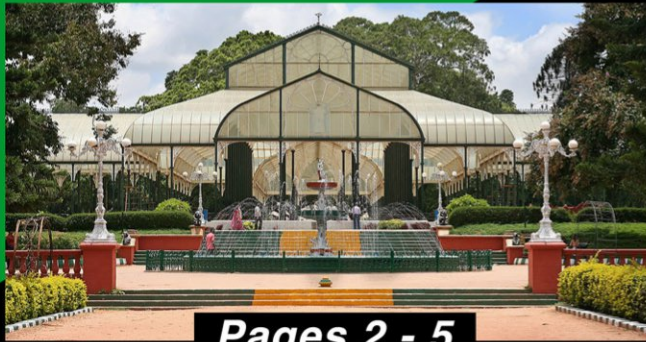




# HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



*Pages 2 - 5*

## INDIA'S FIRST HIBISCUS GARDEN

*A triumph for Pushpa and Shyamala*

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## MY FAVOURITE GRAFTING TOOL

*Elizabeth Ridzi Jordan*



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## HIBISCUS SABDARIFFA

*Damon Veach*



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## A 2016 CALENDAR

*Tatyana Sokolova*



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## FLYING HIGH IN TAHITI

*Drone footage of Dick Johnson's mountain top home*

*and more!*



**Merry  
Christmas  
& Happy  
New  
Year**

**To all our Members!**


**This stunning Christmas tree decorated with Hibiscus flowers (refreshed daily) is gracing the home of Dick Johnson in Tahiti. Thank you Dick for sharing this glorious treat with us!**





# HIBISCUS GARDEN CREATED IN BANGALORE

*Glass house at Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, Bangalore*



**Pushpa Suresh (left)  
and  
Shyamala Madappa**

***Lalbagh Botanical Gardens (which means The Red Garden in English) is a well known botanical garden in southern Bangalore, India. The garden was originally commissioned by Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore from 1761–1782, and later finished by his son Tipu Sultan. It has a famous glass house which hosts a lavish annual flower show. Lalbagh houses India's largest collection of tropical plants, has a lake, and is one of the main tourist attractions in Bangalore.***

An important Hibiscus Gene Bank is being created at the Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, Bangalore. It was officially launched in 2015 with the planting of nearly 300 Hibiscus plants. The event was attended by the Chief Justice of India and many other important guests.

Green experts and advisors, Dr. Ravindra and Dr. Yellappa Reddy, both connected to Lalbagh, had been toying with the idea of having a Hibiscus Gene Bank at Lalbagh for quite a while. 'It doesn't exist anywhere else in India, although hundreds of varieties are Indian derivatives that are prospering in many other countries. That is why Lalbagh took up the matter' says

J.Gunavantha, the Deputy Director of Horticulture at Lalbagh Botanical Gardens.

Although Lalbagh boasts a massive rose garden on 2.1 acres with varieties of roses sourced from all over the world, the Hibiscus, which is largely native to India, has not had a place for establishing its identity.

Drs. Ravindra and Reddy contacted the 'Hibiscus Ladies of India' Pushpa Suresh and Shyamala Madappa who, as proud Bangaloreans, meticulously worked on understanding the genes of the Hibiscus. After extensive study and research on its 'seed growth', the two ladies have





*Pushpa waters a newly planted Hibiscus cultivar watched by family and officials.*

together grown nearly 10,000 Hibiscus plants through their seedlings, cross-pollination and hybridisation expertise gathered from all over the world over the years.

'Pushpa and Shyamala, who have international credits and awards in mapping their individual creations in Hibiscus varieties, will be supplying 300 Hibiscus plants of 150 varieties and colours to mark the beginning of the first phase of planting in Lalbagh' says Gunavantha.

'After six months, the next lot of plants will come in to add to the thousands that need to be planted in six phases.' he adds. 'The efforts of Pushpa and Shyamala will go a long way in creating a permanent asset for the future of Hibiscus nurturing and showcasing for posterity. Lalbagh will need to plant them and later collect the seeds for gene-mapping which will happen in the next two years' he says.

Green enthusiasts Pushpa Suresh and Shyamala Madappa, who live in Paramount Gardens at Thalaghattapura look back over nearly a decade of study and exploration into the world of Hibiscus as they started from scratch to delve into their passion for growing and nurturing the Hibiscus in all its hues.

'As a young girl I read about a lady who had grown Orchids and supplied them to the world. This was the beginning of my love to do something for Hibiscus, as we in India grow them in plenty, but we hardly have their seed mapping documented to know and grow more varieties and supply them to the world. After all, other countries are enjoying our natives' says Pushpa.

