

## Coupa Cafe - A Quick Trip to Venezuela Via the Stomach



Right now, I am at Coupa Café in Beverly Hills and I must say, I think I've just found my new little Venezuelan Hideaway.

As soon as my friend and I enter the establishment, Evan, the server, cheerfully greets us and offers us a warm and welcoming smile. I start with an order of their signature espresso. Next, my friend and I try to find the perfect spot in the spacious café. After a few minutes, I take a seat with my espresso in hand and Evan promptly takes it away from me before I even get a sip.

Espresso, he explains, should be consumed within the first fifteen seconds of being served. Well, *la-di-dah*.... Within seconds he hands me a fresh cup. It is some of the richest and tastiest coffee I have ever experienced. I can't imagine it tasting any less delicious with a delay of a minute or two, but who am I to say? These guys are the experts and know their coffee. Regardless of the time that has passed, their espresso is delightful – strong and smooth, much like the Venezuelan men themselves.

Evan divulges that their coffee is a blend of different beans from various Venezuelan farms. He then encourages us to try the mini cachapas, tasty little corn pancakes topped with Venezuelan queso duro, a hard cheese, which is all served with a delicate and slightly sweet Venezuelan sour cream.

This is followed by a round of empañiditas, mini empañadas filled with either cheese or savory shredded beef, which is another lesson in extreme tastiness. Although I have never been to Venezuela, if this café/restaurant is any reflection of what the country is like, I definitely have a new vacation spot. Coupa Café is warm and inviting: comfy seats with soft pillows, and subtle pictures that contrast nicely with their bold yellow and red walls. Did I also mention their impressive display of wines? As I sit and look around at the vision before me, I know that one day, I'll be back. Thanks to their excellent food and stellar service, Coupa Café has most certainly won me over as a customer for many visits to come.

<http://coupacafe.com/>