

new wave of independent, boutique cafés opens across the country. The mark of a great café isn't just about a well-poured cup. Coffee snobs might not adore the chicory-spiced coffee at Café du Monde in New Orleans, but the atmosphere and location of the open-air café overlooking Jackson Square—and the powdered-sugar-covered beignets—are incredible.

01 | **Toby's Estate Coffee; Brooklyn, NY**

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PHOTO: © TOBY'S ESTATE COFFEE

Australian roaster, Toby Smith, who cut his teeth in Brazilian and Guatemalan coffee institutions plopped down in New York (with four locales). His first in Williamsburg, gives his rich, strong beans their powerful flavor profile. Opt for the signature Flat White with two shots of

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Abraço; New York, NY



PHOTO: PHOTO © ANDIE DIEMER

Co-owner Jamie McCormick and his baristas make some of the city's strongest and finest espresso drinks while chatting away with regulars at this standing-room-only café. The space only fits a handful of customers at a time, but there's a sidewalk bar outside for lingering over a cortado and fantastically savory black-olive shortbread cookie baked by partner Elizabeth Quijada. abraconyc.com

- [New York Travel Guide](#)



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOXCAR COFFEE ROASTERS

Denver's coffee scene is booming and the four-year old Boxcar uses small batches of beans roasted in a German built Ideal Rapid roaster. They also helped develop Boilermaker to brew coffee at Colorado's high elevation and low boiling temperature. In the tradition of classic "cowboy coffee" – the grounds are immersed in boiling water to extract the best flavor.

boxcarcoffeeroasters.com

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Blue Bottle; Oakland, CA

 Blue Bottle; Oakland, CA



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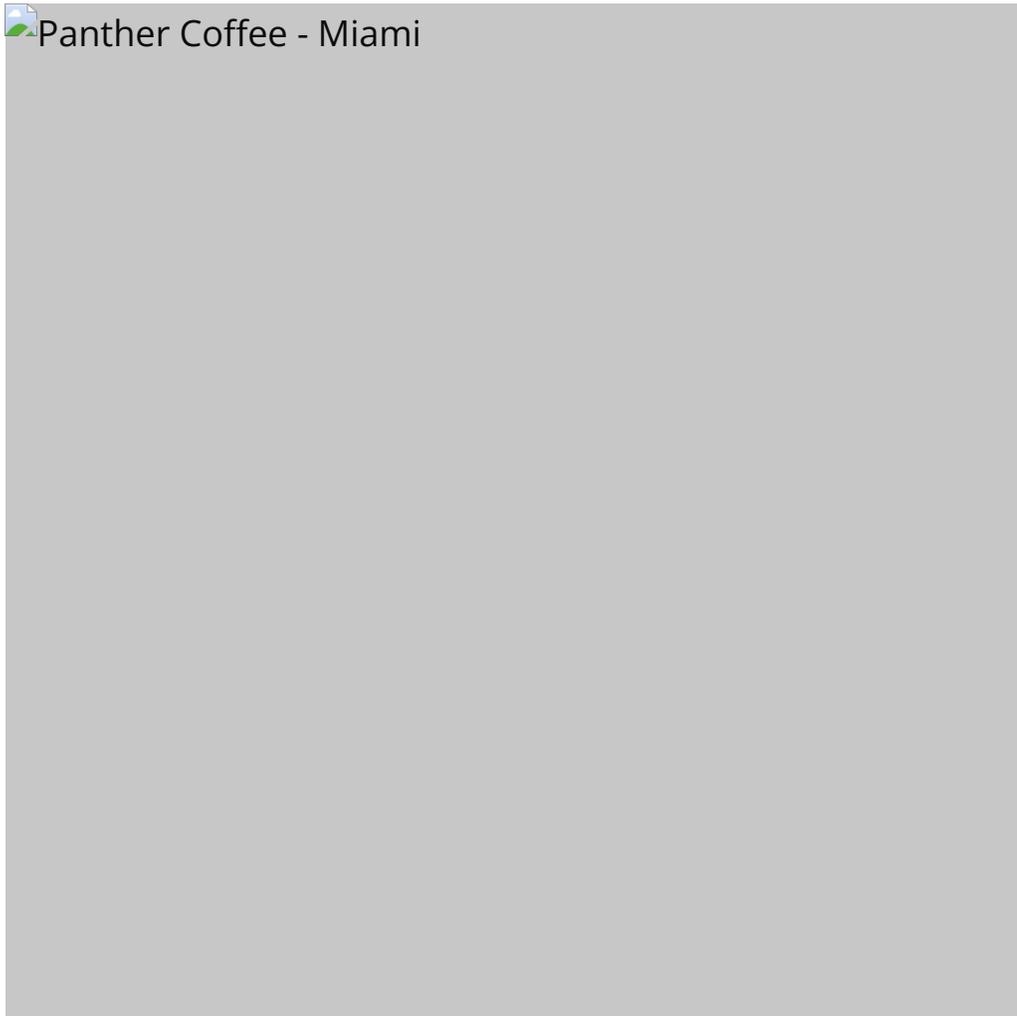
beans not sold within 48 hours of roasting are put into service—as either drip or iced coffee. At the Webster Street facilities, baristas pull shots of single-origin coffees from an impressive La Marzocco Strada espresso machine, while pour-overs feature single-origin roasts and one blended coffee. Unique in-house sweets include such experiments as saffron snickerdoodles and savory shortbread with Parmesan and fennel.

bluebottlecoffee.net

05 Panther Coffee; Miami

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 Panther Coffee - Miami



As alumni of Stumptown and Ristretto, roasters Joel and Leticia Pollock received some of the best coffee education you can get in the U.S. And what started on a bicycle cart now has three Miami locales and coffee sourced from small farmers around the world. panthercoffee.com

