

Coffee Timeline **(CE = Common Era)**

Note: The early history of coffee is shrouded in myth and uncertainty. I have noted approximate dates with the @ symbol.

Mark Pendergrast, author of *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World*.

Creation Myth (@ 600 CE): Kaldi, an Ethiopian goatherd, is puzzled by his hyperactive goats. They are eating leaves and berries from a strange tree. Coffee is discovered.

1475: Kiva Han, the world's first coffeehouse, is opened in Constantinople.

1538: Ottoman Turks parboiled coffee beans (to render them infertile and to maintain monopoly) and export them from Mocha. Hence coffee nickname, "Mocha."

@ 1600: Pressured by advisors to condemn infidel coffee (imported through Venice), Pope Clement VIII instead blesses it.

1616: The Dutch pirate coffee trees to a greenhouse in Holland. Around the same time, Baba Budan smuggles fertile seeds to Mysore in India.

1650: A Lebanese named Jacobs opens first European coffeehouse at Oxford University, England.

1658: Dutch plant and cultivate coffee in Ceylon, later in Java and Sumatra, ultimately giving coffee the nickname "Java."

1710: Rather than boiling, French pour hot water through grounds in cloth bag. First infusion brewing.

1723: Gabriel Mathieu de Clieu brings coffee tree to Martinique. Most of the coffee in Latin America descends from this tree.

1773: During the Boston Tea Party, rebellious American colonists throw British tea overboard; it becomes patriotic to drink coffee.

1781: Frederick the Great forbids most Prussian coffee roasting. "My people must drink beer."

1806: Napoleon declares France self-sufficient, promotes chicory over coffee.

1850: James Folger arrives in San Francisco during the Gold Rush, he makes his fortune from coffee.

1864: American Jabez Burns invents an efficient, self-dumping roaster.

1878: Caleb Chase and James Sanborn form Chase & Sanborn.

1892: Joel Cheek invents Maxwell House Coffee blend in Nashville, Tennessee.

1900: Hills Brothers introduces vacuum-packed canned coffee.

1901: Italian Luigi Bezzera invents first commercial espresso machine.

1906: In Bremen, Germany, Ludwig Roselius patents Kaffee Hag, the first decaffeinated coffee. In France, it is Sanka (*sans caffeine*).

1908: German housewife Melitta Bentz makes a coffee filter using her son's blotting paper.

1911: Founding of the National Coffee Roasters Association, which ultimately became the National Coffee Association.

1938: Nestle introduces Nescafe, an improved instant coffee, just before World War II. Maxwell House follows with its instant brand.

1958: Bodum introduces the Santos Vacuum coffee maker

1960: The Colombian Coffee Federation debuts Juan Valdez, the humble coffee grower, with his mule.

1965: Boyd Coffee introduces the Flav-R-Flo brewing system, pioneering the filter and cone home brewer.

1966: Dutch immigrant Alfred Peet opens Peet's Coffee in Berkeley, California, considered the beginning of the specialty coffee revolution.

1971: Jerry Baldwin, Zev Siegl, and Gordon Bowker open Starbucks in Seattle.

1982: The charter for the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) is written.

1987: Howard Schultz buys Starbucks and begins to turn it into a worldwide specialty coffee chain.

1988: In the Netherlands, the Max Havelaar seal certifies fair trade coffee.

2007: The 25th anniversary of the founding of the Specialty Coffee Association of America.

2011: The 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Coffee Association