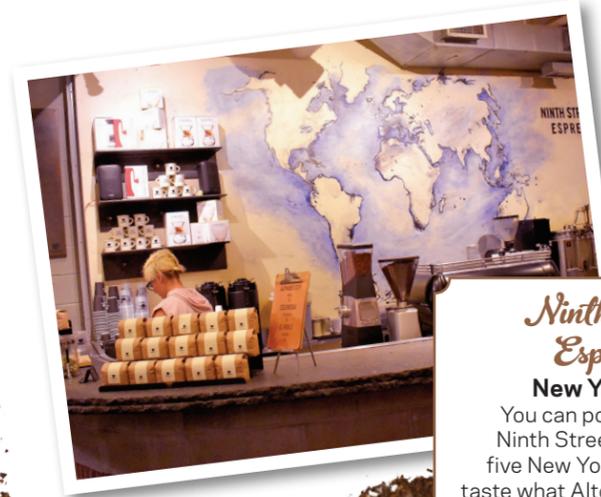


Alton's COFFEE CRAWL

Alton Brown is on a caffeine kick. For the past year and a half, he has been touring the country with his live variety show, *Eat Your Science*, and at every stop he makes it his mission to refuel at the best local coffee shops—many of which come recommended by fans. Alton has consumed countless cappuccinos, lattes and cortados (his drink of choice, made with equal parts espresso and steamed milk), and he offered to lead us to some of the best in the United States. Visit any of these favorites and you'll see why he can't stop buzzing about them.



Rockford Roasting Company
Rockford, IL

"These guys were the first to educate me on other parts of the coffee cherry, like the cascara [the pulp and skin surrounding the coffee bean], which they use to make iced tea," Alton says. They also created a drink in Alton's honor, made with cascara "tea," brown sugar simple syrup and orange. It's now one of the most popular items on the menu. rockfordroastingcompany.com

Ninth Street Espresso
New York City

You can pop into any of Ninth Street Espresso's five New York locations to taste what Alton calls "the best Americano in the city," but the Chelsea Market outpost is really worth a visit: It's right below Food Network's offices, making it a convenient stop for Alton and his fellow stars to refuel before filming. The market is also home to Ninth Street's roasting facility, open to the public. ninthstreetespresso.com

Spella Caffè
Portland, OR

Alton says this tiny standing-room-only café in downtown Portland is home to the perfect cappuccino. Owner Andrea Spella serves espresso the old-school Italian way: His shop has one of the few hand-pulled lever espresso machines in the Northwest. spellacaffe.com

La Barba Coffee
Salt Lake City

During visits to Salt Lake City, Alton often heads to La Barba for his usual, a cortado. Tucked inside the tapas restaurant Finca, it's about as elegant as a coffee shop can be: The walls are painted deep turquoise and the bar is paneled in dark wood. The shop brews only in-season coffee beans, so the menu changes every few months. labarbacoffee.com

Brash
Atlanta

If Alton could own any coffeehouse in the country, he says he'd choose Brash—and not just because it's his go-to spot when he's at home in nearby Marietta. "They brew perfect espresso and a thoughtful selection of hand pours," Alton says. Brash serves Alton's usual cortado in a mini mason jar. brashcoffee.com



Espresso to Go Go
Wichita, KS

This quirky coffee shop has two outposts, each with its own eye-catching decor: One has a unicorn hanging from the ceiling, the other a giant disco ball. Take a hint from Alton and order from the secret menu—he's a fan of the turbocharged Syd Vicious, made with seven shots of espresso and seven raw sugars. espressotogogo.com



Dinosaur Coffee
Los Angeles

When Alton is in L.A. (often to shoot *Cutthroat Kitchen* or *Iron Chef Showdown*), he gets his java fix at Dinosaur's back bar. The shop is known as much for its unique decor (dinosaur figurines are hidden throughout the space) as for its specialty drinks. Try the cardamom-cinnamon cappuccino or coconut-cacao cold brew. (Families beware: All the drip-coffee mugs say "F*** it!") dinosaurcoffee.com



The Rise Coffee Bar
Charleston, SC

Alton rarely drinks flavored coffee, but he made an exception for the rosemary latte at this charming café in The Restoration hotel. "When no one was looking, I ordered one, and I'm so glad I did," he says. Take your cup to the hotel library and check out the impressive collection of books, magazines and art journals. therestorationhotel.com

DINOSAUR: LOCAL WANDERER; LA BARBA: MICHAEL FRIEBERG; BRASH: SOMMER DANIEL PHOTOGRAPHY; COFFEE RING AND COFFEE BEANS: GETTY IMAGES; COFFEE GROUNDS: SHUTTERSTOCK