

LE LABO®

GRASSE - NEW YORK

OLFACTIONARY

Dictionary of olfaction

Le Labo: Sparking a Revolution

In a world where luxury perfumes are mass-produced and sold in places that look like supermarkets, where advertising campaigns try to fool consumers into thinking they are unique even though their “one of its kind” fragrances are worn by millions across the globe, we believe there is another solution. As a result, Le Labo has decided to take matters - and perfume - back in hand...

Imagine a brand that refuses to flood the world’s perfume shops with factory-made products, but instead lovingly formulates each of its 10 fragrances by hand, on demand, and in a single location - its exclusive perfumery lab at 233 Elizabeth Street in New York.

Imagine a perfumery brand whose laboratory is open to the public: a magical place where you can linger and take the time to touch, listen, see, and smell. A place where you can learn all about the fine art of perfume-making or simply awaken your sense of smell - where you can explore and discover at leisure, without being pressed into buying...

Well now you can stop dreaming: Le Labo exists. And if you have the Olfactionary in hand, it’s because you’re one of the lucky ones already in the know.

Le Labo Creations

The first time you wear a Le Labo perfume, you’ll realize instantly how very different it is from traditional perfumes. Le Labo perfumes “SHOCK” and it’s that shock that captivates, astounds, titillates, intrigues, and beguiles. The originality of their signature, the perfect harmonies of their composition blend art and sensuality into pure pleasure.

Le Labo perfumes are special. Special not only because of talent of its creators and the quality of the materials used, but because they are the only perfumes on the market that are “made-to-order”*. The last-minute formulation allows the composition to stay “fresh” and retain the fullness of its fragrance, in particular its delicate top notes, and to preserve the intensity required to shock.

*Made-to-order means that the essential oil concentrates in the perfume remain separate from the alcohol right up to the moment of purchase. Only then do our lab technicians proceed to the final formulation of the perfume, then bottle and label it with your name and the date of fabrication.

THE 10 LE LABO PERFUMES (FRAGRANCES):

Each of the 10 LeLabo perfumes is built around a primary natural essence that comes directly from Grasse, France’s “perfume capital”.

The names of the perfumes provide a valuable clue on how they are formulated. Based on the codes that perfumers use to identify their perfume trials, the perfumes are named after their principal essence and the number of ingredients combined to make them.

Homme:

BERGAMOTE 22
ROSE 31
VETIVER 46

Unisex:

NEROLI 36
FLEUR’ORANGER 27
PATCHOULI 24
AMBRETTE 9 (Baby / alcohol-free)

Femme:

IRIS 39
JASMIN 17
CISTE 18

THE OLFACTIONARY

Le Labo aims to have perfume enthusiasts better understand the time-honored art of perfume making, to hone their sense of smell and develop their olfactory “palette” so that they can distinguish what makes up a fine perfume. Knowledge, in perfumery as in everything else, is essential to free choice. Otherwise, we’re condemned to remain in the herd of consumers manipulated by the latest in advertising, fashion trends and gadgetry...

Le Labo’s exclusive training tools will help you to learn more, refine your olfactory “buds” and enable you to choose your perfumes with a true expert’s savoir-faire and discernment.

Our main goal is to help you “open your nostrils” in the same way good books open their readers’ eyes to life. Philosophers speak about “men with stitched-up eyelids” when referring to people who are blind to the basics of existence. Most of us live with stitched-up nostrils, having grown up in a world where smells are hidden away, and our olfactory senses left to wither.

Le Labo believes that it is about time that we open our eyes, breathe in deeply and take in all that life has to offer.

A translation in miniature of the Perfumers’ pipe organ, THE OLFACTIONARY is presented as a box with the 40 fundamental natural essences used in perfumery. This remarkable tool has served as a guide to perfume-makers around the world.

Forty 5 ml (0.17 FL.OZ.) bottles containing natural essences suspended in an alcohol-based solution, representing the principal ingredients you find in perfumes. The box also includes a pack of olfactory keys or “blotters” for sampling the scent of these essences.

A USER’S GUIDE

There’s nothing we hate more than advice (even when it comes for free!) because we believe that perfume, like so many things, is purely a matter of intuition. But to help you in your first steps with the Olfactionary, here are some tips on how perfumers use their blotters. The rest is up to you and your nose!

