



**Mas  
Flaquer**

**NATURE, ART & PERFUMES  
BY BRAVANARIZ**

# FROM HUMMUS TO COSMOS

***Intensive Natural Perfumery Workshop/retreat***

**MARINA BARCENILLAS & ERNESTO COLLADO**

**12-15 SEPTEMBER 2024**

at Mas Flaquer (Cantallops-La Albera)  
North-East corner of Spain

# WORKSHOP/RETREAT

## A different way of learning

After years of meeting at different events in niche perfumery, Marina Barcenilla and Ernesto Collado have finally found the right time and place to design a totally exclusive and unique perfumery workshop/retreat, an experience tailored to their own high standards. They have created the workshop they would have loved to participate in during their own learning process as self-taught perfumers and which, to this day, is still impossible to find.

Because both practice a sensory approach to learning based on awe and wonder, experience comes first; the emotion and sensation it provokes in us. When we feel and observe, or better yet, purposefully observe and seek to understand and empathise with the object of study, only then does the engine of true curiosity turn on. This is the moment when we want to know more, to learn more, to understand and to remember. Only then can we turn to the books and the academies to understand what others have experienced and contrast our knowledge with theirs. This is when you can truly begin studying.

Following these precepts, Marina Barcenilla and Ernesto Collado are presenting a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the best-kept secrets of natural perfumery in a format never seen before—from the recognition of the plant in its wild state through the harvesting and extraction of its essence and the production of raw materials to the final formulation of the perfume. A fascinating olfactory journey from the depths of the Earth's subsoil and the smell of its bacterial life to the mineral notes of Mars and the speculated aromas of galaxies.

Welcome to the ultimate immersive fragrance experience, where the magic of nature and scent creation combine and come to life.





# Beauty and the forgotten senses

Beauty is not the solution to our problems, but, we dare say, it helps. For this reason, the framework in which an experience will be developed is crucial. This is where Mas Flaquer comes in. This traditional Catalan farm is a regenerative agriculture and organic production facility located in the heart of the beautiful but unknown area of Serra de l'Albera, a 'Region of Natural Interest' in Costa Brava in the northeast corner of Spain. Its primeval Mediterranean vistas, covered with forests of oak, olive trees, vineyards, wild ponds and aromatic scrublands, feel like a Neolithic landscape.

We live in a visual society under the tyranny of sight, but beauty does not captivate us through the eyes alone; all of the senses are involved. During this retreat, we intend to make up for this. The sense of smell will be central to our experience, but our taste and touch must also be fed. For this reason, we have designed a series of menus with our biodynamic chefs Neus Ferrer & Clara Canyigueral to discover, experiment with, and enjoy new and surprising flavours. These are meals cooked with time, love, and local products (most of them harvested by yourself in our organic orchard) that will convert your stay here into a tremendous gastronomic pleasure and health practice.

We will also be taking care of our body, skin, muscles and internal organs. Every morning, we will do a series of exercises specially designed for our retreat by the sociocultural association MUMOT (MUSIC in MOVEMENT for TRANSFORMATION) to awaken our senses and open our perception of the environment, ourselves and others. Self-massages and movements that go beyond feeling good will help us improve our concentration and promote and encourage our attention to start the day with an open and curious attitude.





# Re-connecting with Nature and ourselves

In addition to learning about perfume and perfumery, by the end of this transformative experience, you will have a deeper understanding of the natural world, a newfound appreciation for the delicate balance between nature and fragrance, and a sense of peace and rejuvenation that only nature can provide.

Imagine escaping the hustle and bustle of daily life to immerse yourself in the tranquil beauty of the countryside, where every breath you take is filled with the rich, earthy scent of nature. Picture yourself wandering through wildflowers and aromatic herbs with the sun warming your face as you collect the raw materials that will soon inspire your very own bespoke perfume.

Embark on a sensory journey as you unleash your inner botanist, wander through the fields, and explore the flora that thrives in this landscape. Feel the texture of the soil beneath your feet, breathe in the country air, and notice the colours and sounds of your surroundings. Each sensory detail will provide the foundation for a unique fragrance. As you wander, gather a bounty of aromatic plants, each with its own story, unique scent profile, and role in the ecosystem. They weave a fragrant tapestry that tells the story of the land, a tale whose essence we will capture using the ancient technique of distillation. Watch this alchemical process unfold and witness how the essence of each plant is carefully extracted while the air is filled with the aromas of freshly distilled oils, capturing the very soul of the countryside.

