



## SPECIES ROSES AT

# La Bonne Maison

Odile Masquelier

The first Species rose I ordered was from Pajotin & Chedane, a very old nursery in Angers. It is *Rosa hugonis*, a magnificent sight when in full bloom. Happy in our dry weather and well-drained clay, it is a cascade of gold 3 meters high and equally wide, mixing its large corollas with the creamy yellow ones of its seedling CANTABRIGIENSIS, which is planted on a bank just behind. Another seedling, CANARY BIRD, arrived years later, and together with GOLDEN CHERSONESE and HELEN KNIGHT, shows to advantage against a thick carpet of *Brunnera macrophylla*. I also grow the double form of *R. hugonis*, which was sent to me by Professor Gianfranco Fineschi.



In the gravel, shielded by a hedge of golden *Thuja*, I planted the Species roses discovered in Sir Frederic Stern's book. *Rosa primula*, or PRIMULA the INCENSE ROSE, found near Samarkand in 1910, is the first to bloom in early April. Poised all along branches that arch towards the ground, its flowers combine the rich scent of incense with the delicate perfume of the soft-yellow corollas. The second one, *R. willmottiae*, is the only deep-pink Species to bloom in early spring, at the same time as the Judas tree. Enhanced by glaucous green foliage, it has a delicate arching habit and grows happily with silver *Artemisia absinthium*, *Senecio greyii*, and pink *Aquilegias*.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: Odile Masquelier's hillside home in Lyon, France; Fortune's Double Yellow; bush and close-up of "Lijiang Road Rose". All photos by Odile Masquelier.