

Brazil



**Minas
Gerais**

ARACAÇU

MICROLOT 223

Profile

Country	Brazil
State	Minas Gerais
Mesoregion	Sul de Minas
Microregion	Varginha
Municipality	Três Pontas
Farm	Aracaçu
Altitude	980 masl
Varietal	Catigua MG2
Harvest	May - August
Process	Natural





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The municipality of Três Pontas in Sul de Minas is touted as the greatest producer of coffee in the country, with over 50 million coffee trees and its undulating topography falling in the transition zone between the Atlantica Forest and Cerrado Biome. The area takes its name from the three peaked mountain in the area which, stretching up to 1234 metres high, has often been used as a landmark.

The farm itself has been in the Chaves de Brito family for three generations, and is run by the inimitable Carmen Lucia, who currently heads up the Brazil Speciality Coffee Association too. She grows 83 experimental varieties as well as trying to rescue older varieties less commonly found. Coffee here is treated a little differently than you commonly find – once the cherries have been picked, sorted, and dried (in this case on patios or raised beds before being finished in a Guardiola to control consistency) they are taken for resting in the giant wooden silos (tulhas) traditional to the area before dry milling and exporting. As the coffee has been stressed through this process, the silo rooms are kept dark and soothing strains of music are constantly played to relax the beans. Once this has occurred, they are then de hulled on a beautiful blue and polished wood Pinhalense machine from 1976, before a final sorting, and bagging for export.

The coffee in this specific microlot was dried on raised beds for 25 days, before being rested for 38 days inside the tulhas.

The varietal itself is newer in Brazil and is the result of a crossing between Yellow Catuai IAC 86 and Hybrid de Timor done in the 80's at the Agricultural Research Company of Minas Gerais, or EPAMIG. The first generation (F1) was worked on at the Federal University of Vicosa, Minas Gerais, leading to the second generation (F2) being grown on the experimental farm in Patrocínio. The name Catigua itself is an homage to the original name of the city of Patrocínio. Several iterations from selections of further generations lead to the emergence of MG2 as an F5 cultivar, whereby the distinct genetics are deemed stable. MG1 exhibits bronze leaves when they sprout, MG2 bronze and green, and MG3 light bronze. It produces large, intensely red cherries that have been touted as suitable for speciality as well as displaying excellent resistance to rust.



Catigua MG2