

MAPS

SANTA ANA DEL RÍO | *Oaxaca*

Santa Ana del Río is located in Oaxaca in south-western Mexico. The town is a part of the Ocotlán District in the Valles Centrales Region. This area is well-irrigated by several tributaries, creating the perfect landscape for agricultural cultivation.



TERRAIN

Santa Ana del Río covers a mere 24 miles² and rests at 3,400 feet elevation. This area is mountainous with few valleys.

CLIMATE

The average temperature of San Baltazar is around 67°F and sees about 55 inches of rain annually.

AGAVE

TEPEZTATE

The Tepeztate, a subspecies of the Marmorata Family of agave, has a very distinct, erratic leaf structure and flourishes best on the sides of steep, rocky cliffs. The Tepeztate produces beautiful quiotes at the end of life which flower a rich yellow before turning to seed.



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In a small mountain village, maestro mezcalero Honorato Cruz Molina [pictured on far right] produces artisanal mezcal at his palenque in Santa Ana del Río.

PRODUCTION

1. Magueys are harvested from the steep slopes of Santa Ana del Río.
2. The leaves and roots are cut off of the plant, revealing the piña, or heart, of the maguey.
3. The piñas are cooked in an earthen pit oven over hot rocks and covered by the leaves of the maguey.
4. The cooked piñas are crushed using a stone tahona wheel pulled by a horse.
5. Without the addition of artificial yeast, open-air wooden tank fermentation allows the sugars to ferment.
6. The mezcal is then purified through a double distillation process.

TRADITION

This artisanal approach toward production creates an unadulterated style of mezcal, following traditions that have been passed down for over 200 years.

