

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

“By dissociating the fate of landscapes and ecosystems from the understanding of colonialization, anti-colonialism developed without altering the principle and reality of intensive exploitation of the Earth. [...] In reality, the ecological crisis leads us to acknowledge that we inhabit the Earth not only with humans, but also with non-humans - minerals, plants, animals, spirits (for some) ... These non-humans, these others without which we cannot inhabit the Earth. [...] It invites us to move towards a decolonial habitation”

Malcom Ferdinand - *A decolonial ecology. Thinking ecology from the Caribbean world.*

Get your spoons ready, Closer to your heart regarding what's happening in the producing countries.

Yours as always,

This summer, let's go back to childhood: wonder and disgust as we contemplate earthworms and other soil insects...

May they inspire us in our daily lives! They also witness the distress around, because of SARS-Cov-2. (Honduras), and we will head to Bolivia somehow similar to Peru. These people are organizing change.

This month we are happy to meet Arnaud Causses (Ecuador), Felipe Croce (Brazil), COMSA

is very subtle and we will try to give you some keys of understanding. by this awareness that the soil must be alive to be fertile and provide us with our food. Their balance month we show it, in contrast to what has been done in the 20th century. The soil substrate, inert, Ecology is this: taking care of our common home, the interdependencies that bind us. And this

care of the Earth, of oneself. impacts. At the genesis of the Cupping Club, there is this very strong complicity on values: taking to vibrate this antiphrasis which means *“here and now”*. Our current epoch pushes us to live fully Happy to see you again as you wander through the summer. Summer often offers us the opportunity to taste another soil, to explore other roots than those of our daily lives. As plants we adapt, we discover other resources as well as other needs on these new soils.

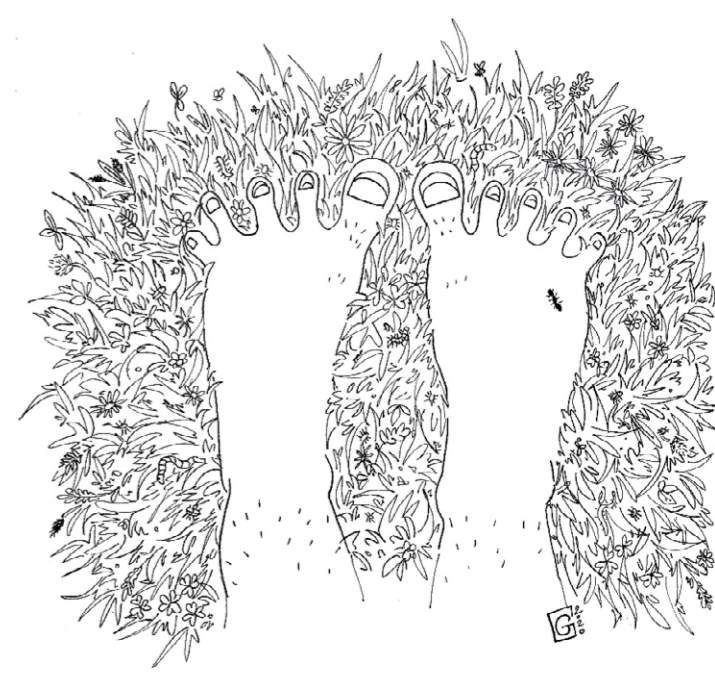
present In search of change of scenery, landmarks, rest, freshness or odors, all our senses are awoken under the sun, may we make it an opportunity to amplify our aromatic library, humming, tasting what is

Hello and Welcome Cuppers,

EDITORIAL



With Felipe Croce, co-founder and director of FAFCoffee - green coffee exporter – and the Bobolink project



EPISODE 18 Feet on the Ground

LIVING SOILS

“Very often a change of inner-self is more necessary than a change of situation.”
Theodore Monod

complement the root systems, give shade. Results are the increases of soil fertility, moisture conservation, temperatures mitigation, prevention from soil erosion... The list is long !!

How good is this for coffee, based on your experience?
Soils are key to taste, no doubt about it. On a basic principle a plant that eats everyday - from a rich soil - as opposed to twice a year - from only chemical inputs - will have a denser and richer composition. Resulting in a more intense and seemingly more 'alive' cup profile. Soils are a mid to longterm project. I wholeheartedly believe that before you plant it is better to dedicate one to two years in rebuilding soil health with cover crops. However, we are still too new to specialty coffee as an industry to pin point exact flavour precursors due to specific soil components. What we do know is that healthier plants make beans that taste better.

Then, as a farmer, what are the major keys I need to care about for maintaining this living soil?
Every year you must take soil analysis to identify deficiencies. Making sure that the soil is becoming softer and more porous helps to keep soils moist and alive. You, farmers should increasingly discover ways to make inputs through composts with what is accessible to you, planting to make sure you don't depend on outside sources.

