

## PEACHY KEEN

> The future looks bright, according to the Pantone Color Institute.

In mid-December, the venerable design firm unveiled its 2019 color of the year, “Living Coral” (Pantone 16-1546). According to Leatrice Eiseman, Pantone’s executive director, the “sociable and spirited” peachy pink “welcomes and encourages lighthearted activity.” Its name evokes one of the world’s most diverse and colorful ecosystems. “In its glorious — yet unfortunately more elusive — display beneath the sea, this vivifying and effervescent color mesmerizes the eye and mind,” Eiseman said.

To make their pick, Pantone’s experts combed the world looking for new color influences. Their research included the entertainment industry, art, fashion, design and popular travel destinations, as well as cultural stimuli, such as new lifestyles and technologies, political events and socioeconomic conditions.

The selection resonated with scores of industry professionals, who praised the hue’s cheerful connotations, versatility and numerous floral applications.

“I’ve had a love-hate thing with the color of the year,” said David DiVincenzo, events director for Planterra Conservatory in West Bloomfield, Michigan. “It’s so rarely something you’d find in nature! You have to turn to linens, lights, dresses, etc., to pull it in. But with ‘Living Coral,’ flowers will really get to shine.”

Running the gamut from red to orange to pink to peach, the color appears in so many floral categories, including the superfeminine, high-petal-count blossoms (roses, peonies, ranunculus), tropical and exotic blooms (proteas, anthuriums, bromeliads, orchids) and accent flowers (hypericum, stock, snapdragons).

“The blending of red and orange is truly the best of both worlds,” said Michael Skaff, AAF, AIFD, PFCI, a freelance designer in Savannah, Georgia, and creator of the 2019 Flower Trends Forecast for International Floral Distributors. “When these two shades come together, the result is softer and smoother. It mixes well with so many colors but might be best complemented with a neutral-like tan. I love it!”



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**'LA DOLCE VITA COLIBRI' POPPY**  
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**'CLONI SUCCESS MAMBO' RANUNCULUS**  
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Joe Guggia, AIFD, of JP Designs in Santa Maria, California, echoed Skaff's praise for coral's versatility. "Being soft yet vibrant, it blends so well for a variety of looks and styles," he said. "It pairs wonderfully with purple, chartreuse, cream, white and hot pink."

"Living Coral is on the floral wish list of my dreams," said Christy Hulsey, owner of Colonial House of Flowers in Statesboro, Georgia. "It fits in all the classic palettes yet provides just a hint of rock 'n' roll." 🌺

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**'PINK HAWAIIAN CORAL' PEONY**  
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