



CAFECO

Chiapas, La Concordia, Mexico

Partner since: 2019

Traceable to: 877 Producers

Altitude: 1500 MASL

Varietals: Typica and Bourbon (60%), Caturra (30%), Mundo Novo (10%)

Processing: Pulped, fermented for 12 hours, washed and sorted then dried on raised beds

Harvest: December January February

Booking: March April May June

Arrivals: May June July



Formed on November 18th, 2015, this group was formed to get around the many middle-men that separated these central Chiapas farmers from national markets. They organized quickly, getting 925 hectares under cultivation and certification as Fair-Trade Organic.



Mexico is for coffee lovers. Few origins offer such variety, such competency, and such short flights to the farm. While often overlooked by their neighbors to the north, Mexico is the world's 7th largest coffee producer, the largest exporter of organic coffees, and a fast-growing consumers of specialty coffee.

Seventy percent of Mexico's crop comes from larger estates, concentrated around Veracruz, with the remaining thirty percent coming from 2 million smallholders, spread around the country but mostly in the Southern States of Chiapas and Oaxaca.

This is also where we find most of Mexico's indigenous population, communities who moved higher and higher up-mountain, onto smaller and smaller plots of land, first to get away from colonial Spain, and later pushed by larger landowners during decades of highly political land reforms. In this way Mexico's agrarian, coffee and Puebla movements are intertwined.

Though coffee arrived into Mexico two centuries earlier, it did not take off until the late 20th century. In the 1970s a farmer friendly government came to power and encouraged smallholder production. Coffee exports skyrocketed nearly ten-fold over the next two decades. However, in the middle of this growth the government had to default on debt, cut back programs, and end a decade of federal support for smallholders. Price, markets and credit dwindled to drips – and on top of that – we got some Royo too. Oh, and did we mention the condition of the peso?

Into this distressed situation we see the rise of the coyote; middle-men who build truckloads of coffee up from 1-5 bag household level. Still today, buyers look for points of aggregation that can cut out middle-men but still give them access to volumes.