

VICTORIA'S TABLE

LOCAL RESTAURANT
REVIEWS BY OIA PEER
ADVISOR, VICTORIA LOMELI



Words by Victoria Lomeli
Photos Courtesy of Victoria
Lomeli and asipcoffee.com

As a college student, I am always looking for great places to study. Going to the library every day can feel monotonous so I generally elect to study at one of the coffee shops in town. Since I moved to Merced, one of my favorites has been Asip Coffee Roasters Co.

Asip is a local coffee spot in downtown Merced. This little cafe was actually founded by a UC Merced Student in November of 2017. Owner Justin, graduated with a Masters in Biology and applied his knowledge towards perfecting their espresso roasts. In addition to their Merced location, there is another in Suzhou, China. Both locations seem to follow the same organic and minimalist theme which creates a comforting and relaxing environment.

When I visited the Merced location for the first time, I was so excited to find a coffee shop that felt like home. I am from the Bay Area and it is speckled with local roastries similar to Asip. The shop is filled with natural light and a very open and airy aesthetic. I ordered my go-to - an iced latte with oat milk - and went to their long table to get started on some school work. The shop had a very chill playlist, making it the perfect place to get work done. I was surprised at how fast my drink was made, considering how



many customers were there. The espresso was nice and balanced and their oat milk wasn't watery at all.

After about an hour and a half of studying, I decided to order another drink and settled on an iced matcha with oat milk. Now, since arriving in Merced I hadn't had a matcha that lived up to my favorite one back home. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the quality and the flavor of the matcha that they served! It was extremely balanced and didn't have the "grassy" flavor that some lower quality matcha has.

They have a range of small bites to accompany your espresso and each one looks delicious. I have yet to try any of their croissants or pastries, but I've only heard great things about them!

Overall, Asip is a consistent favorite of mine and I think it's a great place to get work done. It's a refreshing spot in Merced and an overall solid spot for some great espresso.



[www.asipcoffee.com/](http://www.asipcoffee.com)