

## Elite Customer Care For Our Gourmet Products

If you received a Gift Card or Gift Certificate for multiple shipments and want to change your original product selections, you can easily change which products you'll receive for your remaining shipments by calling our Customer Care toll free number below. If you especially enjoyed a particular beer, wine, or cigar selection you just received, reorders are available. To update your account, make account related changes such as shipping address changes, reschedule a future shipment when receiving multiple shipments, or to reorder a product, please call us toll free at 800-949-0905. Thank you very much and enjoy!

### HANDCRAFTED BEERS

Here, you'll get today's best, handcrafted international and domestic microbrews without having to travel the world to find them. Sample professionally selected beers that are unsurpassed in variety, quality, and freshness. Each shipment includes twelve, 12-oz. beers from two different lightly distributed international and two different domestic breweries [four different beer styles total, three bottles of two different international beers and three bottles of two different domestic beers]. Each shipment also includes our comprehensive, four-page newsletter so that recipients will be able to read all about the beers they've enjoyed, how they were made, and the breweries that crafted them.

### BOUTIQUE WINES

Experience the world's finest wines without having to travel the world to find them. Our focus is on top quality, lightly distributed, hard-to-find wines. Each shipment will introduce you to two different varieties and you may elect to receive either one red and one white, two red selections or two white. Count on our collective expertise to deliver variety and quality, not only from classic regions found in France, California, Spain, Italy and other wine producing countries, but also from some of the more recently discovered first-class wine producing regions in Australia, Chile, New Zealand and more. Each wine is accompanied by an informative newsletter and you may purchase additional bottles at discounted prices.

### SPECIALTY CHEESES

Here, you will receive three, half-pound freshly cut blocks of extraordinary cheeses selected from boutique manufacturers around the world. You might receive a Gaperon, originating in France during the 14th Century, an authentic Lancashire by Ruth Kirkham, and an Italian Taleggio matured in the caves of Valsassina...all in one shipment! You'll discover an enormous range of cheese tastes, aromas, and textures. Each shipment also includes our comprehensive four-page newsletter so that recipients will be able to read all about the cheeses they've enjoyed, how they were made, and the farmhouses that crafted them.

### GOURMET CHOCOLATES

We feature a different extraordinary, world-class chocolate product in each shipment. Our selections come from all over the world and include many different kinds of foods - exotic spiced truffles and unusual confections like Chocolami (an Italian chocolate and hazelnut log), a variety of Belgian Dark Chocolate Brownies, and fudge made by Benedictine monks. Each shipment shares the same four characteristics: each chocolatier is renowned for their product, the product has a limited distribution, the product is made with the highest quality chocolate and other ingredients, and the product is usually created only days before we ship it.

### EXOTIC FLOWERS

We assemble breathtaking bouquets made up of several flower species and greenery in each shipment. You'll receive spectacular bouquets that will vary greatly from shipment to shipment. We always feature a primary species, and then other flowers and greens are chosen to complement it. The majority of the flowers in each arrangement arrive as buds that are ready to bloom when placed in warm water. And you will also receive a four-page newsletter, a one page overview of the best way to care for your arrangement, and two packages of flower food to help extend its vase life.

### HAND-ROLLED CIGARS

You'll receive five different premium, hand-rolled cigars from five different manufacturers in each shipment. Each cigar portfolio is professionally selected to ensure quality and variety, and the cigars vary widely in gauges, lengths, tobacco blends, and wrapper types. Since cigars must be maintained at a specific humidity level, each cigar is stored in a humidor and then shipped with a specially designed humidification device. Our informative four-page newsletter is also included. And, you can reorder your favorites!

## EXOTIC FLOWERS



Vol. 6 No. 12

## Celebrate Your Holidays with Peonies from New Zealand

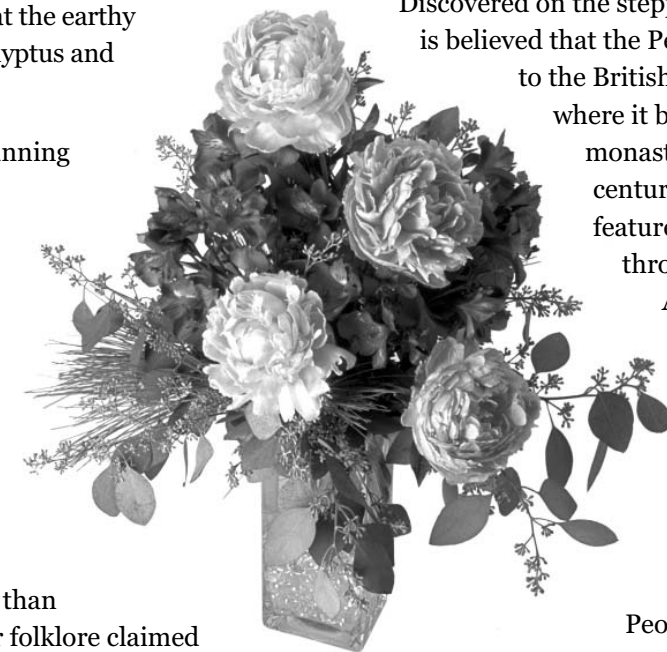
To make your holiday arrangement truly special, we've imported the Peonies featured in this month's bouquet from the lush rolling hills of New Zealand's South Island, and surrounded them with complementary deep pinkish-red *Alstroemeria*. You're sure to enjoy the aromas of our seasonal greens you can't beat the earthy and exotic scents of seeded *Eucalyptus* and *Douglas Fir Pine*!

