

SVENSKA KAKAOBOLAGET

CACAO DIRECT, CORTÉS, HONDURAS

Cacao Direct began operations in 2014, in the remote area of Wampusirpi in the Rio Plátano Biosphere Reserve in La Moskitia. By building a central fermentation and processing station, Cacao Direct quickly gained the trust from scores of indigenous farming families and groups. Cacao Direct buys beans year-round at a premium price, and thereby provides a reliable source of income for the growers. They are the largest source of legal economic activity in the area and their actions have also helped to prevent illegal logging over the years. Today they are an appreciated and reliable partner.

In 2016, the operations expanded with another fermentation center in the more accessible area near San Pedro Sula in the Cortés Department. Cacao Direct now works with approximately 240 farmer groups/families in the two locations, producing some 120 tonnes of dried cacao per year. We started working with Cacao Direct in late 2017, and we source the beans directly from Cortés.

The beans are grown in a sustainable way without any types of pesticides or artificial fertilizers. A mix of the native cacao Mayan Red and other Trinitario clones are grown. The beans have an intense smell with deep chocolatey notes as well as hazelnuts. Low acidity together with a well balanced bitterness balances the dark notes perfectly. This is a musty, comforting and nutty chocolate.

THE BEANS

Type: Mayan Red as well as other Trinitario clones
Region: Cortés Department, Northwestern coast.
Terroir: Deep, fertile soils, naturally irrigated, heavily prized by banana, sugar, and pineapple plantations.
Harvest Season: Main in Feb-May, Secondary in Oct-Dec, but beans are bought all year round.
Fermentation: Tray fermented 6 days, turned 4 times.
Drying method: A very slow sun drying on trays for a low astringency and acidity.

THE CHOCOLATE

Cacao: 70%
Flavor notes: Hazelnuts, crème caramel, fudge.

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