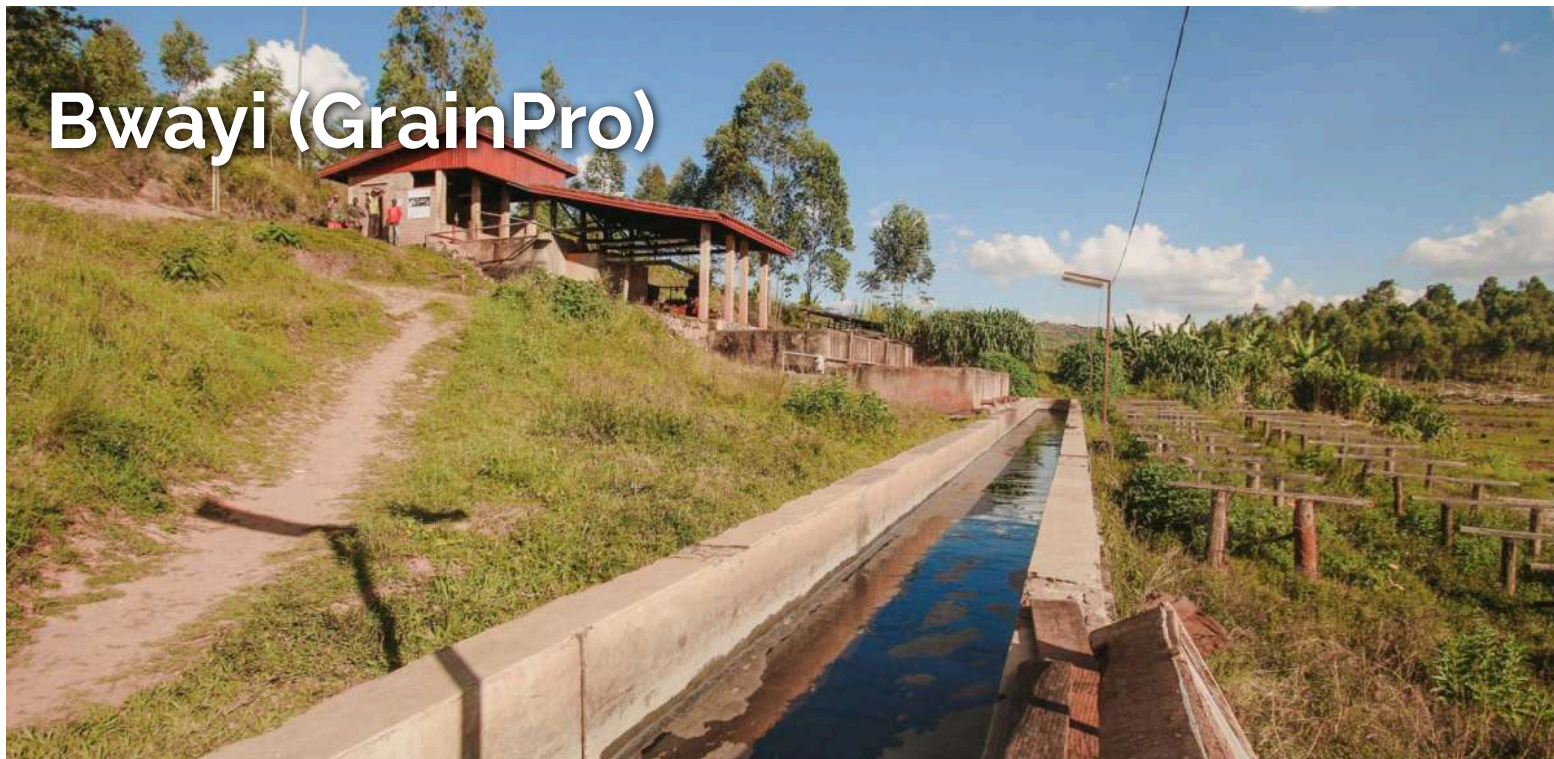


# Bwayi (GrainPro)



The Bwayi Washing Station is located in the town of Matongo, in the Kayanza Province of Burundi. On average there are 4,000 coffee producers contributing to Bwayi, 983 of whom contribute directly to the station, and 3,018 of which contribute to 10 different collection points. Other crops in the area include banana, beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, and taro.

Deep in the heart of Africa is the tiny country Burundi, and deep in Burundi is Cafe Imports: We have been trekking to this gem of a place just south of Rwanda on Lake Tanganyika since 2006, and Cafe Imports was one of the very first companies to see the great potential in specialty coffees here—not only for their profile, which is exquisite, as complex as Kenya but as versatile as a top-flight Colombian; but also for the economic possibilities that specialty coffee offers.

Coffee in Burundi is a logistical challenge from start to finish, even for the best of us. It is a particularly poor country, with one of the lowest GDP in Africa, and recent years have brought renewed political struggles and unrest that hark back to very troubled times in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The country's landlocked position on the continent is also tricky to navigate: Rather than being sold FOB (Free on

ID# 11099

Origin	Burundi
Region	Matongo, Kayanza
Farm	Bwayi Washing Station Cooperative
Variety	Bourbon, Jackson, Mibirizi
Altitude	1760 masl
Proc. Method	Washed

## The Cup

"Tangelo, blackberry, nougat, black tea, floral."



Board), as most coffees are once they arrive at port and are loaded onto a container, coffees from Rwanda, Burundi, and Democratic Republic of Congo are traded FOT, or Free on Truck—a much riskier arrangement as it requires an incredibly long haul from the processing mill to a port that's as many as three countries and up to a week's travel time removed.

Despite the surface similarities that Burundi and Rwanda share on paper with regards to varieties, processing, farmer profile, and history (the two nations are often lumped together on offerings sheets and in the "story" of African coffees), they are practically night and day in the cup: The sparkling acidity of Burundi and the incredible complexity and diversity that's possible here is absolutely a product of the terroir, and the taste of the place is as beautiful and varied as the place itself.

We are in love with the coffees, the people, and the country of Burundi, and by continuing to invest in buying microlots from our washing-station partners, we are able to consistently offer our customers what we believe are some of the most interesting and most consistently high-cupping coffees from Africa.

For more information about coffee production in Burundi, visit our [Burundi Origin Page](#).



## Gallery Bwayi (GrainPro)

