

# WEED WORLD™

ISSUE 109

FROM WITH LOVE  
**MENDO**

ORIGINAL  
**WHITE**  
STRAIN REPORT  
**WIDOW IBL**

THE FINALE!

**DAY** OF THE  
**DEAL**

GROW  
**BIGGER!**

HOBBY GROWERS STEP IT UP



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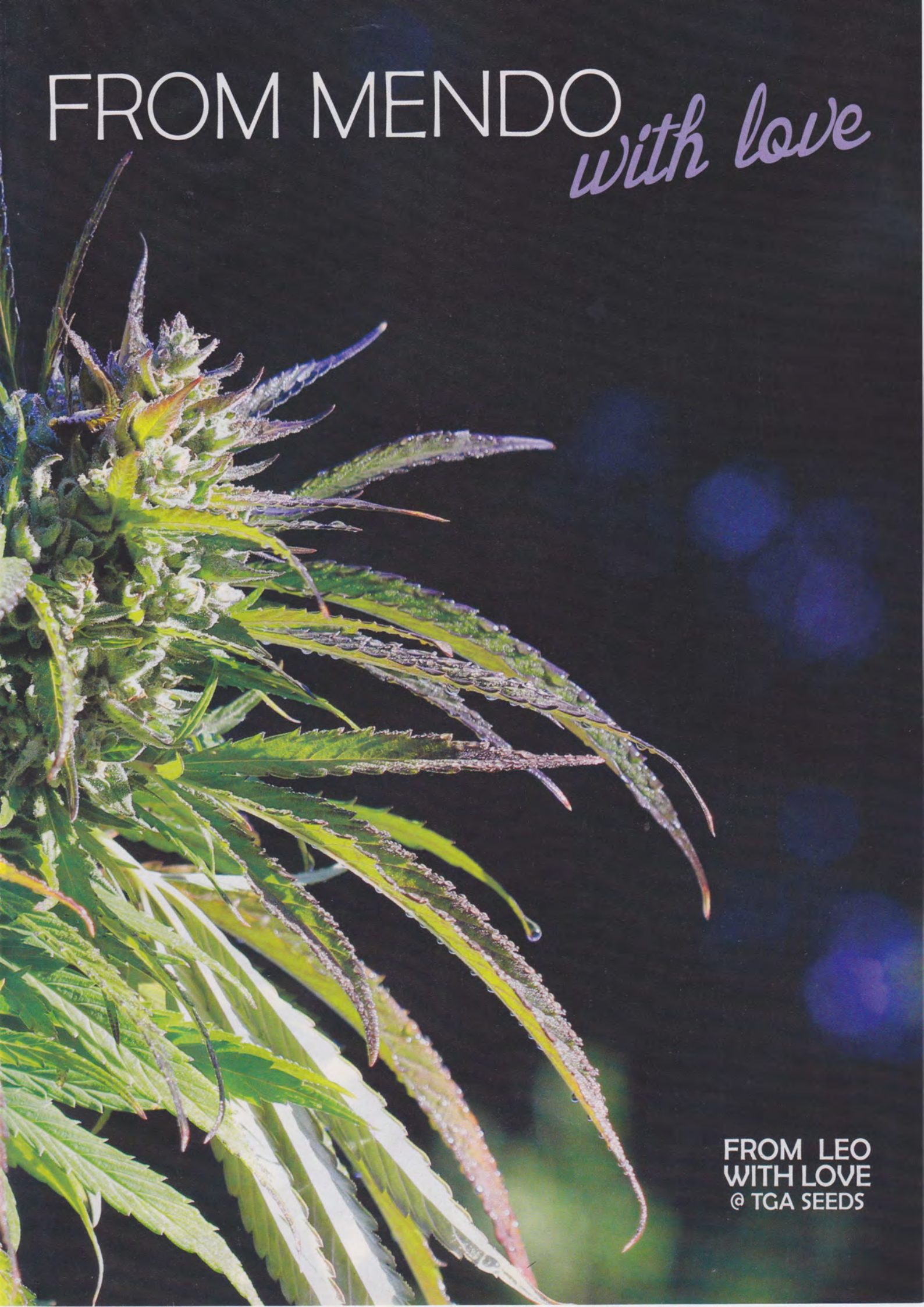


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FROM MENDO *with love*

FROM LEO  
WITH LOVE  
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**THE EMERALD TRIANGLE and the Cup celebrating its outdoor organic Cannabis had been on my mind for a while and the chance to be part of it with TC and TGA last year was the perfect birthday present. I have spent years traveling the world, in very remote regions, to find the best plants a Hashishin can dream off and I have been leaving just a few hours from the Best of the Best for years. It was about time to get acquainted...**

On a drizzling, foggy and cold morning we entered the World Premier Outdoor Organic Cannabis Competition grounds, impressive it was not, but real funky and welcoming. It felt somewhat like being back in the mountains in India, hard-core locals, polite but distant; ready to show their arts but even when outsiders are welcome, they are "tourists".