This experience is designed to engage all your senses, offering moments of reflection and inspiration at every turn. As the sun sets and the sky fills with stars, you'll discover the connections between the chemistry of the heavens and the earth, stargazing while you learn how cosmic elements have influenced the natural world from the dawn of time, adding another layer of wonder to your journey.

This immersive retreat is a rare opportunity to slow down, reconnect with nature, and rediscover the simple joys of creating something beautiful and personal.





# YOUR GUIDES & COLLABORATORS

To make all this possible, we have assembled an incredibly passionate team of professionals.

Marina Barcenilla and Ernesto Collado, the workshop's creators and your constant guides throughout the experience, are two people with proven experience and international recognition in niche perfumery. Both are founders of enormously disruptive brands: Marina Barcenilla Perfumes and Bravanariz.

These two successful and atypical perfumers will accompany you at all times during the process. They will stay with you to turn this workshop retreat into an authentic learning and enrichment experience, not only on an academic but also on an experiential level.



# Marina Barcenilla

Marina Barcenilla leads a double life... but this is not a secret. In addition to being an independent perfumer and fragrance educator, she is also an Astrobiology Doctoral Researcher at the University of Westminster and the Natural History Museum in London.

In the world of fragrance, Marina has more than two decades of experience, both as a perfumer and as a fragrance educator. She is the founder of her own perfume brands, Marina Barcenilla Parfums and AromAtom, and a fragrance creator for other British brands. She has also founded her own School of Creative Perfumery, which teaches in English and Spanish and is an academican at the Spanish Academia del Perfume. As a pioneer of natural perfumery in the UK, she is passionate about natural fragrance and the role of olfaction in education and health.

In the realm of science, Marina has a First Class Honours degree in Planetary Science and Astronomy and is in the final months of a PhD in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Biophysics. She is also an active science communicator with her project "AromAtom: Discover the Smell of Space", a member of the Astrobiology Society of Britain Committee and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. She has delivered science talks and activities since 2017 for schools, science museums, conferences and the Royal Society.





## Ernesto Collado

With a significant career as an actor, creator of theatre and contemporary artist, he always swam against the current, fleeing from any label. He was the artistic director, amongst others, of Fundación Collado-Van Hoestenbergh and MAPA Festival. The grandson of a crucial Spanish chemist-perfumer and producer of natural essential oils at the beginning of the 20th century, he has inherited an exceptional olfactory sensitivity and an unconditional love for plants and science. Later, he was educated in Grasse (GIP, Grasse Institute of Perfumery) and completed his perfumery studies working with essential oil producers and pupils of his grandfather, where he learned from practical experience. A self-taught botanist, avid reader of poetry and philosophy and a passionate communicator, he has turned all of his eccentric creativity and never-ending fascination for nature into BRAVANARIZ, one of Europe's most disruptive and authentic 100% natural niche perfumery brands. Using olfactory experiences, talks and discussion panels, he aims to infect people with olfactory curiosity and help them reconnect with Nature through smell. He, like Marina, is fascinated by the role of olfaction in society and its enormous power as a tool for knowledge and pleasure. Now, with Mas Flaquer, he has found the right place to develop all his ideas and share them with others.





# Clara Canyigueral & Neus Ferrer

Clara Canyigueral, passionate chef with years of experience in restaurants, currently works as a private chef. His cuisine goes beyond the dishes; every meal is a fun, surprising and delicious experience. Her goal is to create special moments with local products, offering an authentic and emotional gastronomy. Each bite tells a story and each dish is an expression of love and dedication to our land and community.

Neus Ferrer, a self-taught cook, specialized in vegetarian cuisine, Majorcan gastronomy, postpartum nutrition and retreat cuisine. Currently heads the Obrador de Sa Menjua, in Celrà, where tofu and seitan are made from handmade 100% organic ingredients. Our kitchen is a journey of the senses. We believe that the connection with oneself and with others is directly related to our connection with nature. Everything we do is based on a high respect for the ingredients and the people who provide them, respecting the seasons and thinking about the needs of the people for whom we cook.





## Marc Arumí

Beekeeper and CEO of Abellaires Empordanesos (@abellairesempordanesos), the first organic beekeeping and honey Company in the Empordà región with decades of experience (it's the third generation). Marc is passionate about bees and landscapes and a great connoisseur of the region. He will reveal to us the best-kept secrets of these little environmental heroines, bees, which are, without a doubt, the best natural perfumers on the planet.

