



CANDYBLOG

A blog about candy, things made with sugar, things made with chocolate, you get the idea ... open your mouth, expand your mind

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

Caffe Acapella - Coffee Confections

One of the new products I've been looking forward to at the Fancy Food Show a couple of weeks ago was Caffe Acapella new line of Coffee Confections.

It's genius really. Instead of chocolate, which is a combination of cocoa solids, cocoa butter and sugar, this is a combination of coffee beans, cocoa butter and sugar. Let me warn you, it's pretty intense.



I was careful to do my tasting of these in the morning because of the obvious caffeine content.

Caffe Acapella Espresso was the first on my list, I figure I should start with the strongest. The little heart is a solid piece, .35 ounces. It has a strong snap to it and a good melt on the tongue thanks to the cocoa butter and some milk. It smells rather like freshly ground coffee. It has a concentrated coffee flavor that includes those dark roasted notes, woody tones and of course some bitterness. It's well rounded out with some sugar, perhaps a little too much, but then the bitterness kicks in again at the end.

The texture is good, very much like chocolate, only with slightly more grain than usual.

Honestly, I usually don't like "whole bean" coffee candies, I'm kind of a purist and only want the water that has passed near a coffee bean, not eat the whole thing. But I think regular readers know my affinity for anything combined with cocoa butter. This is basically a white chocolate product.

Caffe Acapella Cappuccino looked pretty much the same color as the Espresso, I expected a slightly milkier appearance. It has a softer bite to it, and melts a bit quicker. It's sweeter and definitely milky ... almost to the point of being a bit sticky. The bitterness is pretty much absent, but so are the more complex coffee flavors.

The **Caffe Acapella Caramel Macchiato** may look like the others from the outside, just a nicely puffed up heart. However, inside is a reservoir of salty caramel. I've never actually had a caramel macchiato drink, so I can't say whether this is a good candy-version or not. I can say that it's very sweet, verging on throat burning (which is pretty much what's kept me away from the drinks ... that and the regular price). My least favorite of the three.



Caffe Acapella Coffee Confections come in two formats, the little individually wrapped hearts I have here and 2.5 ounce bars. I'm not sure what the caffeine content on these is, but I don't think my little "one-cup-a-day-never-after-noon" system could handle a whole bar.

I don't see this format of the product on their website, just the full-sized bars. If you can get a hold of these (and keep a sharp eye out at coffee houses and at the checkstand at upscale markets), it's a good way to sample their product line. Personally, I'd stick with the Espresso one, just because I'd be eating these for the coffee kick.

You can buy online at their webstore or use their product locator to find a shop near you that carries them. (Raley's seems to be the only place in California that carries them, so I think I'm outta luck.) The ingredients look all natural (except I don't know if the mono and di-glycerides in the Macchiato qualify ... can someone make a call on that?).

Michelle at Candy Addict called these Awesomely Addictive. She mentioned a more noticeable grain in hers, it's been a full year since her review, so I suspect they've been conching a bit longer to get this smoother product. She also said that a full bar would be too much, I'm guessing these little morsels are an answer to that.

NAME: Caffe Acapella - Espresso, Cappuccino & Caramel Macchiato	RATING:
BRAND: Acapella Foods	10 SUPERB
PLACE PURCHASED: samples from Fancy Food Show	9 YUMMY
PRICE: unknown	8 TASTY
SIZE: .35 ounces	7 GREAT IT
CALORIES PER OUNCE: unknown	6 TEMPTING
CATEGORIES: Coffee , White Chocolate , Caramel , United States	5 PLEASANT
	4 BENIGN
	3 UNAPPEALING
	2 APPALLING
	1 INEDIBLE