

Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Roast: Bright or Sour?

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Roast: Bright or Sour?, in summary: Sweet, soft and citrus-bright, this is the light-roast Starbucks capsule for Nespresso Original machines, in a carton of thirty-six. Drinkers raised on dark Italian-style espresso may read that brightness as sour.

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

Enjoying this carton comes down to one word, sour, and if you hear it as a fault or as lemon. The same acidity is in every cup; the difference is what the drinker expected when they pressed the button.

A roast pulled out early

Starbucks uses the name Blonde for the lightest roast it sells, and for a company known mainly for dark roasting it is a deliberate counterweight. An early finish in the roaster leaves more of the bean's acids intact and builds less of the dark, bitter character that a long roast develops. The cup that results is pale, soft in the mouth and plainly sweet, with a sweetness nearer light caramel than anything scorched.

Next to a dark capsule it is lighter in every direction: paler crema, less body, far less of the roast char many people think of as the flavour of espresso. That is not weakness, and it is not less [caffeine](#); roast colour says nothing about either. It is simply a different drink, and someone used to a dark Italian blend should approach it expecting a change of style rather than a thinner version of what they know.

Sugar rather than milk, mornings rather than after dinner

Go easy on the milk. A light roast has little body to carry it, and in our view milk mostly smothers the citrus brightness that makes this coffee interesting. A small amount of sugar works far better, drawing out the soft caramel sweetness without hiding the brightness that is the reason to buy it.

Timing matters too. This is a morning coffee, the answer to an espresso that feels too heavy before nine, and it has very little to say after a large meal, when a darker roast makes the better full stop. Brew it on the espresso button, one capsule per drink, and resist running more water through a spent capsule: the extra only adds the drying tail end of the extraction.

Is the thirty-six carton the right size?

A ten capsule sleeve is a way to find out if you like a coffee; thirty six means you already know. For most households the carton covers about a month of mornings, so buy it once you know the blonde style suits you. If you are unsure, the ten-pod Blonde Espresso Roast is a smaller way into the style, and the Blonde Espresso Roast [Decaf](#) keeps a light roast going later in the day.

Check the machine before you order. These are Nespresso Original capsules, the small cone-shaped kind that the machine pierces and brews under pressure. A Vertuo, which spins a bigger domed capsule read by a barcode, will not accept them, nor will a Lavazza A Modo Mio machine; Dolce Gusto and Tassimo are different systems again. Several formats share the same shelf, so let the machine decide, not the brand.

The packs we stock

- [Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Roast Coffee, 36 Pods](#) (barcode 7613287364159)

What to eat with it

- [Maryland Minis Cookies - Choc Chip 6 Mini Bags, 118.8g](#): Small bags of choc chip cookies suit a morning coffee break, and their sweetness plays to the caramel side of a blonde cup.
- [Border Lemon Drizzle Melts Organic Biscuits, 150g](#): Lemon against a coffee with its own citric lift is a match for anyone who reads that brightness as a virtue.
- [Thomas Fudge's 6 Dark Chocolate Florentines](#): Dark [chocolate](#) on the florentine supplies the depth a light roast leaves out, so the plate carries the richness and the cup stays bright.

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

Why does blonde roast taste sour to some people? The early roast leaves the bean's own acidity in the cup. Drinkers who want that read it as soft citrus; those expecting a dark espresso read it as sharp.

Does a lighter roast mean a less caffeinated capsule? No. Blonde Roast is lighter in body and colour, but roast colour is no caffeine gauge, and this is a caffeinated coffee like the rest of the range.

Can I get two drinks from one capsule? No. One capsule makes one espresso, so the carton makes thirty-six drinks, and extra water through a spent capsule only adds a drying finish.

Will these fit a Nespresso Vertuo? No. They are Nespresso Original capsules, and a Vertuo uses a larger barcoded capsule.

Should I add milk or sugar to blonde roast? A little sugar, if anything. Milk tends to bury the brightness that is the point of a light roast.

Curator's note: If your mornings start with a dark Italian blend, buy this as a change of scene, not a stand-in. A little sugar, no milk, and drink it before the day gets going. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Starbucks by Nespresso Blonde Roast: Bright or Sour?

Field	Detail
Brand	Starbucks
Packs we stock	36 Pods
Category	Coffee Pods & Capsules
Caffeine	caffeinated
Taste	Sweet, soft, citrus-bright
Add	A little sugar rather than milk
Best time	Morning

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