



# Pumpkin spice

BY LESLIE KLIPSCH

**N**othing says autumn like a cozy sweater, crisp and colorful foliage, and for many, a pumpkin spice latte. Since the specialty drink debuted over 10 years ago, the pumpkin spice latte has inspired its own countdown, hashtag (#PSL), and social media meme. Though I'm a purist when it comes to coffee and typically prefer mine black, I can't help but get caught up in the buzz of espresso and notes of pumpkin, cinnamon, and nutmeg topped with heavy whipped cream each October.

Milltown Coffee has been serving lattes — pumpkin spice included — since opening its doors just over a year ago and it's where I headed for my annual PSL indulgence. Bryan Leveritt, one of Milltown Coffee's owners, says he and his partners are dedicated to being the best coffeehouse the Quad-Cities has to offer.

"Milltown Coffee was opened with the shared vision to build something that embodies our wonderful Quad-Cities community. ... Through our love



## The flavor of fall

for great coffee, our passion for superior customer service, and our attention to detailed design, it is our sincerest hope that when you visit us, you genuinely will never want to leave,” he said.

Milltown proprietors also have a passion to provide quality, real-food nutrition with local ingredients. This interest is evidenced by their menu, which features breakfast, salads, sandwiches, soups and sides, all developed by one of Milltown’s co-owners, Jason Gomez, who is also the executive chef of The Outing Club in Davenport. Mr. Leveritt explains that Milltown caters to a wide-range of food lifestyles. Things like scrambled eggs with spiced sausage and smoked cheddar on a whole-wheat tortilla and house-made hummus dot the menu.

However, those seeking sweets need not worry; the dessert case doesn’t disappoint. “When you want something a little sweet, that same philosophy is mirrored in our amazing baked goods,” Mr. Leveritt adds. (The other two partners in the Moline business are Cathy Cartee and Tuvi Mendel.)



Leslie Klipsch

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The pumpkin spice latte I enjoyed at Milltown was made with real pumpkin puree and flavored with a blend of spices, honey, and a hint of white chocolate mocha. Adorned with lovely latte art, the drink was rich and sweet like pie, each sip ushering in a new season.

### Mr. Leveritt's favorites

When asked to name a favorite, Mr. Leveritt is quick to respond. "No doubt about it that the Miel (served hot or iced) is the No. 1 beverage selection at Milltown." The Cafe Miel combines organic honey, cinnamon, steamed milk and espresso, and I have to agree that it sounds delightful. All lattes at Milltown are what Mr. Leveritt describes as "handcrafted" with signature recipes and syrups created in-house.

### My favorite

A bit of a coffee aficionado, I'm always appreciative when I find a coffee shop serves pour-over coffee for customers, one cup at a time. A pour-over requires a special kettle and carafe, good beans, and patience, but the reward is fresh and distinct. Milltown's beans are fair-trade and organic. Coffee is the world's most commonly traded commodity after crude oil and for conscientious coffee drinkers, the multi-billion dollar industry is a great place to be an activist with their dollar.

### Why you should check out at Milltown

Whether you're pursuing pumpkin spice

or a cup of signature loose-leaf mandarin green tea, Milltown is a fantastic Quad-Cities destination. The urban atmosphere has a modern rustic feel with an edge that makes for an inspiring venue for studying, working, or chatting with friends. Milltown features live music monthly and can be used as a special event space. In addition to all of this, the panoramic view of the Mississippi River is splendid.

### The Details

Milltown Coffee is located at 800 River Drive, Suite 2, in Moline. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check out Milltown Coffee online at [milltowncoffee.com](http://milltowncoffee.com) and on Facebook.



Each month in *The Gold Standard*, Leslie Klipsch, a freelance writer and editor based in Davenport, shines a spotlight on the gems of the Quad-Cities area — for Gold Book readers. She enjoys reading, cooking, spending time with her husband and three young children and exploring all that the Quad-Cities has to offer. Read more of Leslie at [leslieklipsch.com](http://leslieklipsch.com).