



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'**.

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.



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: Oromia

Zone: Guji

Woreda: Adola

Kebele: Masina

Area: Guji

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.



Primrose Coffee

Our beautiful exporting partners Primrose have been caring for their coffee growing and processing community throughout Ethiopia for years, and we are so very proud to say we have worked with them since 2015. Abraham (the business specialist) and Meseret Workneh (the coffee specialist) are responsible for several washing stations throughout Ethiopia, including in the Guji Area. They manage cherries bought from local farmers, the processing operations, green grading, milling and exporting.

Project Origin began working with Meseret to introduce Supernatural and carbonic maceration processing techniques in 2017, and we continue to collaborate on these lots to this day, learning and adapting every season. Additionally, we are in constant communications with the Primrose team about their traditionally processed lots, and ensuring each harvest we understand what the weather, the economy and logistics all influence to result in the cup profiles we receive. It is because of this long term relationship and great communication that we have an immense amount of trust together. We know what to expect from Ethiopia, and they know what to expect from us.

As if that wasn't enough, the Primrose team helped us conduct community projects with their local political, environmental, logistical, and social knowledge. These projects were done for the community, decided by the community.



*MICE 2022 Producer talk
with Meseret Workneh
from Primrose, Ethiopia.*

Primrose is one of our Ethiopian exporters we work with, and we value the relationship we have together immensely. After so many years of project development and sharing coffee after coffee after coffee, we truly feel loved by the Primrose team, and will continue collaborating for years to come. Building a near ten year relationship - holding strong through market fluctuations and the Covid pandemic - proves that our long term relationship together is truly very special, and we are grateful for their companionship in this specialty coffee world.



Washing channels in Mesina - Guji

Guji

ECX Area	Guji
Region	Oromia
Altitude	1950 - 2300m
Harvest	November - February

About Guji

It is unclear what makes Ethiopian coffee so stand out, unique and special. We can pay tribute to the terroir: the nutrient rich soils that vary in healthy shades of red and brown across the regions, the sharp variants in altitude and aspect along the mountain ranges, the dry climates. We could consider the genetic diversity of the flora that grows throughout the country, and the many hundreds of natural mutations that exist in the realm of coffee trees within Africa. Perhaps we consider the lack of chemical pesticides, the natural growth of wild trees and minimal pruning intervention.

Maybe, what makes Ethiopian coffees so special is the cumulation of hundreds of small garden coffee lots that combine to create a blend of flavours, textures and acidities. A blend where the colour, or colours, of the cherries does not define its category, but rather, a blend that combines all the wonderful elements of ripe and ready cherries. Surely, this is why we find such beautiful complexity and elegance in the idyllic world of Ethiopian specialty coffee.

In the Area of Guji, where the local language is the second most widely used language across the country, we find the Oromo people who grow, care for, pick, transport by foot and collate wild mutations of coffee cherries to local washing stations. And from their hard work we discover the flavours of Guji.



*Downloadable
gallery*

Mandarin

Toffee

Chocolate

Strawberry

Cranberry

Mango

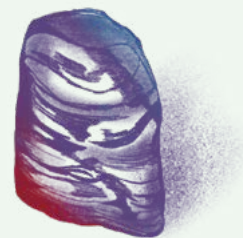
Orange

Guji Nitrogen Indigo

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Nitrogen washed

Lot: 2726



Processing Details

- o Coffees grow in small farmers backyards, known as “garden coffee”
- o Hand sorting of only ripe, red cherries at 20-22° Brix for 90+ ripeness rate for this lot
- o Cherries are placed inside sealed tanks and flushed with N2
- o Controlled yeast activity, temperature and humidity of tanks
- o Extended anaerobic fermentation time at controlled temperatures
- o Cherries are pulped and washed thoroughly before being laid out to dry on raised beds
- o Drying takes typically 25-30 days to reduce moisture content to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in parchment for protection until milling and export preparation where further hand sorting and colour sorting is conducted to improve overall quality
- o Project Origin cups lots to curate this 2726 coffee for our Signature Indigo profile in collaboration with Primrose



