



FRAGRANTICA

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Fuoco Infernale Linari: Hellfire

To paraphrase a famous Anton Chekhov's phrase, everything in a fragrance should be perfect - the name, the bottle, the composition and the legend. German designer Rainer Dirsche, founder of the niche brand [Linari](#), knows this very well: he himself designed recognizable bottles, decorating them with precious metals and wenge wood stopper. He entrusts the creation of fragrances to famous perfumers, and the perfume names... Holy Water, River Angel, Golden Hair - in Italian these words sound even more beautiful!



But the most intriguing name among the brand's fragrances belongs to [Fuoco Infernale](#). I have long wanted to know what the fragrance called "Hellfire" smells like - and now we have met.



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This fire is unusual - in its initial accord there is neither citrus, giving the usual warm yellow-orange color, nor lavender, burning with cold blue flames. **Fuoco Infernale** begins burning with fiery green flames, brownish-black smoke over fragrant bitter green herbs and spices, crinkled and smelling with a strong and unusual animalic accent. Burning garbage dumps?



No, it smells like the odor of tar makers who churned tar from birch or pine bark, or their tar pits in the outback. In the old days tar was distilled from bark and wood in pits or dry stoves dug in the ground, and this method has been known since ancient times. Pits in the ground, smelling of smoke, black resins and tars - could that be a reason to invent the image of the Underworld in various myths and legends? After all, tar appeared much earlier than the Bible - sea ships and river boats tarred with resin and tar from time immemorial, **even Neanderthals could make birch tar**. Arrowheads were glued with tar. Then people found the other ways to use birch tar: hair, all wooden-metal mechanisms, and sails, as well as animals were tarred to repel biting insects...



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But the question is what kind of tar or resin? Frankincense and myrrh are also resins. I would say that [Fuoco Infernale](#) smells at first with an emphasis on the more bitter and leathery styrax, or rather the product of burning styrax resin on fire without air (*styrax pyrogene*). There's also a lot of birch tar and less of the sweeter labdanum. At the beginning you can distinguish the animalistic, sweaty, thick scent of Atlas cedar - the sum total has a wild animalic untamed spirit. And a cruel leather lash.

In the base, the fragrance is stripped of its blackness and cruelty, as if having experienced green fire and black smoke, the soul has found its solace in the soft peace of the incense and leather-amber base. I won't say that the fragrance is cleansed of darkness totally, but the cruelty and black smoke softens, replaced by smoke that is white and slightly sweet. The composition is interesting, it's hard to find a pairing or other match for it, and it's not easy to describe - let's say it's from the unusual leather or amber fragrance families. But it is worth waiting a little longer, and from underneath the white incense smoke, fresh moist darkness, earthy and bitter shades of ambergris will reappear.

The union of black tar smoke and incense in [Fuoco Infernale](#) is a strange combination of horror and awe, the utilitarian and the sacred, the everyday and the festive, hell and heaven. Makes you wonder how different are the fates of birch or pine tar on the one hand, and oud oil with frankincense and myrrh on the other. How much the prevalence, availability and everyday accessibility of a material affects not only its price, but even its perception. And why didn't the saying "a drop of tar in a barrel of myrrh" arise? Many questions...



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"A likewise multifarious and infatuating composition of tangy carnation and herbaceous-earthy aspects of natural myrtle, wild marjoram, accords of cinnamon bark, birch and labdanum resin. Sweet-spicy olibanum and tonka bean provide the rich and opulent character of the heart note. The distinctive elements of the leathery base are accompanied by the combination of Burma-Gurjun resin and exquisite Atlas-cedarwood. White musk and grey amber round the composition off with depth and warmth." - press release of the brand.



The [Fuoco Infernale Linari](#) fragrance is available from the [brand's official website](#) and many online perfume stores, in Eau de Parfum concentration, in 100 ml bottles decorated with 22-carat gold, priced at €169.

Fuoco Infernale Linari

Top notes: Birch, Labdanum, Myrtle, Cinnamon, Marjoram and Carnation

Middle notes: Olibanum and Tonka Bean

Base notes: Gurjun balsam, Leather, Atlas cedar, Ambergris and White musk.