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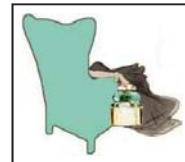


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Friday, March 30, 2007

Needle in a Haystack. Perfume Review: L'Artisan L'Ete en Douce

About Me



**Colombina
(Marina)
US**

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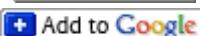
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what is this?





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The beginning of the scent scared me a little, in a sense that, with its barely-there musk and a hint of minty greenness, it was practically odor-less. But as soon as I started to grumble that it was yet another one of those scents that take understatement and minimalism to the ridiculous extreme, the floral accord started to blossom. I smelled a little orange blossom and a lot of linden. Now, linden is a very tricky note for me; in a lot of scents it has an incongruously gourmand, almost chocolat-like undertone, whereas I like my linden to smell greener, more ethereal. L'Ete en Douce achieves the desired effect by adding mint and hay to the blend. The former adds diaphanous coolness to the linden, the latter highlights the sweetly-green aspect of the note. The subtly-woody base further dries down (pun intended) the composition; quiet as it is, the fragrance lingers on the skin for quite a long time, finishing its development as a clean, musky skin-scent. L'Ete en Douce is refined and gentle, soft and gauzy; it strikes me as a kind of perfume that would be perfectly suitable for children as well as their elegant mamas. Little Miss Colombina and I must have a bottle for summer.

L'Ete en Douce is available at Barney's,

\$125.00 for 100ml.

Please visit **Aromascope** to read about Ina's Needle in a Haystack.

Labels: **L'Artisan, Needle in a Haystack, Olivia Giacobetti, Summer Scents**

posted by Colombina (Marina) |
12:03 AM

28 Comments:

Ina said...

You're in for a surprise, my sweets. There's ROSE in L'Ete en Douce. Yep! Rose, mint leaves, hay, white musk. You know you can trust me on this one. So, as much as you hate rose these days, it doesn't hate you back. L'Ete en Douce is indeed a seemingly barely there fragrance that sort of opens up on your skin when you least expect it. That said, it conjures up images of fresh, clean laundry drying in the back yard one summer afternoon... Ah, Sweet Summer! We need you!

10:43 PM EDT
colombina said...

Ina,
I know that
there is rose

among the
notes, but luckily
I get none of it,
not a tiny little
bit, zilch, nada,
nil. And I am
very grateful for
that :-) Can't
wait for
summer!

10:45 PM EDT
Ina said...

P.S. Love the ad!
I should e-mail it
to certain
someone. ;D

10:46 PM EDT
colombina said...

You totally
should :-)

10:46 PM EDT
Ina said...

Ah, OK, no
surprise for you
here then. I get
very light rose,
just a hint. I
mostly get hay
and white musk.

10:47 PM EDT
colombina said...

I get lotsa, lotsa
linden. Not a big
linden fan,
really, but it
works here,
because it is
light and gentle.

Did they
reformulate it
when they re-
released it?

10:49 PM EDT
Ina said...

I don't think
they did. It
smells identical
to me. It's also

exclusive to
Barney's right
now, and only
comes in the
large size.

10:51 PM EDT
colombina said...

Loved the older
bottle. Goutal
people are so
mean. But I
actually think
that this name
suits the scent
better than
Extrait de
Songes.

10:53 PM EDT
newproducts said...

This one sounds
charming but
not like
something that I
would crave. I'm
still caught
between my
warm "winter
scents" and
more summery
blends, just as
the weather is.
I'll see where my
cravings take me
on this sniffa!

1:27 AM EDT
Maria B. said...

I can't take La
Chasse aux
Papillons
seriously
because on me
the linden is so
pervasive. In my
native country
people drank
linden tea to
soothe their
nerves and go to
sleep. LCap
doesn't soothe
me. It just sits
there

challenging me
to think of it as a
fragrance. I
know I would
bring out the
linden in L'Ete
en Douce. =:-0
(I don't want to
insult any
Chasse lovers.
It's just my
glitch.)

3:01 AM EDT
dinazad said...

Linden gets me
very naughty.
Seriously. I once
had one of those
headshop
perfume oils in
Linden, and the
moment I put it
on, my hormone
levels went a-
raging. When
the linden trees
on
Bahnhofstrasse
are in full bloom,
so am I! Extrait
de Songes (I
only tried it
under that
name), however,
was so ethereal
that it put me to
sleep before I
noticed any
notes at all.
Love the "Needle
in the Haystack"
idea! I've taken
to choosing the
scent of the day
that way (blind
groping in the
decant-and-
sample-box)
whenever I'm
undecided!

