



THE TEST LAB

Maimeri Classico - Fine Oils

Classico oils offer exceptional value for money, and are made with the finest linseed oil and highly concentrated, micro ground pigments. Professional or amateur artists who pick up a tube of Classico oil paint will find in it just what they need. They are versatile, offering an unsurpassed price to quality ratio. The colours are produced by strict principles that yield a top quality product and contain no waxes or thickeners.

The colour palette includes the best original natural earths and true cadmium pigments, NOT HUES. Average pigment concentration is very high and formulas are perfected to balance the drying times of all colours. Bright, lively colours with overall harmony in the palette, Classico colours are made with modern non-toxic, non-polluting pigments that improve lightfastness. All colours may be intermixed together in any ratio or proportion, without limits.

Three local artists tell us about their experience with these paints.

WILMA DU TOIT: ARTIST & TEACHER, CAPE TOWN

I find painting with Classico oil paint so easy; the rich creamy texture just glides onto the canvas. The colours are clear and bright and don't lose their luminosity.

It's so wonderful to find a paint that has such a high pigment load at such a reasonable price. All the colours dry at the same rate, so all the colours can be intermixed.

I have been using Classico for about 4 years and am very impressed that it contains real cadmiums, (not hues) and is made only with pigment and oil.

My favourite red is the Classico Cadmium Red Deep. All the blues and greens are so luminous: Kings Blue Light, Phthalo Blue-Green and Cadmium Green - it's difficult to choose a favourite as the colour range is extensive and so beautiful!

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MAGGIE STRACHAN: ARTIST & TEACHER, DURBAN

I first discovered Classico oil paints over 15 years ago. I still have the remains of a tube of Cinnabar Green Yellowish from that time and it is as rich and creamy as it was then which, I think, speaks volumes for the quality of the paint.

Many of the artists and students who paint in my studio use Classico paints. I asked them for comments and got some very enthusiastic responses: "Creamy" was the most common - the fact that there is just the right amount of pigment and oil to create a creamy consistency and still retain the intensity and richness of colour. They appreciate the fact that there are no fillers used to extend the paint.

Most of the pigments are pure, with very few hues in the range. This is particularly noticeable with the Cadmiums (which are usually substituted by hues in other student ranges). Although Classico oil paints are marketed as "student" oil paints they compare very favourably with many fine art oils. Because of

their quality the paint goes further and lasts longer than most other student paints. Considering this quality the 60ml tubes are very affordable.



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**ANA PEREIRA DE Vlieg:
ARTIST & TEACHER, DURBAN**

About 4 years ago I tested Classico on a trip to Mozambique. Today these paintings, exposed to the heat, wind and salt air of the open lounge, look as if they were painted yesterday.

I always advocate using the best pigment-loaded paint which can make painting costly. However let this not stop you! Being affordable, Classico will be suitable to use for my colour mixing lessons and the brand Maimeri is internationally recognised. The colours are not fugitive, holding well when exposed to light. The creamy paint serves well in both glazing and scumbling techniques, the colours stay fresh and rich. Some may find the texture slippery at first and less medium will then be used.

The soft tin like packaging of the tube allows for easy squeezing. The screw caps are hardy and have not broken. Whichever pigment cannot be found in Classico is to be found in the Artisti or Puro category of the same supplier, making colour mixing easier to teach.



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