

Starbucks Blonde Espresso Roast Decaf by Nespresso: The Exposed Decaf

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Starbucks Blonde Espresso Roast Decaf by Nespresso: The Exposed Decaf, in summary: A light roast decaf, so the bean's own sweetness carries the cup with little roast to lean on. Softer in acidity than the caffeinated Blonde, low in bitterness, and low-caffeine rather than caffeine-free.

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

Most [decaf](#) coffee is sold dark for a good reason: a heavy roast covers the flavour that decaffeination takes away. This capsule skips that cover, and the result is a softer, sweeter take on the Starbucks Blonde style, made for an evening cup.

What decaffeination costs a light roast

[Caffeine](#) is removed from the green bean, before roasting, and a little of the flavour goes out with it. That is the origin of decaf's reputation for tasting flat. A dark roast has enough roast character of its own to paper over the gap. A blonde roast relies on the bean's natural sweetness and brightness instead, so any loss is plain to taste, and making a decaf at this level is the harder route.

What survives best is the sweetness. The acidity comes through present and clean but softer than in the caffeinated Blonde Espresso Roast, and the citrus lift loses its sharpest edge. Bitterness stays low, because there is little roast character to turn bitter and decaffeination adds none. The finish is short and tidy: recognisably the same style of coffee, speaking a little more quietly.

Decaf, low-caffeine and caffeine-free are not the same

Decaffeination takes most of the caffeine out, not all of it, which puts it in the low-caffeine camp; it is not caffeine-free. For most people choosing an evening coffee that distinction hardly matters. If you have been advised to cut out caffeine altogether, though, it matters far more, and a herbal infusion is the better alternative. Check the current pack for what it states rather than relying on a figure quoted elsewhere.

The same goes for the decaffeination method. It is the kind of detail a manufacturer prints on the pack, and the box in your hand is a better source than any listing, ours included. The capsules come ten to a box, 55g of coffee in all, which comes to roughly 5.5g in each capsule, one capsule to one short cup.

Serving it after dinner

This is an evening capsule. It shows best short and black after dinner, with something sweet on the plate, at the point when a full-strength espresso would be one coffee too many. Warm the cup with a shot of hot water first and drink it promptly, since the aroma is at its brightest just after the shot is made.

Being the lightest roast in the range, it is the brighter of the two Starbucks decafs we stock; the Decaf Espresso is the one to choose if you want more weight and roast in the cup. Pick this one if you already like the caffeinated Blonde Espresso Roast. Both are Nespresso original-line capsules, so neither fits a Vertuo, Dolce Gusto or Tassimo machine.

The packs we stock

- [Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Espresso Roast Decaf Coffee, 10 Pods 55g](#) (barcode 8445290814494)

What to eat with it

- [Border Butterscotch Crunch Organic Biscuits, 135g](#): Butterscotch echoes the coffee's own sweetness, the part of a light decaf that comes through best.
- [Maryland Cookies Caramel & Chocolate Chip, 200g](#): Caramel and [chocolate](#) chips give an after-dinner sweetness without drowning a soft, gentle cup.
- [McVitie's Digestives Milk Chocolate Biscuits, 433g](#): A milk chocolate digestive is the easy evening partner, mild enough to leave the citrus lift in the cup noticeable.

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 Madagascar Vanilla Macchiato Coffee \(6 Servings\)](#)
- [Starbucks by Nescafé Dolce Gusto 12 x White Mocha Coffee \(6 Servings\)](#)
- [Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Espresso Roast Coffee, 10 Pods](#)

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

FAQ

Is Starbucks Blonde Decaf caffeine-free? No. Decaffeination removes most of the caffeine but not all, so treat it as low-caffeine coffee and check the current pack if you need to avoid caffeine completely.

How does it compare with the caffeinated Blonde Espresso Roast? It is the same light roast level with the acidity softened. Sweetness holds up best, bitterness stays low and the finish is a little shorter.

Why is most decaf coffee dark roasted? Because a dark roast masks the flavour lost during decaffeination. A light decaf has no such cover, which makes it the more exposed product.

Which decaffeination process is used? The method is a detail for the manufacturer's pack, so check the box in your hand rather than any listing.

How much coffee is in each capsule? The box of ten holds 55g, which is roughly 5.5g per capsule.

Curator's note: This is the one I reach for after dinner, when a full espresso would be one coffee too many. Keep it black and put something sweet next to it. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Starbucks Blonde Espresso Roast Decaf by Nespresso: The Exposed Decaf

Field	Detail
Brand	Starbucks
Packs we stock	10 Pods 55g
Category	Decaffeinated Coffee
Caffeine	decaffeinated
Caffeine	Decaffeinated, not caffeine-free
Best time	After dinner
Serve	Short and black, in a warmed cup

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