



### **Rob interviewing Alain and Yolande at the Jardin d'Iris in Bubry**

Alain: We are in the show garden and we have more than 2000 kinds of Iris in this park. So, we have dwarf irises. They are less than 40 centimetres. So they are blooming at first - they are the early ones. And after you have the intermediate between 40 to 70 centimetres. They are a bit bigger and they are blooming normally at the end of April and the beginning of May. And after you have the later ones.

Rob: Which is a later variety, is it?

Alain: Yes, yes. At the end of April we have some but mostly May - until the end of May and the beginning of June sometimes, depending on the weather.

Rob: Today is a chilly day, the middle of April...

Alain: Yes.

Rob: And I don't see any flowers.

Alain: No.

Rob: But I've been here last year and it's quite a sight to see. All the different colours.

Alain: Yes.

Rob: Now you've got 2000 different varieties.

Alain: We have around 3000 but here it's 600 very old varieties, and we don't sell them because people like better the new varieties because in the new varieties the stem is stronger; you have more flowers on the stem and the flowers are bigger. So people like them better.

Rob: Do you create these varieties yourselves?

Alain: Yes. You see the labels, all the pink labels here? These I create. I have created 60 or 70 varieties - they are already registered.

Rob: Your own website - [www.jardindiribubry.fr](http://www.jardindiribubry.fr) has got an extraordinary number of flowers, although we can't see any today in the field we can see them on your site.

Alain: I think it's the most complete of Europe. Yes, because we have more than 2300 or 2400 varieties.



Rob: This is a speciality of yours. Yolande, tell me, where does this passion for irises come from?

Yolande: It's a long time ago, maybe 24 years...

Alain: 24, 25 years.

Yolande: Yes. We are just beginning with the simple iris, you know. And we just beginning both some varieties.

Alain: 1998

Yolande: We met Pascal Rodion, an iris professional.

Alain: We saw his catalogue.

Yolande: And Oh!

Alain: And so many colours in the catalogue

Yolande: And I said 'Wow'! It was so beautiful and we bought 12 varieties and we planted them in the front of the house.

Rob: Just for yourselves?

Yolande: Yes, sure.

Alain: But at the end of this year, it was in 1998, the first bloom was in 1999, at the end of 1999 we had almost 400 varieties (laughs). I still buy them, mostly from the USA. The best buys they are created in the USA - sometimes also in ...

Yolande: In Australia.

Alain: In Australia, yes.

Rob: Really?

Alain: Yes.

Rob: Why is that, do you think?

Alain: It's a long story. You know in the third year when they came for the war ...

- Rob: The Second World War perhaps? Alain: No, The first one. Some of them were gardeners and they saw iris in front. They don't have these kind of irises in the States and they were really interested and so when they get back to the States and they were trying to propagate and create a new variety. So the American Iris Society has been created in 1920. So the centenary was last year and so we sent 5 or 6 new varieties created by myself for this Centenary.
- Rob: People can come to Bubry. The place is open to visitors from when?
- Alain: Everybody can come - even now, but mostly it's open after 10th of May.
- Rob: How does it work? People will come to visit and they will order.
- Yolande: At first, the people go in the garden and they can write all the varieties they want.
- Rob: I see the prices are there as well.
- Alain: Yes - on the label you have the price.
- Yolande: After, they can come with me and I make an order. After the rhizome it is possible to take off in July and August.
- Alain: So we phone them
- Yolande: And we make a rendez-vous.
- Alain: ... and we dig up the rhizome - just the day before and we have a fresh rhizome when they arrive.
- Yolande: It's possible to give the planting instruction because it's necessary.
- Rob: OK. I hope that from May onwards, when the weather improves, you'll have many visitors.
- Alain: Of course
- Rob: Yolande, Alain, thank you very much indeed for giving us an introduction to the Jardin d'Iris at Bubry.
- Alain: Thank you very much
- Yolande: Thank you