

WILL LYDGATE BIO 3/2/2022

Will Lydgate grows cacao, coffee, and vanilla his Lydgate Farms in the lush upcountry hills of the east side of the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Will's cacao beans have been rated top 50 best in the world at the Cocoa of Excellence awards in Paris. His farm also produces honey that has been rated best in the state of Hawaii. Will's family has been in Hawaii since 1865 and has deep cultural roots there. Lydgate Park in Wailua is named for Will's great-grandfather J.M. Lydgate.

Lydgate Farms has been conducting ag-tourism experiences and chocolate tastings for over 14 years. These 5-star Trip Advisor rated tours contain a wealth of information on cacao history, health benefits, along with an extensive chocolate tasting education.

Recently selected by the Fine Chocolate and Cacao Institute to represent the United States as a leading cacao farm there, Will is humbled to share what he has learned with visitors to Kauai as well as online events he hosts. Will hopes to 'Change the Way You Think About Chocolate' (also the title of his Ted talk) and prove that chocolate is much more than candy bars. Will is inspired by the power of the visitor industry to power agricultural and food enterprises.

Will is excited about the future of farm to bar chocolate in Hawaii, the new demand for fine flavor in cacao beans, and the education and fun that come along with teaching customers more about their favorite food — chocolate. Will believes that Hawaii will be the Napa Valley of cacao production because of its rich volcanic soils, warm tropical climate, and abundant rainfall. Will is proud to be one of a very few USA based cacao growers.



LYDGATE FARMS
KAUAI CHOCOLATE