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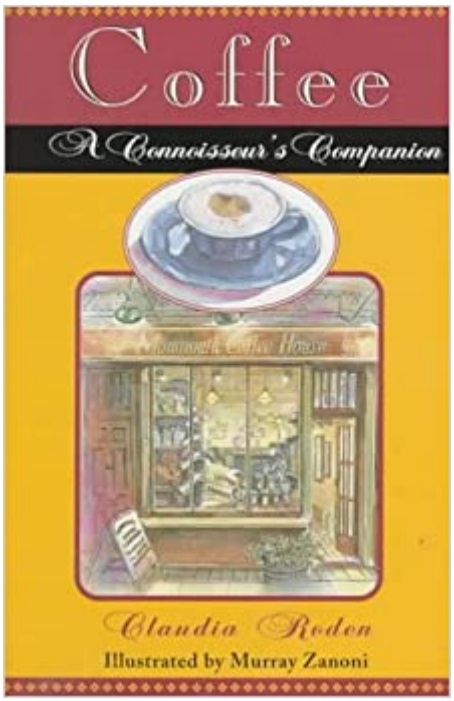
Coffee : A Connoisseur's Companion



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Synopsis

Coffee is one of the essential pleasures of life, but very few people know much about it. Fortunately for us, award-winning food writer Claudia Roden has taken it upon herself to rectify the situation with this scholarly, entertaining, and practical volume. In charming prose, she narrates the fascinating story of coffee as both crop and beverage, and opens up for us the infinite possibilities the drink has to offer.From its exotic beginnings in Africa and Arabia, coffee swept through Europe and the Americas in the seventeenth century, profoundly changing patterns of life as it went. Although it suffered religious persecution, social prejudice, and fierce political opposition, coffee reigned supreme and was soon being grown in prodigious quantities around the world.Roden explains the labor-intensive processes of growing coffee and preparing the beans, provides an invaluable guide to the quality beans of the world, and dispenses expert advice on all the steps of coffee preparation, from buying to brewing. The final section is devoted to recipes: heart-warming coffee punches, refreshing iced coffee, and frothy frappes, as well as delicious coffee cakes and desserts.Enhanced by Murray Zanoni’s watercolor illustrations, Roden’s book is the perfect guide to this noble, aromatic, and sociable bean.In this scholarly, entertaining, and practical book, the Claudia Roden tells fascinating story of coffee as both crop and beverage, and opens up for us the infinite possibilities the drink has to offer.

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Customer Reviews

Inside Claudia Roden’s little book Coffee: A Connoisseur’s Companion is a veritable treasure of interesting stories, anecdotes, and facts about coffee--all beautifully illustrated with lovely ink-and-color drawings by Murray Zanoni. First published in the early 1980s, Coffee offers a

scholarly yet entertaining look at the history of coffee. From its exotic beginnings in Africa and Arabia, coffee swept through Europe and the Americas in the 17th century, profoundly changing patterns of life as it went. Although it suffered religious persecution, social prejudice, and fierce political opposition, coffee reigned supreme and was soon being grown in prodigious quantities around the world. Roden explains the labor-intensive processes of growing coffee and preparing the beans, provides an invaluable guide to the quality beans of the world, and dispenses expert advice on all the steps of coffee preparation, from buying to brewing. The final section is devoted to recipes: heartwarming coffee punches, refreshing iced coffee, and frothy frappes, as well as delicious coffee cakes and desserts. --.co.uk

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A small book but it has everything about coffee that you might want. All correct information, packaged intelligently, with good will towards all kinds of coffee drinkers. You can tell that she tried out all the coffee preparation, roasting, and dessert recipes herself. They all work. No misdirections. In short, Claudia Roden at her mature best. I really cannot recommend it enough.

Claudia Roden writes with scholarly knowledge, but in accessible prose. Wonderful stories! This

book does not go into details about how to roast green coffee or how to make a good latte. It is a little dated, written in a pre-Starbucks era, before boutique coffee shops and roasters. Still, it is a good, pleasing introduction to one of my favorite topics.

Be in the know on coffee with Roden's book. I feel like a diplomat in Paris sipping my coffee on a rooftop patio overlooking the Bois de Boulogne as I read this book.

Gave as gift, very informative

This book is wonderful just to read; it is rather more like a memoir, full of stories, anecdotes and facts. The history, customs and gracious living associated with coffee culture are well-described by Roden. The end of the book has recipes, including some sweets to go with coffee, punches and other recipes not usually found in books. But mainly, I enjoy reading this book. It's like taking a voyage to the Middle East.

Wondering what the proper method is to brewing a cup of coffee? Or perhaps all your attempts turn out to be a strange form of liquid mud? This is the book for you. Beautifully illustrated, this book covers all the bases, and then some.

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