Apricot

Dark grape

Chocolate

Pink grapefruit

Clean

Citrus

Raspberry

Yellow peach

Mango

Guji CMW Diamond

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: CM Natural

Lot: 0426



Processing Details

- o Coffees grow in small farmers backyards, known as “garden coffee”
- o Hand sorting of only ripe, red cherries at 20-22° Brix for 90+ ripeness rate for this lot
- o Cherries are placed inside sealed tanks and filled with CO2 pushing oxygen out
- o Controlled yeast activity, temperature and humidity of tanks
- o Moderate anaerobic fermentation time at controlled temperatures
- o Cherries dried on drying beds in thick stacks to slow drying time and bring thick texture
- o Drying takes typically 25-30 days to reduce moisture content to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in the dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise fruit flavours until milling and export preparation where further hand sorting and colour sorting is conducted to improve overall quality
- o Project Origin cups lots to curate this 0426 coffee for our Signature Diamond profile in collaboration with Primrose



Mulberry

Blueberry

Dark grape

White peach

White sugar

Floral

Balanced

Juicy

Rich

Guji Supernatural Urabeast

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Supernatural



Processing Details

- o Cherries are delivered to Guji wet mill where the farmer hand sorts based on colour for 90+ ripeness rate for this lot
- o Ripe cherries are processed in airtight environment for an extended period at controlled temperatures to slow down fermentation creating a fruity supernatural coffee experience
- o Cherries are laid in thick stacks on raised beds to enhance classic Supernatural qualities
- o Drying typically takes 25-30 days until moisture content is reduced to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise fruit flavours until milling and export preparation where further hand sorting and colour sorting is conducted to improve overall quality
- o Project Origin cups lots to curate this coffee for our Signature Supernatural profile in collaboration with Primrose

[Click here to learn more about Supernatural Coffees](#)



Mulberry

Blueberry

Red fruit

Red plum

Apricot

Raisin

Winey

Rich

Guji Supernatural Mudole

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Supernatural



Processing Details

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- o Dried beans are then stored in dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise fruit flavours until milling and export preparation where further hand sorting and colour sorting is conducted to improve overall quality
- o Project Origin cups lots to curate this coffee for our Signature Supernatural profile in collaboration with Primrose



[Click here to learn more about Supernatural Coffees](#)

Mandarin

Dark chocolate

Marmalade

Red tea

Jammy

Guji Supernatural Tropicana

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Supernatural



Processing Details

- o Cherries are delivered to Guji wet mill where the farmer hand sorts based on colour for 90+ ripeness rate for this lot
- o Ripe cherries are processed in airtight environment for an extended period at controlled temperatures to slow down fermentation creating a fruity supernatural coffee experience
- o Cherries are laid in thick stacks on raised beds to enhance classic Supernatural qualities
- o Drying typically takes 25-30 days until moisture content is reduced to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise fruit flavours until milling and export preparation where further hand sorting and colour sorting is conducted to improve overall quality
- o Project Origin cups lots to curate this coffee for our Signature Supernatural profile in collaboration with Primrose

[Click here to learn more about Supernatural Coffees](#)



Guji G2

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Natural

Tasting notes: balanced, sweet, coating, raspberry, chocolate, orange, peach, rooibos tea, toffee, cherry, red apple, blueberry