This is not the Bay or South Cal and the 100 flowers entries was quite a reminder of the difference, outdoor sun grown heirloom genetics is a sight to behold. Interestingly most of the genetics is unknown two hours drive from the Emerald Triangle, amazing strains like Sugaree, In Pines, Almost Heaven are family legacy. There are often three generations of love, dedication and hard won fights behind these genetics and an adaptation of the plants to the local habitat that is unique and priceless.

I do not look at a bud as most do, I am a Hashishin and I see resin glands where you see a flower, so it was "shocking" to recognize such a potential with only ten "non solvent extracts" entries, it was a sign that my subconscious picked up big time.

The day was a cocktail of cutting edge vision of the future and deep feeling of "safeguarding and continuation" which is difficult too understand without some history lesson. The credits and acknowledgment for the few strains that have "migrated", (like Bubblegum, Chem Dawg, Erkle to name but a few well known), were usurped and the first reflex is to be even more protective, especially for the older generation. The couple that win the 2012 competition with a mouth watering Chem Dawg Reserve encompass the perfect osmosis of "local traditions", High End Boutique quality concept and legal structure. How does a total outsider connect with the just crowned breeder/grower of the Emerald Cup? With the nose, and mine is quite big!

Aficionado breeds for terpenes and I thrive protecting them. Leo took a sniff

of my Hashish while I took a hit of his cup winner and a few weeks later we discovered that his Pinot Noir made Hashish that taste like chocolate.

Ouh La La!

The concentrate industry is truly "Terra Incognita" for an "old schooler" with strong belief in traditions. All my life, it has never been who made the Hashish or Charas but where it was made; not the country, nor the state or even the valley but the very specific village or summer pasture. It is the plant always and only. It is all about how far you are ready to go for the Dank. That is, in most producing countries, in Cali it is all about the breeders and the growers and they should get the credit.

A Hashishin is like a wine maker, the best will have that "something else", that "wow" that even novices would recognize and appreciate but without the best grapes you would make vinegar. The act of collecting resin glands to make hashish is the culmination point, the end result that breeder/grower strive long and hard to perfect every season. Trichomes hold all the cannabinoids and terpenes, Hashish is their "window case" and the ultimate quality control. It is a different vision and approach, and the fact that pressing is a cardinal sin in the eyes of many did not help, but the reality of it, is undeniable.

Aficionado is possibly the first seed company positioning its marketing strategy and its quality control on Hashish, the fruit of a year association, a shared vision and a deeper knowledge of our craft.

**WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, MEET THE FIRST MEMBER AND CEO OF AFICIONADO SEEDS...**

**Frenchy: Bonjour Leo, would you first introduce the company, its members and your top strains to our readers?**

**Leo:** Aficionado is a collective of master breeders who have been custom tailoring exotic strains for private high-dollar clients for over 20 years. Our Chief Breeders include myself, Lady Ele, Mean Gene, and Johnny Que. Together we all share over 90 years of collective experience in crafting fine cannabis.

Our flagship offerings range from the 2012 Emerald Cup winning Chemdawg Special Reserve to the legendary '78 L.A. OG Affie, which is a highly sought after family kept heirloom that originated around Vacaville, CA in 1978.

There is a lot of mystery and folklore behind Johnny Que's '78 L.A. O.G. Affie because not only does it offer an exact and uncanny resemblance of OG Kush and '91 Hollywood Pure Kush but it predates the two strains by over 10 years. Something die-hard connoisseurs fine very interesting.

**Frenchy: What brought you to breeding?**

**Leo:** Honestly, because of the close proximity I've had over the years with world-class growers here in Mendocino it almost feels like I came into breeding through osmosis. Everybody here understands the only way to have a true competitive edge in this region is to have the best genetics possible.

I've always had this very odd ability for sourcing incredibly rare and elite genetics, and as a result, it led by down a path to a circle of breeders who specifically breed and cultivate for distinguished clients. I've felt home ever since.

**Frenchy: What was your first real experience and first strain?**

**Leo:** Unfortunately the details of my first experience will have to remain off-the-record, but my first real cross was what I consider my best work to date. It was a cross of an authentic Panama Red female and G13 male. There's only one family I know of that works a verified cut of the panama red in Mendocino, it had a flowering time of 120 days- we crossed it into a true G13 male and still got a strain with an 85 day turn around.

Regardless of its long winded photo-period, to this day it's still one of the most epic and profound smokes I've had the privilege of experiencing. However, due to a series of unfortunate events the plant was lost. These days if I came across a cut of my old Panama/G13, I'd



have no problem paying \$10,000 for a single cutting. I get chills thinking of that strain, but I think every breeder has their own personal unicorn to chase after.

