

Interviews

Sous le Manteau: Five Recipes Of Love Potions

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by: **Sergey Borisov**

Attention! In New York's hotel **The Pierre** from February 6 to 20th you can smell perfumes **Sous le Manteau** and meet their creators. Cocktails and pastries from the La Rotonde cafe will make your perfume experience even more enjoyable.



Olivia Bransbourg at the counter

Paris, the city of love and perfume, often serves as major locale for perfume stories. The new Parisian perfume brand **Sous le Manteau** was introduced to the public in the hotel Maison Souquet in December 2016. Maison Souquet at Montmartre was known for being a meeting place for secret lovers.



The place for the perfume house presentation was purposely chosen by its art director Olivia Bransbourg to fit her perfumes. '*Sous Le Manteau*' is a French idiom literally meaning '*Under the Cloak*'. It appeared in the 18th century in the French literary society tradition of carrying banned books under the cloak. Olivia and her perfumer **Nathalie Feisthauer** intended to create perfumes as if they were banned from public view and addressed to a smaller group of initiates.



Olivia Bransbourg is known for her publishing project Iconofly and perfumes *Attache-Moi* and *It Was A Time That Was A Time*. Nathalie Feisthauer is a great perfumer who created *Havana Aramis*, *L'Eau des Merveilles Hermès*, *L'Eau Belle Azzaro*, *Must Pour Homme Cartier*, *Boss Element Hugo*, *Honour Man Amouage*, *Putain des Palace Etat Libre d'Orange*, *Tar Comme des Garçons*, *Champaca Luxe Comme des Garçons*.



Nathalie Feisthauer, perfumer

For greater mystery, the perfumes of [Sous le Manteau](#) are called "elixirs d'amour" & "parfums aphrodisiaques". Nathalie Feisthauer made her research of old love potions and adapted them according to modern perfume rules. Every Sous le Manteau perfume has its recipe [on the house website](#).



I had a chance to talk to the perfumer Nathalie Feisthauer and Olivia Bransbourg, and will share my conversation with you.

SERGEY: There have been hundreds of love potion recipes invented since ancient times, some were based on vegetables, herbs, spices and flowers. How did you make your choices?

OLIVIA: We actually didn't choose the ingredients, we followed the recipes we found in medical and officinal books dating back to the XIXth century. We loved how indeed there have been hundreds of recipes since ancient times designed to enhance desire but we loved even more the way the ingredients themselves were carefully kept all throughout the Middle Ages in cloisters and monasteries until the recipes were later transcribed in official medical books.

(I found recipes of Diablotins Stimulants and Essence Royale in the book "Pharmacopée Universelle, Ou Conspectus des Pharmacopées d'Amsterdam, Anvers, Dublin, etc.", by Antoine Jacques Louis Jourdain, second edition, 1 volume, 1840, note by Serguey Borisov)

SERGEY: Did you try your recipes to see how they work?

OLIVIA: The original philters are extremely intense and may not please modern noses, but we loved them so much that we explored to find a way to make them IFRA acceptable! As for trying them, my husband doesn't allow me to wear the perfumes outside the house.

SERGEY: Do Sous le Manteau perfumes share some general properties regarding their composition?

NATHALIE: A certain deepness; the materials used are of course really high end using the sensual side of ingredients. Also, maybe we rediscovered some forgotten ingredients through the philters. They overdose some spice balsam... or even animalistic parts.

SERGEY: I have read your interview, where you described the way Sophia Grojsman changed modern perfumery in 90s. These several decades we have experienced a big influence of oud and in general oriental perfume styles. Where do you think perfumery will go next?

NATHALIE: Yes, it is interesting to follow how perfumery has transformed from a French style to American, when they brought fun fruity notes to it, and then oud has come from the Gulf countries.

I suppose that perfumery will then divide in 2 categories: one of them would be for easy wearing, which is easy to wear, but also easy to replace. And the other would go back to the real perfume. You can call it niche, alternative, or any other suitable name. It will be based on excellent materials and creative ideas.

As for Sous Le Manteau perfumes, it is the scent you'll choose, feeling your potential. SLM perfumes due to their formulations are very long lasting.

There is a questionnaire [on the slm website](#) to choose your aphrodisiac. I answered questions and got *Cuir d'Orient*.

CUIR D'ORIENT



The fragrance is very delicate, it's based on a play of semitones and soft lights. A muted citrus accord with a bit of brown sugar powder are followed by chilly suede (*Suederal*) over an ardently murmuring amber base (heliotropine accord, patchouli, vanilla and, finally, benzoin). *Cuir d'Orient* is quiet and caressing, respectful and gallant, but his charm is arresting.

