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## FIFTEEN SERVES FIRST UK-GROWN COFFEE

**Date : 12.01.08**

A celebrated Cornish restaurant has served a steaming cup of what is thought to be the first ever coffee grown in the UK.

The tropical climate of an Eden Project biome provided the right environment to nurture the demanding Arabica coffee beans.

Yesterday, the beans were roasted, ground and served by Tristan Stephenson, the man behind the idea, at Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant at Watergate Bay near Newquay.



Mr Stephenson, a coffee lover and the bar manager at Fifteen, said: "I was wandering around the Eden Project and saw the coffee cherries and thought - could we actually harvest this and turn it into something drinkable?"

Mr Stephenson said that after endless Internet searches, he has not found any other coffee being grown and harvested in the UK. He said: "It's very exciting - it's only possible because of Eden's unique climate."

Tom Sobey, owner of the Falmouth-based Origin coffee company and supplier to Fifteen, set the project in motion. He said: "It took a huge amount of time and effort to get about 250 grams of coffee - probably enough for 30 cups. It's really opened my eyes to what you have to do in order to get coffee beans."

As the first cups were poured at the Fifteen counter, Mr Stephenson adopted a bent stance and slurped the coffee before the assembled photographers and television cameramen. He said that in tasting coffee, one must first break the surface shell with a spoon to release the aromas.

Pronouncing his verdict, he said: "It tastes good. It's quite mellow."

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