Experimentation is key too. We are doing it with 14 partner farms. FAF, our farm, is a laboratory where we study innovation in specialty coffee farming. In total we have 4 experts consulting for us. All partner farms see an incredible increase in yields & screen size. The economic outcome is big. One farmer has 5ha and used to produce 10 bags/ha, milking cows to complement his earnings. After two years in the project he is producing 70 bags/ha and can work on his farm only. It didn't come in a nutshell (investment, access to secure market & information). The true results will come by comparing the farmers in our project with neighbors who do more of the same as the years go by.

Tell us about Brazilian full sun coffee plantations, soil temperatures, the future?

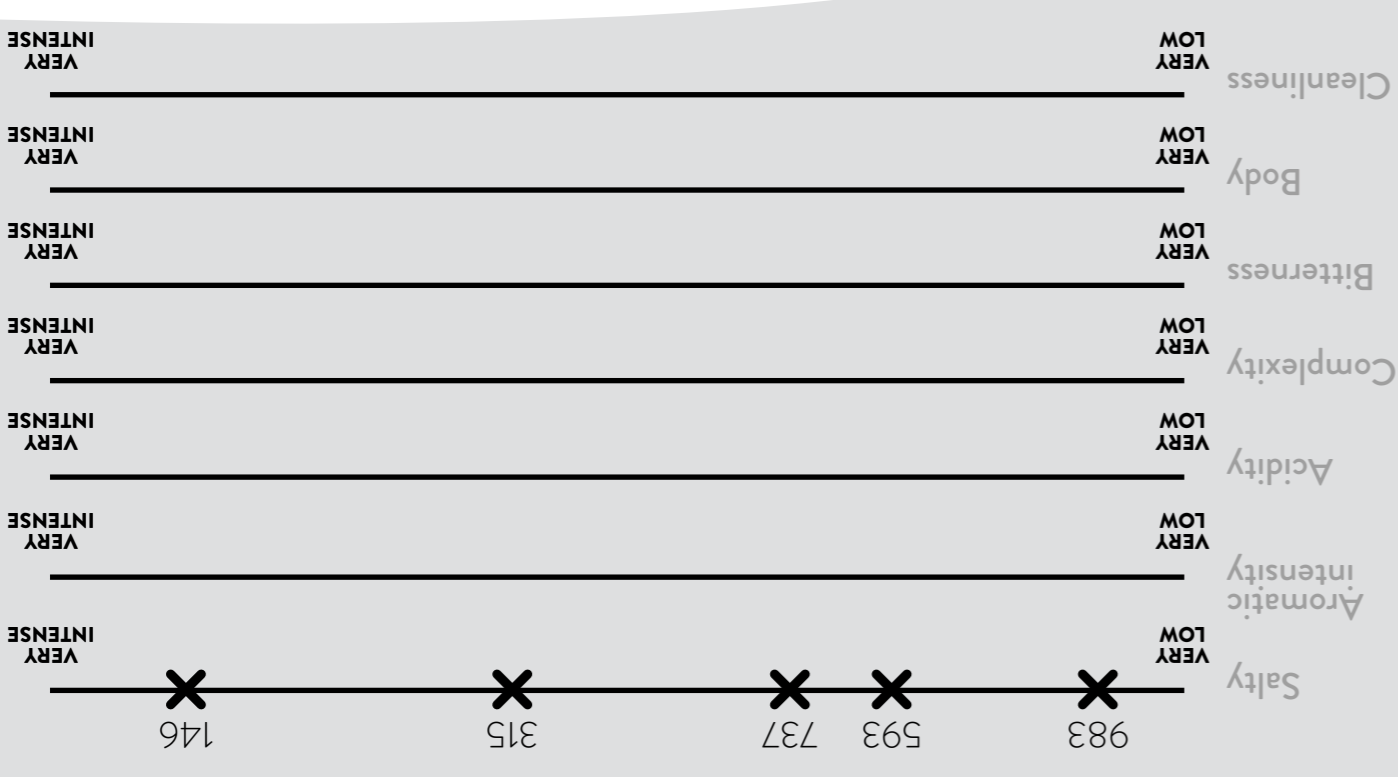
Global warming is real and it is a serious problem. Our region has increased in around 7°C over the past 80 years. The late June harvest is now beginning in April - early May. This creates all kinds of issues with high temperatures and cherries ripening during rainy season. At FAF we have worked hard to change varieties to late ripening, increase shade and keep soils cool by keeping them covered to make sure we continue harvesting in the winter and cold times.

We had to adapt to the coffee price crisis, finding innovative ways, now is the time to rebuild our economies, rebuild our farms, eco-systems and landscapes. Soils are a major part of this, they are what we produce today and tomorrow. Let's think and act beyond our borders!

CUPPING

LINEAR INTERVAL SCALES

Coffees: All 5 coffees



This month we invite you to use the linear interval scales (15cm). They are used to quantify sensory information based on the magnitude of a unique product characteristic, thereby revealing the magnitude of the differences between samples. These are intensity scales that are purposely upgraded.