For Pushpa, brought up in Sagara of Malnad region, green was a way of life. She worked her way through the information available on the net, and even 'realised that Hibiscus plants give seeds.'





*Pushpa and Shyamala being interviewed by the media during the launch of the Hibiscus garden.*

This helped her plant more, observe growth and focus on the cross-pollination and hybridisation procedures as well as tending to the pollen for mapping and documentation of their parentage for creating the gene-bank.

'While in the beginning it took nearly three months for me to see the seed sprout, today I know they can grow up in a week's time' says an excited Pushpa. While her friend Shyamala, who grew up in Coorg, also joined her in the green quest, the common journey got better by the year as they connected with both the International Hibiscus Society (IHS) and the American Hibiscus Society - international platforms for hybrid experimentations in Hibiscus plants. Soon, the ladies had registered themselves with both groups and became active members. Today Pushpa is the Indian representative for the IHS.

The two have participated in several competitions and published their findings

and reports in the quarterly publication of the IHS - Hibiscus International. While Pushpa has registered over 50 new Hibiscus cultivars with the IHS, Shyamala has nearly 30 of her own documented. 'We have nurtured thousands of varieties, but the best is what we have registered' says Pushpa.

'Since Indian Hibiscus cultivars are being grown in Brazil, U.S., France, Ukraine, Russia, Japan and Germany, why not have them documented and grown in India for showcasing our own heritage of flowers?' It is no wonder that Pushpa named one of her first new Hibiscus creations 'Bob Carran' after the expert who had first guided her. Shyamala called one of hers 'Classical Dancer' to express her love for the arts. After all, the two ladies have named all their creations for posterity.

*(Adapted from an article featured in 'The Hindu' in October 2015.)*





Left and centre: Views of the newly planted Hibiscus garden at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Bangalore.

Centre left: Pushpa and Shyamala are presented with certificates in appreciation of their pioneering work.

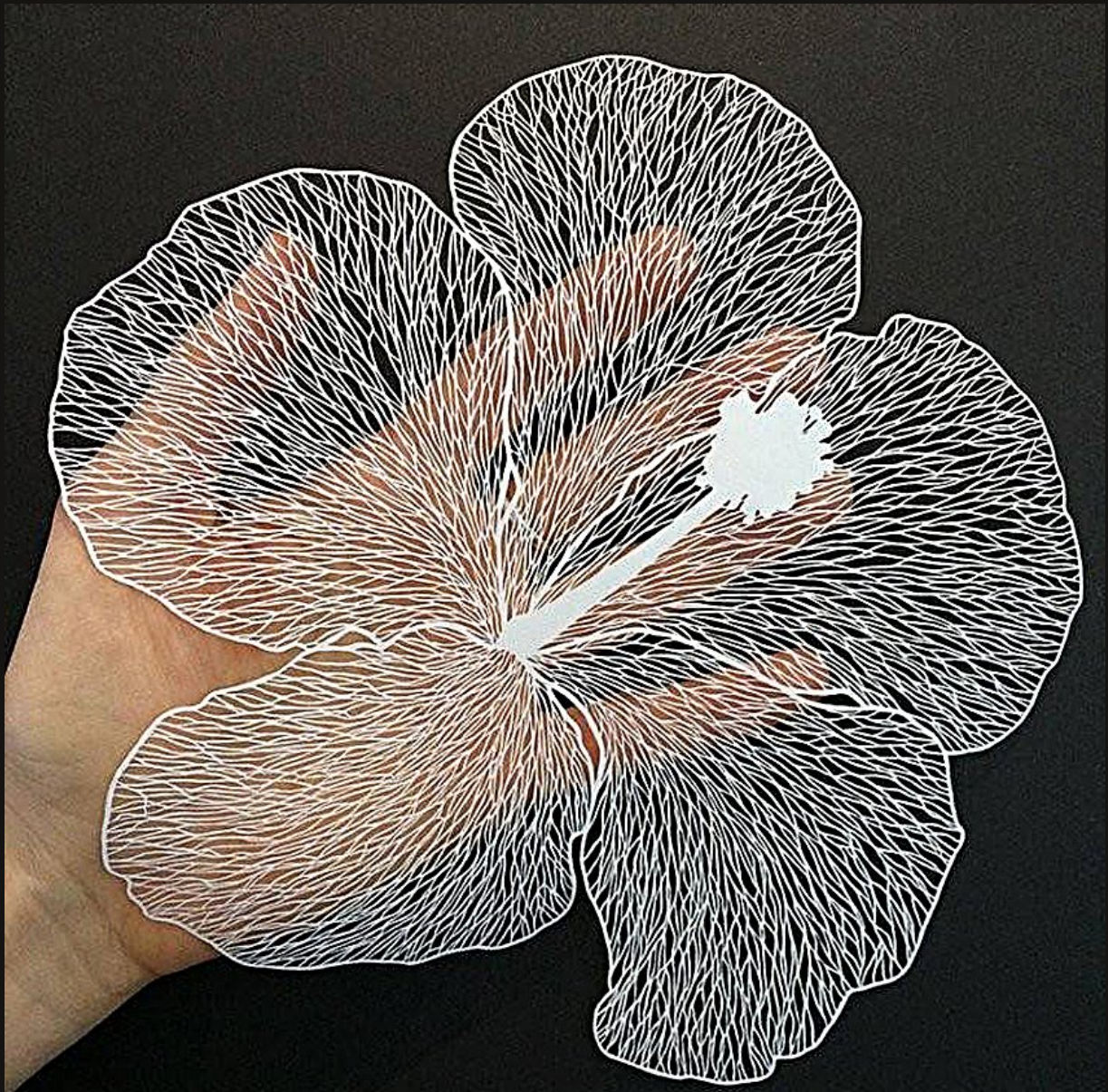
Bottom: Pushpa and Shyamala pose with their proud families after the inauguration ceremony.





