

The Rosarium

Autumn Equinox 2023



VENUS ROSE CLUB

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WELCOME FRIEND

You're invited once more to step into The Rosarium, now in it's renewed form.

Rather than release our content for each zodiac sign, we've decided to craft a richer edition seasonally, between equinoxes and solstices.

The Rosarium is full of our love language. Archetypal energies guided by Earth's garden and the Universe's dance. Colour frequencies, crystal wisdom, majestic goddesses and their mythos all interweave aligned to the celestial seasons.

For more information about garden witch and astrologer who have brought the Rosarium to you, visit www.venusrose.club/rosarium.

So much love 🌹❤️

Fierce Grace Swan

AKA Lorna Howarth

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VRC Founder + Astrologer

HARMONY

This is a stillpoint where the celestial scales hold each other steady.

If our minds meet this stillpoint, in quiet and reverence, we can hear another world breathing. Yes, breathing.

The Otherworld that's beckoning us, inspiring us, and waiting for us to listen.

The Autumn Equinox in the Rosarium is the colour-scape of coppers and rose golds. Leaves turn a brassy brown, and the sunset gradient goldens and glows. You can almost taste the metallic palette as the seasonal dew reflects and refracts the lowering light.

Hues of peach, apricot and orange make for a warming scene even though the days are cooling.

Replace literal logic for a mystical mind. The autumnal light invites us to step into this imaginal realm and become utterly beguiled by its beauty.



STEP INTO THE ROSARIUM

A SECOND BLOOM

As we approach the Autumn Equinox it seems as if summer has returned and the longed-for heat that was absent during the last few cool wet months (at least here in the UK) has given us all a renewed sense of energy and vigour. That's also the case in the plant realm. The roses have produced new buds, the salvias a vibrant flush of intense purple flowers and the nasturtiums, always quick to recover from inclement weather, are romping through the hedgerows of the Rosarium.

'Indian summers', as they are known, are not a new phenomenon, though perhaps the intensity of the heat can be attributed to climate change. And yet, inexorably the days will become cooler as the nights lengthen.

Sometimes it's easy to forget that we are on a planet that is spinning through the cosmos in a rotating trajectory that brings us light and dark, the seasons of coolness and warmth. As the Autumn Equinox approaches, the robin sings a different song, somewhat melancholy in recognition that change is in the air and that winter is extending her chill tendrils.

We see this in the cool dew that gathers on the grasses and blushes the apples as they ripen on low-slung branches in the orchard. We see it as the hawthorn berries become plump and juicy; as the leaves begin to curl and flutter to the ground and as the swallows and martins flock in their hundreds, sifting the flying ants and midges from the air, fattening up, ready for their long flight south.

We see it too in the colours that abound at this time of year: gold and copper tones burnish the leaves as they begin to fall; deep reds, purples and oranges adorn berries, seeds and fruits, and the late garden perennials catch the eye with their vibrant yellows and amber hues.

Autumnal colours are rich and intense as is our response to them.

What colours really speak to you this autumn – what have you noticed in the natural world that pleases you as it transforms before your eyes? Why not wear those colours, and pick jewels to reflect them?

INDIAN SUMMER

[Penobscot region, North American Indian tradition]

IN DAYS LONG PAST, as the Penobscot Indians say, an elderly man named Zuni visited the Chief of the Sky Spirits to request his aid. Zuni had been ill in the Spring time when his tribe were planting many seeds, but his illness had lingered and prevented him from planting too. By the end of Summer, the people of his village had reaped a rich harvest, and dried them for Winter's food. However, due to his illness, Zuni had not grown food nor been provided any for the colder times. He had nothing.


In desperation, he visited the Chief of the Sky Spirits and declared: "I have come to you for help. I was not able to plant or harvest any seed. My illness has stopped me from growing food for the Winter months, and now I have nothing. What am I to do?"

The Chief of the Sky Spirits took pity on the old man and gave him an immediate response: "Although the season for planting and harvesting has passed, go now, and plant your seeds. I will make certain that you will have food for the Winter".

With this promise and instruction from the high spirit, Zuni returned home and planted seeds in his field. Despite the fact that it was Autumn, the season remained warm. No sooner had he completed his planting than the vegetables grew from the fertile ground in his garden, and he took to harvesting them.

