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20 COMMENTS
BY LUCASAI PERFUME REVIEW

Silver dust, Aedes de Venustas Pélargonium

They just moved into a new appartement and were looking for an extraordinary decorative item to add more character to their living room. They were almost ready to give up as for the last few weeks they didn't find anything suitable. But then one day they found this really old antique shop. Lazy rays of sunlight were pouring in through aged glass. Among tall shelves of dusty books they noticed a bunch of flowers. It was a bouquet, made of naturally dried flowers. The colors were so aged but the arrangement was so pretty. It had its own soul. They found a perfect still life for their home.

New fragrance from *Aedes de Venustas* is named *Pélargonium* & is the eighth element in a brand's collection. For a first minute I could barely smell anything coming up from my skin but once the composition captures some warmth from my body it begins to develop. At first whiff I can sense a lot of pepper. At first it's cold but it warms up quickly as the spiciness feeling intensifies. This blend of black and Sichuan pepper surprisingly doesn't have the metallic facet I often get from it.



To be honest with you, this peppery opening is so gentle and well-balanced that at first I thought that a perfumer used white pepper. When I smell it, it reminds me of the way parchment can smell – the aroma of paper, somewhat aged. Spiciness from the opening stage blends in with bergamot and mandarin. These two citrus don't give much juiciness, however they counteract the spicy vibe with hints of sweetness and occasional tart effect that sometimes peeks through, as one may notice.

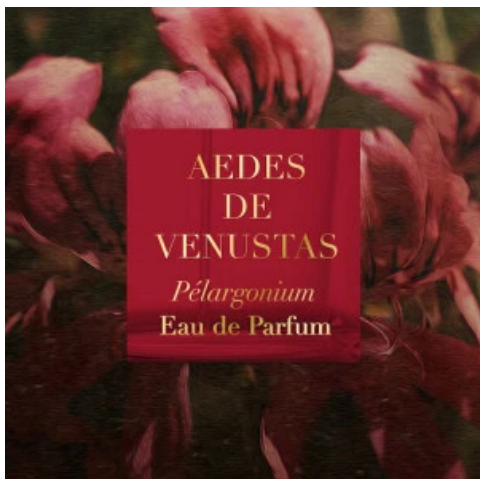
After around 15 minutes *Pélargonium* initiates the reveal of geranium note. Rising above the peppery molecules it smells almost like mint. No, not like spearmint, much warmer, green and sappy – like it was more related to basil. This effect doesn't last for long & subsides preparing the stage for geranium, a star of this fragrance. This new *Aedes* features Egyptian geranium – *Pelargonium graveolens*. It has a truly complex scent that combines airy aromatic facets and crispy green leaves with facets that imitate rose but in a more balsamic way. You can notice them all!

Geranium at first effuses an aromatic side that is almost like a fougere, with fern and lavender. Afterwards it gradually transforms into the aroma of green sap coming from crushed stems and leaves of geranium. Finally it becomes similar to rose... But when rose could become more rich and fruity, *Pélargonium* turns more balsamic and enveloping. Once this key accord settles down after a while the composition is ready to evolve even further. Background for the perfume starts to crystallize in a slow, lazy manner, allowing the wearer to admire its varied elements.



First there is iris – but to fully enjoy *Aedes Pélargonium* you'll have to forget about everything you know about iris, at least for a moment. For it smells different. Velvety petals have been replaced by a layer of parchment, so thin you can almost see through it. Moist, buttery texture has been swapped for a dry, more dusty feeling that complements the paper-like smell with true grace. Then there is a bit of carrot, very subtle and almost not there. It didn't bother me so I doubt it will bother you – but you'll sense its presence. Plus *Hedione* adds some bright sunlight to it.

Further into depths of fragrance structure lies a possibility to observe how base of *Pélargonium* solidifies in front of your eyes (in front of your nose?) If new *Aedes* was a painting, cedar would be like a wooden frame to stretch fragrance canvas on. Cedar wood brings substance and dimension to the blend, releasing its austere beauty. No sweaty aspects have been noticed by me, just pure wood with a whisper of cardamom that adds warm, roasted spiciness to it & more playful style.



Woody aspects are later somewhat “disturbed” by vetiver. There are quite a few handfuls of this ingredient. In *Pélargonium* I sense it in a way dry tall grass or hay smells to me. It's a blend of earthy, green and woody sensations. It's also relatively shady. The finale of the fragrance is much darker than the rest of the fragrance. Gaiac wood provides a dense, almost resinous and gooey odour that combines with elemi. The latter one has a smell of salty incense. Moss – really dry and musty gives the impression as if it was covering everything with a layer of dust.

Musk participates in this feeling, at the same time adding some of its own dirtiness. Last but not least there is *Ambermax*. This aroma chemical from *Givaudan* adds warm, sensual ambery facet that lights up the darkness that fell upon *Aedes de Venustas Pélargonium* at its late stage. As you can notice, the perfume is really changing over time and has a lot to offer.

Natalie Feisthauer – a perfumer of this fragrance did a really good job interpreting such a simple ingredient like geranium into such a non-simple perfume. *Pélargonium* is housed in *Aedes* signature 100 ml zamak bottle, which is made of bright red glass this time. Also the box of *Pélargonium* is covered with intensively red plush. This eau de parfum will be available as of mid April.