

# The Making of Fragrances



## Cedar

If harmony had a scent – it could very well be that of cedar: Soft, woody, somehow soothing, imparting a sense of warmth and richness. Cedar can be found in innumerable scents and can be employed in myriad fields of application. The cedar trees from which it comes are found in highly differing regions throughout the world: In Florida, in China and in North Africa.

Its oil is obtained from cedar wood residue through steam distillation.



## Patchouli

"Wait a minute, that smells just like..." Exactly – like patchouli! The favorite scent of the Flower Power era numbers among those notes that even non-professionals can recognize immediately: Woody, balsamic-sweet, Oriental. As well as herbaceous, reminiscent of woodland and earth.

Patchouli oil is obtained from the Pogostemon patchouli Pell and Pogostemon cablin Benth bushes, which grow throughout Indonesia, in China, on the

Philippines and in Madagascar. Its dried and fermented leaves are distilled through steam distillation. In perfumery, patchouli oil is a fragrance ingredient of considerable importance. It lends its strength and radiance to innumerable compositions.



## Sandalwood

Anyone who has ever smelled it will never forget it. Sandalwood is very precious – and not just for the nose. This fragrance compound, with its balsamic-sweet, velvety-warm woody scent and mildly animalic touch, is noble, full of character – and extremely costly. It is primarily obtained from the roots and wood of the East Indian evergreen tree Santalum album. But its oil is not full-bodied enough until the tree is 30 years old. The fragrance material is obtained from the tree's crushed wood and roots by means of steam distillation.

In perfumery, this classical woody note plays a major role in Chypre, Fougère and Oriental notes. Sandalwood lends scents a soft elegance and originality – right in line with its rare wood character.



## Jasmin

A goddess of perfumery. Gigantic – in terms of both its scent as well as its price. Jasmin absolute is what professionals call the fragrance material from the jasmine bush. Although native to East India, it is cultivated today in southern France, Spain, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. Jasmin has a highly floral scent and a honey-like, sweet aroma with fruity-herbaceous undertones. It lends its typical scent to innumerable famous creations. A drop of jasmin absolute is worth its weight in gold, because it is extremely difficult and costly to obtain: The blossoms have to be picked individually at daybreak, before their fragrance can evaporate in the sun. They then have to be processed immediately. A solvent is used to remove the fragrance materials from the blossoms. It is from this jasmin concrete that the absolute is obtained through alcohol extraction.



## Vetiver

A pronouncedly masculine fragrance: Woody-balsamic, woodland-earthly with sweet-and-sour accents. It is obtained from the roots of the wild-growing tropical vetiver grass, which is cultivated in

Indonesia, Brazil, China, Angola and on Réunion and Haiti.

The scent of vetiver is primarily employed in masculine perfumery, where it is used to round out warm, spicy, masculine notes. It also plays a major role in Chypre notes, with their typical combination of oakmoss and citrus freshness. Today, though, vetiver oil is hardly ever employed in its original form any more. Instead, it is processed into vetiveryl acetate, which offers an elegant and transparently woody scent.



### **Ylang-ylang**

Narcotic, floral, sweet, somewhat reminiscent of jasmin – and yet somehow entirely different. Ylang-ylang, which means the flower of all flowers, lends fragrances a floral warmth, elegance and special radiance.

The tree of the same name from which this fragrance material is obtained primarily grows on the Comoros and Madagascar. Its intensely fragrant, yellow blossoms are hand-picked and then distilled by means of steam. 100 kilograms of blossoms yield around two kilograms of pure oil. Ylang-ylang oil lends elegance and floral warmth to many compositions.

Ylang-ylang oil also plays a major role in aromatherapy, where it is said to have a balancing, euphoriating and eroticizing effect.



### **Rose**

It is the queen among the flowers. Its scent is so unique that it is difficult to put into words. Two varieties serve as the primary fragrance-producer in many perfumes: Centifolia, which is cultivated in Grasse in southern France, in Egypt and Morocco, as well as Bulgarian damask rose. Both varieties are characterized by a tea and honey note, as well as by a soft-green top note.

Rose oil is obtained from damask rose through steam distillation. Centifolia, on the other hand, is first extracted; i.e. a solvent is employed to extract the fragrant substances from the petals. The so-called concrete that is thus obtained is mixed with alcohol and cooled to a temperature of 23 degrees Celsius. The liquid is then heated until the alcohol evaporates. The result: Rose absolute.



### **Lavender**

Anyone who has even been to the Provence region of France has seen the blue fields and smelled their typical scent: Sweet-balsamic, but also herbaceous, with floral-woodland undertones. France is the classical country in which lavender is cultivated. But this highly fragrant herb is also grown throughout the entire Mediterranean, as well as in the Balkans, in Russia, Australia and England. After it has bloomed, the complete plant is processed. Its oil is obtained through steam distillation. One ton of lavender plants yields between eight and ten kilograms of oil.

Lavender oil numbers among the more

affordable raw materials and is probably the most frequently used essential oil in perfumery. Lavender oil lends a special nuance to many scents, first and foremost naturalistic compositions, Fougère and Chypre notes. Yet it also adds a gentle accompanying tone in many other accords.