

**NATURE, ART & PERFUMES**  
BY BRAVANARIZ

# The Art and Craft of Perfumery



**History, Extraction, and Formulation Intensive**

with Saskia Wilson-Brown, Spyros Drosopoulos, and  
Ernesto Collado

15th - 21st of June 2025

Be Landscape.

Cantallops /Alt Empordà

[www.bravanariz.com](http://www.bravanariz.com)

# WORKSHOP RETREATS

The ultimate goal in the creation of all our workshops is to promote a new way of relating to nature, whether through perfumery or any other artistic and creative form.

They are designed to give you a truly immersive experience, awakening all your senses. For us, learning must go hand in hand with enjoyment and pleasure at all times. That is why we give a lot of importance to things that are vital to us, such as good food, beauty in all its forms (from the attention to design to the smallest detail when setting the table), time (quality of time) and, above all, the humanity and kindness of all the people who work to make it possible.

We put special emphasis on the practice. We like to do things. First, there is the experience, the physical experience from which then comes the theory. It is when you have experienced something and have been able to become intimate with the object of your study that the enriching questions arise. It is then that the theory can help us to consolidate the knowledge we have acquired through practice, and to develop our knowledge of the subject.

We like the workshop-retreat idea. Spending a few days in a privileged natural environment, isolated from our busy lives, sharing time and space with a group of curious and knowledge-hungry people gives the course an unusual intensity and level of concentration and attention.





# The Art and Craft of Perfumery

## History, Extraction, and Formulation Intensive

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Perfumery is a complex practice. For this reason, it is often presented and taught in the context of oppositions: natural versus synthetic, historic versus contemporary. These dualities present a divisive approach to perfumery, which serves only to fracture and limit the potential of the practice.

Mas Flaquer is a regenerative farm outside Barcelona that serves as the headquarters for Spanish perfume brand Bravanariz. Here Ernesto Collado, Spyros Drosopoulos and Saskia Wilson-Brown combine their areas of expertise to present a six-day perfume intensive that approaches the practice with a holistic and inclusive lens.

Through a combination of fieldwork, hands-on blending time, and lectures, this intensive will highlight the connections between diverse working methods: it will focus on how to interrelate natural sourcing and extraction strategies, modern chemistry, technical perfumery, and experimentation. In this way, this intensive will provide participants with an expansive understanding of all the possibilities for their craft, and a fuller appreciation of what is possible with scent.



# Spyros Drosopoulos

Spyros has had a lifelong fascination with scent and smells. While studying psychology, he discovered the allure of perfume as a tool of seduction. His academic journey continued with a Ph.D. in Sleep and Memory Consolidation, completed Magna Cum Laude, where he encountered the world of niche perfumery. This discovery shifted his focus from the effects of fragrances to the intricacies of their creation. In 2009, he attended a workshop in perfume-making, igniting what would become his second career. Fast forward to the here and now, he is the founder and perfumer of Baruti perfumes where he blends artistry with science. He collaborates with other brands, explores the intersection of AI and perfumery, and teaches the popular Perfume Intensive course at the Institute for Art and Olfaction (IAO) in LA.

Being self taught has been a blessing in disguise for this former academic as unhindered by conventions (what box?) and driven by a deep curiosity and rigorous research, he has developed into a versatile, well-rounded perfumer. His particular passion lies in reconstructing everyday scents, whether inspired by flowers, objects, or anything that catches his imagination. Spyros's expertise spans niche and commercial perfumery, as well as experimental and artistic scent projects. Unlike many in the industry, he believes in demystifying the world of perfume. He enjoys sharing his knowledge in a typical scientific no-nonsense manner, with those eager to learn about the materials and techniques behind fragrance creation.



