



BANKA NATURAL



Country: **China**

Province: **Yunnan**

County: **Menglian Dai, Lahu and Va Autonomous County**

Farmer: **Yunnan Coffee Traders**

Farm / Washing station: **Banka**

Elevation: **1350 masl**

Variety: **Catimor (P3 / P4)**

Process: **Natural**

Screen size G1: **17+**

Screen size G2: **14-16**

Season: **2020**

Tasting notes: **Stone fruits,
tropical, chocolate**

FARM / WASHING STATION INFORMATION

Banka farm and washing station is based in Menglian Dai, Lahu and Va Autonomous County, Yunnan and is named after the two nearby villages (Banka Yi and Banka Er) where the coffee cherry for these lots is grown and harvested. Cherry processed at Banka washing station is also grown at the nearby village of Aqi Badu as well as within the farm itself.

The harvesters who bring cherries to Banka washing station are predominantly Lahu – an ethnic group that lives across China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Banka farm and washing station was originally developed by Mr. Hu, a native of Yunnan, who has been producing coffee in Menglian for almost 20 years. He was one of the first farmers to engage in large scale coffee production in the county, working in partnership with Nestle and the local government. Mr. Hu is held in high esteem within the local area, employing hundreds of harvesters from various ethnic groups across his farms each year.

In 2018, Yunnan Coffee Traders (YCT) took over the management of the Banka wet mill and a portion of the Banka farm, some 100 hectares of land, installing one of the region's first optical sorters, experimenting with processing methods such as yeast fermentation and growing new varieties such as Pacamara and Yellow Bourbon. Banka farm produces both the company's volume washed specialty lots, much of which is sold to Australia, as well as natural and honey process micro lots.

For this season, YCT employed processing expert Joel Smith, who continues this commitment to innovation and increasing quality. Fresh from completing his Q processing course in Brazil last year, Joel has brought his expertise to oversee improvements at the farm and washing station which is reflected in improvements to the cup quality for both the washed and natural lots.



Indochina has worked in partnership with YCT since we first began importing coffees to the UK in 2016. As a pioneer of the Chinese specialty coffee industry in Menglian County, Yunnan Province, YCT operates farming, mill, research, and training facilities. Its mission is three-fold:

- create opportunities for Yunnan farmers to engage in sustainable production practices
- employ industry best-practices for sourcing, processing, wholesaling, and exporting coffees
- supply coffee to importers and roasters who care about sustainability, traceability, and transparency

PROCESSING INFORMATION —

Cherries are run through an optical colour sorter, and then fermented in cherry for two days. During the drying process, the cherries are put inside of a solar dryer on raised beds for roughly 20 days. Once the cherries are dried, they are bagged and taken to the dry milled in Pu'er city for hulling at a high-end mill.

ABOUT CHINA AND ITS HISTORY OF COFFEE CULTIVATION —

The People's Republic of China, simply known as China (Chinese: 中国, pinyin: zhōng guó) is located in East Asia. It is the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.4 billion. China is one of the four earliest civilizations nations in the world with Yellow River and Yangtze River as its base and cradles.

Coffee was first cultivated in China in the late 1800s on a small scale, introduced by French missionaries in Yunnan. Production at scale didn't take off for nearly 100 years, despite government initiatives back in the 1960s. It was in 1988, as part of another government-led project assisted by the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank, that coffee began to be commercially produced for export through companies such as Nestle. The focus on specialty is relatively recent, with the past decade seeing smaller coffee farms and producers improving their knowledge and skills e.g. processing techniques to produce better quality coffee .

Yunnan province - a mountainous and fertile land in the south west of China, is responsible for over 97% of China's coffee production. Over half of this production is concentrated around Pu'er – a region famous for centuries old tradition of tea. The people of Yunnan are a hugely diverse mix of different cultures and languages, with most of China's officially recognised 56 different ethnic groups residing here. It's not just diverse in terms of the variety of its people either, the region also boasts a vast array of flora and fauna (including elephants and tigers), snow-capped mountains, deep valleys, vast plateaus, subtropical jungles, beautiful lakes and majestic rivers (including the mighty Mekong).

