



A CAT SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: AFFOGATO

By Aspen Capocci

Cat lovers unite!

Have you been missing your furry friend back home, or wishing you had a cozy spot to unwind and melt your stress away with a little kitten-based therapy? Well, look no further than [Affogato Cat Café](#). This Italian-style café is located in the cozy neighborhood of Fells Point in an incredibly charming and welcoming little building. The location itself is lovely: tucked on the corner of St. Wolfe Street and Fleet Street, in a historic brick building with adorable signage and cozy plants lining the doorway. Affogato in Baltimore is an ideal place for students to visit for a stress-relieving break from the pressures of college life and a chance to engage with the Baltimore community.

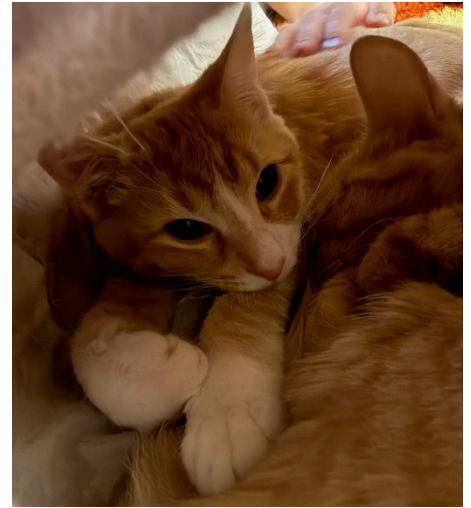
When I visited Affogato for the first time, it was genuinely life-changing. The atmosphere struck the perfect balance between cozy and vibrant, and the staff couldn't have been more welcoming. They clearly care about both the cats and their guests, making everyone feel right at home. But, of course, the stars of the show are the adorable kittens: each one curious, affectionate, and full of personality. Whether they're chasing toy mice, curling up on the windowsill, or taking a nap on a beanbag chair, it's impossible not to smile. All of the kittens have adorable and unique names, one apt example being a trio of cats I met—Winifred, Mary, and Sarah—named after the Sanderson sisters in the film *Hocus Pocus*. They each boast different personalities, preferences, and habits, which the kind volunteers and staff members are happy to tell you more about whenever you ask.

Café Offerings

The drinks, of course, are a highlight at this café, with an extensive menu that offers something for every palate and season. During the colder months, you can wrap your hands around a steaming mug of their expertly crafted cappuccinos, velvety lattes, or rich hot chocolates, each made with care and high-quality ingredients. If you're visiting in the summer, you'll find a variety of iced coffees, cold brews, and refreshing teas



that provide an energizing pick-me-up. One standout beverage is their chai latte—a perfect blend of aromatic spices, balanced with just the right touch of sweetness. The creamy texture and fragrant warmth made it the ideal comforting drink to enjoy during the chilly month of November, instantly lifting my spirits as I took the first sip. Whether you're a coffee expert or simply looking for a delicious treat, Affogato's drink selection adds another layer of enjoyment to the café experience.



A Loyola View

However, I didn't visit alone. I brought along my good friend and fellow Loyola student, Kate Havran, from the Class of 2029. She was more than eager to help me share with you all what makes Affogato so special. She also added, "I think it's a great place to unwind, especially for college students. You get to play with adorable kittens and pet them to destress."

Perspectives on Affogato

Ever since I visited the Café for the first time, I was eager to go back. . . so I did! While I was there, I had the pleasure of speaking to the owner, Tony Cusimano, about both the business aspect of the café and the more personal touches that make it such a special place to visit. I learned that Affogato is a new business; it opened its doors for the first time in May of 2025. They regularly welcome new rescue kittens, typically every week or two. When asked what he loved most about the café, Cusimano answered, "I started the place because I love coffee, I love cats, and I love seeing people have a good time with the cats. I can tell when someone's having a rough day, or maybe their cat just passed away. Whenever they hold a cat and the cat looks content and they start purring, or they close their eyes and they fall asleep, I just love that, it's my favorite part."

I also got the perspectives of two others I met there. First, I spoke to Makela Shields, a barista and front desk worker at Affogato. When asked what her favorite part of working at Affogato is, Shields replied, "I like getting to see people leave the cat room after playing with the cats. I feel like they come out of the room happier than when they arrived here. That's always really rewarding." Afterwards, I spoke with Kasey Chan, a fellow customer who had just finished meeting the cats during their first-ever visit. Chan stated, "I liked the person who was telling us about the cats, who was very helpful and very kind about it—and just the vibe of the whole visit was very nice." Chan elaborated that the decorations in the café, including a disco ball and bedazzled restrooms, made the visit feel fun and memorable.



Their Mission

As stated on their website, Affogato has an admirable mission to provide a safe space where the community can connect with each other, re-energize, and possibly adopt kittens that need forever homes. They also write, “studies show that spending time with animals can help reduce stress, increase serotonin, and provide companionship. Cat cafés are also a great way for humans to experience the joys of cats if their living situation doesn't allow for it.” believe Affogato's mission aligns with [Loyola's core value](#) of community. The café provides a comforting space where the Baltimore and Loyola community can come together, united by a shared love of cats, coffee, and community.



Nearby Food and Fun

Looking for other things to do in the area after your visit to Affogato? Well, fear not! I have a few places I would highly suggest you check out during your visit to Fell's Point. For food, a few places I would recommend are [Kippo Ramen](#), [Papi's Tacos](#), and [Ekiben](#) (a Fell's Point staple!). And if you were hoping to go shopping in the area, or maybe go for some dessert, there are plenty of options for that as well! [The Sound Garden](#) is a unique store for vinyl records, CDs, posters, and lots of unique items for avid music lovers. And if you want to get something sweet afterwards, [Kilwins](#) can offer a delicious treat—fudge, ice cream, caramel apples, popcorn—they have it all!

Why it Matters

My experience at Affogato was unforgettable: both relaxing and heartwarming. After a long, busy week at Loyola filled with classes, assignments, and unpredictable college chaos, stepping into the cozy atmosphere of Affogato allows you to step away from everything stressful for a while. The soothing scent of coffee, the soft purring of kittens, and the friendly conversations create a sense of calm that all of us could use. Affogato is a place for cat lovers to recharge, smile, and simply enjoy the moment. Whether you're a lifelong cat lover or just someone looking for a comforting escape from the chaos of college life, Affogato Cat Café offers the perfect blend of coffee, community, and cuddly companionship.



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