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Guatemala

LAS MORITAS

Acquired in 1988, the farm has expanded into multiple parcels producing diverse coffee varieties and crops using innovative irrigation and farming techniques.



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LAS MORITAS



<i>Owner</i>	Don Higinio and Doña Aura
<i>Size</i>	70 ha, 56 ha under coffee
<i>Location</i>	San Antonio La Paz
<i>Altitude</i>	1700 - 1800 masl
<i>Varietals</i>	Bourbon, Caturra, Pacamara, Castillo
<i>Processes</i>	Washed, Natural, Honey
<i>Harvest</i>	November - April
<i>Certifications</i>	Fairtrade, Organic

Don Higinio and his wife Doña Aura bought their first small plot of land in 1988, naming it San José Las Moritas. Before the purchase of Las Moritas, tomatoes, beans, potatoes and corn were grown on the land. Las Moritas would be the first of many farms Don Higinio would acquire over the years.

The first coffee seeds planted here were given to Don Higinio from his father. They began with less than a hectare of land, planting bourbon varietals and small trees. Every year they purchased more land for Las Moritas. Now San Jose Las Moritas is made up of many different parcels of land such as Cerro de Oro, El Potrero, La Camioneta and La Posa. Real Café Los Planes and Moritas Vista Real are also separate farms that fall under the Las Moritas coffee category. These parcels of land that make up Las Moritas have red and yellow Bourbon, Pache, Pacamara, Castillo, Tipica, Catuai, Caturra, and a dozen other rare varietals. The shade trees are mainly ingas, pine trees, avocado trees, and natural forest.

Las Moritas also cultivates corn, beans, tomatoes, and peaches to be sold in local markets.

The farm consists of planes, hills, mountains, and even cliffs that the workers somehow manage to harvest. The soil is different in each area, influenced by the crop that was cultivated there before. The yearly harvest begins on the first day of November in the lowest areas of land and finishes in April in the highest parts of Las Moritas.

Las Moritas is a mixture of old varieties growing in a chaotic layout as well as newly planted varieties in neatly planned rows. Plants of all ages can be found throughout Las Moritas. Renovations are based on selective pruning as well as replanting new coffee in place of dead plants. Due to the dry climate, an irrigation system has been put in place consisting of reservoirs that pour water into tubes that run between the lots of coffee using gravity to spread water to the plants.