# MAUDE WHITE

Paper Carving Artist



*Photo by Julian Montague*

“When I cut paper, I feel as if I am peeling back the outer, superficial layer of our vision to reveal the secret space beneath. With paper cutting there are so many opportunities to create negative space that tells its own story. Letting the observer become present in the piece allows him or her to look through it. I like the idea of the stark contrast between the black and white paper, and the cut nature of the work makes my art more three-dimensional than paint on canvas.”

*Maude is based in Hudson, New York and more of her extraordinary work can be enjoyed on her website.*





# MY FAVOURITE GRAFTING TOOL

By Elizabeth Ridzi Jordan



Elizabeth lives in Petrópolis, Brazil. Also known as The Imperial City of Brazil, Petrópolis is a municipality in the state of Rio de Janeiro and is 68 km away from the state capital. Beautifully located in a valley nestled among forested hills the temperature here is mild. The summer average is 23 °C (73 °F) and the average of the coldest month is 15 °C (59 °F).



Elizabeth has recently been singing the praises of her new toy. She has invested in a grafting tool ... and she loves it!

The omega-shaped cut of this grafting tool eliminates the fiddly (and dangerous!) use of a knife. As long as your rootstock and scion are of the same diameter, two centered omega cuts will fit them together perfectly, giving you a stable graft, with maximum cambium contact, ready for taping.

A six-sided grooved anvil keeps the cutting stock centered as you notch it. If the anvil wears over time, you can rotate it to one of the other five grooves. If the blade should dull, you can get spares for replacement. Someone has commented that the only poorly functioning part of this tool is the bypass pruner tip. Fortunately, the rest of the tool more than compensates.





These Hibiscus cuttings are waiting to be shaped for grafting.

They have been prepared by removing all excess leaves and twigs. The tool contains a pruning attachment (the bypass pruner) which might come in useful here.

The next step is to use the special grafting guillotine to cut both the rootstock and scion. This is normally the most difficult part of grafting however, with the grafting tool, Elizabeth finds it easy to create a flawless cut.

Here you can see the scion gripped by the tool in readiness for the cut.







Left: The rootstock has been cut with the grafting tool.

Centre: The scion has been cut to the corresponding shape and the two shaped pieces have been gently slotted together. The resulting joint is neat and secure and ready to be tied and waxed.

Bottom left: The newly made graft has been tied and waxed and now it is just a case of waiting for the graft to 'take'.

