

## Oulan Bator Incense

Oulan Bator may sound like the name of a woman who tells you too much personal history on a train ride, but in fact, these incense—which share their name with the capital of Mongolia—prove a much more comforting and lasting companion. Created by Astier de Villatte, a French company focused primarily on ceramics, Oulan Bator is merely one in a strong line of transportive scents handmade in Japan by the Koh-Shis (Masters of Aroma) from the Awaji Island. These scents are a pleasant marriage between the earthiness of Japanese incense and the high-minded wanderlust of French perfume. Having a continuity of scent while one travels not only provides the comfort of familiarity in far away places, but burning incense provides a small ritual, a minute meditation, and a pact with thin air. For some reason, watching smoke rise and an incense stick burn is not only romantic, but oddly healing. Nothing saves a dank hotel room like the best of France and Japan packed in a box the color of a robin's egg, wrapped with delightfully thin paper and gold foil. If there's a better gift to oneself than this, we haven't come across it yet. <sup>BC</sup>

*Oulan Bator Incense by Astier de Villatte - 35 € - [www.astierdevillatte.com](http://www.astierdevillatte.com)*

