



Family arrived in the island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1796 with the army but by about 1824 the army was reduced in size and many officers were placed as overseers of village labour cutting roads, building bridges and laying the railway system. As the costs of development grew the Governor decided to encourage the plantation system to generate much needed investment funds. At this point many families purchased Crown lands in the hills and opened these lands for planting coffee. However by 1865 a fungal disease began to wipe out coffee and left many of these families bankrupt and destitute, many could not even afford to return to



Britain. Some families tried new crops and by 1867 the first commercial field of tea was created and 23 years later saw 384,000 acres of tea established.

The present Robert Wilson is the fifth generation of the Blackett & Wilson families who were planters and agents in the island. In 1995 this business was born with a branch in Colombo to work direct with individual selected estates to manufacture special runs of extreme quality teas in the two short quality weather seasons that arrive each year. Tea is similar to wine in that there are 7 distinct districts in this island with 32 agro climates, each imparting their particular mark on the character of the teas growing in that agro climate. During the two quality seasons the combination of soil, the hot dry weather at that time together with the strong cool ocean wind that arrives first from the South West in February and from the N/E in July produce teas with highly developed characters & flavours with extreme quality. Tea differs from wine in that every bush on the estate is plucked

every 7 days in a cycle which means that if it is in the rainy season those teas will be of low quality and are therefore mixed with levels of dry season teas to produce standards on price, whereas the seasonal quality teas will be the highest quality attainable in that year. The ultimate quality will also depend upon the experience and skill of the tea-maker and it is my colleague

Manthi Delwita's job to use his vast experience and skill to select the estates with experienced tea makers whom he can work with to procure us the finest teas possible. We also market two high quality single estate Indian teas.



high quality and the business also exports the teas abroad direct from the U.K. or direct from Colombo. Our original aim was to help promote an industry that I feel very passionately about at a time when it was under threat from very low prices and to the highest

possible 'Ethical' standards as possible. To that end it was decided that all design work and packaging would be based within the island to ensure the maximum return to the industry as a whole.

Since 1999 the teas have taken 43 awards here in the U.K.



The business website not only promotes our brand of teas but it also provides a number of sections with considerable information about the industry in this island. For those persons interested in the fair trade organisations the section on **FAIR TRADE** explains how the industry works with Government ownership of the company estate's land. Who provides the worker welfare provision, the wages structure in full and why such fair trade organisations are unable to operate in this particular area as effectively as they purport to do. The **STATISTICS** section gives a comprehensive report on annual yields, prices and exports. The **TOUR** section gives of some very individual accompanied tours that I take to the area and which include a section on tea and visits to very different estates plus several days on the history and culture of the island with visits to some of the 7 World Heritage sites with a history as early as anything in India.



A business with direct access to Individual estate manufacture for very high quality Ceylon teas, locally harvested fresh spices & quality whole Cashew nuts (Kadju nuts).

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