Within seven days, Zuni had gathered his harvest and his abundance was equal to any other man in his village. Only when he had completed his gathering did the Winter arrive.

*Adapted from 'Illustrated Myths of Native America' by Tim McNeese.

A vibrant rose garden with a long, arched trellis covered in pink and yellow roses, leading to a bench in the distance. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The roses are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep pink and others a soft yellow. The path is paved with dark stones, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and romantic.

Take a moment to sit on the bench on the far side of the Rosarium in the dappled shade. Breathe deeply and slowly and see if you can feel the sense of completion and harvest that is manifesting in the natural world. As we come to this point of balance in the cosmological year, where day and night are of equal length, what aspects of the life you've led this year have created abundance and brought you riches that you can now savour? Similarly, are there aspects that have withered on the vine, that have failed to thrive? Now is a time of discernment and reflection, when we are on the cusp between the energetic thrust of spring and summer and the slower dreamtime of autumn and winter.

ATTUNE TO THE SKIES

LIGHT & DARK

Equinox is from Old French 'equinoxe' or Latin 'aequinoctium'.
aequi- = 'equal' + nox, noct = 'night'.

Equal day, equal night. A balance between polarities.

The Rosarium roots entwine under the twilight as the Moon takes over from the Sun. She's in full stride as lady night arrives earlier. During the longer moonlit hours the plants ready themselves for silence, slowness, and slumber.

This is a time of self-holding as the Astrology winds-up, spiralling towards the eclipse window. And as we tip into winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Full Moon on 29 September, with the Sun illuminating in Libra and the Moon culminating in Aries, will be sharing the zodiac signs of the Moons nodes - North Node and South Node. This is the dharmic and karmic points for us all.

Nodes, like a Full Moon, are always in opposite signs. The polarity of the self (Aries) and the other (Libra) are in view. Balance, boundaries, and self-mastery. How to stop people pleasing, in that we have compassion for another without compromising our own needs.

This transitional time - a between time - sees us step through the portal of the Equinox and the eclipses.

What inspires your sense of harmony right now? What ritual or practice can hold you through this energy?

We're hoping The Rosarium will inspire you.

ATTUNE TO THE SKIES

VIRGO

This Virgo season felt so rich. Perhaps, a weightiness was added due to the Mercury Rx that took place in this wise Earth sign.

Mercury brought re-order, in a Virgoan practical sense. And the messenger's medicine came in the form of 'acceptance'. What were we willing to surrender to, so we could retrieve our energy?

Even though this season is out of this issue's scope (as we'll only do three signs at a time) it felt important to revisit Virgo because Venus and Lilith will enter this sign in early October.

Both femmes will oppose Saturn as they form their final conjunction on 9-10 October, helping us integrate our learnings from Venus' own Rx in Leo, where she communed and merged with Lilith on the dark side of the Moon.

SCORPIO

Let's hope 2023's Scorpio is a calmer sequel to last year. The South Node stirred up some stuff in 2022 and the fixed water sign likes the karmic kind.

Planets that transit in Scorpio will have passed the South Node in Libra, and in a way, helped us transmute that which has lay dormant or stagnant. Like gunk blocking a drain (see above right).

The festival of Samhain, on 31 October, is the seasonal punctuation mark where deep healing can happen, providing we've got good energetic hygiene and respect for the esoteric and the spiritual. Could this hold you through the healing that's arisen in the preceding sign?

That said, eclipses are Scorpionic and Plutonic (Pluto as the ruler of Scorpio) in nature. So the eclipses on 14 October (New Moon, solar eclipse) and 28 October (Full Moon, lunar eclipse) will ripple into this season. Hell, we'd bet things get juicy from the Aries-Libra Full Moon on 29 September. Hold on to your butts!

LIBRA

This isn't just any old Libra season. We're stepping into a constellation that's studded with the South Node of the Moon.

The Sun and inner planets will each pass this karmic point and activate our deep-seeded patterns in relationships, as well as our culture's approach to justice, harmony, and beauty.

On an individual level, this is our 'othering' behaviours, our tendencies in co-dependencies, our stuckness in the drama triangle. On a collective level, we could see louder events concerning gender and sexuality, human rights and nature's rights, and our growing fight against any and all forms of injustice.

Eclipses are on the Nodes, so the next Moon cycles will really highlight these themes.

