

Chongon (Guayaquil),
Ecuador

FINCA BOTANICA

FARM AND DISTILLERY

Established 2006

Botanicals sourced from this farm: Ylang Ylang, Eucalyptus Blue, Mastrante, Ecuadorian Oregano, Dorado Azul, Palo Santo, and Ocotea



FARM LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

Building this farm and its state-of-the-art distillery started as one of Young Living Founder D. Gary Young's passion projects. Today Guayaquil's tropical climate helps nurture Young Living's approximately 2,000 acres of rich soil, year-round harvests, and lush botanical life. The farm supports a year-round growing season that includes an abundance of palo santo trees and a wide array of local plants and herbs.

BOTANICAL BACKGROUND

Called "blue gum," the eucalyptus blue tree has been crossbred for over 250 years in the wilds of the Andean mountains in Ecuador and is a cross between *Eucalyptus citriodora* and *Eucalyptus globulus*.

Ylang ylang trees grown at Finca Botanica can grow more than 15 metres (nearly 50 feet) tall. Farm workers prune the trees to make the harvest easier and to channel the plant's energy to produce the fragrant flowers used to obtain Ylang Ylang essential oil.

**The Finca Botanica
Farm and Distillery
supports a year-round
growing season.**

HARVESTING AND DISTILLING

Farm workers use gas chromatography to analyze every batch of oil the farm produces and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to analyze new oils. With records dating back to when the laboratory was established in 2010, the crew can monitor even the subtlest change in constituents from season to season.

In Ecuador, the climate makes it possible to harvest year round. The farm distillery is equipped with 3 extraction chambers with a 14,500-litre capacity and 14 extraction chambers with a 500-litre capacity. The Finca Botanica Farm and Distillery has continued Gary's work of discovering and distilling new botanicals throughout one of the most biodiverse regions of the world.



HOW THE FARM GOT ITS START

Young Living Founder D. Gary Young visited Ecuador in 2005 to give a presentation about essential oils at a university. While there, he started looking for land where he could possibly start a farm. He loved the variety of aromatic plants Ecuador had to offer and that its climate would allow him to harvest all year long. After researching, he settled on around 2,000 acres in Chongon, where he founded the Finca Botanica Farm and Distillery.

Nicolas Chong joined the Young Living family in 2009 and has managed the Finca Botanica Farm and Distillery since 2013. Nicolas had the opportunity to work with Gary and learn his vision for the farm.



DID YOU KNOW?



Big trees called *ceibos* intersperse the crops on the farm. Gary found them there while he was working at the farm and respectfully decided to keep them, understanding his role in the conservation of the natural vegetation.



At the entrance to this farm, Gary found a palo santo tree, which he transplanted to the area that would later become the palo santo forest. He, Mary, and their children used to visit the forest to reflect on the feeling of peace they found in the surroundings.

LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY



Wormcasting the soil. Part of the farm's biomass, including all the organic waste from the kitchen, is composted with manure and given to worms. The worms eat the compost and transform it into worm humus, which provides the soil with a higher saturation of additional nutrients.

Young Living Academy. With a passion to serve the children of Chongon, Gary and Mary Young built and opened the Young Living Academy. The opening of the Academy in 2009 marked the beginning of The D. Gary Young, Young Living Foundation. Since then, the Foundation has empowered Ecuador's rising generation to thrive and create positive change in their communities.

Implementing renewable energy. The farm crew is taking steps to implement more sustainable energy sources. All water heaters were installed with timers that are programmed to shut off when not in use.

Conserving threatened and endangered orchids. It's estimated that orchids make up one-fourth of the plants in Ecuador, and 85 percent of them are endangered. The Young Living Orchidarium and Conservation Project plans to mass propagate the endangered orchids of Ecuador and reintroduce them in protected forests.