Classify all the 5 coffees on the same axis according to the intensity of the attribute.

Every month, we recommend cupping exercises, they add value to the Context AND are generally a way to engage your team, your customers, your loved ones. Remember cupping is key to knowing a story. If you haven't cup in a while, or if this is your first time cupping : please refer to the "Welcome to the Club" card to make sure you are cupping as the rest of the Club. However you enjoy them, be sure to feedback on your experience via FB, Instagram. For this month, you can copy this page, write your cupping notes on it and send it to us via @cuppingclub.com

Those 5 coffees speak about living soils, each of them has a peculiar history, more less conserved, renovated. If you ever wonder if the life quality of a soil matter, We asked Felipe Croce, what he believes make cup quality

"A sum of everything! This is the magic of producing. First and foremost, the varietal genetics gives a particular taste. Then the climate of the farm adds the second layer. Lastly, processing polishes and enhances these flavors. Thus deficiencies in soil will be evident in the plants as the coffee plant grows. Here one will see problems on the leaves or cherries ripening too soon, which may lead to less sugar development, then a drier cup."

Your turn to make up your mind.

INTERVIEW



If you have ever visited an international coffee fair, you probably have come across Felipe, or his father Marcos Croce... the Bobolink is a family project which started in the 2000's bringing the "Total Quality" approach. This approach is contextualized in a larger whole. The original project was made on their Fazenda Agricola Fortaleza (FAF), in Mococa, Mogiana, it then spread to various regions of Brazil reaching up to 50 family farms. The FAFCoffee Bobolink project counts with three experts : Jose Romeu Favaro (coffee agronomist), Ademir Calegari (soil expert) and Leonardo Maeda (water expert).

How do you approach farmers and address "Total Quality"?
The first step is to improve picking, drying and the farmer's awareness & engagement about coffee quality. A small change in mentality can lead to a big change in a farmers' life. Higher quality leads to higher prices & market access, as we - the Bobolink team - have an improved connection along the supply chain : this brings hope & pride to the family farmers. Then we are able to bring on concepts of sustainability. Spring protection, project design and sponsorship are what we bring with the engaged communities. The goal is to reach a holistic sustainability and a great cup together, and we all reach this at different paces; once we all know where we want to go, we all go together.

What is the major challenge regarding Brazilian soils?
Brazil as a whole is an agriculturally modern country. Our economy is heavily based on exports of agriculture and the focus politically has always been on increasing exports. The many subsidies for agro-toxic chemicals and the banking system has often been driven by yield focus production. This has created a factory style farming with little variation in genetics, soil management, processing, etc. The problem here is that soils are like our bank accounts, they hold the possibility to produce food for the world. Yet, today we leave a net negative result each year and depend increasingly more on inputs, which are becoming increasingly rare (phosphorous, water). The challenge for Brazil is to rebuild our impoverished soils and redesign politically our agricultural landscapes.

Please take us to a "new farm" and explain what is your "doctor's protocole"?

We'll walk around a farm to gauge the health of the soils. One can see how compacted they are by trying to dig and smell the soil to get a lot of insights. A balanced soil will smell moist and fungus. It will have a rich depth. A soil that is dead will smell like dry dirt. Taking soil analysis is a very first step, checking what it lacks, then correcting either from conventional or organic fertilizers. Thus, it is often important to increase the bioactivity (measured by microscopes). We promote the increase of organic matter. Cover crops are fantastic for fixing nitrogen & other key elements in the soils; then they are cut down to decompose as matter. Adding compost is still scarce for many farmers but is incredibly rich. On the long run adding trees - agro-forestry -

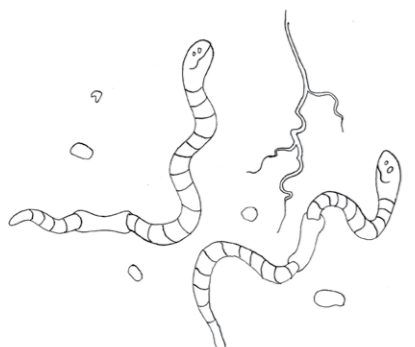
& MORE

THE TRIAL OF 42 PARCELS IN VERSAILLES, FRANCE.

"The trial of the 42 plots was created in 1928 within the gardens of the Palace of Versailles. The objective was to determine the effects of the prolonged application of the main chemical, limestone or organic treatments on the soil composition and its physical properties, in comparison with 'real' control plots. The experiment is carried out on soils without vegetation in order to exacerbate the chemical impacts, the nature of those soils is representative of those of main cereal production basins.

The protocol was followed until the trial was renewed in 2013. The 85 years of experiments allow to have a detailed history on the effects of regular chemical inputs (2x/year) on the physico-chemical properties of a soil. This collection is unique in the world : its a great value for research. The technical results are already published."

INRA, UR 251 Pessac, Centre de Versailles-Grignon



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TO GO FURTHER

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