SAGITTARIUS

By this point the narrative may be that...

...Virgo allowed us to get our house in order (figuratively and/or fo' real).

...Libra revealed the karmic anchors that were weighing us down and that were shaking themselves loose, in order to be healed.

...Scorpio gave us a persevering strength, a sense of deep trust, and an old medicine to self-heal in this way.

And now we arrive at Sagittarius. Ready to check that our mindsets, beliefs and purpose are aligned to our soul mission.

Being a mutable fire sign, we may feel a new inner light burn bright, showing the 'where-to-next' on our path. Or this flickering flame may burn-up the beliefs we've been holding on to because they don't serve us any longer.

As the centaur sign leads us into Capricorn at the Winter Solstice, the stillness and darkness of the depths of winter could be where we begin to integrate the insights that have been awoken in this cycle.

LOVE LANGUAGE

HARVEST RHYTHMS TEMPO ATTUNEMENT

We arrive at the Autumn Equinox at the height of the harvest.

Virgo season, with its golden fields and bronze grain, sees us take stock in preparation for a winter where little grows.

Virgos get a rep for being 'perfectionists' but we'd replace this word with 'being precise'. Accounting for the harvest, taking inventory of food, maintaining routines... these are life-securing roles and responsibilities at the turn of the season.

There was a richness to this past Virgo. A depth and maturity. As though our own processes were coming to their own harvest ceremony. As though our Rosarium altar now shows the wealth of the seeds we planted back in early Spring.

If this is the case, what would be on your altar?

The archetypal energy of 'Tempo' heightens here too. A powerful energy that brings us night and day, the seasons, equinoxes, solstices and planetary alignments.

Tempo holds the key to the rhythms and patterns of the Universal heartbeat.

At the mid-point on 31 October - between the Autumn Equinox and the Winter Solstice - we meet Samhain. A liminal in-between time when the veil is thinned between reality and mystery. This feels like a seasonal pit-stop to ask: are we attuning to the times? As the wild world quietens, closes, rests... do we also?

We all have our own tempo too - the pace and energy that suits our unique being. If you are feeling harassed, stressed or anxious, it can often be traced back to something that has altered your natural tempo, your innate rhythmic pattern.

What elements of self-love can you reintroduce into your life to recalibrate and set your tempo back on an even keel?

(See our suggested rituals towards the end of this Rosarium)



GRAIN GODDESS

Demeter and Persephone are often associated with the 'Virgin' in the constellation of Virgo.

The Grain Goddess is one of the oldest fractals of the Feminine, worshipped in archaic cultures across the world. This is Nature's abundance.

In some versions of this mythos, Persephone is in fact the uninitiated Demeter, not her daughter. The maiden descends into the Underworld - the stark bareness of winter - before rising as a Queen for the seeding of the next Spring.

And upon her return, she adorns a new name and a deeper wisdom, having been shaped by the dark.

The sign of Libra, the star-lit scales, represents the cosmic balance. The Divine Order of harmony, justice, and peace.

What provides you with balance in your life?

The archetypal language linked to Lady Portia (an ascended master) speaks of quietening the inner critic, to come to a place of peace.

Letting go of the judgement of the self, can then free us to be discerning and accepting of others. This feels so apt for a South Node that's moving through Libra and bringing up this karmic pattern for us all.

'Co-creation' is our next archetypal energy.

If you look around the Rosarium, you'll see that everything is in relation to something else. The apple could not ripen without the bee that pollinated blossom in the spring. The falling leaves create rich compost to fertilise the seeds that follow, and the swallows could not head south without the presence of millions of insects.

This is the divine interconnectedness and interdependence that we're all a part of. Just as each being only exists in relation to others, so too do we.

It is worth remembering that even when we feel alone, we are sustained by myriad lifeforms without whom we could not function. This generous abundance of Nature reminds us that we are also beholden to the natural laws of giving and receiving.

What have you given of freely this year that has truly brought you joy, and what have you received that has felt like a blessing?

BALANCE
CO-CREATION
INTERDEPENDENCE
BLESSING

A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a blue and gold dress, stands in a room with a large scale of justice. She is holding the two pans of the scale, which are balanced. The scale is made of gold and has a wooden frame. The woman is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of balance and justice.