# Saskia Wilson-Brown

French by upbringing, Cuban and English by parentage, and American by birth, Saskia Wilson-Brown obtained her BA at UC Berkeley, and her MA (Fine Art) at Central Saint Martins College in London. After a career in film and television, in 2012 she founded The Institute for Art and Olfaction, a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization devoted to experimentation, access and cross-media projects with a focus on scent. As head of the IAO, she has led the organization from an idea to a fully fledged institution, devoted to serving the general public and independent perfume industry alike while forging and maintaining relationships with institutions including Jet Propulsion Lab (NASA), Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, Getty Center, Goethe Institut, Hammer Museum, Wallace Collection, and many more. In 2013 – drawing from her experience with film festivals – she created and launched The Art and Olfaction Awards, an international, blindly-judged awards mechanism designed to celebrate and raise visibility for independent and artisan perfumers, and experimental practitioners with scent. In addition to countless art installations and events, she has also produced large public-facing programs relating to olfaction including the Biennial Scent Fair LA (with Darin Klein) and the annual Experimental Scent Summit (with Klara Ravat), a multi-year exploration of open source strategies in scent-making, and Perfume on the Radio - a radio show and podcast that aired for two years on non-profit radio station Lookout FM, in Los Angeles. In 2019 and 2020, Saskia was a visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art in London, teaching about scent-making as a creative practice in the MA Fashion program. In 2020 and 2022, she was invited as a Ballen Scholar at New Mexico Highlands University, where she taught MA Media students how to incorporate scent into their practice. She has lectured and taught at institutions including Eindhoven Design Akademie, Art Center, Otis College, and many more. In 2023 she launched the pandemic-delayed Scent Week, a biennial week-long festival of smell for Los Angeles. Along with running the IAO, Saskia's current projects include pursuing a PhD about the relationship between perfume, access and power at University College Dublin's SmartLab, and finishing a book, to be published in early 2026 by D.A.P. | Distributed Art Publishers.



# Ernesto Collado Sala

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 i Neus Ferrer

Clara Canyigueral is a passionate chef with years of experience in restaurants. Currently works as a private chef, her cuisine extends 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 her love and dedication to our land and community.

Neus Ferrer, a self-taught cook, specializes in vegetarian cuisine, Majorcan gastronomy, postpartum nutrition, and retreat cuisine. He 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.



# Program

## Sunday 15th of June

Arrivals and reception at Mas Flaquer

Welcome speech and introduction to the course

Welcome dinner

## Monday 16th of June

### Morning Movement (15 minutes)

Connect and greet one another with movement, led by Barbara Van Hoestenbergh (MUMOT | MUsic in MOvement for Transformation)

### Field work + Protocols (3 hours)

Ernesto Collado leads the group in the field. Observing the rising sun and its effect on the landscape, the group will harvest plants while observing the impact the changing sun has on the plants' chemical signals. The group will also learn about sustainable wild harvesting protocols, and Mediterranean aromatic plants.

### Lunch + Siesta (2.5 hours)

Attendees will be encouraged to have a siesta, allowing their bodies and minds the crucial time to digest delicious food and new ideas.

### Lecture: Scent in the Ancient World (1 hour)

Saskia Wilson-Brown presents an introduction to perfume history. In session one, she will introduce an overview of important ways scent has been used and imagined in history, while sharing an overview of the archeological evidence of global scent usage in the ancient world - with an emphasis on materiality.

### Technical (2 hours)

Spyros Drosopoulos introduces the olfactory palette for this week. The group will focus on materials from nature and/or materials that allow us to recreate or enhance nature wherever the naturals are not available, sufficient or pose other limitations.

## Tuesday 17th of June

### Morning Movement (15 minutes)

Connect and greet one another with movement, led by Barbara Van Hoestenbergh.

### Distilling (2 hours)

Using collected aromatics, Ernesto Collado leads the group in a distilling exercise, teaching and making hydrolates and essential oils.

### Lunch (2.5 hours)

Attendees will be encouraged to have a siesta, allowing their bodies and minds the crucial time to digest both delicious food and new ideas

### Lecture: Medieval and Early Modern Perfume Practices (1 hour)

Saskia Wilson-Brown continues the introduction to perfume history. In session two, she will explore the uses of scent (and perfume) in Medieval and Early Modern Europe. As always, her emphasis will be on textual evidence: what do the texts say, of scent? What formulas survive?

## **Technical** (2 hours)

Spyros Drosopoulos continues to explore the modern aromatic materials that are used to enhance or replicate the smells of nature. Today we will focus specifically on aromatics (herbs) spices, resins and woody notes.