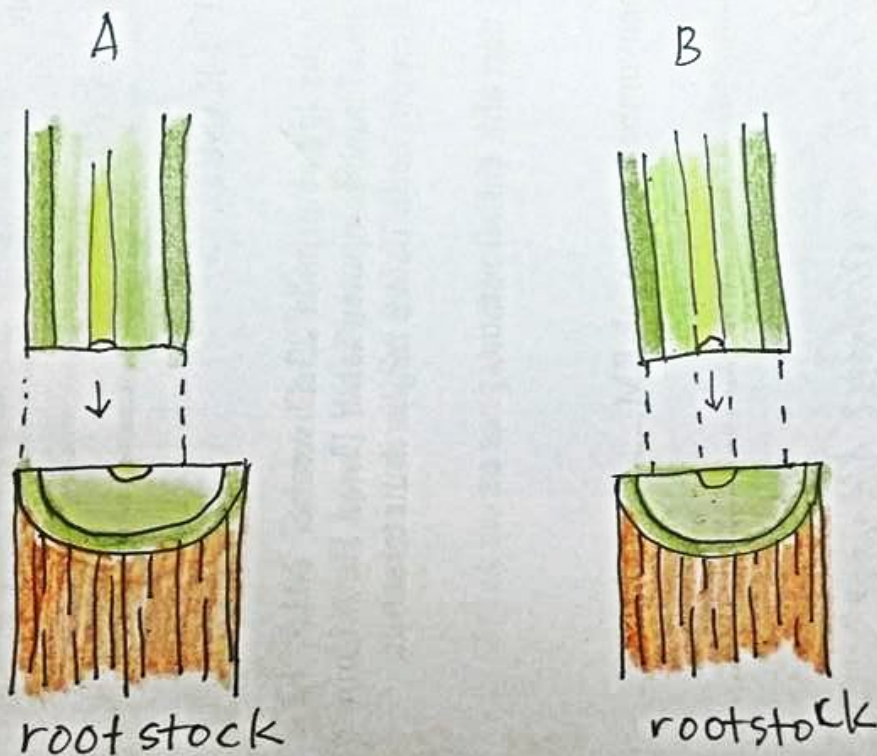


The grafting tool can be viewed on Elizabeth's website using the web link [here](#).





# AN IMPORTANT GRAFTING QUESTION ANSWERED



## QUESTION

I have a technical question on grafting. Let's just say that situation A and B are unavoidable:  
The scion is smaller than the rootstock.

Which alignment is better - A or B? Only these two options.

I am not saying this is the definite way of doing grafting ... I am just presenting situation that is unavoidable in the work of grafting. I am sure that many of us have come across this situation.

Thanks!  
Hafez Zahruddin

## ANSWERS

**Petar Tiholov:** It is important to connect at least one side of the cambium layer.

**Doug Litchfield:** Definitely A. You always want the cambium layer of both rootstock & scion to be in contact with each other!

**Doug Entz:** ONLY 'A' will work!!!

**Richard Johnson:** For me, "A" is the better choice as it aligns the conductive tissues best.





# HIBISCUS SABDARIFFA

Damon Veach

Hibiscus sabdariffa (or 'sour tea') is a genus of the Malvaceae family. In Iran, it is typically known as 'sour tea', and in English-speaking countries it is called Red Sorrel. Originally from Angola, it is now cultivated throughout tropical and subtropical regions, especially from Sudan, Egypt, Thailand, Mexico and China - and, of course, in a garden on Bungalow Lane.

*The flower of Hibiscus sabdariffa is normally 8–10 cm (3–4 in) in diameter.*

*Also known as Red sorrel and Roselle, Hibiscus sabdariffa is known by many different names throughout the world.*

*It is primarily cultivated for the production of bast fibre from the stem of the plant. The fibre can be used as a substitute for jute in making burlap*



Photo by Marcia Nhanhauzinha



*The flowers range from white to delicate rose to pale yellow with a dark red spot at the base of each petal, and have a stout fleshy calyx at the base. This becomes fleshy and bright red as the fruit matures over a period of about six months.*



*Right: The harvested 'flowers' are actually the ripe seed pods of Hibiscus sabdariffa. They are edible and have an invigorating, astringent flavor. They can be brewed in water to make a refreshing, cranberry-colored tea. They are also used in salads, jellies (such as Jamaica's famous rosella jam), sauces, soups, beverages, chutneys, pickles, tarts, puddings, syrups, and wine.*



Photograph by Mbopar

*The leaves of red sorrel are also edible. They have a rhubarb-like taste and are served in salads and curries. The seeds can be eaten too and they are best roasted or ground to make flour for baking. In the Sudan, the seeds are fermented into a meat substitute called 'furundu.' Red sorrel has a lot of nutritional value. The calyces, for example, are high in calcium, niacin, riboflavin, and iron.*

When I was editor of the International Hibiscus Society newsletter, I featured the work of Colleen Keena of Australia. This can be found in Hibiscus International Volume 2, Number 2.

