



Best Buy coffee makers for any budget

Nine Best Buy machines that look the part and make a great espresso every time

Esspresso makers have grown in popularity over the past 10 years – last year 268,100 were sold. These gadgets make a delicious, fresh cup of coffee and give your kitchen a touch of Italian style – but they don't have to cost the earth.

The Argos Cookworks espresso maker is exceptional value at just £39. If you have more to spend you can choose one of our eight other stylish Best Buys, which cost between £100 and £200.

Our tasting expert, Giles Hilton, head buyer at Whittard of Chelsea, was impressed with the quality of espressos and cappuccinos produced by the newest machines we've tested, and all of our Best Buys are guaranteed to make great coffee.

However, our tests have also uncovered some less impressive models. If you're a true coffee aficionado, the popular Senseo, Tassimo and Dolce Gusto machines won't be for you. They're easy to use and dispense hot drinks quickly, but they score poorly in our taste tests, compared with our Best Buys.

which? MONEY SAVER You can save money by choosing a Best Buy that uses ground coffee or pods rather than capsules (see 'Jargon buster', p30). The ground coffee we use in our tests costs £2 for 100g. ESE pods can cost around £3.82 for 100g. Nespresso capsules, which aren't widely available in supermarkets, cost around £5.40 for 100g, and you have to order a minimum of 50 online.

Expert view

There's an art to making a good espresso, as our expert Lisa Galliers explains

Our Best Buy coffee makers are easy to use, but you can't turn them on and get an espresso immediately.

■ First, you need to prime the machine. Most can be warmed up in a few minutes by running water through them (as if you're making an espresso, but without the coffee).

■ If you're making a cappuccino, drain the steam

pipe of water before you froth the milk, so it isn't diluted.

■ If you use ground coffee, you'll need to clean the filter



basket and porta filter see 'Jargon buster', p30).

The filter basket can fall into the bin when you're dumping the grounds, but there's usually a clip on the porta filter handle to hold it in place. Rinse away any coffee that has stuck to the brew head.

For more advice on making the perfect espresso, watch our video at www.which.co.uk/espressovideo.

Up to £100

Three Best Buys in this category prove that you can find stylish machines that don't cost a fortune



Argos Cookworks 423/0560 £39

Which? test score **77%**

PROS This budget machine makes a superb espresso with a good aroma and flavour, according to our expert. Cappuccinos are good all-round. It's quick and easy to use.

CONS It's not as well built as our other Best Buys, and it can't take ESE pods.

Full review www.which.co.uk/argos4230560

We found it cheapest at Argos
Also available at Argos only



DeLonghi EC330 Coffee Maker £100

Which? test score **76%**

PROS It produces great results using either ground coffee or ESE pods – espressos taste excellent. It froths milk quickly, and the foam on a cappuccino holds well.

CONS The surface marks easily. Some controls may be hard to use if you have a weak grip.

Full review www.which.co.uk/delonghiEC330

We found it cheapest at Comet
Also available at Argos, Currys, House of Fraser



DeLonghi EC270 Coffee Maker £85

Which? test score **75%**

PROS This well-built machine is quick and easy to use. Espressos have a good aroma and dense crema (see 'Jargon buster', p30). The steam pipe is effective.

CONS It'll take up more space in your kitchen, as it's larger than other Best Buys.

Full review www.which.co.uk/delonghiEC270

We found it cheapest at Comet
Also available at Argos, Currys, House of Fraser

£101 - £150

Whether you want to use ground coffee or convenient pods or capsules, there's a Best Buy to suit you



DeLonghi Icona Coffee Maker ECO310B £150

Which? test score **79%**

PROS Espressos and cappuccinos scored highly in our taste tests. It's well built, and the steam pipe froths milk quickly. The matching two-slice toaster and kettle are Best Buys.

CONS It takes 15 minutes to warm up after you switch it on.