## **Wednesday 18th of June**

### **Morning Movement** (15 minutes)

Connect and greet one another with movement, led by Barbara Van Hoestenbergh.

### **Introduction to tinctures and enfleurage** (3.5 hours)

Ernesto Collado introduces the practice and theory behind various techniques to capture aromatics from natural materials: tincturing, enfleurage.

### **Lunch** (2.5 hours)

Attendees will be encouraged to have a siesta, allowing their bodies and minds the crucial time to digest both delicious food and new ideas .

### **Lecture:** The Roots of Modernity (1 hour)

Saskia Wilson-Brown continues her overview of perfume history. In session three, she will explore the roots of modern perfumery with an overview of how political strategies impacted perfume practices in 17th and 18th century France. As always, the lecture will be rooted in formularies and first hand accounts from perfumers of the era.

## **Technical** (2 hours)

Spyros Drosopoulos finishes the exploration of modern aromatic materials with materials used for flower reconstructions and introduces strategies for perfume creation: how to assemble the materials to match a creative brief, basic lab concepts and materials (including diluents), and how to write and iterate a formula.

## **Thursday 19th of June**

### **Morning Movement** (15 minutes)

Connect and greet one another with movement, led by Barbara Van Hoestenbergh.

### **Meet the bees** (4 hours)

Learn from the masters: the bees, best natural aroma blenders on earth! Ernesto Collado and Marc Arumi (from Abellaires Empordanessos, first organic beekeepers in the region) introduce you to the fascinating world of bees and show you how to harvest honey and beeswax. With those raw materials, and after a honey tasting, Ernesto will introduce you to the basics of creating solid perfumes.

### **Lunch + Siesta** (2.5 hours)

Attendees will be encouraged to have a siesta, allowing their bodies and minds the crucial time to digest both delicious food and new ideas.

### **Lecture:** Perfume in the Golden Age of Capitalism (1 hour)

Saskia Wilson-Brown continues her overview of perfume history. In session four, she will explore the rise of the contemporary perfume industry with an overview of the first synthetics.

### **Free blend** (4 hours)

It's time to put the knowledge into practice. In the afternoon, attendees will be encouraged to apply their learnings and the assembled materials in a perfume project of their own, with oversight and assistance from Spyros, Saskia and Ernesto.

## Friday 20th of June

### Morning Movement (15 minutes)

Connect and greet one another with movement, led by Barbara Van Hoestenbergh.

### Lecture: Contemporary Creative Practices (1 hour)

While perfumery has evolved in the 20th century as a commercial enterprise, it can just as easily exist in the context of experimentation and art. Saskia Wilson-Brown closes her overview of perfume history with a look at other approaches to working with scent - from olfactory art to experimental theatre, music performance and projects that defy categorization.

### Lunch + Siesta (2.5 hours)

Attendees will be encouraged to have a siesta, allowing their bodies and minds the crucial time to digest both delicious food and new ideas

### Free blend (4 hours)

Attendees will be encouraged to continue to work on their perfume project, with oversight and assistance from Spyros, Saskia and Ernesto.

## Saturday 21st of June

### Morning Movement (15 minutes)

Connect and greet one another with movement, led by Barbara Van Hoestenbergh.

### Tutorials (4h)

Attendees will have the opportunity to have private consultancy with any of the teachers.

