



Colognoisseur Esxence 2016 Final Wrap-Up Part 2- The Top 10 New Fragrances I Tried

Posted on April 5, 2016 by mark behnke in Mark Behnke, News and tagged [bruno acampora azzurro di capri](#), [gabriella chieffo maisia](#), [homenews](#), [homoelegans quality of flesh](#), [le galion cologne nocturne](#), [maria candida gentile](#), [rose selavy](#), [masque milano l'attesa](#), [menditorrosa nettuno](#), [nishane fan your flames](#), [sammarco bond-t](#), [the different company adjutay](#).



This year Esxence 2016 was bigger than ever. As a result, I felt like I was constantly running around trying to get to everything new. I tried 103 new perfumes over the three days. I'm almost certain I left some un-sniffed. I've spent the 48 hours since being home giving a few of them a second sniff without being in an exposition hall full of fragrance. The list below carries the usual caveats. These are the ten fragrances new to me. There were some premieres, like **Olfactive Studio Still Life in Rio**, that would have made the list if I had experienced it for the first time at Esxence 2016. The other thing to remember is these are snap impressions off of smelling on strips and having them on a small patches of skin. Here is my list in alphabetical order.

Bruno Acampora Azzurro di Capri- I have been surprised at how much I have been drawn to new aquatics after ignoring the class over the past few years. Azzurro di Capri has all the reasons I have come to reconsider the category. It is at first a typical Mediterranean riff of citrus and jasmine. When it arrives at the musk, patchouli, and amber base this all gains some presence which I found very appealing.

Gabriella Chieffo Maisia- I think a good fig perfume will always capture my attention. Maisia is much better than good. Using fig leaves as green contrast to lemon in the top notes it is in the heart where the fleshy fig bursts to life swathed in spices. What really makes Maisia stand out is the use of broom and narcissus which twist the fig beautifully.

Homoelegans Quality of Flesh- One of two new brands which made a big impression on me. Quality of Flesh is inspired by Francis Bacon. Perfumer **Michele Marin** composed this as a triptych of triptychs to represent Mr. Bacon's artistic style. The central note of the top, heart, and base are juniper berry, narcissus, and leather. This has only gotten better the more time I have spent with it.

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Le Galion Cologne Nocturne– My most anticipated perfume of Esxence 2016 did not let me down. Perfumer **Rodrigo Flores–Roux** working in collaboration with creative director **Nicolas Chabot** created a cologne for the evening. What Sr. Flores–Roux has dubbed an “amber water”. It is a fascinating construction which surrounds traditional cologne components with an overload of wood and amber. I love the way this develops on my skin.

Maria Candida Gentile Rose Selavy– Following up the unique Elephants & Roses perfumer **Maria Candida Gentile** delivers a densely layered rose. Dedicated to Marcel Duchamp, RRose selavy does not suffer that comparison. Every part of the plant is represented and there are multiple different extracts of the flower itself. If you can’t get enough rose in your perfume Rose Selavy might be your new favorite.

Masque Milano L’Attesa– The creative team behind Masque Milano, **Alessandro Brun** and **Riccardo Tedeschi**, have been giving some of the most creative young perfumers an opportunity to impress. **Luca Maffei** is the perfumer for L’Attesa. He uses three extracts of iris to elongate its development from first moments until the last. What shows his originality is a fermenting champagne accord. This has a yeasty sour wine aspect which is much better in conjunction with the iris than it might be sound. The key to creating the champagne accord, CO2 extract of beer. Masque Milano is becoming a reliable brand encompassing originality and quality.

Menditorosa Nettuno– Last year I hit this brand late in the day and did not give it a proper assessment in my rush. This year I stopped by when I had time to chat with creative director **Stefania Squeglia**. Working with perfumer **Amelie Bourgeois** again Nettuno is an otherworldly paean to the planet Neptune. I enjoyed the slight chill it opens with before warming up considerably as it folds in leather and rum. This is before bringing the chill back with some white musks in the base.

Nishane Istanbul Fan Your Flames– If you’ve ever wanted a perfume to capture a day smoking tobacco, holding a snifter of fine rum Fan your Flames is it. Creative directors **Mert Guzel** and **Murat Katran** have captured their desired shisha experience in this opulent perfume.

Sammarco Bond–T– I’ve been chronicling the lighter gourmands coming out in 2016. It was a pleasure to find a new brand going for an old fashioned deep chocolate gourmand. Owner and perfumer **Giovanni Sammarco** rolls out a 70% Cacao dark chocolate bar infused with osmanthus. I enjoyed the fearless intensity with which Sig. Sammarco composed Bond–T with.

The Different Company Adjutay– Last alphabetically but first on my list as best in show Adjutay’s brief came from a real life moment from creative director **Luc Gabriel**. After returning from a trip he left some tuberose flowers in an old leather suitcase. When he returned to it he realized he wanted perfumer **Alexandra Monet** to capture that smell. Mme Monet has made a mesmerizing perfume of tuberose encased in leather refined and roughened as a well-used suitcase should be. Her leather accord is just right to ensnare the boisterous tuberose. The more I wear it the more I fall under its spell.

This concludes my coverage of Esxence 2016. Longer reviews of everything on the list are forthcoming as well as many others not mentioned here. Thank you for following along the last

-Mark Behnke

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