

MIL MARIACELESTE

LOMBARDO



"Our every thought is continuously translated into a language of smells."

"We are talking about beauty: not the one which dazzles or fascinates and arouses astonished admiration, but the one which cannot be scratched in the least by the inexorable passage of time. This is how I define fragrances. And this is also why happiness passes through the nose."



Mariaceleste Lombardo

Perfumer

Moellhausen S.p.A. - Italy

MARIACELESTE LOMBARDO

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY COSMETIC TRAINING

THE OLFACTORY APPRENTICESHIP

Born and raised in the charming Sicilian province of Trapani, Mariaceleste Lombardo, ever since she was a child, has breathed the scents of her land and, among orange blossoms and jasmines, in a place surrounded by vineyards, flowering meadows and orchards in the sunlight, she still deeply experiences the memories linked to smells she has never forgotten.

She was born on November 30th, 1986 in Mazara del Vallo and, after spending her childhood and youth in the small town of Petrosino, once completed high school, she moved to Tuscany, where she began her training that in 2021 led her to be one of the perfumers at Moellhausen.

To Mariaceleste, fragrances are important “symbolic details” which, in addition to giving authentic value to reality, completing the first brief impression we have of it, reveal its deepest and most mysterious essence. With the aim of producing a beauty that is not ephemeral, for Mariaceleste creating perfumes means “producing sensations which embed themselves in the memory and are not fleeting.”

And just as the masters in painting are recognized for their ability to fix the essential and psychological aspects of what they represent with just a few strokes, so a perfumer must work, according to Mariaceleste, with the raw materials necessary to create a fragrance.

In 2016, she graduated in Cosmetic Chemistry at the University of Siena and acquired basic expertise and knowledge related to cosmetic products, focusing in particular on the set of issues of formulation, formula industrialization, cosmetic functionality, skin-cosmetic interactions and safety of the finished product. The degree brought Mariaceleste closer to a reality she wanted to apprehend and sharpened her versatile curiosity.

The years of experience in the role of Quality Control and Research & Development, within a renowned Italian company manufacturing ambient fragrance high-end products, gave Mariaceleste the opportunity to get to know the great world of fragrances up close. She lived surrounded by scents of all kinds, substances with an unusual smell sometimes made starting from unexpected and surprising ingredients.

As a self-taught person, in the laboratory where she worked, she started the study and creation of compositions which, together with a constant search for texts and essays on perfume, made her even more aware of her will to know every aspect of this universe.

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METHOD, EDUCATION AND... PASSION

Over the years, Mariaceleste has understood how important it is to give oneself a method, to be educated to smells and how this profession has evolved in the acquisition of an art allowing her to fully realize her creativity. The Grasse Institute of Perfumery (GIP) concretely represented this purpose: an opportunity to transform her passion into an actual profession.

IN GRASSE, FRANCE, TO STUDY AND BREATHE INTERNATIONALITY

After successfully passing a limited selection to access it, in 2019 Mariaceleste decided to move to Grasse, in France, to attend the two-year GIP master known as International Technical Degree in Fragrance Creation and Sensory Evaluation. A stimulating and positive experience that changed her life both for the skills acquired thanks to charismatic teachers with paramount cosmopolitan know-how within the industry sphere, and for the multicultural environment where she was immersed. A climate that convinced her even more of the benefits arising from a steady comparison and the value of diversity which grant the acquisition of knowledge and competence by working in team.

CONTINUOUS OLFACTORY TRAINING

Mariaceleste soon realized that being a perfumer “is a job you never get tired of, because every day is different, every day you discover and learn something new and the stimuli are endless.” Precisely for this reason, olfactory training is to her an exciting practice which accompanies her outside the corporate domain as well. The goal is not only to identify substances, but also to know their evolution over time, and to keep right in mind that our olfactory perception is influenced by many factors such as, for example, our mood.

BALANCE BETWEEN ART AND DESIGN

For Mariaceleste, a fragrance is first designed in the mind of the perfumer, like painters who see the work of art before tackling it. “The harmony of a composition - she confirms - depends on the balance among the ingredients or on their intensity and olfactory depth in an extremely fragile equilibrium which must be supported and pursued with patience and dedication.”

In January 2020, after attaining the International Technical Degree in Fragrance Creation and Sensory Evaluation, Mariaceleste embarked on a new qualifying experience as Trainee Perfumer within a company specialized in fine perfumery. There, and after joining Moellhausen in last January 2021, she has been continuing to study raw materials by focusing on the one hand on the construction of olfactory memory, and on the other hand by seeking to improve the olfactory lexicon through the use of the perfumer technical vocabulary. With the intent of recognizing and describing such materials thus to be able to then effectively use them by researching synergic combinations among the ingredients.





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THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMUNICATING WITH FRAGRANCES

According to Mariaceleste, putting on perfume means to communicate, and in communicating with fragrance everyone has a great responsibility.

“What will become the olfactory aura of our body must not be chosen superficially, but we must be aware it will announce us to people when we meet them and will leave a memory of us when we go off. Because the impressions we give others will certainly be conditioned by our fragrance. My daily growth commitment in the world of fragrances is summed up by such concept.”

In an era of globalization, for Mariaceleste, the differences among the various cultures remain very recognizable and fundamental, and are even reflected in the fragrances.

Creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness and perseverance are the characteristics accompanying her exploration to constantly search for fragrances that know how to combine “the beautiful and the good.”