Full review www.which.co.uk/delonghi310B

We found it cheapest at Currys
Also available at Argos, House of Fraser, John Lewis



Magimix M100 Nespresso 11259 £130

Which? test score **76%**

PROS The Magimix M100 is compact, easy to use and makes a good espresso and cappuccino. The milk frothing accessory creates dense froth in just 60 seconds.

CONS Uses Nespresso capsules only. The drip tray is harder to remove than others.

Full review www.which.co.uk/magimixM100

We found it cheapest at John Lewis
Also available at Comet, House of Fraser



Lavazza A Modo Mio Red £120

Which? test score **72%**

PROS One of the best non-Nespresso capsule machines we've tested. It creates a great espresso, is quick to steam milk, making a good cappuccino, and it's easy to use.

CONS Takes A Modo Mio capsules only. It doesn't froth milk as well as other Best Buys.

Full review at www.which.co.uk/amodomio

We found it cheapest at House of Fraser
Also available at Debenhams, John Lewis

£151 - £200

Three smart models for those with a little more to spend.
Like all our Best Buys, they make great-tasting coffee



Magimix CitiZ & Milk M190 11300 £200

Which? test score **81%**

PROS This impressive-looking model is one of our top-scoring Nespresso-only capsule machines. Espressos are full, dark and intense, and creamy, sweet cappuccinos are easy to make with the Aeroccino frothing accessory. This model's well built, easy to use and works quickly. It's available to buy without the milk frother.

CONS The unusual design means it's harder to keep clean. It's tricky to remove the drip tray without spilling the contents when it's full.

Full review www.which.co.uk/magimix11300

We found it cheapest at John Lewis
Also available at Comet, House of Fraser



Dualit Espresso 84202 £170

Which? test score **78%**

PROS The Espresso quickly makes an espresso with a bright, fresh and clean taste. It gets the best from the ground coffee and produces a full and sweet aroma. The machine's easy to use, and when you steam milk for cappuccinos you'll get long-lasting foam. It can take ground coffee or ESE pods.

CONS It's slow to steam milk, and the exterior is quite hard to keep clean, especially the stainless steel back plate. The steam knob can be difficult to turn.

Full review www.which.co.uk/dualit84202

We found it cheapest at John Lewis
Also available at Argos, Comet, Currys



Cuisinart EM200U Espresso Maker £180

Which? test score **73%**

PROS This modern-looking Best Buy is well built. It makes a good espresso using ground coffee, and our expert found that using ESE pods results in an espresso with balanced flavours and 'lovely density'. The steam pipe is good at frothing milk, which mixes well with the coffee to make a good cappuccino.

CONS The espresso wasn't as hot as it could be. The brushed stainless steel body marks easily. You'll need a good grip to turn the steam knob.

Full review www.which.co.uk/cuisinartEM200U

We found it cheapest at House of Fraser
Also available at All good cookshops

JARGON BUSTER

Coffee-making terms made simple

■ **ESE pod** An ESE or 'easy serving espresso' pod holds 7g of coffee (enough for one espresso) between two pieces of filter paper – like a big tea bag. They're a standard size and are available in different brands at major supermarkets. Like coffee grounds, ESE pods can be composted.

■ **Capsule** A sealed pot of ground coffee (enough for one cup). Capsule machines will only take their own brand of capsules.



Lavazza A Modo Mio capsules are available at major supermarkets (£3.59 for 16). Nespresso capsules are available at www.nespresso.co.uk.

■ **Senseo pods** Senseo pods shouldn't be confused with ESE pods. They're larger and only fit in Senseo machines (see 'Hot drinks makers', opposite), but you can buy them in most supermarkets.

■ **Filter basket** This is where you put your ground coffee or ESE pod.



■ Porta filter

The removable part of the coffee machine that holds the filter basket.

■ **Brew head** The porta filter fits here.

■ **Steam pipe** This produces the steam that is used to froth milk for cappuccinos.

■ **Drip tray** This catches any water or coffee dripping from the machine once an espresso has been made. It can get dirty and will need to be emptied.

■ **Crema** The golden froth that should sit on the surface of a good espresso.

