

## **10 St. Louis Coffee Shops**

### **Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Company**

#### **Various locations**

City Garden Location (downtown)  
808 Chestnut Street  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
314-474-0565

Kaldi's and St. Louis are a match that can never be separated. Go to the flagship shop of this local chain on a picturesque corner of DeMun, and you'll be up-close-and-personal with your fellow St. Louisans in a space that's always jam-packed (hope you don't have claustrophobia). Enjoy a meal and some specialty coffee alongside students who are too cool for Kayak's and/or law students. And if you just can't get enough of this St. Louis-born business, check out some of the [educational programs](#) offered

### **Park Avenue Coffee (2 locations)**

#### **Downtown Location**

417 N 10th St,  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
(314) 231-5282

#### **Lafayette Square**

1919 Park Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
(314) 621-4020

Ten years after opening in Lafayette Square, Park Avenue Coffee isn't just going strong -- it's on a growth tear, with the original location joined by outposts downtown and in the Hill, as well as a shop/cafe in Cortex. In some ways, this homegrown chain is St. Louis' answer to Starbucks: It's got the same friendly professionalism and something-for-everyone appeal. But even beyond the whole "local" thing (which is huge), it's got a giant advantage over Starbucks: the amazing gooey butter cake. Co-owners and siblings Dale Allen Schotte and Marilyn Scull adapted their mother's recipe into more than 70 variations of the stuff -- and have had theirs named the best in town by no less than the Food Network. Come for the coffee, but don't forget to stay for dessert. Photo courtesy of Park Avenue Coffee.

### **Blondie's Coffee and Wine Bar**

1301 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
(314) 241-6100

You may not think of yourself as a person who needs a regular coffee shop. You've got a full-time job -- and, if not an office, at least a pretty nifty cubicle. But Blondie's, the charming coffee bar on the edge of downtown St. Louis near the City Museum, serves as the kind of place on the side that your average cube farm just can't compete with. It's marvelously roomy so you can actually get a little privacy when you need it, but it's also got friendly, efficient service and a full menu.

### **Sump Coffee**

3700 S. Jefferson Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
(917) 412-5670

If you're in a hurry, this is not the place for you. If you appreciate coffee like an art, however, there is a cup of joe at Sump Coffee with your name on it. Each cup is made to order, using the method that best highlights the body and flavor of a certain bean. It may be extra work for you to get to this corner of South City, and it may be extra work for the baristas serving up perfection. But sometimes, going the extra mile is worth it.

### **Blueprint Coffee**

6225 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
(314) 266-6808

Blueprint, the two-and-a-half-year-old spot in the Loop, tends not to be a great place for a meeting -- it's always crowded, and unless the person you're meeting is model-thin, they'll probably be uncomfortable in such close quarters. And yet everyone we're trying to network with still insists on coming here -- with good reason. Blueprint is a coffee lover's dream, with baristas who can tell you not only about your beans' provenance, but how they're shipped and what notes you'll discover as you sip. They take coffee as seriously here as sommeliers take wine. N

### **Coffee Cartel**

2 Maryland Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314) 454-0000

This Central West End hotspot stays open all night long. It also features coffee drinks spiked with either booze, or ice cream, or both -- you pick your poison. But those two features, wonderful though they are, don't even rise to the top of our list of things to love about Coffee Cartel, and that's for one simple reason: there is no finer spot for people watching in all of St. Louis. Where else can you observe the Real Housewives of Hortense Place plan their next charity gala -- even as law school students attempt to sober up from a night on the town and professional dog walker's pound out their next screenplay?

### **The Mud House**

2101 Cherokee St.  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
(314) 776-6599

Why should the time on the clock dictate what you have to eat? At The Mud House, you can get breakfast (or lunch) all day long. And this isn't just typical coffeehouse food -- it is locally sourced and a true coffee shop standout. From chickpea and sweet potato curry to a portobello reuben, you'll never get bored with the menu. And the Mud House is all about being welcoming, so make sure you stand by this saying on the menu: "Be polite, or take a hike."

### **Hartford Coffee Company.**

3974 Hartford St.  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
(314) 771-5282

Med-school students and old-man regulars fill the front tables at Hartford Coffee Company, which is separated from a back play area by tall shelves where the shop stores dispensers for bulk-sale coffee beans. Everyone at this Tower Grove shop seems like they'd be just as happy at Starbucks, but isn't it nice there is a non-corporate, neighborhood place that's right around the corner? ("This just feels like a real neighborhood, you know?") Air roasted coffee, house made baked goods and breakfast and lunch options on the menu.

### **Rise Coffee.**

4176 Manchester Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
(314) 405-8171

Located in the Grove, Rise is the embodiment of LGBT friendly. Plus, there is a side room upstairs with a knee-high fence across the doorway. It's like a giant playpen, where cool moms (and dads) can stash tiny monsters for a bit while they try to one-up the other parents by weaving in tales of Replacement concerts in tiny clubs among half-hearted complaints about how boring they've gotten now that they have kids. But at least they still know good coffee.

### **Shameless Grounds.**

1901 Withnell Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
(314) 449-1240

Welcome to St. Louis' judgement-free zone. Play "how many collars can you spot?" while sipping on a Thai iced coffee, then mosey over to the human sexuality lending library. Come by for one of Shameless Grounds' many events, from polyamory meet-and-greets to Contraceptive Comedy. At this Benton Park cafe, you can let your freak flag fly high.