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined and hand sorted to remove under- and over-ripe cherries and select cherries between 18-22°Brix
- o Cherries are dried on raised beds in full sun for 18-30 days to allow the beans to absorb the sweetness and fruitiness from the cherry pulp and skin
- o During drying cherries are regularly turned to ensure even drying and maintain clarity. On very hot days cherries are covered in plastic to control drying rate
- o Moisture content is reduced to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in the dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise sugar and fruit flavour absorption until milling and export preparation
- o Our local partners do further quality control and sorting during milling. As a minimum they do a triple-pass through a colour sorter and a triple-pass through hand-sorting tables to improve overall quality
- o Grade 2, grade 3 and grade 4 natural lots are categorised this way by the ECX. These lots will have a higher defect count than Grade 1 lots, however, our partners do further sorting and removal of defects during milling to ensure Project Origin's G2 and G3 and G4 lots are cleaner than the minimum standard

Guji G2 Mudole

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Natural



Tasting notes: peach, rich, dark chocolate, citrus, juicy, clean, brown sugar, caramel, black tea, juicy, raspberry, creamy, sweet, orange, pineapple, passionfruit

Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined and hand sorted to remove under- and over-ripe cherries and select cherries between 18-22°Brix
- o Cherries are dried on raised beds in full sun for 18-30 days to allow the beans to absorb the sweetness and fruitiness from the cherry pulp and skin
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- o Grade 2, grade 3 and grade 4 natural lots are categorised this way by the ECX. These lots will have a higher defect count than Grade 1 lots, however, our partners do further sorting and removal of defects during milling to ensure Project Origin's G2 and G3 and G4 lots are cleaner than the minimum standard

Guji G3

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Natural

Lot: DG1

Tasting notes: dried fruit, plum, cherry, sweet, black tea, strawberry, chocolate, apricot, mandarin, toffee, raspberry



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined and hand sorted to remove under- and over-ripe cherries and select cherries between 18-22°Brix
- o Cherries are dried on raised beds in full sun for 18-30 days to allow the beans to absorb the sweetness and fruitiness from the cherry pulp and skin
- o During drying cherries are regularly turned to ensure even drying and maintain clarity. On very hot days cherries are covered in plastic to control drying rate
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- o Dried beans are then stored in the dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise sugar and fruit flavour absorption until milling and export preparation
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Ethiopia - Guji - Coffee Blossom



Hambela

Region	Hambela Wamena
Zone	Guji
Altitude	1950 - 2300m
Harvest	October - January

About Hambela

Hambela, loosely translated means 'to go on' or 'to travel for'. Nestled in the Oromia Region, the Hambela woreda is in close proximity to the Idido and Kochere woredas in the Gedeo Zone. If you travel to the area, you will find rows upon rows of raised drying beds, stacked with cherries surrounded by the beautifully dense and green Ethiopian forest.

The small-holder farmers in the area grow completely organic and pesticide free coffee trees due partly to the lack of funds required to purchase chemical products, but also the lack of need for them given the naturally incredibly nutrient rich soil. The trees are left to grow wild and free, with minimal pruning involved, and during harvest the cherries are transported to the washing stations daily, and mostly by foot. There exists a natural wonder around the coffees of Ethiopia and with very little involvement and manicuring of the coffee trees by people, we can truly taste the natural effects this land has to offer.



*Downloadable
gallery*

Guji G1 Hambela

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Natural

Tasting notes: raspberry, chocolate, caramel, apricot, orange juice, stone fruit, sweet, juicy, confectionary, sherbet, coating, cherry, berry, red apple, clean, mulberry



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined and hand sorted to remove under- and over-ripe cherries and select cherries between 18-22°Brix
- o Cherries are dried on raised beds in full sun for 18-30 days to allow the beans to absorb the sweetness and fruitiness from the cherry pulp and skin
- o During drying cherries are regularly turned to ensure even drying and maintain clarity. On very hot days cherries are covered in plastic to control drying rate
- o Moisture content is reduced to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in the dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise sugar and fruit flavour absorption until milling and export preparation
- o Our local partners do further quality control and sorting during milling. As a minimum they do a triple-pass through a colour sorter and a triple-pass through hand-sorting tables to improve overall quality



Ethiopia - Guji - Masina Station



Masina

Woreda	Adola
Kebele	Masina
Altitude	1950 - 2300m
Harvest	October - January

[Click here to see Masina's exact location](#)

About Masina

In the Masina Kebele in the Adola Woreda lies a washing station that sits at the heart of Project Origin. Built in 2017 as a joint project with our great local export partners, Primrose, the Guji Masina washing station was the site where our very first Ethiopian Carbonic Maceration processed coffees were produced. We learned a vast amount from the experience of trying and refining the CM process at this station.