1. One blotter per bottle
To avoid polluting the other bottles, don’t use the same blotter for sampling different bottles.

At the start of each working session, mark the blotter, or olfactory key, with the name and number of the bottle you are sampling. Write the information on the part of the key you are holding in your hand.

2. A quick dip is enough
Dip the end of the olfactory key in the bottle so that it absorbs the scent but doesn’t use up too much of the precious essence.

3. Prop the olfactory key on a stand
A blotter holder, pencil or simply the edge of a table, making sure the moistened part is NOT IN CONTACT with any other object.

4. Close the bottle carefully after dipping in the key

5. Smell
Hold the blotter about 4 inches from your nose and wave it gently back and forth. Inhale, breathing in deeply: the ambient air will be charged with the perfume’s molecules.

Be very careful not to let the blotter touch your nose. That would be the end of you, at least as far as your session goes: this small gesture would pollute the other scents you want to sample, as the olfactory molecules stay lodged in your nostrils. It could also rapidly saturate your sense of smell.

SO - If that happens, go wipe your nose and wait a good half hour before starting again. To reply to the many messages we get on the subject: YES, you do have permission to use that half hour to watch the famous first scene in Tarantino’s “Reservoir Dogs.”

6. Try to identify the essence and check the numbered list to see what’s really in the bottle. And find out more by reading about the essence in this little booklet: its name, botanical origins, composition and use in Le Labo perfumes.

Keep on practicing, and you’ll soon be an expert at identifying the essences in the box, and what’s more, at singling them out in complex compositions.

RAW MATERIALS – DETAILS -

FLORALS

- Rose oil
- Jasmin absolute
- Lily of the valley
- Orange flower
- Ylang ylang
- Iris
- Neroli or Bigaradia

GREENS

- Violet leaves
- cis-3-hexenol or leaf alcohol or Pipol

WATERY

- Calone or Marine

AROMATICS

- Lavender
- Star anis
- Pepper mint
- Rosemary

BALSAMICS

- Vanilla
- Tonka beans
- Cistus labdanum

WOODS

- Patchouli
- Cedar
- Sandalwood
- Vetiver
- Birch
- Oak moss

SPICES

- Cinnamon
- Clove
- Cumin
- Olibanum

CITRUS

- Lemon
- Orange
- Bergamot
- Grapefruit
- Petit grain

FRUITS

- Apple
- Peach
- Blackcurrant bud

BALSAMICS

- Vanilla
- Tonka beans
- Cistus labdanum

MUSKS

- Muscone delta
- Ambrette seeds

ANIMALICS

- Castoreum
- Civet
- Ambroxan

FLORALS

1. ROSE OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from various rose varieties including Rosa Centifolia and Rosa Damascene. The flowers are cultivated for oil production in France, Italy, Morocco, Bulgaria and Turkey.
Isolation procedure: the handpicked petals are steam distilled.
Odor: very intense and typical rose odor with tea and honey like undertones and a soft, green top note.
Use: an essential and versatile ingredient that is used in a vast array of fragrances including Le Labo Rose 31.

2. JASMIN ABSOLUTE

Botanical source/occurrence: from the jasmine bush, Jasminum Grandiflorum, which is native to the East Indies and belongs to the Oleander family. The bush is cultivated in Southern France, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, India and Egypt.
Isolation procedure: extraction of the flower's petals results in a concrete. Extraction of the concrete is needed to produce the Absolute. Fine Jasmin oils can reach very high prices as 8 million flowers are needed to extract 2 pounds of oil!
Odor: powerful, honey-like, sweet, floral odor with fruity-herbaceous undertones.
Use: found in numerous perfumes. The Jasmin from Grasse is used in Le Labo Jasmin 17.

3. LILY OF THE VALLEY

Botanical source/occurrence: there is no Lily of the valley extraction. Yields are minimal and disappointing from an olfactive point of view. The perfumer recreates its odor. The Lily of the valley is native to Europe and grows in temperate climates. It prefers partially shaded areas, and blooms from May until June.
Odor: floral, fresh, green, watery.
Use: a central ingredient in feminine perfumery but can be found in traces in masculine notes as well.

