

USE YOUR ROSES TO MAKE A BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE GIFT

Herbalist Christina Blume shares one of her many recipes with the Denver Rose Society.

Rose Petal/Lavender Liqueur

Makes 6 cups (1 L)

Rose petals and sprigs of fresh lavender combine to make a romantic concoction. This recipe uses vodka as its base. Keep the empty vodka bottle to use when mixture is ready to be strained and stored.

4 cups unsprayed rose petals
2 large (ish) fresh lavender sprigs
1.5 liter vodka
1 cup granulated sugar
Sparkling water or club soda to serve

1. Place flowers petals and a couple of large sprigs in large gallon glass jar, bruise them lightly with a wooden spoon.
2. Add vodka, stirring once or twice; place a single layer of waxed paper over mouth of jar and screw lid on. Set in a cool, dark place, allowing mixture to steep for two months.
3. Add sugar, stir well or shake to insure that sugar has dissolved; let stand for another 2 months or longer, shaking jar occasionally.
4. Strain mixture through a cloth lined funnel and pour into attractive clean bottles. Serve neat or over ice with a splash of sparkling water.

Note: After straining, you can add a couple of drops of rose essential oil (optional). It is the very palest of pink. Make the bottle beautiful by printing a pretty label on the computer. Affix a silk rosebud and a sprig of artificial lavender to the neck of the bottle with sheer ribbon.

For a list of Christina's classes visit www.tagawagardens.com or www.botanicgardens.org. View Christina's website at www.blumesfarm.com.

Herbalist Christina Blume has been teaching in the Denver area for 15 years at Denver Botanic Gardens, local colleges, garden centers and KMGH Channel 7 Sunday mornings and radio in Colorado and Arizona. She also taught the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland how to make and use flower essences. Christina has written articles for Natural Horse magazine, Flower Essence Society of North America and dozens of dog and cat club newsletters, websites and periodicals.

Membership in the Denver Rose Society is a great way to learn to grow roses, or to improve your skills with the Queen of Flowers. Every meeting is informative, and has an opportunity for questions. Please join us for a fun-filled year of meetings, events, and shows.