

## *HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME – ACCOMMODATION OF A DIFFERENT KIND*

- November 2016 -



**Bisomenika, Mallika & Milroy with vanilla beans early in their processing**

The weird weather continued in October with every promise of rain and then..... nothing! Thanks to our efforts over the years to husband our potable water resources, we've survived a drought that, at last reckoning has seen more than three quarters of a million Sri Lankans without drinking water. That said we will continue our efforts to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of our supply.

The vanilla vines have begun producing flower buds and the small trickle of beans from the previous crop is being harvested and cured. All of this is a learning experience for us and has really been helped by a skilled agricultural department officer, Ranatunga by name who has been the epitome of encouragement and assistance to us. In fact we are going to send our vanilla hand-pollinators, armed with blossoms from the new crop, to meet him for a "refresher course." at his office since he is too over-extended to be able to pay us a visit! The entire vanilla cultivation exercise has been a "learn-as-you-go" enterprise and we have all maintained our enthusiasm for it despite the adverse weather conditions and our collective lack of practical experience. We are now thinking in terms of making vanilla available for retail purchase by guests who have begun insisting on buying some of our jams, jellies and preserves once they've experienced

them at the HPH table. We never envisioned this sort of development but we have to admit that boredom is **not** one of the challenges that we face in our twilight years!

The oldest member of our staff who was deemed a problem by his parents as a teenager and "adopted" in the nineteen-sixties has been incapacitated by serious health problems – a hip that cannot be replaced because of a serious heart condition among other things. While this retirement was inevitable and we will continue to be in touch, one doesn't sever such close and very long connections without significant pangs of sadness. On the heels of Senevi's retirement we had a 40 + year-old who was insistent on "apprenticing" at HPH in order to learn more about our little corner of the hospitality business and, hopefully, join us as a member of HPH's staff. For our part, we hope we will be able to grow our enterprise quickly enough to provide him with a livelihood, no matter how modest, before he is compelled to seek a living elsewhere. Life **is** not short of surprises at HPH!

With our very best wishes!  
Arlene & Emil



Jak-wood burl tables in front verandah

If you don't see it, refresh your browser and make sure that your browser is set to "allow blocked content".

Please note that there is a **minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking** and we do **not** accept credit cards. Payment accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any other major currency.

We are also on [Facebook](#). Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [Airbnb](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) or, preferably, by contacting us directly.

Sri Lanka: rated as a top tourist destination by [The Lonely Planet](#); [Condé Nast Traveller](#); [The New York Times](#); [National Geographic](#); and [the \(London\) Times](#). And most recently by [Huffington Post UK](#). In addition, [Fox News](#) follows the lead of The Lonely Planet by recommending Sri Lanka as the #1 place to visit!

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For November, as in month's past, we'll continue our very popular "Sampler pack" of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and a "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies," that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!

**Halgolla Plantation Home**

- now ranked #8/241 B&Bs in Kandy on Trip Advisor
- Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor
  - rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013
  - recommended by [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor. See what our previous [guests](#) have had to say!



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

You can now book directly with us from our website at: [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com). Look for the booking widget:

Check In date:  Nights:

Use the widget above\* to check for availability at HPH and to make your booking directly with us. Please note that there is a minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking.



Our yellow Tabebuia in bloom - more glorious than ever