### Farewell lunch

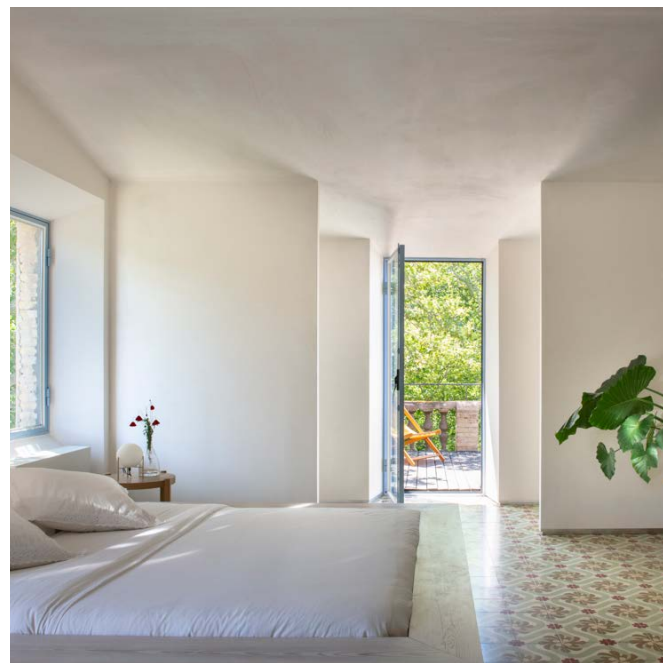


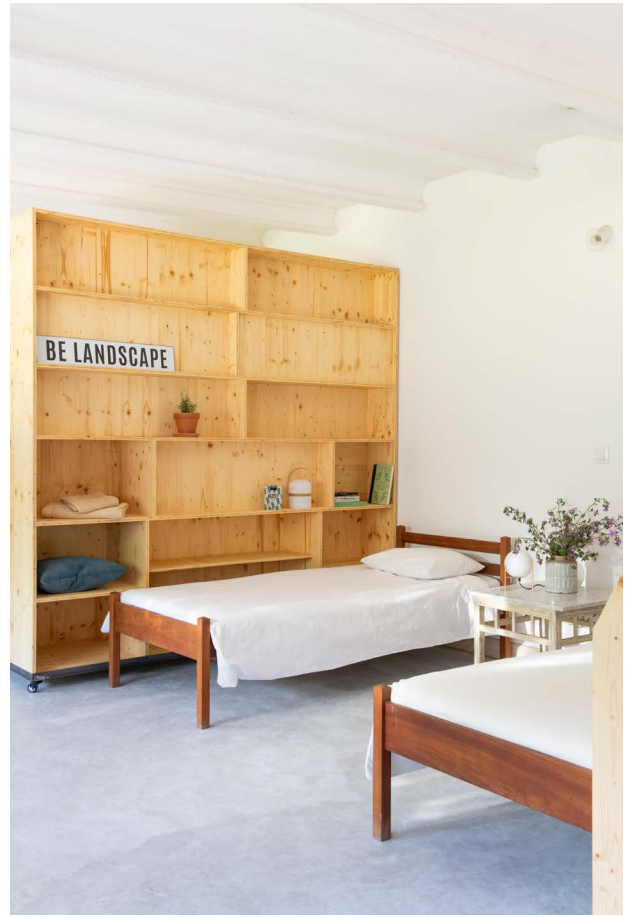
# The lodgings

The buildings date back to the 18th century and the interiors have been restored with modern design and comfort. They consist of a main house, two flats and a romantic wild cottage in the middle of the olive groves. They can accommodate a wide range of visitors, up to groups of 10 to 14 people. We also have large communal areas where we will set up individual beds separated by bookcases, to accommodate you during the workshops. More information about the accommodation [here](#).