## Barbara Van Hoestenbergh

Barbara, a sociologist, musician, dramaturg, and mayor at a little village in the Empordà, founded MUMOT, a sociocultural association devoted to transforming society through movement. In the frame of body consciousness, she designed a series of exercises for which she composed specific music with a concrete goal: to increase creativity and concentration, restore confidence and increase empathy. Together with Lola Robles, a yoga, Pilates, mindfulness teacher, and neurological rehabilitator, they have designed exercises for architecture and design studios, theatre companies, and public organisations. Their most popular project is called TIRABUIXÓ, in which they work with more than twenty-three different schools to prepare children physically and mentally for learning.





## And last but not least...

The bees, the plants and the landscape will also be our teachers during these days of intense learning. Our team would be nothing without them.





# FOR WHO IS THIS RETREAT?

During this retreat, we will cover all aspects of perfumery, from raw material creation to the final formulation, but this is not an introductory course. Although you don't require extensive experience in perfume creation, you'll make the most of it if you already understand basic perfumery concepts and are familiar with the world of fragrance. The more questions you bring about perfume creation, the more you will get out of the experience, which is why it is important to have some previous experience working with essential oils and other perfumery raw materials.

Following registration, we will email a PDF outlining the basic knowledge required to follow the classes confidently. Additionally, we have scheduled personal tutoring time on the last day of the retreat to help you develop your own project (if you have one) or advise you on further training. Knowing the niche perfumery industry as we do, we can help you with all those tricky issues that the industry keeps in absurd secrecy, so take advantage of that and ask us about everything you want to know. We love to share our knowledge, and we will happily help you add to yours.



# Materials

We will provide everything you need to formulate and create your bespoke perfumes, including the ingredients, lab equipment and tools. All the raw materials (essential oils, tinctures, hydrolats...) will be of the highest quality, either from wild harvested plants and made by yourself onsite or from well-known, reputable suppliers. Pruning scissors, gloves, baskets, beekeeping garments and other equipment you may need during your stay will also

be provided. The only thing you need to bring is an open mind and tons of curiosity (but a notebook, a magnifying glass and a pen will be of great help!).

## Connectivity & Cell Phones

There is wifi available in most of the spaces in Mas Flaquer, though take into account that we'll be in a farm in the middle of the countryside. Don't expect high-speed internet. Seeing it from the bright side, it's a great opportunity for you to disconnect.

In this sense, being an immersive experience, we highly recommend you to switch off your cell phone from 6 am to 8 pm, but, of course, it is up to you. But there's something though, we strongly ask you to do: no cell phones on the tables during breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Those moments are meant for real connection with other people, to talk, to listen, to share, and to be there, not somewhere else. These moments are also an important part of our apprenticeship, not only as future perfumers, but as persons. We thank you in advance for that.





# PROGRAM

Thursday 12 of September

5:00 pm. Reception and installation

6:00 pm. Welcoming speech and presentation

7:00 pm. Evening walk around the farm. Introduction to the Regenerative Agriculture Project and Mas Flaquer.

8:30 pm. Biodynamic welcome dinner with natural wine tasting (a different winery every night)

Friday 13th of September

6:00 am. Morning exercise

6:30 am. Rising sun walk (noticing the thermal change and how the aroma of the landscape is transformed)

7:45 am. Biodynamic breakfast

8:30 am. Aromatic plants recognition and wild harvesting walk with Ernesto Collado

10:30 am. Distilling techniques, elaboration of tinctures, hydrolates and essential oils with Ernesto Collado

12:00 am. Coffee break

12:30 am. More on raw materials elaboration (enfleurage) with Ernesto Collado

2:00 pm. Biodynamic lunch with local virgin olive oil tasting

4:00 pm. Formulation with Marina Barcenilla. Creating your bespoke natural perfume

6:00 pm. Coffee break

6:30 pm. Formulation with Marina Barcenilla. Creating your bespoke natural perfume

8:30 pm. Biodynamic dinner with natural wine tasting



# PROGRAM

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Saturday 14th of September

7:00 am. Morning exercise

7:30 am. Breakfast

8:15 am. Getting ready to visit the beehives with Marc Arumí and Ernesto Collado.

9:00 am. Visiting the hives with Marc Arumí and harvesting honey and wax.

10:30 am. Back to the lab, creating the raw materials for a solid-based perfume with Ernesto Collado

Noon. Coffee break

12:30 am. More on solid-based perfumes, massage oils, incense...