Cuir d'Orient Sous le Manteau

notes: bergamot, iris, heliotrope, suede, patchouli, vanilla absolute, ambretta, benzoin, oppoanax, musk.

ESSENCE DU SÉRAIL

essence du sérail

Vanille (*Vanilla saliva*, 20; musc (*Moshus moshiferus*), 1; cannelle (*Laurus cinnamomum*, 10; safran (*Crocus salivus*), 30; ambre gris (*Physeter macrocephalus*), 10; girofle (*Caryophyllus aromaticus*), 10; poivre cubèbe (*Piper cubeba*), 75; gingembre (*Zingiber offic.*), 30; macis (*Myristica moschata*), 57; sucre et mucilage à l'eau de roses, aa, Q. S.

A sweet heady smell of a harem's premises inside the palace. It intoxicates with its exotic spicy and animalic beauty - heady camphor and boozy fruits. I guess there must be something like tuberose, jasmine or ylang as well. It is definitely not a casual perfume for somebody who is not accustomed to being the center of attention.

Essence du Sérail Sous le Manteau

notes: bergamot, ylang, jasmine, lily-of-the-valley, orange blossom, plum, peach, heliotrope, sandal, vanilla & ambretta.

POUDRE IMPÉRIALE

poudre impériale

Cannelle en poudre . . .	40 gramm.	3 j 3 ij.
Gingembre	32 gramm.	3 j.
Girofle	16 gramm.	3 iv.
Galanga		
Macis } āā	8 gramm.	3 ij.
Muscade		
Musc.	6 décigr.	g xij.

It is a very cheerful citrus eau de cologne with a peppery note and wet woody notes. Like a sanguine person, it is good company for any occasion. Its agitation and bright citrus laughter will later change to a powdery carnation nostalgic mood, still easy and light, but the timeless, spicy floral carnation adds some classiness and feels a bit old-fashioned.

Poudre Impériale Sous le Manteau

notes: bergamot, elemi, cardamom, black pepper, pink pepper, lily-of-the-valley, jasmine, incense, heliotrope, benzoin, tonka beans, cedar, musk, vanilla.

VAPEURS DIABLOTINES

vapeurs diablotines

Musc	8 gr.
Gingembre	00
Ambre gris	4 00
Girofle	0 40
Safran	8 00
Mastic	16 00
Sucre	24 00
Infusion de teucrium marum	1000 00
	Q.S.

There is no love secret she does not know. This spicy lady can always give good practical advice. She reads signs in stars, palms, books and eyes. It is a passionate, spicy, opulent floral, balsamic and woody complex perfume for ladies who like sensual experiments.

Vapeurs Diablotines Sous le Manteau

notes: bergamot, mandarin, coriander, carnation, bay leaf, incense, geranium, cedar, patchouli, vetiver, vanilla, musk, benzoin, tonka bean absolute, labdanum, castoreum, oppoponax, styrax & Animalis.

FONTAINE ROYALE

fontaine royale

Ambre gris	2 gramm.	4 décigr.
Musc	1 gramm.	2 décigr.
Civette	5 décigr.	x grains.
Huile de cannelle	Gutt.	vj.
de bois de Rhodes	Gutt.	iv.
Carbonate de potasse	2 gramm.	3 β.
Alcoolat rectifié de roses	} āā	48 gramm. 3 j b
de fleurs d'oranges		

It is a floral, powdery oriental perfume for a king's new young favorite. Its floral accord is lavishly rich as if it comes from a classic painting. Its powder is soft and vintage, slightly balsamic and almost gourmand. I would call it a very self-confident floral scent. (According to the recipe, there should have been an overdose of animalic smells over a floral background.)

Fontaine Royale Sous le Manteau

notes: bergamot, jasmine, iris, rose, geranium, cedar, sandal, musk, labdanum, styrax, vanilla absolute, ambretta.

Credits: photo Pascal Perich



Sergey Borisov has been involved in perfumery since the early 90`s when he had his own perfume-devoted program "Close to Body" on Krasnoyarsk radio (1993). As a perfume enthusiast (known as moon_fish), he became famous in Russia for his translation of Luca Turin's Perfume: Le Guide. He made a career as a fragrance journalist and contributed to distinguished magazines such as GQ, Vogue, Elle, Cosmopolitan, Interview, Forbes, Allure, Robb Report, Flacon, Departure, RBC-Style, TSUM-Magazine (2008-2016). His own online columns for RBC-Style.ru, Vogue.ru, and GQ.ru (2006-2015) have earned him international recognition and an invitation to be an editor for the Russian edition of "The Little Book of Perfumes" by Luca Turin & Tania Sanchez. Sergey Borisov was invited as a speaker at Esxence 2012 (Milano) and Intercharm 2015 (Moscow). In 2013, Sergey joined the Fragranticateam.