4. ORANGE FLOWER CONCRETE / ORANGE FLOWER ABSOLUTE

Botanical source/occurrence: from the bitter orange tree, Citrus Aurantium subspecies Amara and also Citrus Bigaradia, which are cultivated in most Mediterranean countries, especially France, Spain, Algeria and Morocco.
Isolation procedure: the concrete is prepared by extraction of the flowers. In order to obtain the absolute, one dissolves the concrete in alcohol and the waxy materials are removed by "freezing out" and filtration. The alcohol is then removed by distillation thereby giving the absolute.
Odor: very warm, natural, bitter orange odor with spicy undertones and of considerable originality.
Use: the quintessential white flower found in a wide range of powerful compositions. A central ingredient of Le Labo Fleur d'Oranger 27.

5. YLANG YLANG OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the ylang-ylang tree, Cananga Odorata Forma Genuina, which is native to Indonesia and the Philippines. Cultivation is most extensive on the Comoro Islands. There are four different qualities available, namely extra, first, second and third quality.
Isolation procedure: the freshly, early-morning picked flowers are steam distilled.
Odor: narcotic, floral, sweet jasmine-like odor of great diffusion.
Use: gives power and elegance to warm floral compositions.

6. IRIS OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: Iris Pallida that is mainly cultivated in and around Florence. Iris Germanica and Iris Florentina give an oil of poorer quality.
Isolation procedure: via the water distillation of the peeled, dried and crushed rhizomes.
Odor: oily, woody, violet-like odor with sweet, warm-woody, fruity and floral undertones.
Use: a very precious and costly raw ingredient used in high-end creations. Among them, Chanel 19, Le Labo Iris 39.

7. NEROLI OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the bitter orange tree, Citrus Aurantium subspecies Amara and also Citrus Bigaradia, which are grown mainly in Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Southern France.
Isolation procedure: by means of steam distillation of the flowers that are handpicked just as they are about to bloom.
Odor: a very distinct, spicy, bitter yet sweet odor.
Use: in numerous Cognes and florals, adding freshness and character as in Le Labo Neroli 36.

GREENS

8. VIOLET LEAF CONCRETE/ VIOLET LEAF ABSOLUTE

Botanical source/occurrence: from the violet, Viola Odorata. The plants that are used for the production of perfume material are cultivated mainly in Italy and Southern France.
Isolation procedure: The concrete is obtained by solvent extraction of the leaves and the absolute by further extraction of the concrete.
Odor: very intense, green, leafy, herbaceous, peppery odor which displays iris and violet notes.
Use: used in small quantities, it adds its characteristic violet green effect to fragrances.

9. CIS-3-HEXENOL or LEAF ALCOHOL or PIPOL

Botanical source/occurrence: synthetic.
Isolation procedure: occurs naturally in many essentials oils such as geranium, thyme and mulberry leaf oils, but also in violet leaves and tea.
Odor: very powerful, leafy-green odor reminiscent of freshly cut grass, fruity, metallic.
Use: widely used in perfumery today. Brings naturalness and freshness to all kinds of compositions.

WATERY

10. CALONE

Botanical source/occurrence: synthetic material discovered in 1966.
Odor: watery, watermelon, seaweed.
Use: introduced a new olfactive family in the 70's that has been widely used ever since. Adds freshness and strength as in Le Labo Neroli 36.

AROMATICS

11. LAVENDER OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from Lavandula Officinalis or Lavandula Vera, a wild growing or cultivated plant, native to the Mediterranean countries. It is also cultivated in Yugoslavia, Russia and Australia.
Isolation procedure: steam distillation of the freshly cut, flowering tops and stalks.
Odor: typical, sweet, balsamic, herbaceous odor with floral, woody undertones.
Use: a variety of uses in Cognes, "Fougere" family, or in typical lavender creations such as "Pour un Homme" de Caron and more recently "Le Male" de Jean Paul Gaultier.

12. STAR ANIS OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the seeds of the tree, Illicium Verum, which belongs to the Magnolia family and is cultivated mainly in China, Spain and Russia. Anis oil is obtained from the plant Pimpinella Anisum.
Isolation procedure: the comminuted seeds are steam distilled.
Odor: very powerful, typical licorice odor which is sweet, herbaceous and lively.
Use: can be used in large amounts to sign fragrances such as in Lolita Lempicka and KenzoAir.

