



Café-Rossella coffee made at the Coffee Labs Roasters on Main Street in Tarrytown.

Stephen Schmitt/The Journal News

These 12 coffee shops take pride in their product — and their independence

- Runcible Spoon**  
37 N. Broadway, Nyack
- Waterfront Roasters**  
106 Purdy Ave., Port Chester
- Coffee Lab Roasters**  
7 Main St., Tarrytown
- Perks**  
197 Katonah Ave., Katonah
- Moonbean Cafe**  
1123 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor
- The Art Cafe**  
65 S. Broadway, Nyack
- Winston's Coffee House**  
382 Main St., Armonk
- Bunbury's Coffee Shop**  
460 Piermont Ave., Piermont
- Java Babies**  
578 Warburton Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson
- Global Java**  
265 Huguenot St., New Rochelle
- Aroma Coffee Roast**  
1932 Palmer Ave., Larchmont
- Steam**  
129 Wolfs Lane, Pelham

# NO REGULAR cup o' joe

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The Journal News

**W**e love lattes, and they're even better when they are custom fitted to a neighborhood. Here is a sampling of a dozen independent, local alternatives for your caffeine habit.

These are coffee bars where good coffee matters. They're not beatnik coffee houses with poetry readings, and they're not sandwich shops with an espresso machine behind the counter. And they're definitely not You-Know-What.

On weekends, bicycles line the street in

front of the **Runcible Spoon** (37 N. Broadway Nyack, 845-358-9398). The bikes' owners, clad in Spandex and halfway through a round-trip from Manhattan, are there for sustenance, yes — but the coffee is a star, too. Just ask any local.

**Waterfront Roasters** (106 Purdy Ave., Port Chester, 914-934-2232) is the storefront operation of the Empire Coffee Roasters, which has been next door for 15 years. When the big box stores of Port Chester's new downtown shopping complex get to you, head for this bright corner shop, where you can buy their own roasts to take home, or flavor your triple-shot espresso with toasted walnut or sugar-free vanilla. Decor is familiar, roomy coffee bar style.

The smell from the mammoth roasting machine practically lifts you up by the nose at **Coffee Lab Roasters** (7 Main St., Tarrytown, 914-332-1479), a contemporary coffee bar. Owners Michael Love and Alicia Kelligrew love animals (the word lab in the name of their shop is a play on words and refers to their Yellow Labradors), and they care about sustainably grown, Free Trade coffee, too. There are kids' specials, lots to read and foamy cappuccinos decorated with rosettes.

**Perks** (197 Katonah Ave., Katonah, 914-232-0293) is basic. Order, get your own milk, sugar and cinnamon, and hope there's a little metal chair open for you out front where the



Tom Nycz/The Journal News

The Art Cafe in Nyack has a Middle Eastern vibe.

## Coffee

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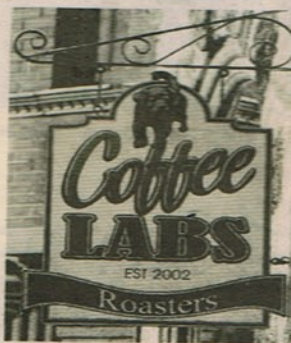
funky Katonah artists and writers hang out. If you remember to say "to stay," you get white china instead of paper cups. A couple of pastries are available too, if you insist.

**Moonbean Cafe** (1123 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor, 914-945-9061) is comfortable, attractive, and, slowly but surely, expanding into a lunch cafe. It's still open in the evenings for a stroll-by machiatio and early for a breakfast scone, but lunchtime now means wraps, panini and leafy salads.

The coffee at **The Art Cafe** (65 S. Broadway, Nyack, 845-353-4230) betters that of the chain down the street. But here, it comes with a bohemian feel mixed with Middle Eastern style. Excellent olives come with most orders, and a short menu offers borekas and pitas.

**Winston's Coffee House** (382 Main St., Armonk, 914-273-6369) is a joint with a mascot. A stuffed bulldog presides over a busy after-school scene where teens down the sweet coffee-based blender drinks. Earlier on, moms and business people chat over espressos (you can take home a bag of their beans) and pieces of crumb pie, wraps, or tuna salad with cranberries and apples.

**Slave to the Grind** (58 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, 914-961-7777) has a clever name, but a better motto: "Death before Dishonor. Nothing Before Coffee." The community



Stephen Schmitt/The Journal News  
Coffee Lab Roasters in Tarrytown uses fair trade coffee beans and roasts and blends them at the shop.

for wake-up lattes, moms find post-play group pick-me-ups (a short White Russian with Splenda and skim milk?) and Sarah Lawrence College students look for keep-me-awake double espressos in the evening. Music, board games and eclectic decor make customers comfortable.

Serious coffee combined with panini and compose-your-own-salads make **Steam** (129 Wolfs Lane, Pelham, 914-738-7395) a draw for everyone in town. Antique tin ceilings and contemporary steel counters equal a hip setting for your coffee klatsch as well.

walls at **Bunbury's Coffee Shop** (460 Piermont Ave., Piermont, 845-398-9715), where they offer backgammon, dictionaries for your crossword puzzle, and excellent lattes. They also bake pastries and offer sandwiches, but the clue that tells you they're all about beverages is the simple syrup on the fixin' bar. They call it Liquid Sugar.

**Java Babies** (578 Warburton Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson, 914-478-2286) is the brainstorm of two Hastings artist-moms. Eryn Wagner calls it "more play-space than coffee shop." While parents catch up, sip vanilla hazelnut coffee and browse, kids hit the sandbox or play house. There are also puzzles, art kits, even fundraising sales for Family to Family, co-owner Pam Koner's hunger relief effort.

**Global Java** (265 Huguenot St., New Rochelle, 914-576-5282) does a brisk downtown business in American-apple pie and strawberry-cream smoothies as well as espresso drinks like the Dark and Steamy. The deep blue floors and window sills make a bright setting for a sandwich lunch or an ice cream break.

**Aroma Coffee Roast** (1932 Palmer Ave., Larchmont, Larchmont, 914-834-0989) is aptly named. The bulky roaster out back cranks up daily, perfuming the street. This tiny shop is serious about coffee with a dozen custom blends (which mix exotic beans), and just a few nibbles, giant cookies, for example, to absorb the caffeine. Their fortune cookie iced coffee is a treat.