

Sip This Now
It's A Grind Winter Blend Coffee
Las Vegas Weekly
January 18, 2007
K.W. Jeter

[Sip This Now!]

It's a Grind Winter Blend coffee.

Seasonal coffees, especially around Christmas time, can be more penance than pleasure. Remember that maiden aunt, whose taste buds were so withered from chain-smoking Pall Malls and closet gin-dosing that she had to be forbidden from preparing the stuffing on Thanksgiving? Because she had gone from measuring spices by the pinch, to the handful, and finally to the can-full? That's usually the deal with holiday coffee blends as well—so tarted up with cinnamon and nutmeg and maybe ground reindeer that the effect is like a black-leather Santa standing over you with the sleigh whip and snarling, "Celebrate, you mangy curs! Get with the fa-la-la-la, or this boot's up your ass."

Credit, then, to the It's a Grind coffee emporia, for their rather more subtle Winter Blend. A smooth sophisticate of a cup, with flavors of cinnamon (c'mon, it's mandatory) and hazelnut. (The latter shouldn't be a problem for those with allergies—it's not the real nuts, but a triumph of chemistry instead.) A bit of nonalcoholic Irish cream and a touch of Madagascar vanilla beans make it tasty enough to justify stocking the freezer with a couple of extra bags, just to get you through Valentine's Day. At It's a Grind locations; \$11.35 by the pound; \$1.95 for a regular size cup and \$2.15 for a large.

K.W. Jeter