13. PEPPERMINT OIL PIPERITA

Botanical source/occurrence: from the herb Mentha Piperita. The English Mitcham plant has now spread throughout the whole world. It is cultivated mainly in Spain, France, Italy, the Balkans and especially in U.S.A.
Isolation procedure: steam distillation of the partially dried herb that is harvested just as it is about to flower.
Odor: powerful, minty, fresh, grass-like odor with sweet, balsamic undertones.
Use: adds freshness to perfumes and is easily combined with other aromatic notes in masculine themes.

14. ROSEMARY OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: this oil is obtained from the herb, Rosmarinus Officinalis and other related sub varieties that grow mainly in France, Spain, Tunisia and Eastern Europe.
Isolation procedure: the flowers and leaves are steam distilled.
Odor: very powerful, woody, herbaceous odor which is reminiscent of lavender and displays a slight camphoraceous note.
Use: widely used in aromatic compositions.

WOODS

15. PATCHOULI OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from Pogostemon Patchouli Pell and Pogostemon Cablin, small shrubs which grow in Indonesia, the Philippines, China and Madagascar.
Isolation procedure: the dried and fermented leaves are steam distilled.
Odor: very intense, woody, sweet-balsamic odor with spicy and woody-earthy undertones. Displays extreme originality.
Use: adds signature to perfumes such as Givenchy's Gentleman, Clinique's Aromatic Elixir, Mugler's Angel, and Le Labo Patchouli 24.

16. CEDARWOOD OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: this oil is obtained from the wood of the cedar, Juniperus Virginiana, which is native to the U.S.A. The cedarwood oils Texas and Chinese are obtained from the wood of Juniperus Mexicana and Cupressus Funerbris respectively. In addition, cedarwood oil Atlas is obtained from the wood of the pine tree Cedrus Atlantica, which grows abundantly in North Africa, particularly in Morocco.
Isolation procedure: by steam distillation of waste wood, such as chippings, saw dust, etc. from sawmills.
Odor: harmonious, soft, woody odor. Florida oils displays a sweet note, whereas Atlas oils are somewhat acidic in character.
Use: widely used in masculine notes to add warmth and comfort.

17. SANDALWOOD OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the evergreen sandalwood tree, Santalum Album, which grows in Indonesia, South East Asia and especially in the Indian province of Mysore.
Isolation procedure: the coarsely chipped and powdered wood is steam distilled.
Odor: this oil displays a balsamic, sweet, rich, warm and woody odor with a slight urine undertone.
Use: very elegant and expensive raw ingredient used in Chypre, Fougere and Oriental families.

18. VETIVER OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the grass, Vetiveria Zizanioides, which is cultivated in Indonesia, Reunion, Haiti, Brazil, China and Angola.
Isolation procedure: vetiver oil is steam distilled from the cleaned, dried, chopped roots.
Odor: heavy, woody, earthy odor with sweet sour accents and woody-balsamic undertones.
Use: mainly used in masculine perfumes.

19. BIRCH TAR OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: the tar is produced from the various birch species, including Betula Alba, which grow wild in Europe.
Isolation procedure: via destructive distillation of the wood followed by rectification.
Odor: displays a woody, tarry, smoky odor with pleasantly sweet, oily leather-like notes.
Use: a very special and powerful smell used in small quantities only. Can be found in traces in Le Labo Patchouli 24 and Ciste 18.

20. OAKMOSS RESINOID/ OAKMOSS ABSOLUTE

Botanical source/occurrence: from the lichen Evernia Prunastri, which grows primarily on oak trees. It is collected all over Central and Southern Europe, particularly in Eastern Europe and France but also in Morocco.
Isolation procedure: the resin and concrete are obtained by extraction of the moss and the absolute by extracting the resin.
Odor: generally earthy, mossy, spicy, woody odor with slight phenolic and leather-like notes.
Use: bottom note used in high-end perfumery and particularly in the Chypre olfactive family. Found in Le Labo Iris 39.

SPICES

21. CINNAMON BARK OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: the oil is obtained from the Ceylonese tree, Cinnamomum Ceylanicum Breyn. The cinnamon tree is cultivated, but also grows wild on Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Southern India and the Comoro Islands and the Seychelles.
Isolation procedure: the dried bark is subject to steam distillation.
Odor: extremely powerful, warm spicy, sweet odor, typical of cinnamon.
Use: found in Orientals where slight inclusion adds comfort and intimacy to the note.