Nearby the washing station lies a river, that locals in the community wade through to reach the town and the school. Project Origin have teamed up with Primrose once again to fund the construction of a bridge over this beautiful river, hoping that this improvement in infrastructure will help the community in their daily travels and needs rather than taking the 1-2 hour walk around to the nearest crossing.

The coffees from this woreda are already world-known, feeding into the romanticism of Ethiopian coffees, and when the 2018 World Barista Championship is won utilising a coffee from this station, it becomes impossible not to include this washing station in your collection.



Downloadable
gallery

Guji G1 Muje Mesina

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Washed

Tasting notes: red apple, peach, white nectarine, balanced, refined, orange blossom, juicy, white peach, white floral, clean, delicate, citrus, jasmine, sweet, grapefruit candy, lime, orange candy



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji 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 Our local partners do further quality control and sorting during milling. As a minimum they do a triple-pass through a colour sorter and a triple-pass through hand-sorting tables to improve overall quality

Guji G2 Mesina

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Natural

Tasting notes: sweet, chocolate, caramel, orange, brown sugar, cherry, guava, red apple



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined and hand sorted to remove under- and over-ripe cherries and select cherries between 18-22°Brix
- o Cherries are dried on raised beds in full sun for 18-30 days to allow the beans to absorb the sweetness and fruitiness from the cherry pulp and skin
- o During drying cherries are regularly turned to ensure even drying and maintain clarity. On very hot days cherries are covered in plastic to control drying rate
- o Moisture content is reduced to 10-12%
- o Dried beans are then stored in the dried cherry pod for protection and to maximise sugar and fruit flavour absorption until milling and export preparation
- o Our local partners do further quality control and sorting during milling. As a minimum they do a triple-pass through a colour sorter and a triple-pass through hand-sorting tables to improve overall quality
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Ethiopia - Guji Uraga Gomoro Station

Uraga

Region	Guji
Zone	Uraga
Altitude	1950 - 2300m
Harvest	October - January

About Uraga

Ever heard of an 'African Massage'? Travel to the Uraga Gomoro washing station near the town of Dilla in the back of a 4WD and you'll get the experience for free. Bumping up and down, side to side, descending a mountain so steep, to a ridge that the washing station is perched on, that surely the truck cannot climb back up to leave again. But luckily, the thought of potentially pushing a truck over boulders leaves your mind, as the views from that ridge are enough to empty the mind of all other thoughts. And so, we experience the magic of Ethiopia. It is no surprise that the world is continuously bewildered with the flavours of Uraga.

We have been impressed by the quality of coffees processed from this washing station, and with a selection of cherries going towards our specialised Carbonic Maceration techniques, we can explore these coffees under further processing, allowing us even more variety in how we experience the flavours of this Woreda.



*Downloadable
gallery*

Guji Uraga G1

Varietal: Heirloom

Process: Natural

Tasting notes: floral, rose, raspberry, chocolate, musk, clean, pink grapefruit, juicy, raisin, strawberry, sweet, hibiscus



Processing Details

- o Coffees are grown and harvested in small-holder farmers' backyards (known as 'garden coffee') in the Guji region
- o Cherries are taken to the washing station where small-holder lots are combined and hand sorted to remove under- and over-ripe cherries and select cherries between 18-22°Brix
- o Cherries are dried on raised beds in full sun for 18-30 days to allow the beans to absorb the sweetness and fruitiness from the cherry pulp and skin
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