COSMIC BALANCE

Letting go of the judgements through self acceptance and caring, brings greater discernment and balance. This is what Lady Portia teaches us.

What can we accept, to bring a deep peace?

And Maat, the Egyptian goddess of harmony, justice, and truth echoes Lady Portia and likens to the Libran scales.

Maat feels like an eternal Feminine that pre-dates Egypt as we now know it. A force that held the Universe to a divine sense of order and harmony.

Yes please.

MYSTERY TRANSCENDENCE PLUTONIC ALCHEMY

The third archetypal energy that is prevalent during the autumn season, the traditional 'West' of the Medicine Wheel, is 'Transcendence'.

Imagine with your mythic eyes the ever-long night of the West, where the Sun rests and the Moon reigns.

The unnamable mystery of this midnight, where the wild self feels most at home. Dormant and yet alive, just like the Earth during the darker months.

As we slip towards winter's cool embrace a time of reflection settles upon us; a time when we can move beyond the boundaries of everything we thought was possible into the realm of miracles.

Truly, miracles happen every day, and we see them when we are open to the imaginal and the liminal.

The archetype of transcendence invites us to look beyond the ordinary to the extraordinary and embrace a path of metamorphosis – one that the winter months are perfectly poised to facilitate.

Scorpio season, Samhain festival, eclipse cycles... they are Plutonic in their very nature. The dusty domain of Hade's underworld sees us traverse unto our underland for a metamorphosis of our own.

This is the depth of the most alchemical time of year. It's where shadows starkly shine, signalling that we're ready for this healing. We're ready for this medicine. We're ready to transmute that which will no longer douse our light.

UNDERWORLD QUEEN

Lilith and the Sumerian goddess Ereshkigal are with us through the alchemical tides of Scorpio season.

This Plutonic feminine, like the Persephone who descends, like Venus who is returning from her own retrograde journey, brings a knowledge and a power from the shadowlands.

They carry the wounded parts of us that have been exiled and abandoned. They hold space for the bitterness that builds within.

Only by activating and releasing this bitterness are we able to return to the centre, with the wildness and wisdom of the edge.

A centaur is the symbolism of Sagittarius. The most prominent of the Greek centaurs is Chiron - a shaman, an inner teacher, and a master of the healing arts.

The Rosarium raises whether this hybrid form in fact has origins in the wild feminine and the Great Mother Goddess worship of our prehistory, but that's for another time.

This is extra relevant because Chiron is currently in Aries, where our collective North Node of the Moon is. This makes Aries, Mars, and even the Moon, Chironic in nature. Chiron's themes will be activated by the upcoming eclipse cycle.

Chironic is our capacity to both wound and heal. It's the wisdom our wounds teach us, so that we step into the position of teacher and healer, to share this wisdom with others.

This is our last archetypal energy, 'Mastery'. Sagittarius is the sign of learning, beliefs, and mission - whether that be a grand purpose or a literal adventure.

A Chiron in Aries is presenting the potential for self-mastery. To be accountable for our own actions. To be self-sufficient in our self-healing and in our interdependent relationships (Libra being the opposite sign to Aries). To use our personal agency to move us away from vice and victim mode.

We'd argue that Saturn's current stint in Pisces, and the balance of mysticism and integrity, supports our movement into mastery also.

The huntress Artemis is also associated with Sagittarius. She is the independent soul who wildly rides through the forest - her domain - and fires her arrow of truth, puncturing immorality and wrongdoing.

This ancient 'virgin' - the original meaning of the word being autonomous - is devoted to her forest, her animals, and her sovereignty. Devotion and a sense of divine duty are themes of the Sag, as they unwaveringly pursue their purpose.

What do you feel is your divine duty?

What are you devoted to?

CHIRONIC
MASTERY
DUTY
INTEGRITY

THE HIEROPHANT

The Rosarium is reviving this archetype.

Part of the Major Arcana in the Tarot, the hierophant holds the arcane wisdom, much of which we hold as mystery and mysticism, because it alludes the literal, logical mundane mind.

She is the high master, the wise teacher, and the divine channel between spirit and matter.

We see Rosa Mystica, a face of the mother Mary, return to us without the rigidity of religion but with the divinity of the rose.

PLANT MEDICINE MUSHROOM COFFEE SKULL-CAP TEA

Autumn is the season of mushrooms.

