

# Labdanum clear Absolute Spain

*Cistus ladaniferus* L. var. *beta maculata* Dun.



**Ambery**  
Leathery



Botanical family : Cistaceae  
Method of culture : Wildcrafted controlled  
Part harvested : Leafy branches

CAS TSCA : 8016-26-0  
INCI : Cistus ladaniferus leaf/stem extract

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Extraction of the concrete with ethanol  
:  
Appearance : Reddish brown translucent pasty mass  
Constituents : Diterpenes labdane type, labdanolic acid and derivates

## Harvest period

J F M A M **J J A S O** N D



This shrub, native to the Mediterranean, exudes a very fragrant glutinous gum called labdanum. The plant produces this substance chiefly in the summer when the sun's rays are at their peak during July and August. It allows the plant to protect itself from excessive water evaporation that would cause wilting, then death. Cistus perfumes our scrublands with a powerful, characteristic amber odor. The only plant to have amber notes similar to those of ambergris, it is also known as "vegetable ambergris," which comes from *Cistus ladaniferus* var *maculata*, found mainly in southern Spain, in Andalusia. Our cistus fields are in the Almaden de la Plata nature reserve near Seville. The young leafy twigs, heavy with gum, are sickle-harvested, while the cistus plant itself is left intact to generate new growth the following year. The branches are grouped in small bundles before being transported to our production unit in the very midst of the cistus fields. The labdanum is collected through immersing the young branches in hot carbonated water for several minutes; the bundles are then removed from the tank, leaving the plant debris. Adding acid to neutralize this debris precipitates the gum. The so-called "raw" gum is then dewatered and dried to obtain a moisture content of less than 10%. The labdanum absolute is obtained through ethanol extraction of the labdanum resinoid, followed by glazing. The absolute, fully soluble in ethanol, has leathery and amber notes that are more powerful than in the resinoid.

Products bearing the name "Cistus" come from the direct processing of the shrub's young leafy twigs by distillation or solvent extraction. They include cistus essential oil, Tradition quality cistus essential oil, cistus concrete, and cistus absolute. Products labeled as "Labdanum" are from processing the cistus resinous exudate, and include labdanum resinoid, labdanum absolute, and labdasur.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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