

Starbucks Madagascar Vanilla Macchiato by Nescafé Dolce Gusto

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Starbucks Madagascar Vanilla Macchiato by Nescafé Dolce Gusto, in summary:

Twelve Dolce Gusto pods make six drinks: each macchiato is a vanilla milk pod followed by an espresso pod. Sweet by design, it works best as a pudding, with plain food and the milk pod run short.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in September 2026.

This box works in servings, not pods. Each drink takes two, a sweetened vanilla milk pod and then an espresso pod, so twelve pods make six macchiatos, and the order you run them in is what builds the layers in the glass.

Two pods, three layers

A latte macchiato is built from the bottom up. Run the vanilla milk pod first to fill the glass, then send the espresso down through it, and the glass settles into sweet milk below, coffee through the middle and foam on top. That gives the banded look and a drink that moves from creamy vanilla towards coffee as you work down it. Reverse the order and everything mixes into a single sweet cup, pleasant enough but without the layers.

The vanilla lives in the milk pod, which is why the drink arrives sweet and flavoured before any coffee shows up. Vanillin lifts off hot milk quickly, so the glass smells like a dessert before you have tasted it, and much of what reads as sweetness is really being picked up by the nose. The espresso is kept deliberately restrained, there for depth and colour rather than bite.

Taking the edge off the sweetness

Sweet is the design, not a fault, and if you take your coffee unsweetened this box is unlikely to win you over. There are still three small adjustments worth knowing. Stopping the milk pod a little short of its marked level does the most. Running slightly more water through the espresso pod adds a touch of balancing bitterness. And a pinch of salt dropped into the empty glass first takes the edge off the sweetness more than you would expect.

Food needs the same thinking. Two sweet things side by side cancel each other out, so a slice of cake beside this glass leaves both tasting flat. Choose something with bitterness or bite instead, such as dark [chocolate](#), ginger or a plain biscuit with little sugar in it. Treated as the pudding itself rather than as a drink to go with one, the macchiato makes much more sense, especially at the end of a meal.

Machine, name and the rest of the range

The pods are made for Nescafé Dolce Gusto brewers and nothing else. Starbucks also puts its name on Nespresso capsules, so go by the machine system on the carton, not the logo; a Nespresso machine will not take these. Among the Starbucks Dolce Gusto boxes we stock, the White Mocha is the other two-pod, six-serving drink, and the Americano House Blend is the single-pod black coffee for anyone who would rather add their own milk.

On the name: Madagascar Vanilla is what Starbucks calls this drink, and we treat it as a product name. If the origin of the flavouring matters to you, the ingredient declaration on the current UK carton is the place to check. The same goes for disposal. Two pods per drink means twelve used pods for six servings, and recycling routes vary by manufacturer and by council, so read the carton and your local guidance.

The packs we stock

- [Starbucks by Nescafé Dolce Gusto 12 x Madagascar Vanilla Macchiato Coffee \(6 Servings\)](#) (barcode 7613287335265)

What to eat with it

- [Thomas Fudge's 6 Dark Chocolate Florentines](#): Dark chocolate brings the bitterness the drink deliberately leaves out.
- [Border Dark Chocolate Ginger Organic Biscuits, 150g](#): Ginger heat and dark chocolate cut through the vanilla sweetness instead of adding to it.
- [Lu Le Petit Cookie with Chunky Rich Chocolate Chips, 184g](#): Chunky rich chocolate chips bring a little cocoa bitterness, and one small cookie is enough to nibble without turning the glass into a second pudding.

Elsewhere in the Starbucks range

- [Starbucks Americano House Blend By Nescafe Dolce Gusto, Coffee \(12 Servings\), 12 Pods](#)
- [Starbucks Blonde Espresso Roast by NESPRESSO Coffee, Blonde Roast, Box of 10, 53g](#)
- [Starbucks Breakfast Blend by Nespresso Medium Roast Coffee, 10 Capsules 56g](#)
- [Starbucks by Nescafé Dolce Gusto 12 x White Mocha Coffee \(6 Servings\)](#)
- [Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Espresso Roast Coffee, 10 Pods](#)
- [Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Espresso Roast Decaf Coffee, 10 Pods 55g](#)

The full range is on the [Starbucks brand page](#).

FAQ

Why does a box of twelve pods make only six drinks? Each macchiato uses two pods, a vanilla milk pod and an espresso pod.

Which pod goes in first? The vanilla milk pod, then the espresso. That order is what creates the layers.

How can I make the vanilla macchiato less sweet? Run the milk pod a little short, put slightly more water through the espresso, or add a pinch of salt to the empty glass.

Will these pods fit a Nespresso machine? No. These pods are shaped for the Dolce Gusto system and will not go into a Nespresso.

Is the vanilla really from Madagascar? Madagascar Vanilla is the product's name. For the origin of the flavouring, check the ingredient declaration printed on the carton you receive.

Curator's note: Serve it after dinner instead of pudding, in a clear glass so the layers show, with a square of dark chocolate on the saucer. Anything sweeter than that and the vanilla goes flat. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Starbucks Madagascar Vanilla Macchiato by Nescafé Dolce Gusto

Field	Detail
Brand	Starbucks
Packs we stock	Starbucks by Nescafé Dolce Gusto 12 x Madagascar Vanilla Macchiato Coffee (6 Servings)
Category	Coffee Pods & Capsules
Caffeine	caffeinated
Machine	Nescafé Dolce Gusto only
Pods per drink	Two: vanilla milk first, then espresso
Best with	Dark chocolate or ginger, not cake

More from the tea wiki

- [Starbucks Tea: Café Range and the Teavana Story](#)
- [Nescafé: The Instant Coffee Benchmark](#)
- [Tea vs Coffee: Taste, Caffeine and Switching](#)
- [Caffeine in Tea](#)
- [Tea vs Coffee](#)
- [Tea for Coffee Drinkers: Where to Start](#)
- [Chai vs Coffee](#)

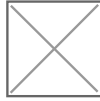
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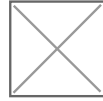
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