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The Rooster

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A LOCALLY-FOCUSED MAGAZINE FROM SPAREPARTS FUELED BY OUR FAVOURITE PEOPLE FROM ACROSS WESTERN CANADA

Drinking the World's Most Expensive Coffee

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By JOHN EARLY (HTTP://WWW.THEROOSTER.CA/AUTHOR/JOHNEARLY/) / Saskatoon / 2012-06-09



One o'clock in the afternoon. Definitely time for a coffee, especially if you were up at 2am to climb a volcano for sunrise. In the mountainous region on Bali you don't only have volcanic sunrises but it is also home to the world's most expensive

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coffee – or should I say home to the Civet animal: the defecator, er, creator of the world's most expensive coffee.

The civet is a Balinese cat known locally as the luwak and is closely related to the weasel family. The villagers let the animal roam the coffee plantations to eat the coffee berries and then pick out the partly digested coffee beans from the animal's feces. What you get is 'Cat Poo Coffee' produced annually in small amounts that can go for as much as \$75 (CAD) per espresso in London. [Proof (<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/139241-cat-poo-coffee-costs-50>)]



The Balinese Luwak (Civet cat) and I having a stare down



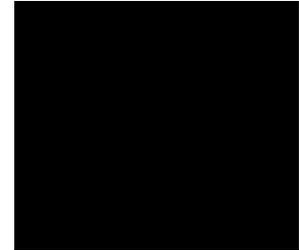
Kopi Luwak Coffee in the making or, uh, after the making

I sit down at one of the local plantations, south of Mount Batur, for a taste test. The farmer serving us happily explains that the whole concept of Kopi Luwak came from strained resourcefulness rather than some gimmick marketing scheme. The animal would eat all the berries some seasons and leave the farmers with nothing to harvest. I could only imagine the farmer's son who might as well have announced: 'Let's roast this shit and sell it to white people for \$300 a pound Dad!'

I stare down at the two coffee cups in front of me noticing the lighter hue from the Kopi Luwak. I take an exaggerated sip as if sampling a fine wine rather than swallowing the excretions of a weasel. The first thought that hits me is 'Wow! They say 'kopi' because that's the Balinese word for coffee, not just their accent' followed by 'This *really does* taste like shit'. Well, maybe that is a little too literal and harsh. But the coffee definitely tastes a little predigested.



Listening Station



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- [Orange Izakaya : Best Of... Everything \(/style/orange-izakaya-best-ofeverything\)](#)
- [Mongolie Grill \(/style/mongolie-grill\)](#)



The Kopi Luwak is on the right and only cost me 30,000 rupiah or about \$2.50 CAD

Regardless of whether the civet picks only the best and ripest coffee cherries, the added breakdown and enzymes makes it smoother on the stomach or the extravagant price and global marketing, Kopi Luwak definitely has its own unique flavor. Before you drop the cash or hike a volcano for this *cuppa kopi* though, I would consider just feeding a few coffee beans to your cat first.

~john.e~

Kopi Luwak and the Creature that Creates It

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