




Ethiopia

Project Origin has sourced coffee from Ethiopia since 2012 and we never cease to be amazed by the complexity and quality of the beans from this endlessly fascinating country. The country is home to the widest genetic diversity of coffee varieties, as the trees are left to grow wild and naturally mutate to match the landscape around them. As a result, the cherries that are picked become one great blend of hundreds of varieties, meshing the various colours and patterns together to what ends up creating the well-balanced, rounded, cohesive and complex cup profiles that we have experienced throughout Ethiopia. Therefore, we almost always list Ethiopian coffee varieties as **‘Heirloom’**.

The classification of Ethiopian coffee has always been challenging, as it is structured differently to other coffee producing countries. Additionally, we often find the process of translating the language to result in various spellings of names and locations. Historically, the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) has listed areas that are ‘coffee growing areas’ and sold these coffees to the world under the sole title of that area. Thanks to new exporters and increased education across the country, we are now able to classify coffee lots more accurately based on specific washing stations, or on the Woreda, in which it is processed. This provides us with a greater range of locations with which to identify Ethiopian coffee and greater traceability overall.



The geographic structure across Ethiopia can be broken down into five categories, with a sixth category existing from the ECX. The structure of Ethiopian geography is broken down as follows:

Country: Ethiopia

Region: the state, department or province

Zone: a subdivision of the Region

Woreda: county, municipality or district within a Zone

Kebele: village or community within a Woreda

Area: coffee growing area as defined by the ECX

The coffee growing areas defined by the ECX - Yirgacheffe, Sidamo, Guji, Harrar etc. - will be the names most commonly known and used to identify coffee lots up until 2018. Nowadays coffee lots from these areas can be broken down further, providing information about the Woreda, the Kebele and even the exact washing station.

Here is an example of how to relate this to coffee:

Country: Ethiopia

Region: Southern Nations, Nationality, and People's Region (SNNPR)

Zone: Keffa

Woreda: Ginbo

Kebele: Wush Wush

Area: Keffa

With the understanding of this structure, we can begin to refine our understanding of Ethiopian coffees and pay tribute to the stations responsible for producing the cherries they sell. In the special case of Grade 2 and Grade 3 lots, washing stations commonly sell these coffees to larger collection stations where the processed green beans are combined with other Grade 2 and 3 lots from the same Area to create a large volume of coffee with a cup profile representative of the Area. Project Origin proudly works with our exporting partners, Primrose, to respect the work of the producers, the farmers and the workers at the washing stations, to share the beautiful and diverse profiles of the region, and we hope to celebrate their coffees with the correct identification.



Ethiopia - Keffa



Wush Wush

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|----------|--------------------------------|
| Area | Homeland Organic Coffee Estate |
| Region | Keffa |
| Altitude | 1800 m |
| Harvest | November - February |

About Wush Wush

This is our fourth year sourcing the popular Wush Wush coffee, named after a town, located in the Keffa region, in southern Ethiopia. The etymology of Keffa loosely translates through Arabic descent to mean “a drink from berries”, and this seems fitting considering the south-eastern area of Ethiopia is where wild *Coffea Arabica* trees were discovered. This Wush Wush coffee is bought through a direct trade partnership with Homeland Organic Coffee Estate, a farm around 500 hectares in size. By purchasing through direct trade, we have significantly greater traceability and better clarity around the processing of the beans.

The Estate itself comprises a near even split of mature trees and young trees. Most of the coffee, around 90%, uses the washed process, as African drying beds take up too much space to allow for a high volume of natural processing. The reason Wush Wush coffee tastes so unique is due to the washed process also being unique. After de-pulping, the cherries then go through a special de-mucilage machine to remove a slight amount of the mucilage before continuing to fermentation tanks. After wet fermentation is complete the beans are placed on beds under shade to release excess moisture before being moved to raised beds in full sun.

With a total harvest of around 600-700kg per hectare, this volume provides employment for about 600 workers during the harvest period. For all these reasons and more, we are proud to source Wush Wush direct from an estate and hope to continue building direct trade partnerships in Ethiopia.



Downloadable
gallery

Keffa G2

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Washed

Tasting notes: chocolate, orange, jaffa, long, sweet, rich body



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Keffa region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined
- o Coffee is pulped and floaters separated before going into large tanks for fermentation
- o Beans are covered in water and wet-fermented for 12-24 hours to remove mucilage
- o After fermentation beans are rinsed thoroughly in channels to remove the remaining mucilage and further separate any floaters
- o Beans are moved to African beds under sun to dry for 10-15 days until moisture level reaches 10-12%
- o On very hot days and overnight beans may be covered in plastic to control the drying rate
- o Dried beans are stored in parchment for protection until milling and export preparation where further hand and colour sorting is conducted to improve overall quality
- o Grade 2 and 3 natural lots are categorised this way by the ECX. These lots will have a higher defect count than Grade 1 lots, however, our exporting partners does further sorting and removal of defects during milling to ensure Project Origin's G2 and G3 lots are cleaner than the minimum standard

Bench Maji G2

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Washed

Lot: Abeba

Meaning: Abeba means flower in Ahmeric

Tasting notes: floral, citrus



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Bench Maji region, which borders the Keffa region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined
- o Coffee is pulped and floaters separated before going into large tanks for fermentation
- o Beans are covered in water and wet-fermented for 12-24 hours to remove mucilage
- o After fermentation beans are rinsed thoroughly in channels to remove the remaining mucilage and further separate any floaters
- o Beans are moved to African beds under sun to dry for 10-15 days until moisture level reaches 10-12%
- o On very hot days and overnight beans may be covered in plastic to control the drying rate
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