch," said Shoemaker. 1015 N.W. Everett St.; 503-445-8109; www.teardroplounge.com

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

Find luxurious rose-scented Sapone Latte milk soap, made by Florentine monks (\$16), or fragrant rosewater (\$28 for 250 milliliters) for a refreshing spritz for your body or linens, at **Manor Fine Wares, Curious Goods**. 907 N.W. 23rd Ave.; 503-954-2900; www.manorfinewares.com

Learn about the benefits of roses in "Aromatherapy for Healing the Spirit" by Gabriel Mojay (\$19.95; Healing Arts Press), at **New Renaissance Bookshop**. Pick up aromatherapy rock rose oil (\$7.80 for .25 oz.) and rose-scented incense and candles (\$3.45-\$9). 1338 N.W. 23rd Ave.; 503-224-4929; www.newrenbooks.com

BLOOMING IDEAS FOR GIFTS

The **Rose Garden Store** at the **International Rose Test Garden** is all about roses. Sip a complimentary cup of rose tea (one of four varieties for purchase) as you discover hand-crafted rose-shaped jewelry, beauty products, clothing, stationery and cookware including nesting rose bowls (\$35) and rose-shaped cake pans (about \$28-\$30). 850 S.W. Rose Garden Way; 503-227-7033; www.rosegardenstore.org

No wonder we call Portland the City of Roses.



Above: Beautifully handpainted roses adorn the "Rosa" collection of Italian hand-made ceramic ware; at La Bottega de Mamma Ro on Northwest 23rd Avenue.