

World of Coffee Panama, 23-25 October, puts Boquete coffee in the spotlight

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Summary

Casa Solution reports that World of Coffee Panama, the industry's main trade show, runs 23-25 October at the Panama Convention Center in Amador, the first ever held in a coffee-producing country, with the World Barista Championship 22-25 October. The article sets out what Panama's and Boquete's coffee is worth and what the industry means for the highlands.

Details (summary of the article)

Casa Solution reports that World of Coffee Panama will take place 23-25 October 2026 at the Panama Convention Center in Amador, the first such show in Latin America and the first in a coffee-producing country, with the World Barista Championship alongside it 22-25 October. Organisers expect around 13,000 visitors and over 320 exhibitors from 30 countries, with a citywide "Coffee Weeks" running 15-31 October in cafés, hotels and restaurants. The show is organised by the Specialty Coffee Association with Panama's SCAP and the chamber of commerce, backed by MICI, ATP and Senacyt. Panama exports little coffee by volume - \$16.1 million from January to June 2026 at an average \$17.06 a kilo - but auction lots reach extraordinary prices: the top Best of Panama 2026 lot, an Elida Geisha from Lamastus Family Estates, sold for \$18,004 a kilo, and the auction totalled \$3.04 million. The reputation dates from 2004, when Hacienda La Esmeralda's Geisha won Best of Panama, and rests on the high volcanic slopes around Boquete, Volcán and Renacimiento. For Boquete the industry drives tourism, farm tours and the Flower and Coffee Fair, and Ngäbe-Buglé pickers remain essential to the harvest. The article also notes the \$25.9 million MOP contract to rehabilitate more than 25 km of the Ruta del Café linking Alto Boquete, Volcancito, El Salto, Jaramillo and Bajo Boquete, and says Boquete was largely unaffected by the 9 October earthquake.