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Caffe Driade; Chapel Hill, NC

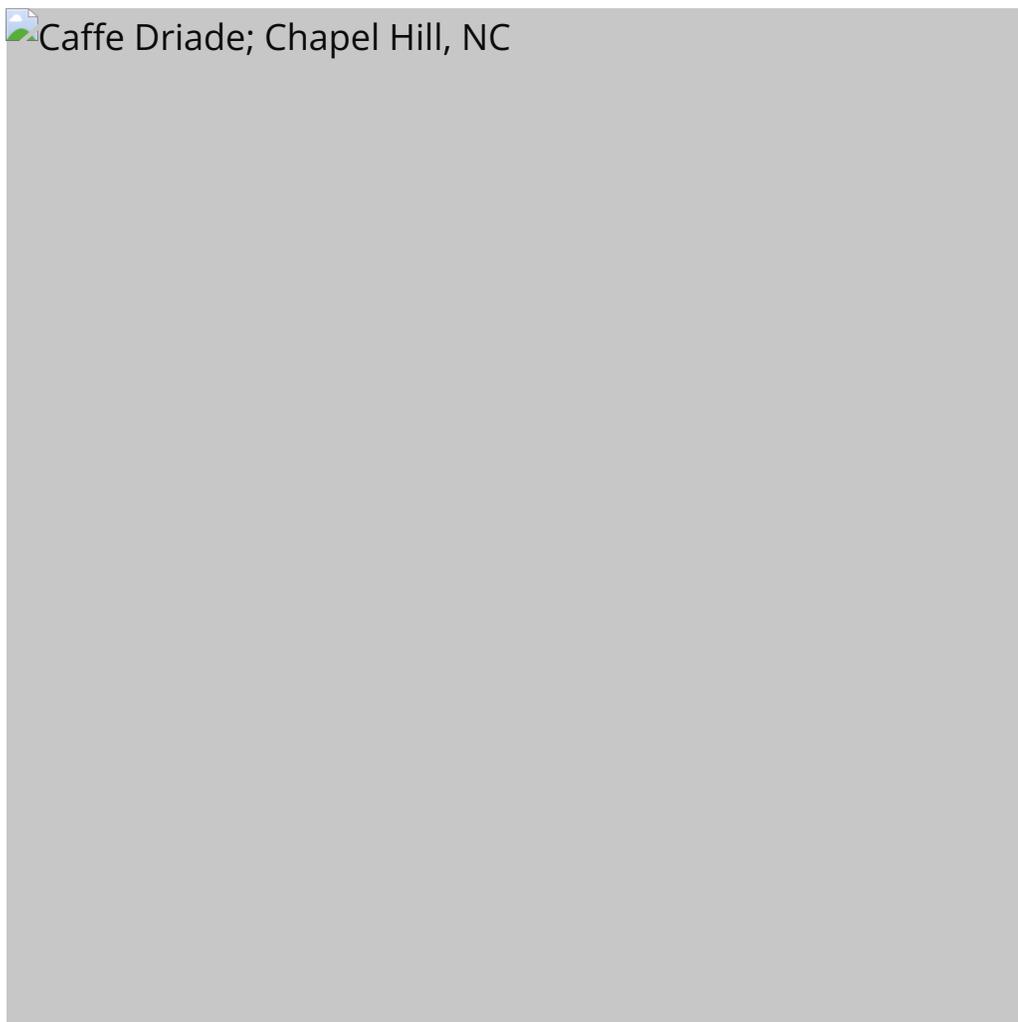


PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF CAFFE DRIADE

This artisanal espresso bar is literally off the beaten path, surrounded entirely by woods. Espresso drinks are made with beans from Carrboro Coffee Company, and there's even an in-house humidifier for those who want

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Café Du Monde; New Orleans, LA



PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF CAFÉ DU MONDE

An essential French Quarter stop, Café Du Monde has been serving chicory-spiced coffee, black or au lait, for over 150 years. Chicory, first introduced to stretch coffee supplies during the Civil War era, is still used for its flavor, which enhances the rich chocolate undertones of dark-roasted coffee. Tourists and locals line up at all hours for the specialty coffee, paired with the café's justly famous beignets. cafedumonde.com

- [New Orleans Travel Guide](#)

A large, solid gray rectangular area that serves as a placeholder for a photograph of Cafè Grumpy in Brooklyn, NY. The text "Cafè; Grumpy; Brooklyn, NY" is positioned at the top left of this area.

Cafè; Grumpy; Brooklyn, NY

PHOTO: PHOTO © ANDIE DIEMER

Grumpy offers a rotating selection of single-origin pour-overs and a seasonally changing house espresso blend known year-round as Heartbreaker. The menu includes detailed tasting notes for every roast, such as the Best of Panama Auction #6, described as having flavors of hibiscus, toffee and blood orange. The Greenpoint location features tangerine-colored walls, worn wood tables and the company's roasting facility. cafegrumpy.com

