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# Reimagining Green Notes

Lentisque, or mastic, oil is a very natural, sappy ingredient that has an intense green freshness that can add an elegant twist to formulations.

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*In this first in a series of articles, Marypierre Julien offers a perfumer's perspective in discussing ingredients and their applications in fine fragrance.*

**G**reen notes have always been among my favorites because they remind me of my childhood and are reminiscent of nature, freedom and joy. And I have always been particularly attracted to green notes in perfumes. The first perfume I owned was *Cristalle* by Chanel. I love that its stemmy galbanum top note is married with the sparkling citrus on a bed of woods; it is so elegant. U.S. consumers' tolerance of green notes is low, and the challenge is to use them in the right amount to provide naturality in the perfumes. They are more widely accepted by consumers when combined with fruit, juicy citrus and floral notes.

In my work, I am consistently trying to challenge myself by using green notes in an innovative way. The latest interesting green note that I have had my eye on is the Givaudan Orpur<sup>a</sup> quality of lentisque, or mastic oil from Morocco. It offers a very fresh and modern green galbanum note with facets of juniper and angelica. Obtained by the hydrodistillation of fresh leaves and branches of *Pistacia lentiscus*, this essential oil is found in the Rif Mountains in northern Morocco.

The tree grows wild under organic agriculture practices, and only a few branches are collected per plant. The area is monitored by the Moroccan government to guarantee a proper and sustainable harvest, which occurs during the warmest months from June to September when the tree naturally exudes the essential oil. Lentisque, a typical tree of the Mediterranean landscape, is robust and can bear extreme conditions of both heat and frost. The plant exudes a rare and precious resin called mastiha, which is traditionally collected in the Greek island of Chios and chewed by the locals for its teeth whitening and breath freshening properties.

Lentisque oil Morocco reminds me of the rough coast of Corsica, where I used to spend summers during my childhood. This very natural, sappy ingredient has an intense green

freshness and combines very well with ginger, sage and vetiver. In men's fragrances, it brings a new elegant twist.

## Suggested Applications

I used lentisque in a recent creation with ginger, an anise note and clary sage-enriched Orpur on top, as well as tonka Venezuela Orpur and vetiver Haiti Orpur in the drydown to bring a unique signature to the fragrance. The level was one of the highest dosages I have ever used in this application. Perfumers can typically dose lentisque at 0.005% to 1%. For instance, lentisque can modernize the galbanum note found in *Dune*, *Obsession* and *Must de Cartier*. I like to pair it with juicy citrus notes of lemon and tangerine oil to bring an unexpected freshness.

At a lower level, lentisque brings naturality to the fragrance, especially when combined with floral and woody notes. It reveals elegance, noble intensity and sensuality in oriental compositions, and offers freshness and richness in masculine parfum. The ingredient's duality of green freshness and resinous woody warmth allows it to work very well in chypre and woody fragrances. My first instinct was to

try the typically masculine lentisque in men's fragrances due to its green, aromatic qualities. Since then, I have discovered that lentisque blends very well with gourmand sweet notes.

My new challenge has been to overdose it in an oriental feminine fragrance to create a nice contrast of brightness in the composition. I have found that, in this case, Lentisque works very well combined with sweet notes such as vanillin, ethyl maltol, ethyl vanillin and coumarin to create a new fresh crispy inflection in gourmand notes. In my experience, it clashes in combination with straight marine note like methylbenzodioxepinone, but the addition of sweet note in the composition rounds the overall olfactive profile and allows the lentisque to provide a nice green note—a good combination for this typically masculine aromatic.

—Marypierre Julien



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<sup>a</sup>Orpur is a trademark of Givaudan.

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