### **Frenchy: What is the philosophy/vision/concept behind your work?**

**Leo:** Our philosophy is simple: Strive for perfection and execute the maximum expression of boutique cannabis. For us, what separates utility cannabis from perfection is - Selection. Technique. and Timing. That means every element of the crafting process is executed at exactly the right time during each stage of its preparation.

Every technique performed is skillfully carried out with ruthless attention to detail. Only distinguished master growers and breeders are allowed to painstakingly pollinate each flower by hand.

Our selection process is known to be the most rigorous in the industry. To have an unfailing delivery of quality I believe you must endlessly strive to find glory and perfection in your genetic selection. As a result, our entire stable is strictly sourced from incredibly hard-to-find elite and heirloom strains.

### **Frenchy: What genetics have you been working with?**

**Leo:** We mainly work with highly exclusive heirloom strains that have been developed and passed down through a tight-knit group of families and breeders throughout the years.

### **Frenchy: What genetics are you looking for?**

**Leo:** If we want it, we will find it. If the cannabis industry was a pool of super heroes, then sourcing genetics is our super power.

### **Frenchy: What would be the one strain you would make if you had access to any original land-race in the world?**

**Leo:** If I had access to anything in history? I'd like to see how a true pre-1800's Burmese sativa would express itself in my hands.

For a few thousand years the region central to Burma and Thailand, cannabis was predominantly bred and selected as a smoking flower, as opposed to some

indigenous Afghani varieties that were bred to exhibit characteristics favorable to fiber and hashish production. It's almost supernatural in a sense the flower and resin profile these varieties exhibit compared to other wild selections.

I've always fantasized about trying a native strain in its most pure of states bred by generations of indigenous people free of the cross pollination and contamination that follows trade-expansion and militaristic invasion.

### **Frenchy: Now the inevitable "stranded on a deserted island" question; If you had to choose that one Dude, which one would it be?**

**Leo:** Chemdawg Special Reserve... no doubt.

### **Frenchy: If you had to choose the one Mam, which one would it be?**

**Leo:** Because the two complement each other well; Big Sur Holy Weed, a heirloom from Big Sur, CA with a monumental and psychedelic cerebral high that was reportedly bred by holy monk. Regardless of whether it was bred by a monk in the service of god; it's the only flower I've experienced to this day that with one hit, can cut clear through and overpower any amount of dabs you've taken previously. This is a no brainer, if this were music, Bur Sur Holy Week would be listening to Jimi Hendrix for the first time. Epic.

### **Frenchy: What do you love most in your work and why?**

**Leo:** What I love most about what I do is being in the company of people who share the same vision as I do. Let's be honest, we're in an industry where most of the genetics and brands offered fall into the "me, too" category. Most the values and imagery virtually follow the same path and lack-of-motif, it's devoid of true artistic expression.

Being in the company of artists who process and express their work as art is one of the ultimate gifts to me. I've always believed, being in the company of great artists allows yourself to be a better artist. For this I am grateful.

### **Frenchy: What do you hate the most in the industry?**

**Leo:** I severely dislike the saturation of over inflated egos in our industry. I believe homage should be paid due on the plant itself not just the breeder.

In this game the breeder is but the brush that plant uses to express itself. I think I'll leave it at that, your next question is starting to make me twitch.

### **Frenchy: Your thoughts on Feminized seeds?**

**Leo:** I believe Feminized seeds have a destructive effect on our gene pool. Intentionally propagating genetics through forcing hermaphrodites yields varieties with genetic traits that are prone to mutation and hermaphrodites. Just because hermaphrodites are a natural occurrence DOES NOT mean this is the most favorable way to propagate a species. In nature when a plant hermaphrodites its usually done so as a last resort to ensure future offspring.

Feminized strains that are pollinated by uninformed breeders also poses dire consequences for the integrity and quality the greater gene pool.

There is an explosion of hobbyist breeders in the U.S. that are gracing fem'd strains with regular male pollen, this practice only exacerbates the practice of diffusing sub-par genetics and creates larger challenges for breeders down the line.

The popularity of feminized strains is one of the main reasons for our rigorous and dismissive selection process. As breeders its our job to reinforce and strengthen the gene pool, not pollute it.

### **Frenchy: Your thoughts on Auto-Flowering?**

**Leo:** It's my firm belief auto-flowering varieties are reserved for hobbyist and people who merely dabble in growing. No master grower or breeder I know of or have ever met in the Emerald Triangle works with these types of selections.

### **Frenchy: Any words of wisdom for newcomers and old timers?**

**Leo:** The most powerful force on this planet is pure unadulterated passion. The unwavering love and respect you have for your art will ultimately express itself through your end product.

I will always favor passion over technical ability. You can't teach passion.