In addition to simply being a stunning bouquet, it seems that nearly each component of your arrangement has numerous medicinal healing qualities as well! Centuries ago, Peonies were appreciated not only for their dramatic shape and color, but also, for their purported healing powers. Early medical practitioners believed the flower to possess elements that could cure no less than twenty different maladies. Other folklore claimed the Peony granted its recipient the power to keep secrets. And we all know someone we'd like to send a bouquet to, if that were in fact true! The flower was also said to have among its many petals the homes of fairies

and nymphs. The Chinese chose it as the principle flower in the Imperial Palace Gardens, calling it *Sho Yo*, meaning most beautiful. In the eighth century, its charm captivated the Japanese, who developed more than 300 cultivars.

Discovered on the steppes of Siberia and Mongolia, it is believed that the Peony might have been brought to the British Isles by the Roman legions, where it became a popular flower in monastery gardens. By the early 19th century, European gardens began to feature the peony. Today, gardeners throughout Europe, Asia and North America regard the peony as one of the easiest, most rewarding plants to grow. With its long-lasting, colorful blooms, the peony is also popular as a cut flower, used in wedding bouquets and large floral arrangements.

Peonies can live for a hundred years or more if undisturbed. Their season as a garden flower is rather short, three to six weeks, which only adds to their allure. When they make their appearance in late May, they are practically irresistible.



(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

(Continued from page 1)

## KNOW YOUR PEONIES LIKE A PRO

As with most flower varieties, there are several types of peonies.

- Single peonies have five or more broad petals in one or two rows surrounding a center of golden, pollen-bearing stamens.
- Japanese peonies have five or more petals and a center of feathery structures called staminodes.
- Anemone peonies have five or more petals in several rows with broad central petals.
- Semi double peonies have five or more outer petals and a center of broad petals with pollen-bearing stamens intermixed.
- Bomb peonies have a row of outer guard petals surrounding a pompon tuft of dense petals.
- Double peonies have five or more outer petals with the central stamens.

## SOUTH AMERICAN ALLURE

Shaped like a horn of plenty, the *Alstroemeria* (pronounced *alstro-MARY-ah*) is a graceful flower that originates in South America. The flower, sometimes called *Ulster Mary*, or *Peruvian lily*, is named after *Claus Alstroemer*, a pupil of the great botanical classifier *Linnaeus*, who studied this species extensively in South America. These perennial plants flourish in diverse climates, from high in the *Andes Mountains* to the deserts of the *Pacific coastline*, and deep into the *tropics of Brazil*. Primarily grown in *Chile, Peru and Brazil*,



If you like to garden, this perennial is a staple. Not only is *Alstroemeria* a long lasting and versatile cut flower, but also it blooms from late spring, through summer until frost. *Al-*

the plant's exotic blooms show off delicate anthers and multicolored velvet petals, reminiscent of a spotted leopard.

The main stems of these cut flowers grow up to three feet tall, and branch into four to six short pedicels - each holding two to four flower buds. Its clustered look makes it a perfect compliment to larger flowers. This species of flower is rather new to the flower industry, and was considered quite unusual four or five years ago; however, *International interest* grows every year because of its easy cultivation, unique beauty, and lasting vase life.

Breeders in the *UK and Holland* have developed a huge range of hybrid varieties, all with quite different colors and markings. You can buy them all year round, in red, pink, orange, white, cream, yellow, peach and purple!

**Care Tips:** *Alstroemeria* leaves often wilt before the flowers do, so many recommend that you remove all foliage before putting it into your arrangement. They'll last about two weeks in water. Take care in transporting the flowers as the stem joints are brittle and easily broken.

*Alstroemeria* prefers cool, moist, deep well drained soil, and its winter hardy to zone 7, or zone 6 with protection.

