

= Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee House =

Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee House , located in the Buckman neighborhood of southeast Portland , Oregon , in the United States , is one of the city 's oldest coffeehouses . Named after Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky @-@ Korsakov , the classical music @-@ themed coffeehouse serves coffee and desserts , operating from the former living room of a reportedly haunted 1902 Craftsman @-@ style house . Goody Cable started the business in 1980 , having hosted classical music events in her home for years prior .

Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee has a casual , communal atmosphere and sometimes features live classical music . The house is decorated with knickknacks , art and hanging objects . Tables are named for various composers ; some of them are " haunted " (animated) , at times elevating , rotating or vibrating . The coffeehouse has received a generally positive reception and is known mostly for its desserts and for offering a unique experience to guests . Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee has been called " eclectic " , " quirky " and " spooky " , and has been recognized by several publications for its coffee and desserts .

= = Description = =

Named after Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky @-@ Korsakov , Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee was one of Portland 's first coffeehouses . The classical music @-@ themed business , located in Portland 's Buckman neighborhood , serves coffee and desserts . It operates from the former living room of a reportedly haunted Craftsman @-@ style house , built in 1902 and " nearly hidden from view " by the surrounding foliage . In 2006 , The Oregonian 's Vivian McInerney suggested that writer Louise Bryant once lived in the house . Bryant and her second husband , John Reed , documented parts of the Russian Revolution in works such as her Six Months in Red Russia . However , evidence analyzed by Michael Munk for publication in Oregon Historical Quarterly and elsewhere lends no support to the idea that Bryant ever lived at 707 Southeast 12th Avenue (Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee House 's street address) and casts strong doubt on the idea that she met Reed there .

The coffeehouse is owned by Goody Cable , who opened it for business in 1980 . According to Cable , she opened Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee " to stop cleaning [her] house for music parties , " having hosted classical music events in her home for years prior . Her vision was an unconventional and " homelike " restaurant , attractive to conversationalists who enjoy beer , desserts and music . Cable has established business hours that work for her and prioritizes " conversation , creation , education , game playing and enjoying nature " . She insists on recycling whenever possible and is adamant that the coffeehouse will " never " have a sign to advertise the business . In 2008 , Cable said she thought that locating in Portland was what made the business successful : " I don 't think Rimsky 's would have worked anywhere else ... Certainly not for 28 years . "

Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee has a casual , communal atmosphere and has been described by The Oregonian as a " cozy little place with an easygoing feel " . The Jewish Week 's travel writer called the house a " mecca for grungy young artist @-@ types seeking caffeine , chocolate and liberal @-@ minded conversation " . Yahoo ! Travel described the environment as dimly lit , with sounds of stringed instruments . The house 's interior has " bizarre 70 's style " wallpaper and features knickknacks , " oddball " art and " odd things " hanging from the ceiling . Weekends feature live classical music . Guests are encouraged to write in blank journals placed throughout the house . Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee is unusual in that it accepts payments in cash only .

According to Cable , each table is named after a different composer and has a " pseudo elegant " decor . Some of the tables are " haunted " (animated) , at times rotating or vibrating ; one rises 18 inches (46 cm) every 45 minutes , returning to its original position after moving through a succession of different heights . The table named for Sergei Rachmaninoff shakes when a button in the kitchen is pressed , and the Stephen Sondheim table disappears completely through a slit in the wall . Couches are also available for lounging . The upstairs unisex bathroom has an " under @-@ the @-@ sea " theme and reportedly " regularly induces screams " .

= = Reception = =

Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee has received a generally positive reception and is known mostly for its desserts and for offering a unique experience to guests . After noting its status as one of the oldest coffeehouses in Portland , Fodor 's said in a Pacific Northwest guide that it remains " one of the best " , specifically complimenting the desserts . In her travelogues of Portland , Rachel Dresbeck noted the coffeehouse 's uniqueness and recommended the mocha fudge cake and the ice cream desserts known as " Rasputin 's Vice " and " Tsar Sulton Suite " . Similarly , Portland Examiner contributor Dominique Dobson called the coffeehouse " whimsical " and wrote , " this is a great evening stopoff for caffeine and dessert . It can sometimes be a bit crowded , but the mocha fudge cake is phenomenal with coffee , and the quirky clientele and (sometimes live) music can keep you lingering over that amazing cheesecake ! " In his 2010 Frommer 's guide titled Portable Portland , Karl Samson noted the coffeehouse 's loyal patrons , calling it " Portland 's favorite dessert hangout for more than 25 years . " Julian Smith wrote in a 2012 Frommer 's guide , Portland Day by Day , that Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee is the " most atmospheric " of the city 's coffee establishments , with " fun and sassy " waiters , desserts " to die for " and bathrooms " you have to see to believe " . Ari Shapiro , a journalist and White House correspondent for NPR who has performed with the band Pink Martini , was raised in Portland and worked at Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee .

The Portland Mercury described the coffeehouse as an " eclectic spot " . According to the paper , the reported haunting and surrounding trees and shrubs " make you feel like you 've slipped into a dimension similar but not quite the same as our own " . In her book , Oregon Oddities , Harriet Baskas wrote that the tables and decorations are " surprising , alarming , and quite curious " . One contributor to the Daily Vanguard , Portland State University 's (PSU) student newspaper , included the house in her overview of Portland 's " odd and peculiar eateries " . She described it as a " novelty " , suitable for late @-@ night adventures . A student blogger for the PSU Chronicles recommended Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee as a destination for people under the age of 21 . Willamette Week called the coffeehouse a unique , " nights @-@ only " establishment that " screams ' only in Portland ' " . The publication found the service staff to be friendly , and sometimes slow . In 2005 , Willamette Week readers ranked Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee third in the categories " Best Coffee Shop " and " Best Dessert " . The coffeehouse ranked first in a similar poll conducted in 2007 . Yahoo ! Travel called the coffee " rich " and the ice cream desserts " attractive " . The guide considered the " eclectic haunt " a " spooky alternative " to an evening at a bar , club or movie . Zagat described the coffeehouse as " quirky " and " unlike any other place in Portland " . The restaurant guide also called the decor of the upstairs bathroom " famous " .

David Stabler , music critic for The Oregonian , recommended the coffeehouse for post @-@ concert visits and awarded it the title " Best concert @-@ in @-@ a @-@ coffeehouse " . Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee was a finalist in the " Best Dessert " category of The Village Voice 's " Best of Portland " list for 2011 but lost to Pix Patisserie . In 2013 , the San Jose Mercury News named Rimsky @-@ Korsakoffee the " Coffee Shop That Should Get You Amped " in a piece about the more peculiar aspects of Portland (" Keep Portland Weird ") ; the publication called the house 's bathroom the " funkiest " in town .