Parasols the size of dinner plates can be found aplenty in coastal meadows and hedgerows; field and horse mushrooms pepper short-grazed pastures and later in the season, in the woodlands chanterelles and blewits can be found. But, unless you are a knowledgeable forager, mushroom hunting can be a double-edged sword.

Instead, why not try some adaptogenic mushrooms (which adapt to any need in the body) such as reishi and ashwagandha, which are a perfect tonic for the Equinox, as they're all about balance. They help to rebalance bodily systems and flush out toxins, giving the immune system a boost. They are a perfect general health support, and after a busy summer, are often the pick-me up we need.

Treat yourself to mushroom coffee, which doesn't actually taste of mushrooms, but is laced with their adaptogenic properties.

There is a fabulous plant that grows in abundance in the Rosarium called scutellaria or skull-cap (because its flowers are shaped somewhat like skulls). This inconspicuous plant brewed into a tea (together with chamomile or mint to add flavour), is wonderful for reducing involuntary thought processes, in other words it helps to calm the 'monkey-mind'. It simply helps you to switch-off and rebalance. It has the added bonus of reducing the irritation of 'restless legs' syndrome! Scutellaria can be bought dried and powdered from herbalists and really does bring a sense of equilibrium to our busy minds.



THE LANGUAGE OF COLOUR AND CRYSTAL FREQUENCIES



The Ceres (119) and the Persephone (120) Aura Somas arrived between December 2020 and May 2021, when the world experienced chaos. These colours coming to the collective at this time invited us to heal the mother wound; especially the mother-daughter-wound. This energy feels present after Venus' Rx in Leo this summer.

Orange - in both bottles - speaks to healing the Timeline, transmuting karmic pain (especially if it relates to co-dependency), and healing shock so that we can receive deep bliss.

Deep Magenta (left) works with the unconscious, and the clear fraction (right) brings clarity and awakening.



More fossil than crystal, Amber is the physical memory of botanicals and plants from Deep Time. You're invited to access Amber's light and warmth during the wintery realm. Let it's Solar and Light energy enter your physical body, clearing resistance and alleviating stagnancy.



Lady Portia (left, 59) carries the staff of judgement and scales of justice in the Master Sequence of Aura Soma. The Pale Yellow (upper) brings an intense clarity to the unconditional love in the Pale Pink (lower). Loving and accepting ourselves leads to clarity of perception - discernment over judgement.

Bottle 91 (right) is titled 'Feminine Leadership', but we've started to call this the 'Lilith Bottle'. The Olive colour in Aura Soma sees use bright the Yellow at the Solar Plexus - our willpower - to the Green in the cave of our Heart chakra.

This is the feminine principle alchemising the bitterness (especially from historical wounding) into strength and hope. Dematerialising the guilt, and softening the ego, at the Solar Plexus so that we can experience liberation.



Vesuvianite is one of Jemma's favourite crystals, and she's been bursting to speak about it. Like bottle 91 above, this crystal is linked to uniting the heart and the will, so that our desires and our actions are aligned. (see how the colours match too!) This is our Truth. And this gives us the courage to transform our lives.

THE ROSARIUM

A GARDEN ⊕ OF IMAGINATION ⊕

The Rosarium is a dedication to planet Earth, and an invocation of her glorious plant queendom.

The plant realm is the bridge between Earth and Cosmos, enabling us to deepen into the microcosm of our bodies and the macrocosm of the Universe. We have filled the Rosarium with earthly delights to nourish and nurture you. We invite you to step into this sacred space.

Fierce Grace Swan (AKA Lorna Howarth) is a writer, garden-witch, herbal queen and dreamweaver. Her words are magic. She's been an editor of Resurgence, a publisher with Panacea Books, and she's co-authored and edited a number of books, including The Soulistic Journey. And she's about to launch her own novel, Sandpaper for the Soul, this season. Learn more at www.lornahowarth.com

Jemma Jackson is the founder of the VRC community. Back when she thought she'd start an all-natural beauty company Jemma researched the cosmetic benefits of plants and their gifts. And in her coaching and space-holding, she accesses with the frequencies of crystals, the intelligence of the Aura-Soma system, and the energies of Astrology.

For the Rosarium, Lorna and Jemma are combining their passions and their natural knowledge in this beautiful creating. We're excited for how it will unfold. ❤️🌹

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