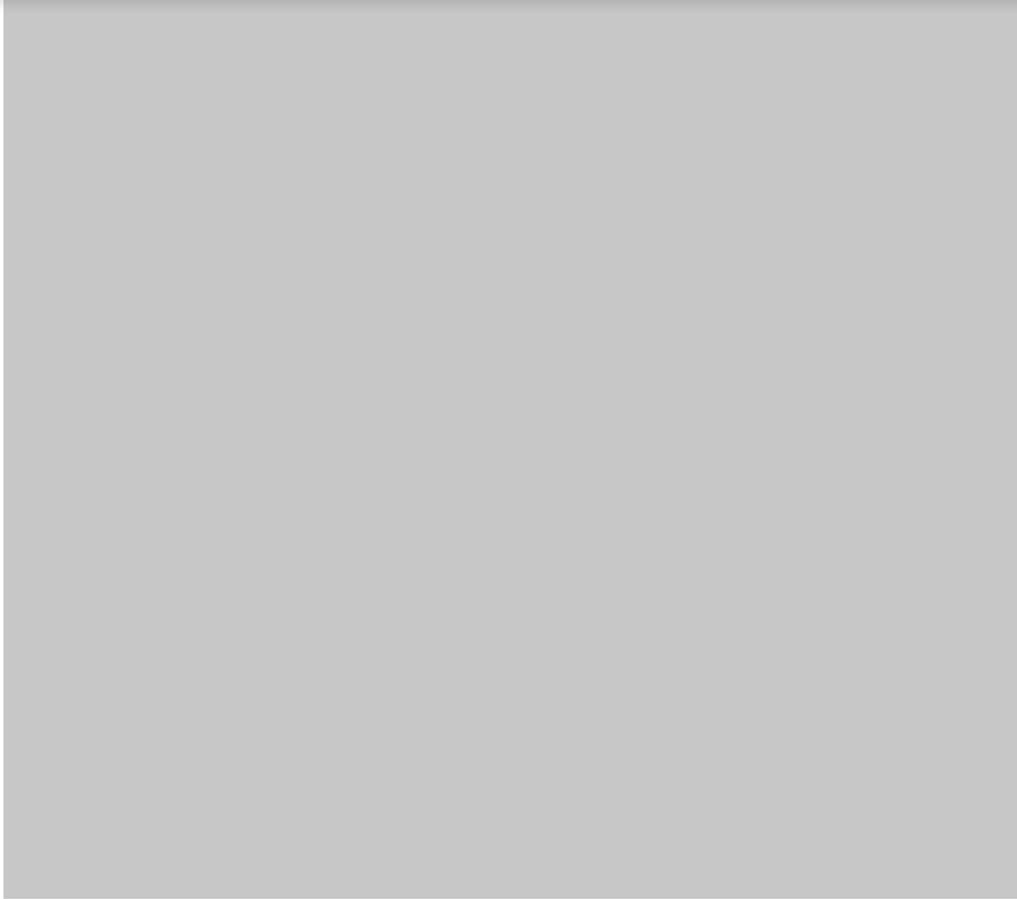


PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF CAFFE TRIESTE

Most of this café's notoriety comes from its decades of notable regulars. Beat writers like Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg frequented this North Beach coffee shop for its Italian-style coffee when it first opened in the 1950s, and the walls are now peppered with photos of celebrity regulars from over the years. Keeping with tradition, the register still only accepts cash, and most Saturday nights, live musical acts belt out Italian-American ballads accompanied by an accordion player. caffetrieste.com

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Coffee Slingers; Oklahoma City, OK

 Coffee Slingers; Oklahoma City, OK

Harwell meticulously sources single-origin beans (with a firm shelf life of no longer than 10–14 days) for drinks using classic espresso and French-press techniques. coffeeslingers.com

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Coffeehouse Northwest; Portland, OR



PHOTO: PHOTO © PUPIL PHOTOGRAPHY

In coffee-obsessed Portland, Coffeehouse Northwest is touted as one of the city's best cafés, offering serious coffee without the attitude. Pop art from local artists provides color to a mostly unfussy backdrop of exposed brick and reclaimed wood. Baristas crank out shots of Sterling Coffee espresso,

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Dose Coffee and Tea; Nashville, TN

