

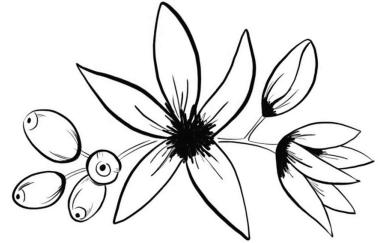
GUATEMALA EL VERGAL

REGION: SAN MARCOS

ELEVATION: 1800 - 2200 MASL

CATUAI AND BOURBON

ORGANIC



FIRST CROP COFFEE

NOTES: STRAWBERRY, PINEAPPLE, HONEY, MEDIUM BODY

EL VERGAL IS THREE FAMILY OWNED FARMS THAT SHARE BORDERS IN SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA. A FORMER 8TH PLACE COE COFFEE WITH A SCORE OF 89.48, EL VERGAL IS CONSISTENTLY EXCEPTIONAL COFFEE FROM THIS VERY SPECIAL REGION. THE NAME EL VERGAL MEANS "THE ORCHARD". THE FARMS ARE SPREAD AROUND A HIGH MOUNTAIN NESTLED AMONGST VOLCANOES AND COVERED IN LUSH GREENERY. CLOUDS OFTEN COVER THE FARMS DUE TO THE ELEVATION OF THE FARMS, SO WALKING THE FARM IS OFTEN LIKE BEING IN A THIN MIST. THE FARMS ALSO SHARE AN INCREDIBLE WATERFALL WHICH IS AN ENJOYABLE YET CHALLENGING ONE HOUR HIKE INTO THE BUSH. THE WATER FROM THIS WATERFALL IS ALSO USED TO PROCESS THE COFFEE DURING WASHING AND FERMENTATION.

ORGANIC FERTILISER

USING PULPED CHERRY, NATURAL WASTE AND MANURE FROM THE FARMS AND THE ANIMALS KEPT ON THE FARMS (COWS, CHICKENS, SHEEP), THE FAMILIES CREATE THEIR OWN ORGANIC COMPOST FOR FERTILIZER. USING A FOUR STEP, 6 WEEK PROCESS, THE WASTE IS PILED UP AND TURNED REGULARLY, NATURALLY CREATING HEAT WHICH EVENTUALLY BECOMES HEALTHY FOR THE PLANTS.

COFFEE TREES ARE PLANTED 1 METER APART AND LEAF RUST RESISTANT VARIETALS ARE PLANTED BETWEEN NON RESISTANT VARIETALS TO STOP ANY POTENTIAL SPREAD OF LA ROYA. THIS ALSO MEANS THERE IS NO CHEMICALS OR PESTICIDES USED TO KEEP THE COFFEE SAFE. DUE TO THE ELEVATION, PESTS ARE NOT AN ISSUE.

ORGANIC FERTILIZER IS CHEAPER AND EASIER AND RELATES BACK TO CULTURAL PRACTICES. IT IS MORE LIKELY THEY WILL PRODUCE BETTER HARVESTS WITH ORGANIC FERTILIZER AS THEY CAN APPLY IT CORRECTLY AND CREATE IT CHEAPLY AND EASILY. THE FERTILIZER ALSO ADDS MINERALS TO THE SOIL.

PROCESSING

THE COFFEE IS PROCESSED ON THE FARMS USING MECHANICAL PULPERS. IT IS FERMENTED IN BARRELS FOR 24 HOURS AND THEN POURED OUT ONTO THE DRYING BEDS FOR RAISED BED SUN DRYING.

FARM MANAGEMENT

ON TOP OF FERTILIZER THE FARMERS ARE MULTIPLYING NATURAL ORGANISMS WHICH HELP BRING THE SOIL BACK TO LIFE. THESE MICRO ORGANISMS ALSO HELP THE CHERRIES TO MATURE AT AN EVEN PACE SO THEY RIPEN AT THE SAME TIME, AND ALSO KEEP THE DENSITY OF THE BEANS HIGH. BY INCREASING THE SOIL QUALITY THE CHERRIES HAVE MORE NUTRIENTS TO DRAW UP, INCREASING THE DENSITY.

EVERY 4 YEARS THE TREES ARE PRUNED AND CUT, AND EVERY 12 YEARS THEY ARE REPLANTED FROM SEEDLINGS.