22. CLOVE LEAF OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the clove tree, Eugenia Caryophyllata, an evergreen that grows in Indonesia, Tanzania, Madagascar and Sri Lanka.
Isolation procedure: the oil is steam distilled from the leaves and twigs.
Odor: displays a typical clove odor, but is dry and transparent.
Use: used in complex floral and spicy compositions.

23. CUMIN

Botanical source/occurrence: obtained from Cuminum Cyminum, a small herb that is cultivated throughout the whole of the Mediterranean area and also India.
Isolation procedure: steam distillation of the dried and crushed seeds.
Odor: very powerful, soft, green, spicy odor, which is very reminiscent of the spice itself and displays anise-like undertones.
Use: used at small inclusion levels to increase a note's character in both feminine and masculine themes.

24. OLIBANUM RESINOID / OLIBANUM OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: olibanum is a natural oleoresin that is a physiological product of the tree, Boswellia Carterii, which grows wild in Somalia, Ethiopia and in Saudi Arabia. The resin and oil are produced from the oleoresin that is formed when the bark of the tree is damaged.
Isolation procedure: the resinoid is obtained via extraction of the oleoresin and the oil by means of steam distillation.
Odor: balsamic, spicy, peppery, slightly lemon-like odor which displays typical incense notes and is somewhat coniferous, and resinous.
Use: adds warmth to woody and oriental creations.

CITRUS

25. LEMON OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the fruit of the lemon tree, Citrus Medica, which is cultivated in most Mediterranean countries, Brazil, Argentina, Israel, U.S.A. and West Africa.
Isolation procedure: by squeezing the peel of the ripe fruit using special machines.
Odor: a very typical, lively, refreshing odor. It is a classic among the essential oils.
Use: unlimited, from shower gels to colognes and fine fragrance...

26. ORANGE OIL SWEET

Botanical source/occurrence: from the fruit of the sweet orange tree Citrus Aurantium subspecies Dulcis, which is cultivated in large plantations in Brazil, U.S.A., South Africa and in most of the Mediterranean countries.
Isolation procedure: by cold pressing of the fresh peels.
Odor: shows a typical odor of oranges - lively, fresh, bright with fruity sweetness.
Use: widely used in fresh compositions such as Cognes.

27. BERGAMOT OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the peels of the fruit of the bergamot tree Citrus Bergamia, which is native to Italy, South America and Western Africa.
Isolation procedure: the oil is produced by cold pressing of the peel of the nearly ripe but still green fruit. This used to be performed manually, but is now done by machines.
Odor: has a fresh, clear, lively odor, somewhat fruity and sweet which displays great originality.
Use: widely used in Cognes and Eaux de Toilette. At the heart of Le Labo Bergamote 22.

28. GRAPEFRUIT OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: this oil is obtained from the grapefruit Citrus Decumana, which is cultivated mainly in Israel and U.S.A.
Isolation procedure: by the mechanized pressing of the fruit peel.
Odor: very bright, fresh, bitter and typical grapefruit odor.
Use: in top notes to add punch and freshness, it brings original sparkle to Le Labo Bergamote 22.

29. PETITGRAIN OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: from the bitter orange tree, Citrus Aurantium subspecies Amara. The trees grow wild but are also cultivated on large plantation in Paraguay, France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Brazil.
Isolation procedure: the leaves, twigs and unripe, small fruit are subjected to steam distillation.
Odor: fresh and green, floral-woody odor reminiscent of neroli oil with bitter, spicy undertones.
Use: unavoidable ingredient of the traditional Eaux de Cologne.

FRUITS

30. APPLE

Botanical source/occurrence: apple oil or absolute do not exist and its smell is therefore a perfumer's reconstitution. A wide variety of reconstitutions exist that range from the green and sour apples to the sweeter varieties.
Odor: fruity, green, sweet.
Use: used in shower gels and other body care products, this fruity note is widely used in feminine and even masculine perfumery today, adding sparkle, color, and a watering sensation to compositions.

31. PEACH

Botanical source/occurrence: peach oil and absolute do not exist. Perfumers reconstitute the wide variety of peach smells.
Odor: fruity, green, sweet, with slightly milky undertones.
Use: this fruity theme has been used for a long time, adding power, comfort, and sweetness to Chypre notes as early as the beginning of the century. Is widely used in contemporary perfumes.