2:00 pm. Biodynamic lunch with honey tasting from Abellaires Empordanesos

4:00 pm. Formulation with Marina Barcenilla. Creating your bespoke natural perfume

6:30 pm. Coffee break

7:00 pm. Formulation with Marina Barcenilla. Creating your bespoke natural perfume

9:00 pm. Biodynamic dinner with natural wine tasting

10:30 pm. Stargazing with Marina Barcenilla and farewell night party dancing under the moon

Sunday 15th of September

8:30 am. Morning exercise

9:00 am. Biodynamic breakfast under the olive trees

9:45 am. Personal Project tutoring and final formulations with Marina Barcenilla & Ernesto Collado

12:00 am. Coffee brake

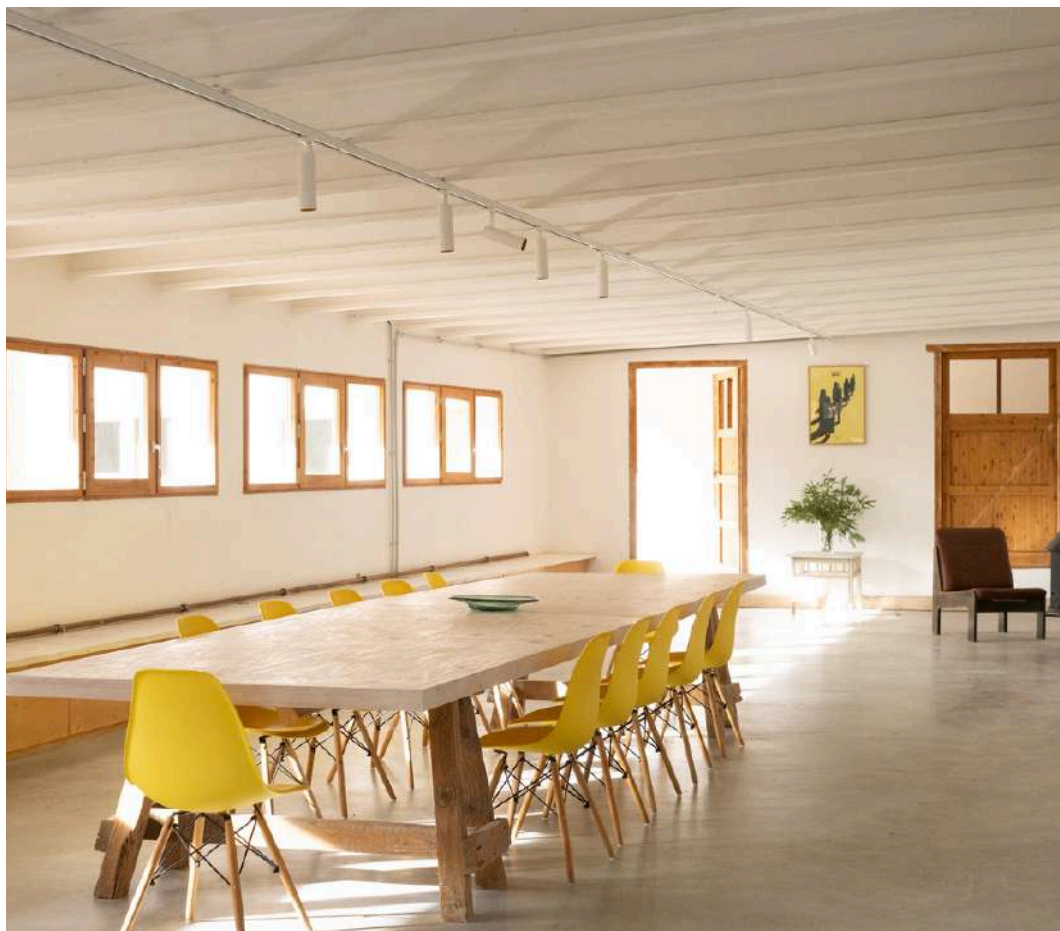
12:30 pm. Personal Projects tutoring and final formulations with Marina Barcenilla & Ernesto Collado

2:30 pm. Farewell biodynamic lunch and olfaction of all the perfumes created by the group, with natural wine tasting and elderflower champagne.





# THE FARM





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# PRICES & CONTACT

Workshop and full pension .....750€

Shared room with shared bathrooms x 3 nights.....135€

For apartments, single rooms or doble rooms with private bathroom  
in the farm facilities, contact us :

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Organiced by

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