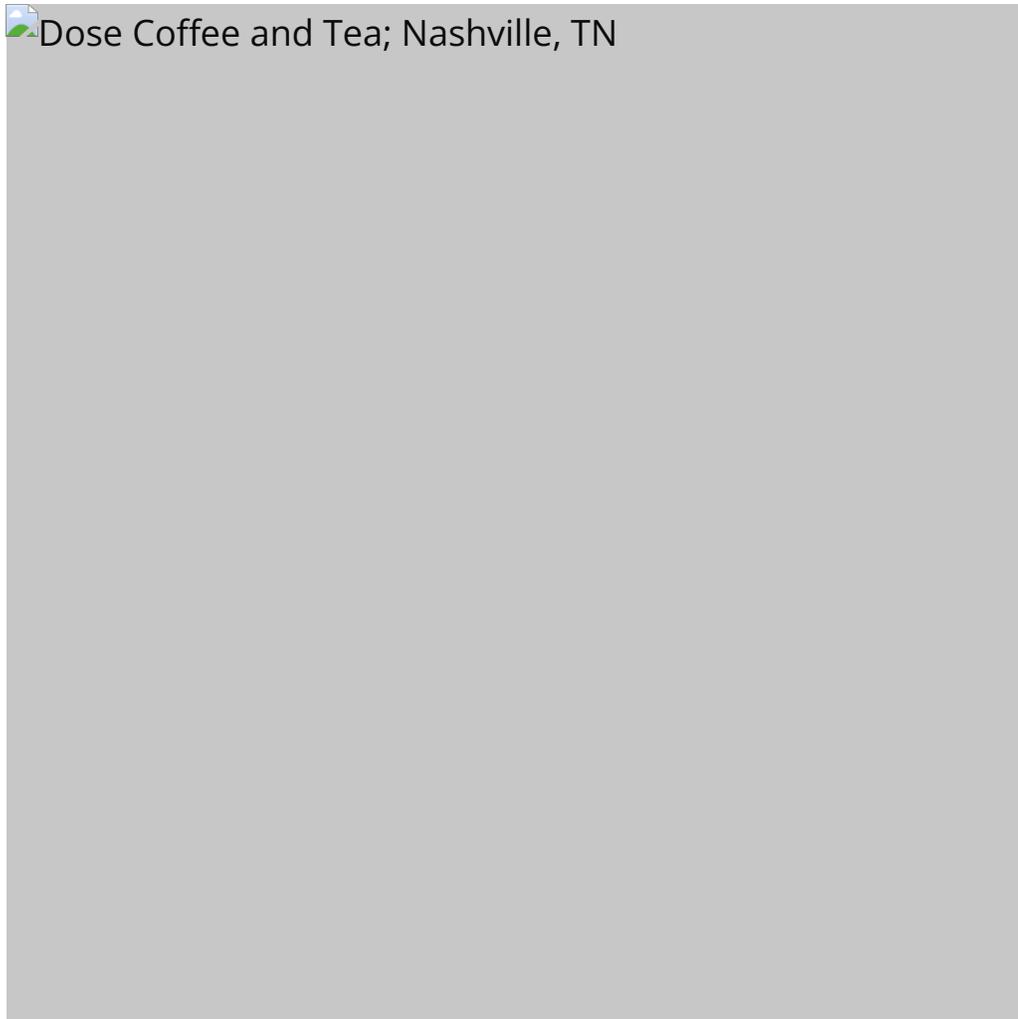


PHOTO: PHOTO © DEREK PEARSON

Unlike most boutique coffee bars, Dose doesn't have an ideal location (it's situated in a strip mall along a highway). But inside, an unexpectedly sleek coffee bar outfitted with polished dark wood and slate-colored walls offers hand-poured direct-trade coffees from suppliers such as Counter Culture Coffee and Humphreys Street Coffee. dosecoffeeandtea.com

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Espressamente illy at the Palazzo; Las Vegas, NV

A large, solid grey rectangular area that serves as a placeholder for a photograph. The text "Espressamente illy at the Palazzo; Las Vegas, NV" is overlaid on the top left corner of this area, accompanied by a small image icon.

PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF THE PALAZZO LAS VEGAS

One of a handful of US cafés by the world-class espresso brand, illy's sleek Vegas outpost features coffee drinks made with the signature blend of Arabica coffee as well as a grab-and-go bar with canned espresso, plus a massive selection of traditional European pastries, artisanal gelato and fresh-made crêpes.

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Houndstooth Coffee; Austin, TX



PHOTO: PHOTO © SEAN HENRY

In addition to stocking beans from premium roasters like Dallas' TWEED Roasters, Houndstooth's in-house training program has coached a handful of local barista champs. Bare concrete floors give this café a modern, minimalist vibe; on "fancy Fridays," baristas dress up in bow ties and other finery, a fun contrast to casual-Friday wear. houndstoothcoffee.com

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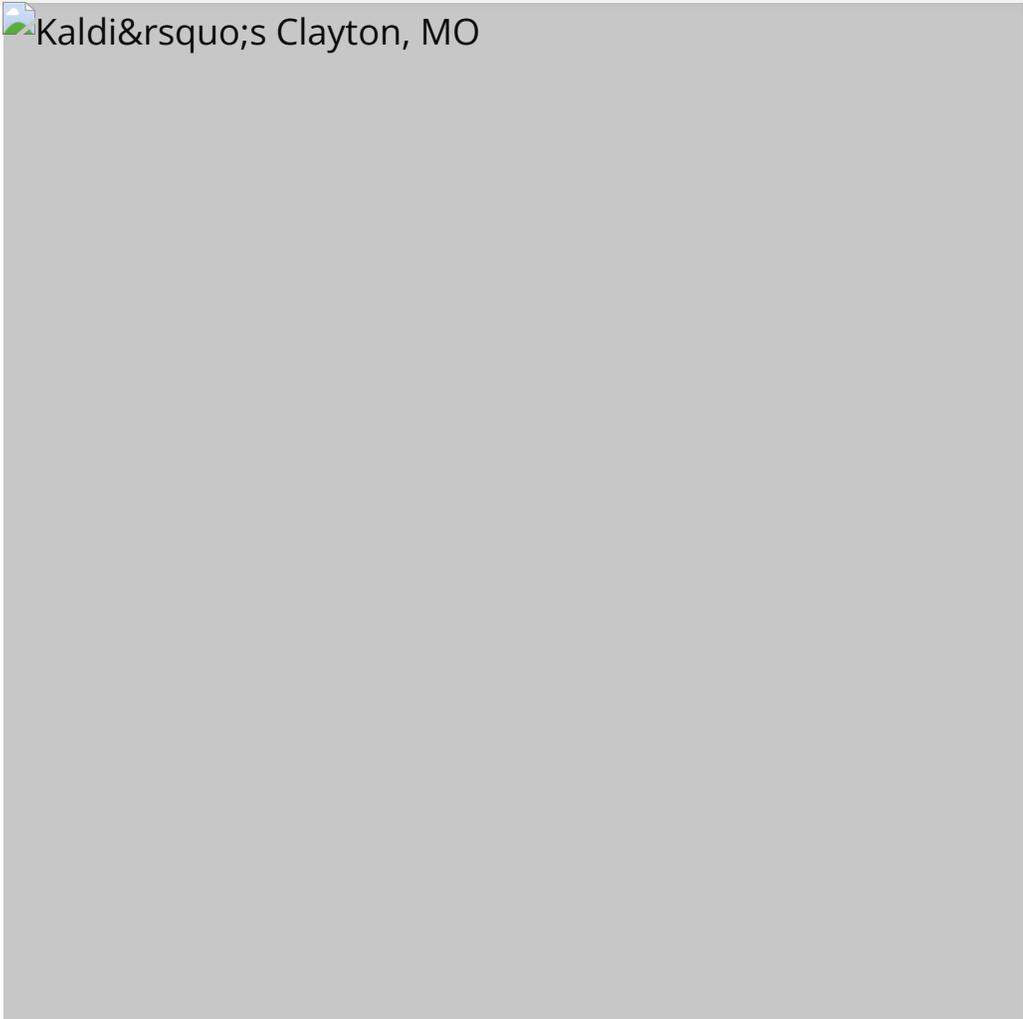
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Intelligentsia; Los Angeles, CA



PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF INTELLIGENTSIA COFFEE & TEA

Intelligentsia's roots are in Chicago, but the Silver Lake outpost benefits from a sunny outdoor patio (and the occasional celebrity customer). Meticulously sourced single-origins, like the micro-lot from Santuario, Colombia (with subtle notes of raspberry and black currant), and the trademark Black Cat espresso are executed flawlessly. Expect to wait a few extra minutes as discerning baristas measure the temperature and volume of water used for each cup to consistently highlight the flavors in every roast. intelligentsiacoffee.com



 Kaldi's Clayton, MO

PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF KALDI'S COFFEE

Opened long-before fair-trade coffee was common, Kaldi's has been dedicated to responsible sourcing for their signature blends since the early 1990s. There are six locations throughout St. Louis, but the flagship café in the suburb of Clayton still maintains its original Bohemian charm, with bright red walls and mismatched picture frames showcasing the coffee selections of the day. Kaldi's beans are also stocked by most of St. Louis's serious coffee shops. kaldiscoffee.com

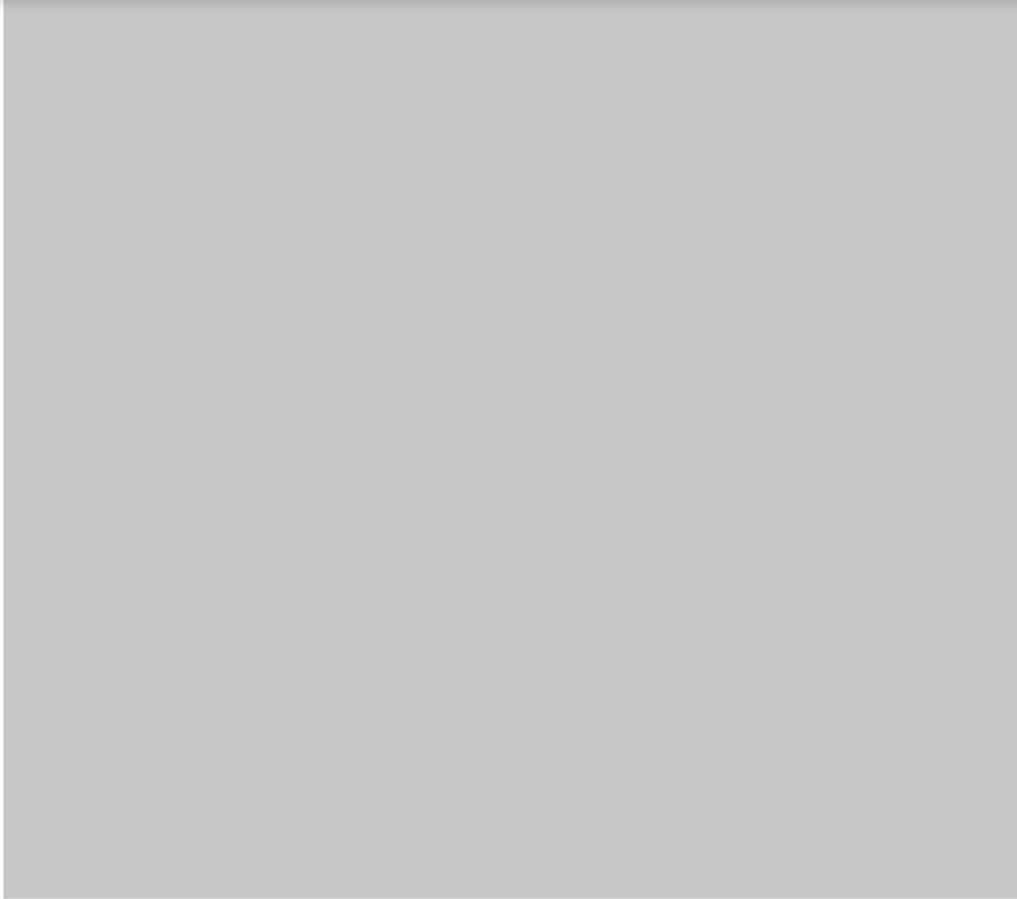


PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF LA COLOMBE TORREFACTION

The absence of any visible menu at this minimalist coffee shop might be intimidating at first, but patrons are encouraged to converse with baristas to personalize an order. In addition to made-to-order drinks, La Colombe now sells bottles of cold-brewed coffee, called PureBlack, to go. The brand is rapidly expanding and now has locations in New York, Chicago and Seoul, Korea. lacolombe.com

- [Philadelphia Travel Guide](#)

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Madcap Coffee Company; Grand Rapids, MI

 Madcap Coffee Company; Grand Rapids, MI

Company. Beyond the rotating seasonal blends, like the Six One Six coffee and Third Coast espresso, the company employs a handful of regional barista championship winners. Floor-to-ceiling windows allow natural light to warm the bare space, which features exposed brick and creamy white walls. madcapblog.com

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Octane Coffee Bar & Lounge; Atlanta, GA

A large, solid gray rectangular area that serves as a placeholder for a photograph of the Octane Coffee Bar & Lounge in Atlanta, GA. The text "Octane Coffee Bar & Lounge; Atlanta, GA" is positioned at the top left of this area, with a small image icon to its left.

PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF OCTANE COFFEE BAR

Housed in a loft-like space, Octane is Atlanta's go-to coffeehouse for premium small-batch roasts brewed in French presses and Chemex equipment. The Wi-Fi crowd quickly occupies communal tables and cushy

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GO TO RECIPE

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Pavement; Boston, MA



PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF PAVEMENT COFFEE HOUSE

This coffee shop in the heart of the Berklee College of Music campus draws plenty students looking for a free Wi-Fi connection. But the appeal here isn't solely convenience. The spacious coffee bar uses indie roasters like

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GO TO RECIPE

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Peregrine Espresso; Washington, DC

 Peregrine Espresso; Washington, DC

PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF PEREGRINE ESPRESSO

When a Capitol Hill café called Murky Coffee closed in 2008, former general manager Ryan Jensen and his wife, Jill, reopened it as Peregrine Espresso. The couple now peddles high-grade pour-overs and espresso drinks, with

local residents. peregrineespresso.com

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Progress Coffee; Austin, TX

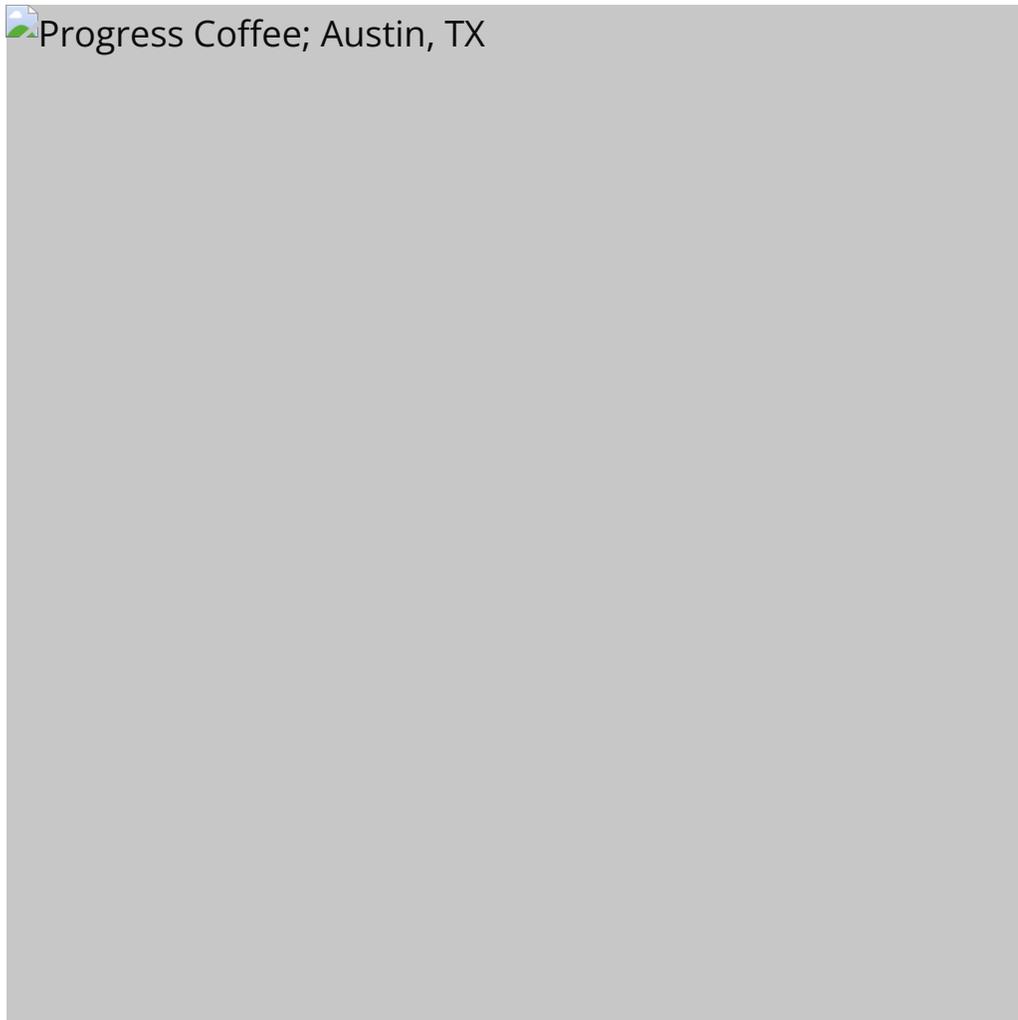


PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF PROGRESS COFFEE/ ORANGE CONE AGENCY

Drawing inspiration from San Francisco's co-op friendly coffee scene, Joshua and Sarah Bingaman created a coffeehouse that blends their love for art, music and sophisticated coffee. Supporting Austin's indie community, the shop sources custom blends from local roasters Owl Tree Roasting, organic produce for the café menu, and even gives away its nitrogen-rich

- [Austin Travel Guide](#)

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Star Lounge Caf ; Chicago, IL