32. BLACKCURRANT BUD OIL

Botanical source/occurrence: burgundy in France.
Isolation procedure: the buds of the dense shrub are processed with solvents to obtain the absolute.
Odor: fruity, pungent, bitter, green note, slightly animalic.
Use: used in top notes to add lift.

BALSAMICS

33. VANILLIN

Botanical source/occurrence: occurs naturally in the vanilla pod, in Peru and Tolu balsams and the Siam and Sumatra benzoin.
Isolation procedure: is manufactured from the lignin present in sulphite liquors that are a waste product in the pulp and paper industry. It can also be synthesized from Guaiacol and used to be synthesized from Eugenol. White or cream colored crystals.
Odor: very intense, sweet, creamy, typical vanilla odor.
Use: the central element of the oriental family, adding power, sweetness, comfort, addiction and long lastingness to fragrances.

34. TONKA BEAN

Botanical source/occurrence: occurs naturally in the vanilla pod, in Peru and Tolu balsams and the Siam Tonka bean is the seed of the Dipteryx Odorata fruits, a tree native to Venezuela and Brazil. The seed is dried, soaked in alcohol (rhm) for 24 hours. France is the main producer of the finished product.
Isolation procedure: dried again, it develops crystalline frosting of coumarin on its surface. Seeds are solvent extracted to give concrete, then absolute.
Odor: tobacco, herbal, balsamic, coumarin, sweet, almond.
Use: tonka beans used to be put in cupboards to scent linen. Used in oriental and ambery compositions.

35. CISTUS OIL (LABDANUM OIL)

Botanical source/occurrence: from the gum that exudes from the leaves and twigs of Cistus Ladaniferus. This shrub grows wild throughout the whole of the Mediterranean area, but especially in Spain, Portugal and Southern France.
Isolation procedure: The resinoid is obtained by extraction and the oil by means of steam distillation.
Odor: warm, spicy, amber-like, balsamic odor with dry, woody notes and considerable diffusivity.
Use: base of Le Labo Ciste 18.

MUSKS

36. MUSCENONE DELTA

Botanical source/occurrence: natural musk is a glandular secretion contained in an internal pouch between the hind legs of the male musk deer found in Nepal, China and Tibet. Synthetic products have widely replaced natural musks in modern times and wide ranges of musks exist, with sweet, animalic, powdery, earthy, or fruity facets. Muscenone Delta is a good example of a certain type of noble synthetic musk.
Odor: musk, amber, sweet.
Use: the quintessential bottom note, found in a majority of fragrances, adding long lastingness and sensuality to both feminine and masculine perfumes.

37. AMBRETTE SEED ABSOLUTE

Botanical source/occurrence: from ambrette seeds that are produced in the fruits of a cultivated plant Hibiscus Abelmoschus. The plant belongs to the Mallow family and is to be found in Central and South America, Indonesia and India.
Isolation procedure: The dried and powdered seeds are subject to steam distillation whereby an essential oil is obtained which is very rich in fatty acids. These may be removed by solvent extraction, thus yielding the absolute.
Odor: floral, musk-like, slightly sweet odor of the plant material.
Use: used in precious perfumery and the base of Le Labo's baby perfume - Ambrette 9.

ANIMALICS

38. CASTOREUM

Botanical source/occurrence: the beaver, castor fiber, lives wild in Canada and is raised on farms in Russia. The secretion is obtained from a gland that is found between the hind legs.
Isolation procedure: via extraction of the pods. Synthetic equivalents exist.
Odor: warm, leather-like odor which is pleasantly sweet upon dilution.
Use: is used mostly in the tincture form of old "Fougeres", "Chypres", and oriental bases. Displays a very headstrong character that can be difficult to accommodate.

39. CIVET ABSOLUT

Botanical source/occurrence: civet is a glandular, paste-like secretion collected from various species of the civet cat, Viverra Civetta, which is raised on farms mostly in Ethiopia.
Isolation procedure: the absolute is obtained by extraction of the secretion, keeping the animal alive and safe.
Odor: very powerful, somewhat fecal, animalic odor.
Use: in all high-end fine fragrances.

40. AMBROXAN or AMBER

Botanical source/occurrence: a synthetic crystal product and a principal active constituent of Ambergris, the rare and natural ambery musk secretion produced by sperm whales.
Odor: tobacco, woody, earthy, dry.
Use: a major bottom note widely used in perfumery.

