Ethanol
Solvent. This is the alcohol that results from the fermentation of fruits and vegetables, and is a key ingredient in spirits such as vodka. The fragrance (see below) is dissolved in ethanol. Also known as E1510.

Benzyl salicylate
Another ester. Some say it smells ‘floral’ while others can’t smell it at all. However, most people can tell that it changes the overall aroma of a perfume to which it’s been added. Fascinating!

Cinnamyl alcohol
Has a “sweet, balsam, hyacinth, spicy, green, powdery, cinnamic” aroma. It’s found esterified (reacted with an acid) in cinnamon leaves. This is the unesterified form.

Farnesol
Found in many essential oils including lemongrass (pictured) and musk. Whereas citronellol attracts mites, farnesol kills them. It’s anti-bacterial, too.

Geraniol
Rose-like smell. It’s the other main ingredient of rose essential oil. Also used in DEET-free mosquito repellents for people with sensitive skin (e.g. BugBand)

Hydroxycitronellal
Blender with a medium-strength floral/citrus scent reminiscent of melon or lime blossom. Very similar in chemical structure to citral and geraniol.

Evernia Prunastri extract
Oak moss extract that was nearly banned in the EU because it is an allergen for some people. Adds a rich, earthy aroma, and a natural, damp and creamy soft finish. Found in forests across Europe.

Limonene
Strong lemon smell. Found in the rinds of citrus fruits such as lemon and orange (pictured). It is a by-product of orange juice production and is increasingly being used as a natural, fragrant alternative to paint stripper.

Linalool
Blender with a pleasant floral scent. Linalool is produced by over 200 plant species, mostly of which are in the mint family.

Citral
Very strong lemon aroma. Made from lemon myrtle, the essential oil of which is 98% citral. Citral is strongly antimicrobial and toxic to humans when pure.

Isoeugenol
Spicy aroma. Even though it occurs naturally in small amounts the ylang-ylang tree, it is usually synthesised by modifying eugenol (see left).

Linalool
Blender with a pleasant floral scent. Linalool is produced by over 200 plant species, mostly of which are in the mint family.

Parfum
Secret fragrance blend.

Cinnamyl alcohol
Has a “sweet, balsam, hyacinth, spicy, green, powdery, cinnamic” aroma. It’s found esterified (reacted with an acid) in cinnamon leaves. This is the unesterified form.

Citral
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Evernia Prunastri extract
Oak moss extract that was nearly banned in the EU because it is an allergen for some people. Adds a rich, earthy aroma, and a natural, damp and creamy soft finish. Found in forests across Europe.

Benzy alcohol
Fragrance, thickener, solvent and pH stabiliser. Some people are severely allergic to this.

Citronellol
Rose-like smell. One of two ingredients in rose essential oil. Found in lemongrass, geranium and rose, it repels mosquitoes at short distances but also attracts mites.

Isoeugenol
Spicy aroma. Even though it occurs naturally in small amounts the ylang-ylang tree, it is usually synthesised by modifying eugenol (see left).

Benzyl benzoate
Ester with a mild, pleasant balsamic aroma. Also sold separately as a treatment for head lice and scabies under the name “Ascabiol”.

Coumarin
Produced by tonka beans and vanilla grass to suppress the appetites of their predators. Also suppresses human appetites. Smells like freshly-cut hay.

Benzyl cinnamate
Another ester with a pleasant balsamic aroma and a hint of spice.

Eugenol
Smells of cloves. Attracts orchid bees and cucumber beetles and is also used as by scientists as an anaesthetic for wild fish. It even kills certain human colon cancer cells. Clove oil is 90% eugenol.

Sources:
wikipedia.org, fragrantica.com, cbsnews.com

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