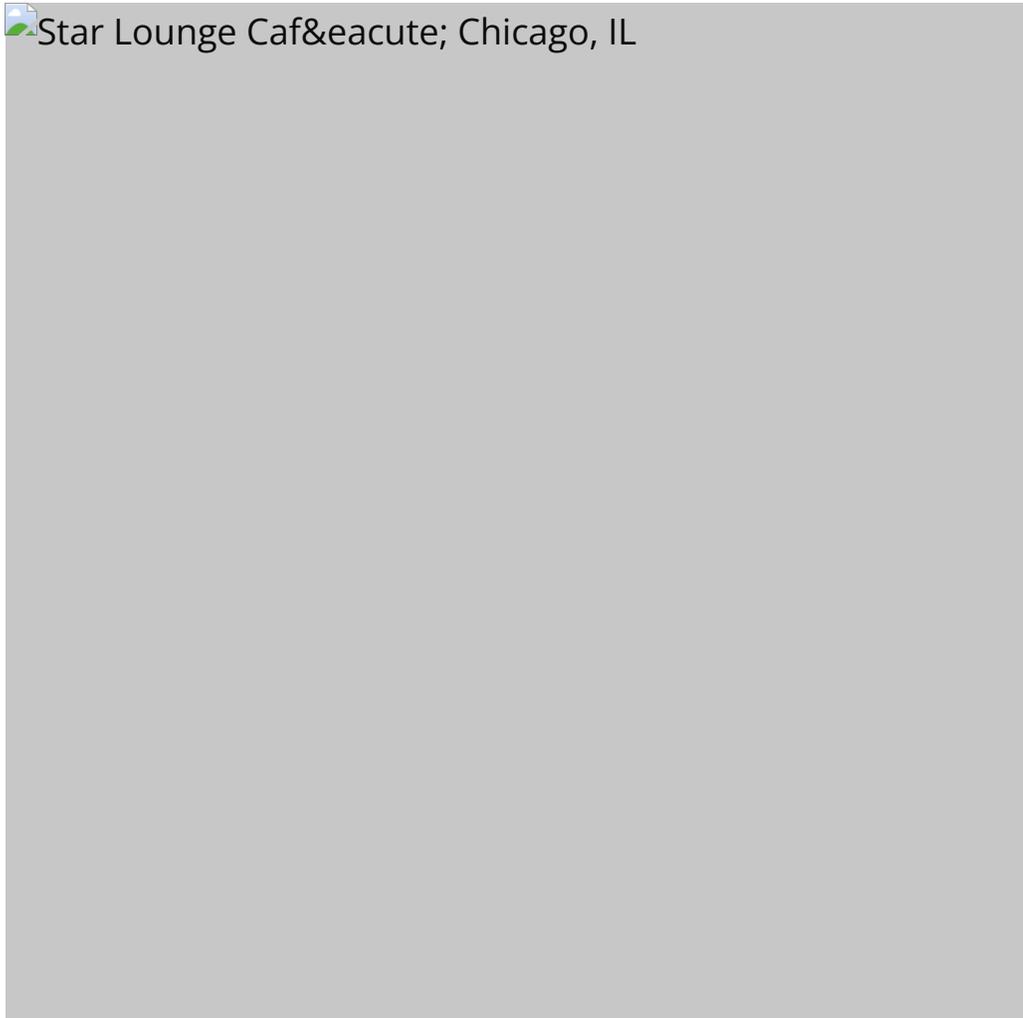
Star Lounge Caf ; Chicago, IL

PHOTO: PHOTO   ALEJANDRA GUERRERO

Behind the lengthy wooden bar at this neighborhood coffeehouse, passionate baristas chat with customers about brewing processes and the farmers behind their organic beans. Coffee is roasted upstairs, and during warmer months, regulars lounge on the back deck and hang out with staff during the occasional summer barbecue or local band's rock show. The

