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Kona Coffee Cupping Competition Awards Geisha Kona Coffee and Darnall Estate 100% Kona Coffee 2023 Winners

Kona, Hawaii — This year's top scoring coffees from the 52nd Annual Kona Coffee Cultural Festival Cupping Competition are a collection of unique varieties and some experimental processing methods. Eighty-three Kona coffee entries were submitted into this year's competition. **Geisha Kona Coffee** took first place in the Classic Division, reserved for smallholder farms and celebrating innovation, with a fruit-dried (natural-process) inoculated with yeast Gesha variety scoring 87.50. This is the highest scoring entry since Pacific Coffee Research started managing this competition in 2018.

The Crown Division award required HDOA certification of No1 or better for a 500 lb lot and reserved for larger farms and mills. First place went to **Darnall Estate 100% Kona Coffee** scoring 85.00 points and taking the Kona Heritage Award with their certified Kona Fancy grade. This award symbolizes a celebration of the traditional cultivation techniques in Kona coffee: a parchment-dried Typica entry without any yeast inoculation during fermentation.

The cupping competition strictly followed Specialty Coffee Association cupping methodology and protocol and was hosted by Pacific Coffee Research of Kailua Kona, Hawai'i in their Coffee Quality Institute certified lab.

"Elevated scores and an increase in community participation this year is a testament to growers overcoming the challenges over the last several harvest seasons. I encourage growers to continue cupping their coffees even outside of the cupping competition" - Brittany Horn, 2023 Kona Coffee Cultural Festival Cupping Competition Committee Chair.

2023 Kona Coffee Cupping Competition Winners

Classic Division

1. **Geisha Kona Coffee** – Gesha, Fruit-dried – 87.50
2. Kopiko Farm – Gesha, Parchment-dried – 85.45
2. Monarch Coffee Farm – Geisha, Pulp-dried – 85.45
3. Kona RainForest Farms – Red Bourbon, Certified Organic – 86.25

Crown Division

1. **Darnall Estate 100% Kona Coffee** – Typica – 85.00
2. Gandona 100% Kona Coffee – Typica – 84.94
3. Hawaiian Queen Coffee – Typica – 83.00

Kona Heritage Award

1. **Darnall Estate 100% Kona Coffee** – Crown Division – 85.00
2. Gandona 100% Kona Coffee – Crown Division – 84.94
3. Yamasawa Farms – Classic Division – 84.00

Returning to manage this year's Kona Coffee Cupping Competition were Brit Horn and Madeleine Longoria Garcia of Pacific Coffee Research, who assisted a panel of judges with their multi-day task of slurping, tasting and scoring each entry in multiple rounds.

Check out Facebook (@konacoffeefest), Instagram (@konacoffeefest), Twitter (@konacoffeefest), and YouTube (@konacoffeeculturalfestival).

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is made possible through the support of Hawaii Tourism Authority through the Community Enrichment Program and the generous sponsorship of UCC Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd., Kamehameha Schools, Alaska Airlines, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, King Kamehameha Kona Beach Resort and numerous other corporate and community donors.