

# International Coffee Day

The With or without cream, milk or sugar – whichever way one drinks it, coffee is often a standard part of our daily routine. It is believed that coffee was first discovered in the general area of today's Ethiopia, around the year 800. However, even though it is still unknown when the first cup of coffee was made, *The International Coffee Organization* declared 1 October as the International Coffee Day, to be celebrated for the first time this year. Since the 17th century, when coffee was brought into Europe, and until today in the 21st century, places where people usually drink coffee have changed dramatically. Luxurious and grand coffee houses in which the social elite of the time slowly sipped the beverage while engaging in philosophical discussions were gradually replaced by smaller establishments in which the guests stayed for a much shorter period of time.

Coffee that is appropriate for consumption is of only one species, *Eucoffea*. However, botanical taxonomy lists four distinct species of coffee. *Coffea arabica* L. and *Coffea canephora* L., better known as *Robusta*, are the two most common varieties of *Eucoffea* in production, export, industrial processing and consumption.

*Arabica* does not contain any copper, which makes it vulnerable to diseases and it is mostly grown on plantations in Latin America. Since the arrival of the plant on Brazilian soil in the 18 century, Brazil became the biggest producer of *Arabica* and is still the biggest today. *Robusta* contains a higher percentage of caffeine than *Arabica* and one of its benefits is its higher resistance to diseases and low temperatures. It is mostly grown in Africa and in Madagascar, but it is also present in Asia. If we compare their production quantities, the produced quantity of *Arabica* is higher than that of *Robusta*, according to *The International Coffee Organization*. The total global production of *Arabica* amounted to 84 167 million bags of coffee\* in 2014, while the total global production of *Robusta* was by 32% lower.

According to the data of the *International Coffee Organization* regarding all countries that export coffee, the total global coffee production has been on the rise in the last two decades. If we compare 2014/2015 with 1990/1991, the total global production has risen by one-point-five times, while the production in Asia has risen by approximately three times, which is also the highest increase compared to Africa, Mexico and South America. In 2014/2015, more than 140 million bags of coffee\* were produced in the world; 45 342 million in Brazil, which is the largest producer of coffee in the world with a market share of 31.99% and the largest share in export of coffee in 2014 – also 31.99%.

Proizvodnja	X 1000 bags*		Export	X 1000 bags*
Brazil	45 342		Brazil	36 420
Viet Nam	27 500		Viet Nam	25 298
Columbia	12 500		Columbia	10 954
Indonesia	9 350		Indonesia	5 977
Ethiopia	6 625		India	5 131

Source: ICO (*International Coffee Organization*, London, data for 2014)

European Union has the highest share in the global import of coffee. It imported a total of 75 million bags of coffee\* last year out of the total 114 883 million bags of coffee\* imported in the world. According to these data, more than 65% of imported coffee ended up in the EU

Member States. They are also the biggest coffee consumers. Out of the total 150 million bags of coffee\* consumed in 2014, the EU consumed 28%.

\*(60kg bags)

According to the data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for the Republic of Croatia in the first two quarters of 2015, the highest share in import was from Brazil and amounted to around 3 000 tonnes, while the highest share in export was to Slovenia and amounted to around 400 tonnes. This includes all forms of coffee (with caffeine or decaffeinated, roasted or not roasted). The last available data on coffee consumption are for 2011. According to the data, the average annual coffee consumption per household member amounted to 3.6 kg (amounts consumed in accommodation establishments are excluded).

Did you know?

In 2013, the Republic of Croatia processed more than 12 tonnes of roasted coffee (with caffeine or decaffeinated)

There's a myriad of different coffee drinks prepared in different ways in the world, depending on the cultural heritage and specific customs of the people. For example, black coffee in Russia is served with sugar and a slice of lemon and is often accompanied with a glass of vodka.

Each year (this year in Europe, the next in the USA, and so on in turn) the organisation SCAE (Speciality Coffee Association of Europe) organizes the *World Barista Championship*, in which bartenders from all around the world compete in making espressos.

Source: Croatian Bureau of Statistics, International Coffee Organization, [www.kava.hr](http://www.kava.hr)

