

# A fun, quirky experience awaits at Rimsky's

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The stream of traffic entering the Victorian home that shelters Rimsky-Korsakoff House might lead the unaware to wonder if it's a crack house or a brothel. But this unassuming building, devoid of a sign to announce its presence, instead contains one of the most beloved coffeehouses in Portland.

Since 1980, Portlanders have flocked to Rimsky's, slipped into a nondescript Southeast Portland street. "Under No Management" announced a sign in the front window—that is, until it was stolen. The cafe's owner, Gudrun Cable, likes to tell this story to illustrate her lack of business sense, but Goody (as she is called) clearly knows what she's doing; although she never advertises, the cafe is always packed. Visitors feel like insiders when they find it. Once inside, signs instruct you to take a menu and find a table—not always an easy prospect, but fellow insiders know not to linger too long unless business is slow.

Choose mocha fudge cake, an ice cream sundae or a slice of cheesecake to go with your cup of coffee or tea—everything's good, though the food's not necessarily the point. Cable has achieved the perfect atmosphere—live classical music and sassy, quirky mischief—for post-event socialization. People love to stop here after dinner or a show. The atmosphere is definitely

not something you will find in a sterile chain coffee place. Live classical music and a funky crowd lure the regulars back. Rimsky's is the perfect place to unwind, read a book, talk with friends, or do some late night socializing.

Each of the dimly-lit tables at Rimsky's greets the customer with an assortment of memorabilia commemorating a famous individual. A piece of glass covering the table shields the memorabilia underneath. A quick comparison with other tables and the theme of famous composers stands out. Besides their clever decorations, some of the tables hold surprises for the uninitiated; to say more would ruin the fun.

Be prepared to meet a special breed of server at Rimsky's. The service is usually prompt, even when they are busy, so the flippant attitude adds to rather than detracts from the atmosphere. When dining at Rimsky's, expect the unexpected.

The drinks are reasonably priced at \$1.25 for a cup of coffee, \$2.25 for a mocha, and \$1.75 for a cappuccino or a latte. The desserts at Rimsky's are a little spendier at \$4 a plate. The coffee shop's claim of "best dessert in Portland" does seem to fit the house special, Mocha Fudge Cake. The dessert tastes like a smooth, chilled brownie. Ice cream sundaes with clever names



Despite being hidden in a small Victorian home, Rimsky-Korsakoff House offers an eclectic atmosphere and many sinful desserts.

such as "Rasputin's Vice" and "Tsar Sultan Suite" also grace the menu.

Finding Rimsky's is the most dif-

ficult part of a visit. Just ask someone who's been there. Rimsky's is located at 707 S.E. 12th Ave. Port-

land, Oregon. Hours are from 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. on weekdays and 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends.

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