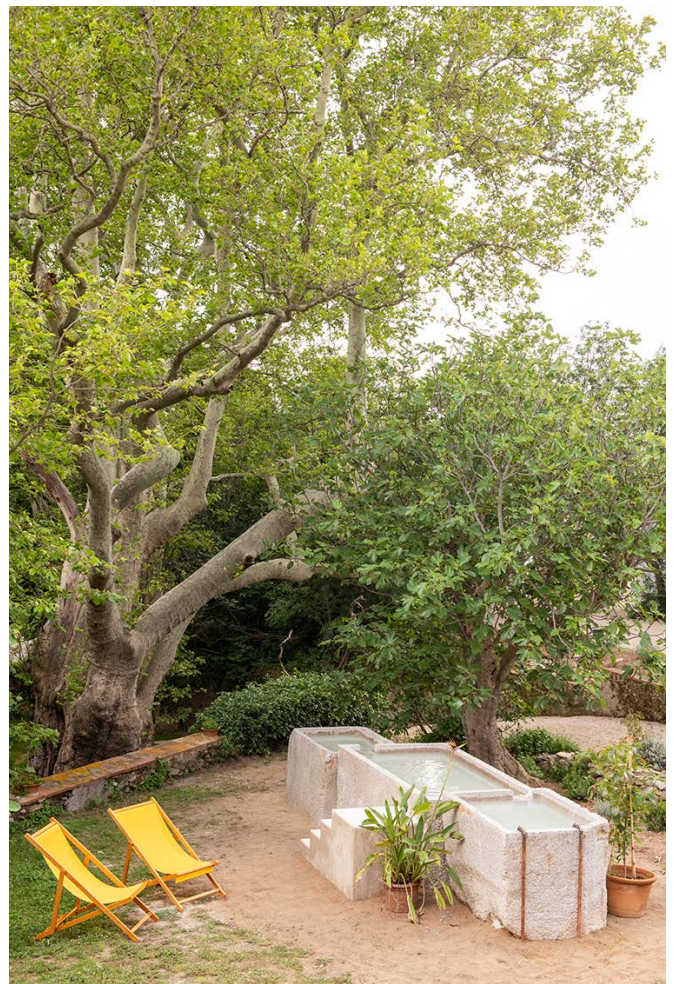
## PRIVATE ROOMS





SHARED ROOMS

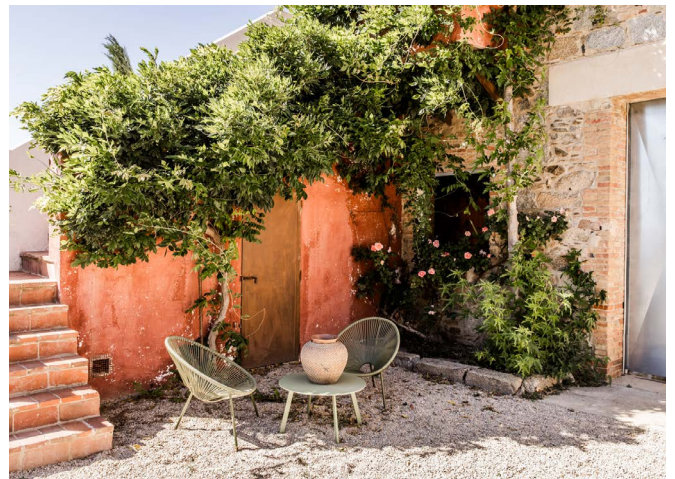




# The Estate

Mas Flaquer is a beautiful regenerative farm of 8.5 hectares, located in the heart of one of the most beautiful and unknown rural areas of the **Alt Empordà** called Els Aspres de l'Albera. Here you will find **wild aromatic plants, olive trees, bee hives and an organically managed vegetable garden, an endless greenhouse, almond and fig trees, farm animals and a romantic shade garden with the oldest listed plane tree in Catalonia.**

This space is also the headquarters of Bravanariz, Europe's leading 100% natural niche perfumery brand, dedicated to capturing the essence of our Mediterranean landscapes and designing olfactory experiences. Its workshop is where most of its raw materials are made and where new formulas and products are developed. In short, a privileged space where you can **reconnect with nature and live unique experiences with the sense of smell as the protagonist.**





# Specifics

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## **LODGINGS**

Shared bedrooms with shared bathroom: 40€/night

For private bedrooms contact us directly.

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## **SPACES**

Accès to all the Mas Flaquer instalations, library, gardens, etc.

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## **AVAILABILITY**

12 participants

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

All food, drinks and coffee breaks are included in the price.

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## **TRANSPORT**

Shuttle car from Mas Flaquer to other lodgings in Cantallops.

We can organize a shuttle car for pick you up and drop off services between the train station and Mas Flaquer. Contact us directly for prices.

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## **PRICE**

Workshop - **2.500€**

Workshop + shared accomodation - **2.700€**

Workshop + private accomodation at Mas Flaquer: contact us directly.

Workshop + private accomodation elsewhere: contact us directly for suggestions.



Mas Flaquer,  
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Girona

[www.bravanariz.com](http://www.bravanariz.com)