



Starbucks Takes on the Holidays

By: Kirsten Mueller

The holiday season is upon us and that means Starbucks has released all of their favorite holiday specialty drinks. This winter starting the week after Thanksgiving my goal was to try every holiday drink they offered in every form they came in (Hot, Iced, and Frappuccinos). I managed to reach my goal with the exception of

the peppermint drink because I am not a peppermint and chocolate person. Through this process, I tried **Sugar Cookie Almondmilk**, Chestnut Praline Latte, **Caramel Brulée Latte**, and Toasted White Chocolate Mocha. I kept track on my phone of what I have tried and what I rated it at the time of trying it.

Sugar Cookie Almond Milk Latte - Before going and trying all of the holiday drinks I decided to get on Tik Tok and hear all the reviews people were giving about the Sugar cookie Almond Milk Latte. I heard a lot of mixed reviews about this drink so I wasn't so sure if I wanted to try it but I knew I had to for my research. Some people said this drink was better in Iced form and others said it was better in hot form so I thought I would try it for myself. Personally, I am more of an Ice coffee person, but that didn't stop me from trying the hot drinks. The first drink that I tried was the iced form of this drink and I thought it was okay, but not one of my favorite drinks. The coffee taste was very strong with this drink and it tasted like there was not much flavor in it. I would rate the Iced version of this drink a **6/10** because it just wasn't what I thought I was getting compared to the name of the drink. The hot version of this drink I though had more flavor to it and tasted better to me, but the sprinkles in the drink with the hot version did not taste that great, so I would rate the hot version of this drink a **7/10** because the flavor of the drink was better, but minus 3 points for the sprinkles making the drink taste poorly.

Chestnut Praline Latte - For this drink, I again was scrolling through Tik Tok and came across a Starbucks lover Anna Sitar who talked about one of her favorite Holiday drinks she looks forward to each year which was the Chestnut Praline Latte. I tried this drink as an Iced drink and loved it, the topping was the best part about it. It did taste a little strong, but it may have been better if I had mixed it before I took a sip. I would give

this drink an 8/10 since the flavor was so good and the toppings made the drink taste like Christmas.

Caramel Brulée Latte - The first time I had this drink it was a Frappuccino and I was on my way to dance on a Saturday morning. My first sip of this drink was amazing and one of the best holiday drinks I've had so far. The toppings on top were the best part and made the drink feel like Christmas. The Caramel flavor is really dramatic with the Frappuccino and it tasted like a dessert which I loved. I would rate the Caramel Brulée Frappuccino a 1000/10 because it was so delicious and the flavor was amazing! I also had the Caramel Brulée latte hot. With the hot latte the flavor was there but it just kind of tasted like a normal coffee and not like a specialty coffee. I did not taste much caramel flavor in it, but again the Brulée toppings were amazing and it was so good! I would rate the Caramel Brulée Hot latte a 10/10 since it was so good.

Toasted White Chocolate Mocha - I got this drink Hot and when I first saw it with the sprinkles on top I thought it was so cute, but that was what made the drink awful. The whole time I was like chewing my drink because of all the sprinkles inside. The taste of the sprinkles with the drink either tasted like cardboard or little bits of an ice cream cone inside of my drink. I would rate this drink a 5/10 because I was basically chewing my hot latte but I will give it 5 points for the delicious flavor!

My original goal was to get every holiday drink in every form they came in. Even though I failed at getting every form of each drink you can still get the overall result of if the drink is good or not. Throughout December so far I got the Caramel Brulee Latte the most because I believe it was the winner of the holiday season.