

NO SUDS ABOUT IT

Aphrodeedee's handmade soaps are working us into a lather.

GEORGE DUCHANNES

For DeeDee Tierney, soap-making started out as a hobby. She and her daughter made their own bars for Christmas gifts, but then Tierney kept on experimenting. What began as a simple star anise and orange loaf has evolved into a line of nearly 20 scents (and growing), decorated to the nines with flowers and fruit.

"When I was little, I would go in the woods and pick violets, see how many different varieties there were," says Tierney, who grew up with alpine gardening parents in Minnesota before moving to 5 acres in the high desert. "Since my kids are way grown up and gone, I've just gone back to that happy place: nature."

Her scents range from the popular "Fig Flowers + Fruit" (fig, citrus and a mix of gardenia, plumeria, jasmine and more) to "Cinnamon Almond + Oatmeal," which "smells like a cookie." Her favorite is the woody and old-school "Violet Rosemary + Orange." Others include "Lavender + Lemon," "Citrus + Poppy Seed," and "Wisteria + Jasmine."

Tierney grows most of the flowers in her garden, fertilizing with manure from her horses. She sources any other material from gardens and orchards of family and friends. Most soaps are created through a "melt and pour combination" and all are completely natural, with no sulfates or surfactants. The former nurse uses glycerin, oil, and unrefined shea, mango and cocoa butters. "I make sure that I'm the only person here," she laughs about quality control.

This fall, you can find a custom "Fig Flowers + Fruit" at Moon Wind Trading Co. in Landers, where Tierney and owner Mieka May have created a cinnamon, clove, neroli and orange style that includes a pinch of turmeric or cayenne to create a deep, burnt orange. "I use no dyes," Tierney explains. "It's either a mineral or a spice." The soaps are also at Monkey Tree Hotel in Palm Springs and Bloom Home & Garden in Los Angeles. They're super fresh, so start using them immediately after purchasing. But, don't worry, that won't be a problem. 🍂

—Kristin Scharkey

SHOP LOCAL

HERE'S WHERE YOU CAN BUY APHRODEEDEE SOAPS IN THE DESERT.

Moon Wind Trading Co.

1141B Old Woman Springs Rd., Landers
801-896-4352;
moonwindtradingco.com

Cactus Mart
49889 Twentynine Palms Hwy.,
Morongo Valley
760-363-6076;
cactusmart.com

The Cookey Cactus
150 N. Palm Canyon Dr.,
Palm Springs
760-320-9603

You can also place a custom order at
naturalaphrodeedee@gmail.com
or on Instagram
@naturalaphrodeedee.