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## Montreal vs. Toronto: Comparing the Cities' Top Coffee Roasters

We find the best bean counters in Canada's biggest cities.

JAN 22, 2016 · BY BRENDAN ADAMS | PHOTO BY NATASHA V.



### Montreal: Dispatch Coffee Inc.

267, rue Saint-Zotique Ouest, [dispatchcoffee.ca](http://dispatchcoffee.ca)

#### The Story

Founder Chrissy Durcak designed her business from the wheels up, starting as a mobile cold-brew delivery service, then as one of the only espresso-slinging food trucks in the city's fleet. In 2014, she planted roots, opening Dispatch Coffee's flagship café/roastery in the Mile-Ex neighbourhood.

#### The Equipment

Head roaster Chris Durning gently roasts each small batch in a Probat Burns P-12 with just enough heat to accentuate each green bean without adding smoke or roast flavours. "Doing your job as a roaster means letting the coffee speak for itself."

#### The Culture

Freshness of green coffee is key. Led by director of coffee and buyer Jordan Crosthwaite, Dispatch buys top quality beans and roasts them quickly.

#### The Beans

Dispatch sources from producers like William Murathe, who grows, harvests and processes his crops on his Ibutiti estate in Kenya.

#### The Order

Sip the Guatemalan Guayo Bourbon or Guayo Caturra, which Durning calls "their most exciting coffees yet." Dispatch purchased the farm's entire production of the two varietals.

### CITY GUIDES

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- |               |               |            |
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## Toronto: De Mello Palheta Coffee Roasters

2489 Yonge St., [hellodemello.net](http://hellodemello.net)

### The Story

When he visited Toronto in 2012, after eight years on Melbourne's famously vibrant coffee scene, co-founder Felix Cha discovered a city thirsty for a fresh take on coffee. He brewed up a plan and opened De Mello Palheta café and roastery a year later.

### The Equipment

The way to the future is paved by the past, so De Mello Palheta crafts its subtle roasts on a Diedrich IR-12 and IR-2.5, a long-standing name in the history of coffee roasting.

### The Culture

Staff is trained every two weeks to further develop their coffee know-ledge, refine their palates and enhance their coffee communication skills.

### The Beans

Through visits to coffee-producing districts and fair-trade auctions, the team sources high-quality beans and supports the livelihoods of coffee farmers.

### The Order

Opt for Cha's favourite, Butterfly Kiss, a blend composed of Shaye Ayra and Derar Ela, both from Ethiopia. "Just like its namesake, it's sweet and charming and tingles gently in your mouth."

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