## KOALAS EAT THEM

Koalas, now an endangered species, are indigenous to Australia, and 99% of their food source comes from eucalyptus trees. They are lethargic animals, and will stay in one tree for days. They even sleep in eucalyptus trees! Meanwhile as



man is busy cutting the trees down, there may be as few as 20,000 koalas left. Each day an adult Australian koala bear eats about 2.5 pounds of eucalyptus leaves, and a baby koala eats about 1.5

pounds. Koalas are very picky eaters; mostly they eat only the moist, tender tips of eucalyptus leaves. This leafy diet, although a bit boring, gives a koala all of the food and water that it needs!

Eucalyptus leaves are usually leathery in texture, hang obliquely or vertically, and are studded with glands containing a fragrant and volatile oil. The flowers in bud form are covered with a cup-like membrane which is thrown off as a lid when the flower expands. Koalas like to eat the flowers too.

Eucalyptus trees are quick growers and many species reach a great height. *Eucalyptus amygdalin* (*Labille*) is the tallest known tree. Specimens have attained as much as 480 feet, exceeding even the *Californian Big Tree* (*Sequoia gigantea*). Many species yield valuable timber, others yield essential oils. The foliage of some is more odorous than that of others, and the oils from the various species differ widely in character.

The oils may be roughly divided into three classes of commercial importance: medicinal oils, which contain substantial amounts of eucalyptol (also known as *cineol*); industrial oils, containing terpenes, which are used for flotation purposes in mining operations; and aromatic oils, which are characterized by their aroma.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE Q & A's

- Q:** What should I do if I'm moving or need to make an address change?  
**A:** Please call prior to the 5th of the month to make all account changes such as address changes, and membership extensions, cancellations, or renewals.
- Q:** How do I renew my gift membership?  
**A:** Great news: You are eligible for a one-time Renewal Bonus of 50% off your next month when you agree to continue the service on an "open" basis and commit to at least 3 months. Simply call us at 800-949-0905 or renew your membership online.
- Q:** What happens if my shipment is damaged along the way?  
**A:** If the shipment arrives damaged, please give us a call immediately at 800-949-0905 and report the incident for a prompt resolution.

The medicinal eucalyptus oil is probably the most powerful antiseptic of its class, especially when it is old, since ozone is formed in it when exposed to air. It has a resolute disinfectant action, destroying many lower forms of life. It's known to stimulate circulation and is often used in aromatherapy to clear sinus passages. In general, it's largely beneficial for respiratory infections, colds, flu, fevers, congestion and other respiratory problems.

Eucalyptus oil is used as a stimulant and antiseptic gargle. Locally applied, it impairs sensibility. An emulsion made by shaking up equal parts of the oil and powdered gum-arabic with water has been used as a urethral injection, and has also been given internally in drachm doses in pulmonary tuberculosis and other microbial diseases of the lungs and bronchitis.

And you thought it was just a great smelling tree!

## FLOWERS LINKED TO LIFE SATISFACTION

Just about everyone I talk to these days is leading a fast paced life, and all you have to do is look at the magazine covers to see that we are all concerned about the consequences of our complex life styles. Can you remember when we used to think that computers were going to simplify things!

To relieve stress, we are advised to

exercise, meditate, listen to music, consume vitamin B, and so on. Well, *Endless Flowers* has another remedy for you to add to that list! According to recent behavioral research at *Rutgers* (*The State University of NJ*), the acts of looking at and smelling flowers generate feelings of life satisfaction, a myriad of happy emotions, and that glorious feeling of connectivity. In fact, the *Rutgers* scientists found that flowers affect our behavior far beyond what was normally believed.



*Dr. Jeannette Haviland-Jones, Ph.D.*, Professor of Psychology at *Rutgers* was the lead scientist on this project. She is an internationally recognized authority in the role of emotional development in human behavior, and nonverbal emotional signals and response. The results of her 10-month study show that flowers are a natural and healthful moderator of moods. And let's face it; our moods affect everything we do!

Flowers have an immediate impact on

happiness. All participants, no matter what age group, expressed genuine and animated smiles upon receiving flowers, and demonstrated extraordinary delight and gratitude.

Flowers have a long-term positive effect on moods. Participants said they felt less depressed, anxious and agitated after receiving flowers, and also experienced a higher sense of enjoyment and life satisfaction.

Flowers make personal connections. Receiving flowers leads to increased contact with family, friends and clients.

"Now, science shows that not only do flowers make us happier than we know, they have strong positive effects on our emotional well being," said *Dr. Haviland-Jones*. The participants chose to place their flowers in foyers, living rooms and dining rooms suggesting that flowers are a symbol for sharing and feeling connected. "Flowers bring about positive emotional feelings in those who enter a

room," said *Dr. Haviland-Jones*. "They make the space more welcoming and create a sharing atmosphere."

Now I could have guessed that, but I never realized how much of a difference flowers can make until I started to keep a vase of fresh flowers on my desk. I have also noticed that when I look at them, I feel a relaxing sensation all over my body, and a peaceful smile begins to emerge.