

Riverside (now called RiverCali) Review on Perfume Shrine by Helg 2006

<http://perfumeshrine.fortunecity.com/blog/entry40.html>



The title brings to mind the English translation of Caron's legendary *Fleurs de Rocaille*. And yet, today we are not going to discuss that one. Instead, **Riverside by Anya's Garden**. It is so gratifying to come across a perfume which has an element of the old-fashioned tradition of bygones: true, natural floral essences, rendered by techniques that have gone missing in recent perfumes.

A very floral, more traditional composition that doesn't jar anyone's perceptions like *Fairchild* or *Pan* does.

It starts on a rosy aspect with lots of geranium and not the familiar old-fashioned intense powderiness of many a rose [fragrance](#), combined with orange blossom/neroli voiceovers that lend some delightful fruity harmonies (actually they're from blossoms whose smell- although very floral- also brings to mind the fruit to come).

Orange blossom absolute and neroli both come from the flowers, but different methods of extraction render a separate product that has a different smell. True neroli is distilled from only the blossoms of the Bitter Orange "*citrus aurantium*" whereas Orange Blossom can come from any orange tree and is more generic. *Citrus aurantium* is the genus known as Seville bitter orange, the "pig of perfumery" (since it yields so many ingredients)

Petitgrain is also distilled from the leaves of the Bitter Orange, this one from the leaves. (On the other hand, orange oil is cold-pressed from the skins of the fruit of any orange variety and differs slightly among types.)

The water left after the distillation of neroli or orange flower is called a *hydrosol*. These floral waters are often sold as gentle facial toners/refreshing mists and could be even used in cooking for their soft aroma.

Neroli in particular bears a name imbued in history. By the end of the 17th century, [Anne Marie Orsini](#), duchess of Bracciano and princess of [Nerola](#), introduced the essence of bitter orange tree by using it to perfume her [gloves](#) (which was customary at the time, to get rid of the tannin smell of skins, ergo [the gantiers later became parfumeurs](#)) and her bath, thus inaugurating the trend for such smells; later it became the floral core of the [classic eau de Cologne](#). Neroli has a refreshing and distinctive, delicately spicy aroma with sweet and flowery notes and is one of my favourite uplifting, happy notes in any perfume that it graces with its presence.

Curiously in Riverside the neroli does not make its presence felt at once, upon [application](#), like I am used to (it being a volatile ingredient). I get whiffs of it and of a green lemon-y note like that in *O de Lanctme* in the midst of other petals unfolding endlessly.

The smell of [Turkish rose otto](#), which is a very costly and precious ingredient is also making its appearance, but sadly I am in no position to fully appreciate it, because rose is not one of the flowers I am taken with. Quality however always shows and this is no exception.

The drydown is creamy and hazy with an unidentified element that is not my personal favourite; honeyed and very sweet to me, very complex in smell, with elements of bitterness intertwined with the sweetness although the [beauty](#) of the natural flower essences is undoubted. However if one waits for another couple of hours there is still one more element to come to the fore, which is completely beautiful; a powdery, caramel soft base that lingers and lingers.

Official Notes: pink peppercorn, Turkish rose otto, neroli EO and abs, Jasmine auriculatum, rose geranium, citrus leaf bouquet, orange flower water, musk seed, vanilla, Vanuatu sandalwood, beeswax, tonka