

Starbucks by Nespresso Decaf Espresso: The After-Dinner Capsule

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Starbucks by Nespresso Decaf Espresso: The After-Dinner Capsule, in summary: An espresso-roast decaf for Nespresso Original machines. The caffeine comes out of the green bean before roasting, a trace remains, and the darker roast rebuilds the body that decaffeination takes away.

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

The [caffeine](#) in this capsule was taken out before the coffee was ever roasted. From then on the beans were handled like every other coffee in the range, which is why a good modern [decaf](#) tastes like coffee rather than an apology for it.

Where the caffeine goes, and what goes with it

Decaffeination is done to green coffee, before roasting. Water-based, carbon dioxide and solvent methods all exist and all work, each leaving its own slight mark on the cup, and the pack is the only reliable place to find out which one applies to this box. Whatever the method, most of the caffeine goes and a trace stays behind, so decaf is not the same thing as caffeine-free.

Some other soluble material leaves the bean along with the caffeine, which is why a decaf often drinks slightly thinner and gentler than its caffeinated equivalent. That is the first trade-off to accept. The second is that decaf punishes a lukewarm machine or an unheated cup slightly more than regular coffee does. Taking the beans to an espresso roast, as here, is the roaster's way of rebuilding that missing weight.

An espresso that ends the meal

Coffee at the close of a meal is more custom than fuel: a small, dark, hot cup that says the plates can be cleared. Depth and warmth do that work, not the caffeine, which makes this one of the few places where a decaf is simply the right choice rather than a compromise. The roast gives it a full body, and bitterness stays low provided the cup is warm.

Serve it short on the espresso button, into a cup warmed with a shot of hot water. Keep the machine descaled and fill the tank with fresh water, because these small habits count for slightly more with decaf. Aroma is the part people most often find disappointing, and the cause is nearly always a cold cup rather than the decaffeination; warm it and the difference is obvious.

Choosing between the two Starbucks decafs

We stock two decaf capsules from Starbucks. This one is the espresso roast, the darker of the pair, with roast weight doing much of the work, while the Blonde Espresso Roast Decaf is the lighter alternative. If you normally drink the darker Starbucks capsules, this is the decaf that will feel familiar; if you prefer the bright Blonde style, the other box is the better match.

It comes as a box of ten, and that suits the way it gets used: one capsule at the end of the day rather than several through the morning. The capsules are made for Nespresso original-line machines. They will not go into a Vertuo, and Dolce Gusto and Tassimo use pods of an entirely different shape, so check the machine before ordering.

The packs we stock

- [Starbucks by Nespresso Decaf Espresso Coffee, 10 Pods](#) (barcode 7613036961868)

What to eat with it

- [Thomas Fudge's 6 Dark Chocolate Florentines](#): A dark [chocolate](#) florentine is a proper after-dinner sweet, and it sits well beside a small, dark decaf.
- [Royal Dansk Danish Butter Cookies, 340g](#): Butter [biscuits](#) are the gentle option when the meal has been rich and something small is all anyone wants.
- [Oreo Vanilla Cookie Chocolate Sandwich Biscuit Twin Pack, 2 x 154g](#): The chocolate sandwich biscuit matches the roast depth and makes a relaxed late-evening pairing.

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 Decaf Espresso caffeine-free? No. Decaffeination takes out the bulk of the caffeine, but a trace always remains, so it is decaffeinated rather than caffeine-free.

When is the caffeine removed? From the green bean, before roasting. After that the coffee is roasted, ground and sealed like any other capsule.

Which decaffeination process is used for this capsule? Water, carbon dioxide and solvent methods are all in use; the current pack is the only reliable source for which one applies to this box.

Does decaf espresso taste weaker? It can read slightly lighter in body, which is why this one is roasted to espresso depth. A warm cup and a descaled machine make the biggest difference.

Which machines does it fit? Nespresso original-line machines only, not Vertuo, Dolce Gusto or Tassimo.

Curator's note: Pour it after dinner, short and hot, and judge it as an espresso rather than as a stand-in for the one you gave up. That is the fair test, and on those terms it earns its place. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Starbucks by Nespresso Decaf Espresso: The After-Dinner Capsule

Field	Detail
Brand	Starbucks
Packs we stock	10 Pods
Category	Decaffeinated Coffee
Caffeine	decaffeinated
Caffeine	Decaffeinated, a trace remains
Roast	Espresso roast, the darker Starbucks decaf
Best time	After a meal

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