



The Vagabond Prince

The Vagabond Prince is an adventurer, a passionate explorer, a romantic dreamer. He stepped out of fairytales, you can find him in the folklore of every nation: the bravest character in a story, often foolhardy in the eyes of everyman, but still quick-witted enough to win. He travels, he fails, but he finds the strength for another fight, and he never relinquishes to anybody the mission of finding his happiness... He is a fabled symbol of human will for development. He is self-made.

Enchanted
FOREST
Eau de Parfum



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Enchanted Forest is inspired by the endless sea of Russian forests and fairytales, as well as the most sensual ancient Slavic celebration named Kupala, rooted in the times of darkness, when all on the Earth knew its soul and its name (often too powerful to be uttered in vain or at all). French perfumer Bertrand Duchaufour, the famous creator of fragrances for L'Artisan Parfumeur, Comme des Garçons and Penhaligon's, built Enchanted Forest around black currant, the smell and taste of which are so beloved in Russia and many other countries where it grows.



The round glossy flacon is made of black opaque glass, to resemble the black currant berry. A golden pattern in the famous old Russian hohloma style is wrapped around the bottle. It was designed exclusively for this fragrance by the artist, first painted by hand and then printed on the bottle in shiny gold.

Two symbols—a sleeping dove (femininity) and the moon (fairytales, the mystery of the night)—are included in its tendrils. A remarkable thing about hohloma is that it is not painted—it grows under the brush from a magical seed which is hidden somewhere in its pattern. It is not rationally constructed, but it has the energy of a rhythm which the artist feels and finds intuitively, like all his forbears. The flacon rests on a white satin cushion inside a box which is as attractive as the flacon.

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The box is lavishly decorated in golden hohloma tendrils, representing the enchanted forest. It embraces the deep blue sky with its curling branches. The sparkle from a shooting star and silhouettes of the tiny night butterflies resting on its branches play little melodies on each side and easily fly into your imagination. Hohloma is so entertaining and doubtlessly magical that one twists and turns the box, caressing with fingers the different surfaces.



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Bertrand Duhaufour about Enchanted Forest:

“Enchanted Forest is a unique fragrance for several reasons. Enchanted Forest is the only perfume I know of that is built around blackcurrant as the sole raw material, to such an extent that one can say it is a CASSIS. Another reason why we can speak of its uniqueness is the topic, this pagan festival that is the Kupala—a typically Slavic tradition that continues even in countries like Russia and whose rites, more festive than other things at present, are a kind of homage to nature and the mysteries of the forest.

The challenge was great: I had to magnify the raw material (blackcurrant), a material used very often in perfumery and sometimes overused inelegantly through notes of red fruits, and in this regard I made a sort of soliflore. Soliflores are generally constructed on floral bases such as jasmine, rose, tuberose, but for Enchanted Forest the intention was quite different... and I had the idea of working the blackcurrant throughout the structure (head, heart, bottom) of the perfume. To do this, I used no less than a blackcurrant CO2 (a manner of extracting the blackcurrant to make a special concrete), an absolute of blackcurrant and two different blackcurrant bases, including one of my own creation, to build a sort of skeleton, a vertical structure on which the entire perfume would be built.

My inspiration for this fragrance was primarily the fruit of blackcurrant itself, from which I drew enormously the strength of the fragrance. The blackcurrant is the MOST IMPORTANT fruity note of the range that exists in perfumery. There are more than 400 raw materials that sound fruity in the perfumer's palette. Blackcurrant and the sulfur effects of blackcurrant are the basis for the reconstruction of almost all fruits that perfumers and flavorists know. It is HUGE!

I worked through all the blackcurrant forms that exist except the natural fruit juice, jams and candies I have mingled the effects of orange and other red fruits for a more sophisticated aspect to this fruit.



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“My second idea was to directly link the blackcurrant with the odor of a forest ... also a very interesting link because in blackcurrant there are hints of intense woody plants one can exploit. Blackcurrant has a facet of "grass porridge" (boiled herbs, like a soup!) that can work directly with herbaceous green notes, and even with aromatics that facilitate the construction of several woodland scents ... I wanted to work the dark, mysterious, almost scary effects of the forest, all that evokes mystery and, to man, seems almost supernatural in the forest: animals whose existence has been forgotten (especially in the West), the wetlands, the endless decomposition of rotting vegetation and its constant replenishing, the vital force of nature that man has hidden too deeply within himself

This force, I evoke by the vibrant bone structure of a spicy woody chypre (patchouli, moss, vetiver, castoreum) but also by the warm, comfortable and intense effect of Balsam fir (pine needle absolute) that strengthens the woody notes and gives an evergreen aspect to any perfume. I used the Balsam fir, because it symbolizes the quintessential Russian forest I love the smell of the forest, and it was easy for me to link the earthy notes I love with these effects of pine and the dried pine needles covering the floor of an endless pine and fir forest. It reminds me of my childhood, because I lived 11 years of my life with a pine forest behind my house. Furthermore, I lived in one of the regions—Nancy, in the east of France—that is the most continental and greatly reminiscent of Russia. This is an area where we have some of the most beautiful forests in France!”

ENCHANTED FOREST:

pink pepper, aldehydes, sweet orange (traces), flower cassis, blackcurrant leaf, hawthorn, effects of rum and wine, rosemary, davana.

blackcurrant buds absolute, CO2 blackcurrant, Russian coriander seed, honeysuckle, rose, carnation, vetiver

opoponax resinoid, Siam benzoin, amber, oakmoss, fir balsam absolute, Patchouli Purecoeur®, castoreum absolute, cedar notes, vanilla, musk

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