

# Milli Coffee Roasters Hits the Spot for Students



Milli Coffee Roaster's store front. Photography by Lillian Downey

Lillian Downy, staff writer

Milli Coffee Roasters opened in 2012 and began their in-house roasting operations in 2015. They have all the classic coffee shop wants with the fun addition of waffles, soups, and sandwiches. They have affordable pricing and plenty of space; for students, Milli's Coffee Roasters could be a solid addition to their homework haunts.

Milli's has a modern rustic aesthetic. The space has industrial bones with a concrete floor and metal struts overhead. What could be a rather cold environment is warmed and softened by the wood that makes up the counters and tables. Coffee in burlap sacks completes the rustic vibe while fresh cut tulips grace the countertop. The outside patio offers several tree shaded tables. There is a lot of space to spread out which means it is a great place to work. However, for those who are easily distracted, headphones will be necessary as Milli's music tends to be rather loud and generally has lyrics.

They have several food options for those wanting more than just a hot drink. They cover their bases in terms of quality and deliver solid, hot, made in-house food. However, those looking

for more elevated choices or higher quality sourcing may be left wanting. Their grilled cheese (\$4) contains generic yellow cheddar which walks the line between mellow and bland. Their waffles (\$5) have delightful flavor and plenty of toppings to choose from but lack the crispness and delicacy that some might be looking for. Milli's also has several drinks to pick from for those who do not like coffee or want to switch things up. Their chai latte (\$4.25) was delightful. Chai lattes have the unfortunate habit of being sickeningly sweet, which Milli's drink avoided. Although lacking the robust chai flavor that I personally look for, it had plenty of thick creamy foam on top and was scrumptiously hot.

Milli Coffee Roasters is on par with the rest of Charlottesville in terms of pricing. Their drinks range from \$2.50 to \$8, and their various food options hover around the \$6 mark. They have a small parking lot which is shared with several other businesses. Some spots are reserved for Milli customers, some for the other businesses, and some available on a first come first serve basis. Towing is enforced so it is important to check the signs before you leave your car.

Milli's is located at 400 Preston Ave. and is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.