I don't know of anyone else as knowledgeable as Colleen on Hibiscus Sabdariffa. Even though I will probably never make jelly, teas, or candy from this plant, it is a nice addition to my garden, compliments of Deb Rynders.

## Hibiscus Tea

### The ingredients:

- 4 cups of water
- 3 Tbsp dried or 4-5 Tbsp fresh hibiscus flowers
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 Tbsp raw sugar
- Juice of 1 orange





# A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

Members of the International Hibiscus Society have shown wonderful photos of outstanding blooms and we are delighted to be able to share a few of them here.



## BORN TO BE WILD

(Misfire x Ken-Mer Rhapsody)  
Hybridized by Charles Black  
Photo by Junko Yamamoto





## HITCHCOCK

(Kirk's Purple x Remembrance)  
Hybridized by Barry and Susan  
Schlueter  
Photo by Lee Ming



## MOOREA PATA RE'A

(Moorea Anastasya x Tahitian Sophistication)  
Hybridized by Charles Atiu. Photo by Véronique Demailly



# STOLEN TREASURE

(not registered)

Photo by Gil T Friedman



© Gil T Photography



# INFINITY

(Remembrance x Royal Palace)  
Hybridized by Barry and Susan Schlueter)  
Photo by Anjali Blakely



# MOOREA LOVELY TREASURE



(Moorea Violet Moon  
x Moorea Sugar Blue)  
Hybridized by Charles Atiu  
Photo by Brad Daniels

# TAIWAN DARK KING

(Dreamscape x Barry Schlueter)  
Hybridized by Linda Lee  
Photo by Petar Tiholov







Dick and Chantal Johnson

# FLYING HIGH IN TAHITI

Drone footage from the Island of Paradise

by Richard Johnson

*A bird's eye view of Dick's rooftop Hibiscus garden with the Island of Moorea on the horizon.*



My son came up the mountain to visit us with some friends from Australia. They brought an expensive drone and HD video camera with them. The HD video cam is stabilized by a robotic gimbal and directed from a remote with iphone attached for viewing what was being shot. He was doing a video on his beautiful girl friend who is marketing her own line of bikini swimsuits.





Living the dream ...







By way of orientation, the house has three levels. We live mostly on the mid level and the roof top terrace where I grow my hibiscus.

I have been interested in plants since childhood and Hibiscus were an immediate attraction when I arrived in French Polynesia. I have been growing them for nearly 45 years, intensely so for around 17 years. I am passionate about hybridization and have created a number of excellent new varieties, most of which carry the prefix "Tahitian".



*Looking south along the coast.*





The passion for Hibiscus spread to sharing my experiences with others which resulted in the founding the International Hibiscus Society. I created the original IHS website which was improved upon in several renditions by Joseph Dimino and, more recently, by Kes Winwood and Ian Rabenda.

**Tahiti 1**

**Press 'Tahiti 1' for a view of Dick's rooftop garden and 'Tahiti 2' for a general view of the spectacular coastline.**

**Tahiti 2**



Looking straight down on the hundreds of Hibiscus plants clustered on the roof.



# VISITING TAHITI

## Veronique Demailly on the Island of Paradise

*From left to right: Vero, Dick, Chantal and Gi Gi, a Bichon Frise.*



In November, Veronique Demailly travelled from her home in Paris out to the island of Tahiti where she spent 10 glorious days being shown the sights by Dick Johnson and his family.

On the first day Dick's son took them in his boat over to the island of Moorea to feed the sting rays. The black fin reef sharks were attracted by the odour of the fish being fed to the rays, but were not a problem. On the last day they visited the high mountains where there were fabulous views, tree fern forests, etc.





*Voila!*



**Voila! by Dupont Nursery. Photographed by Tatyana Sokolova.**

# 2016

## January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## February

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

## March

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## April

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## May

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

## June

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## July

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## August

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## September

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

## October

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## December

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				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# JEANETTE'S CAKES

“You are never too young or too old to begin your journey  
in this wonderful form of art.”



Jeanette Bugler's love for the culinary and especially the confectionary arts started at the age of ten. After high school Jeanette completed courses and diplomas in catering and food service management at the Johannesburg Hotel School and Vaal Triangle University of Technology. She went on to work in hotels and restaurants in South Africa, Germany and Switzerland.

“Jeanette’s cakes” is a cake decorating studio located in Oakville, Ontario. More of Jeanette's delicious creations can be viewed on her website which includes her favourite recipe for a perfect fondant icing.



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