Matter. starloungecoffee.com

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Stumptown; Portland, OR

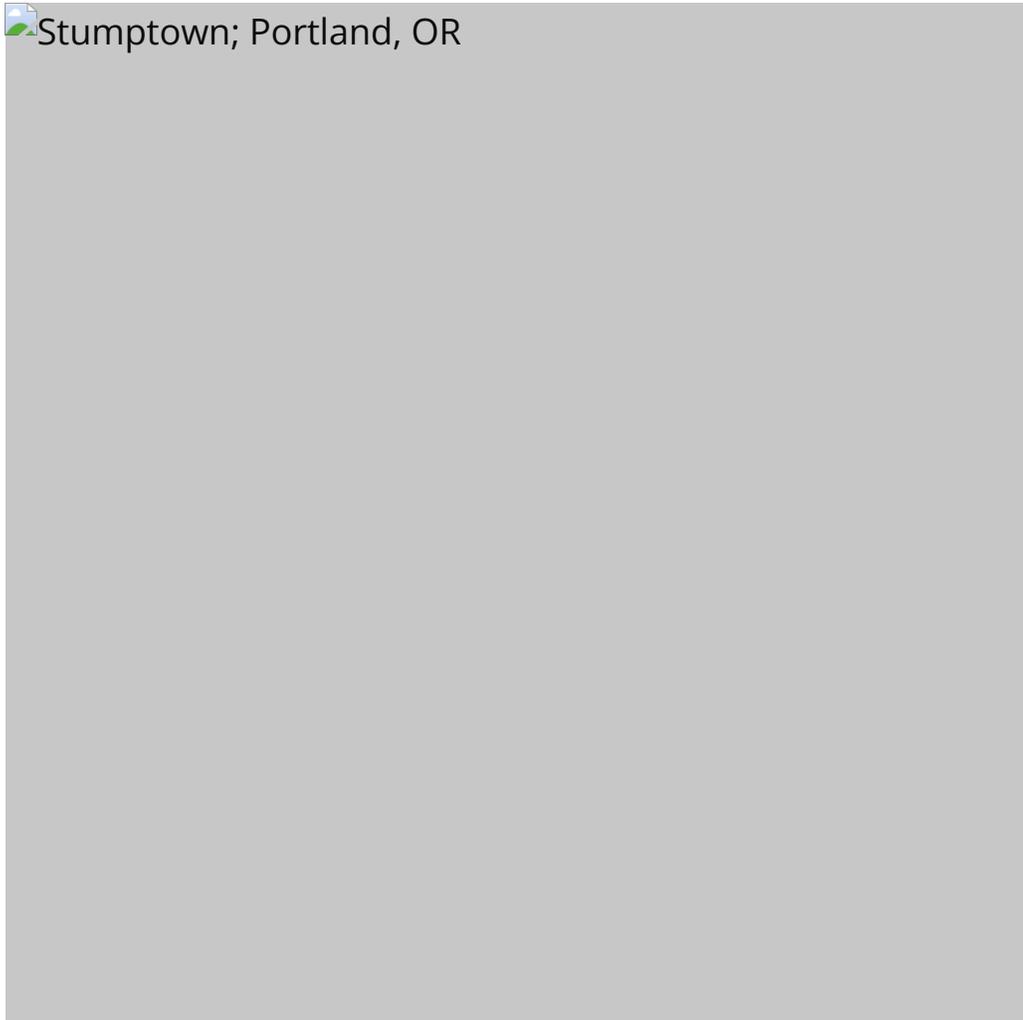
Stumptown; Portland, OR

PHOTO: PHOTO © BENJI WAGNER

One of the original boutique coffee roasters, Stumptown has been leading the coffee revolution in Portland since 1999 and now operates nine locations coast-to-coast. The lofty Division Street café in Portland features an in-house roaster for small batches of coffee, bar seating and a garage door that opens out onto the sidewalk in warm weather. Baristas extract

Chemex devices. stumptowncoffee.com

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Victrola Coffee Roasters; Seattle, WA



PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF VICTROLA COFFEE ROASTERS

A coffee shop that gains recognition in Starbucks's hometown demands attention. Victrola hand-picks organic, fair-trade blends and single-origin crops from around the world, processing and brewing cups at their Pike Street roasting facilities. The space features exposed brick, wooden beams

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The Wormhole; Chicago, IL

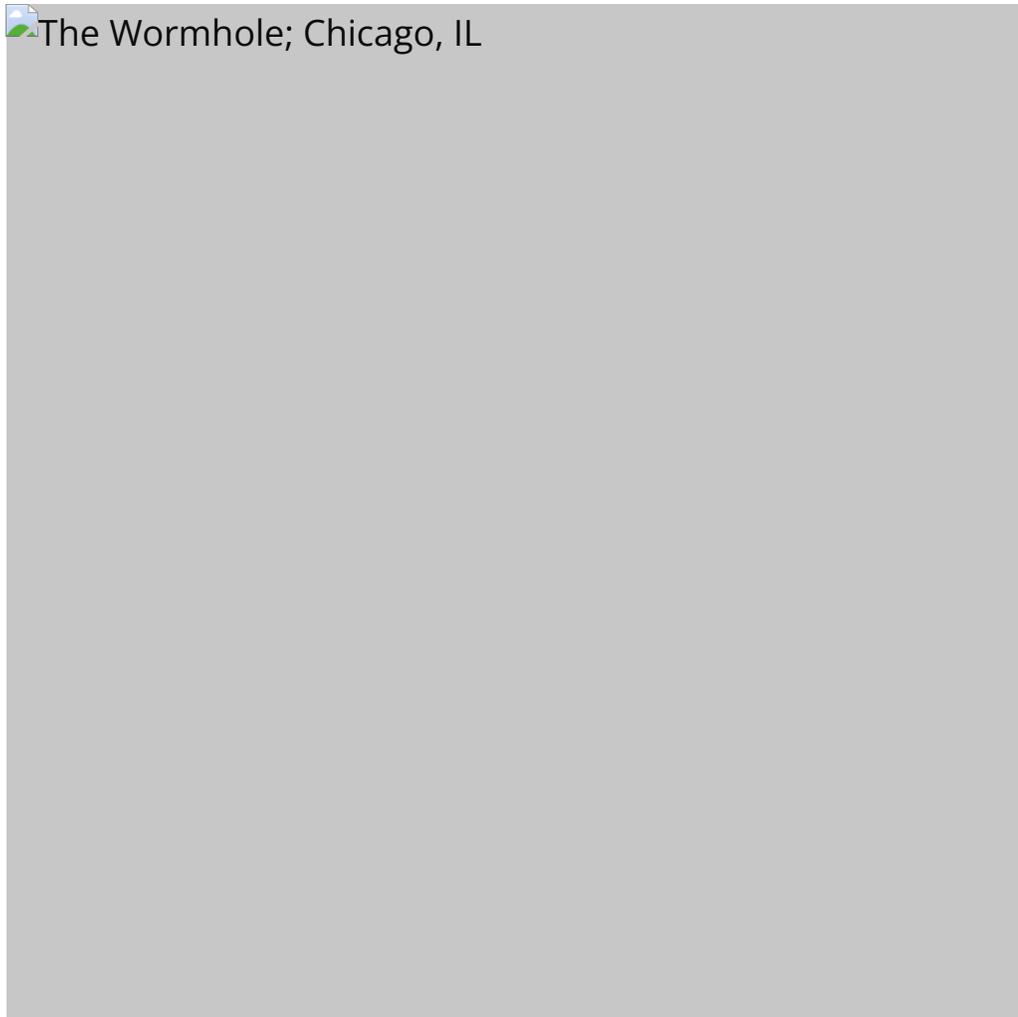


PHOTO: PHOTO © COURTESY OF THE WORMHOLE COFFEE

Unabashed coffee and 1980s-pop-culture geeks run this coffee shop, which features a full-size DeLorean *Back to the Future* replica, complete with "OUTATIME" license plate. Customers stick around for vintage Nintendo video games and brews made with beans from indie roasters like Metropolis, Sightglass and Dogwood Coffee.