MODEL

GROUND COFFEE/ ESE PODS

DE'LONGHI Icona Coffee Maker ECO310B

DUALIT Espresso 84202

ARGOS COOKWORKS Signature 423/0560

DE'LONGHI EC330 Coffee Maker

DE'LONGHI EC270 Coffee Maker

CUISINART EM200U Espresso Maker

CAPSULES

MAGIMIX CitiZ & Milk Nespresso M190 11300

MAGIMIX M100 Nespresso 11259

LAVAZZA A Modo Mio Red

a No build quality rating (this model was tested in

HOT DRINKS MAKERS

We rate the Senseo, Tassimo and Dolce Gusto

Hot drinks makers are different from espresso machines – they dispense a range of drinks (not just espresso) by passing hot water through a unique capsule or pod.

The Bosch Tassimo (£118) uses its own T-Discs (£3.10 for eight), while the Nescafé Dolce Gusto machine (£90) only uses Dolce Gusto capsules (£3.21 for 16). The Philips Senseo (£150) uses its own coffee pods (£2.11 for 18) and produces

80ml of coffee (larger than an espresso). None takes ground coffee or ESE pods.

These machines are popular. They're quick and easy to use, but they performed badly in our taste tests. Our expert said the results lacked real coffee character. See www.which.co.uk for the full reviews.

We think that if you're after a good quality espresso, you'd be better off with one of our Best Buy espresso machines.



Hot drinks makers are quick and easy to use



Which.co.uk
Coffee machines

What has happened to Gaggia?

We have more than 20 Best Buys at www.which.co.uk/coffeemachines, including bean-to-cup and Gaggia models. Gaggia machines weren't included in this article owing to availability issues, but at the time of going to press we heard that more stock is winging its way to the UK.



USING THE TABLE

The more stars the better.

Specification

Price For Best Buys we give the cheapest widely available high-street price as we go to press. Other prices are a guide to what you should expect to pay.

Ground coffee / ESE pods / Capsules

The coffee format that the machine takes.

Performance

Taste test – ground coffee/ESE pods/capsules How good the coffee extraction is.

Speed of making an espresso From pressing the go button to when the espresso is ready to drink.

Milk frothing The time taken to produce steam and to heat milk to 70°C.

Ease of use How easy the machine is to set up, use, fill, empty and clean.

Test score

This ignores price and is based on:

Ground coffee/ESE pods

Taste test **60%**
Performance **20%**
Ease of use **15%**
Build quality **5%**

Capsules

Taste test **60%**
Performance **25%**
Ease of use **10%**
Build quality **5%**

Contacts

Argos Cookworks
0845 640 3030
www.argos.co.uk

Bosch Tassimo
0844 892 9049
www.bosch-home.co.uk

Cuisinart
0870 240 6902
www.cuisinart.co.uk

DeLonghi
023 9247 6000
www.delonghi.co.uk

Dualit 01293 652500
www.dualit.co.uk

Lavazza
0800 599 9200
www.lavazzamodomoio.co.uk

Magimix
01483 427411
www.magimix.co.uk

Nescafé Dolce Gusto
0800 707 6066
www.dolce-gusto.co.uk

Nespresso 0800 442 442
www.nespresso.co.uk

Philips Senseo
01753 508123
www.senseo.co.uk

SPECIFICATION				WHICH? TEST PERFORMANCE							SCORE (%)
PRICE (£)	GROUND COFFEE	ESE PODS	CAPSULES	TASTE TEST GROUND COFFEE	TASTE TEST ESE PODS	TASTE TEST CAPSULES	SPEED OF MAKING ESPRESSO	MILK FROTHING	EASE OF USE	BUILD QUALITY	
150	✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	79
170	✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★		★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	78
39	✓			★★★★★			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	77
100	✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★		★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	See a	76
85	✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	75
180	✓	✓		★★★★★	★★★★★		★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	73
200			✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	81
130			✓			★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	76
120			✓			★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	72

2008 when build quality wasn't assessed)