

Split, Croatia

DALMATIA

AROMATIC FARM AND DISTILLERY

Established 2014

Botanicals sourced from this farm: Helichrysum, Dalmatia Juniper, and Bay Laurel



FARM LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

Dalmatia's striking landscape is home to a rich history, as well as to the highly specific conditions required to grow helichrysum. Helichrysum is one of those rare plants that doesn't require crop rotation, since it takes its nutrients from the calcium carbonate found in rocks, not from the soil. The Dalmatia Aromatic Farm and Distillery grows and cultivates a variety of botanicals, protecting helichrysum and other plants growing in the wild. That's why this farm was established: as a sustainable source for our popular Helichrysum essential oil.

BOTANICAL BACKGROUND

Helichrysum is a native of coastal landscapes like France, Italy and Croatia, where it requires a particular set of environmental conditions to grow. To cultivate this precious wild plant, Young Living transplanted rocks to the farm to replicate the natural growing conditions that helichrysum requires.

A hardy perennial with a deep-growing root system, the helichrysum plant grows 10–30 centimetres high, and the stem is usually branched at the upper part, carrying alternate leaves, which are 2–5 centimetres in length.

Helichrysum is named after the sun (*helios*) and gold (*chrysos*) and is one of the most sought-after essential oils in the world.



DISTILLING

Young Living Founder D. Gary Young personally designed the stainless steel steam distiller that is used at the Dalmatia farm, which adapts to use for a variety of different plants and plant parts. For example, it's made to handle both bay laurel trees, which must be pre-cut, and Dalmatia juniper, which must be ground up because of the toughness of its branches.

Once the oil is distilled and separated, it's stored in stainless steel barrels. The barrels are placed in a cold, dark room for two weeks to allow the oil to rest at a stable temperature. It is then filtered, at which point it is ready for transport.

HOW THE FARM GOT ITS START

Before the farm was established, helichrysum was harvested only as a wild plant. There was no manual on how to cultivate it domestically. However, helichrysum was in such high demand that it became endangered and so the Dalmatia farm founders became pioneers for the care of helichrysum. Meanwhile, D. Gary Young was looking for a partner to help him cultivate and preserve the endangered plant. In October 2014, the Dalmatia farm team met with Gary and agreed to partner with him to keep helichrysum thriving.

Dominik Bekavas was part of the farm team that met with Gary. Prior to meeting him, Dominik had heard about Gary and was fascinated by his exceptional knowledge and experience with aromatic plants. Under Gary's mentorship, Dominik learned how to put into practice Young Living's Seed to Seal® quality commitment. As farm manager, Dominik ensures that the highest standards of farming are met to produce the highest quality essential oil available.



DID YOU KNOW?



The Dalmatia Aromatic Farm and Distillery is located in the beautiful Mediterranean region of Croatia, where the sea, fresh air, and rocky meadows create the perfect environment for over 100 aromatic plants to thrive.



Spread over 1 million square metres, the Dalmatia Aromatic Farm is the world's largest helichrysum farm.



Helichrysum is known as the "everlasting flower" because even after being harvested, the plant continues to bloom until it produces a seed.

LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY



Implementing sustainability projects. The farm team built their own greenhouse, allowing them to produce about 700–1,000 seedlings twice a year. The farm team has also begun humus production, mixing distilled biomass with manure and other organic compounds to improve the soil quality.

Recycling water. The farm's distillery sustains a reusable water-cooling process. With its piping system, the distillery is built to recycle water by cooling steam at the end of the distillation process.