3:44 AM EDT
em said...

I just missed
getting one of
the last bottles of

Extrait de
Songes and keep
forgetting L'Ete
en Deuce is out
now. I really
loved the
original and
fortunately got
none of the rose
in it. Reading
your review
makes me
seriously think I
have to have a
bottle for
summer! And
your ad?
Excellent!!! :-)

6:35 AM EDT
lilyofbp said...

When this
version first
came out, I
discovered,
through a
fortunate
mistake, that it
was perfect for
me when layered
with L'Artisan
Vetiver: Voila!
L'Ete en not so
Douce:). And
yes,
Independent
Noses confirmed
this as well (you
are right, being
an IN would be a
wonderful job!)
Unfortunately,
my fragrance
doesn't fit your
lovely ad quite
as well as the
original:)

6:41 AM EDT
colombina said...

Minsun,
I think I moved
on from my
winter scents.
Apart from those
that have
leather, of

course, or incense. Other than that, it's all about flowers and delicate thingies, like this one :-)

I'd love to hear a full report about Sniffa and to see pictures!!

7:38 AM EDT
colombina said...

Maria,
I think they do the same in my country too. :-) Perhaps taken internally linden is soothing, for me the smell doesn't quite work that way.

There is a discontinued Guerlain scent called Aromaparfum Apaisant/Soothing - thick, fluffy linden with that strange almost chocolatty undertone. If anything, it makes me more stressed :-) But L'Ete, on the other hand, is actually quite soothing.

7:41 AM EDT
colombina said...

D,
Ooh, naughty linden! :-) Never thought about it that way, but at the very least the smell of linden trees in full bloom put me in a very romantic mood :-)

7:42 AM EDT
elle said...

What a perfect ad! I tried this when it first came out and remember thinking it was nice, but decidedly not something I needed. I think for me it was the white musk - I wouldn't be at all disturbed to see that note banned from perfumery. It doesn't bother me in the way celery does, but it manages to throw a clean, bland blanket over scents that makes me lose my ability to appreciate them.

Still, your powers of persuasion w/ this review have me thinking I need to go dig out my sample and retry this. I *want* a scent like that ad.

7:42 AM EDT
colombina said...

M,
Thank you!
The new bottle is boring and has that horrible bolt-like cap, but hey, it's all about the scent (it doesn't match the scent! :-((

7:43 AM EDT
colombina said...

Judith,

That is a great idea, to layer it with Vetiver. No, the ad wouldn't do. We'd have to dress the girl in less feminine clothes, in earthier tones and make her pose in an aloof manner :-)

7:45 AM EDT
colombina said...

L,
I absolutely agree, white musk is capable of throwing a clean, bland blanket and making a composition bland. It doesn't quite happen here, but I don't think a scent would have lost any of it charm if there wasn't white musk. Not a fan of clean, white musks, me :-)

7:47 AM EDT
tmp00 said...

this sounds so lovely

2:09 PM EDT
NowSmellThis
said...

Great review, and do hope L'Artisan appreciates your efforts on their behalf -- love that ad!!

2:11 PM EDT
boisdejasmin said...

I actually have a
large spray vial
of the original
Extrait de
Songes, which
was given to me
by none other
than Ina. :) It is
very lovely.

2:26 PM EDT
colombina said...

Tom,
It really is! :)

2:31 PM EDT
colombina said...

R,
Thank you very
much! :-) They
can have it for a
couple of bottles
of something :-
DDD

2:33 PM EDT
colombina said...

V,
I have a feeling
that if I were to
count, at least
60% of my
samples would
turn out to be
from The
Magnificent
Enabler that is
the lovely Ina :)

2:35 PM EDT
faizanjax said...

Sorry, to my
nose this is
extremely light
and stays at that
abstract
minimalist level.
I like how you
tried to coax
some substance
out of this
composition, but
to me this is a
very subdued,

disappointing fragrance. Next!

11:18 PM EDT
colombina said...

F,
It is rather subdued. I believe when I tried it a while ago, when it was still called Extrait de Songes, I was disappointed. I guess I am now in the mood for this kind of a scent.

8:26 PM EDT

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