

## THE SEMIFINALISTS

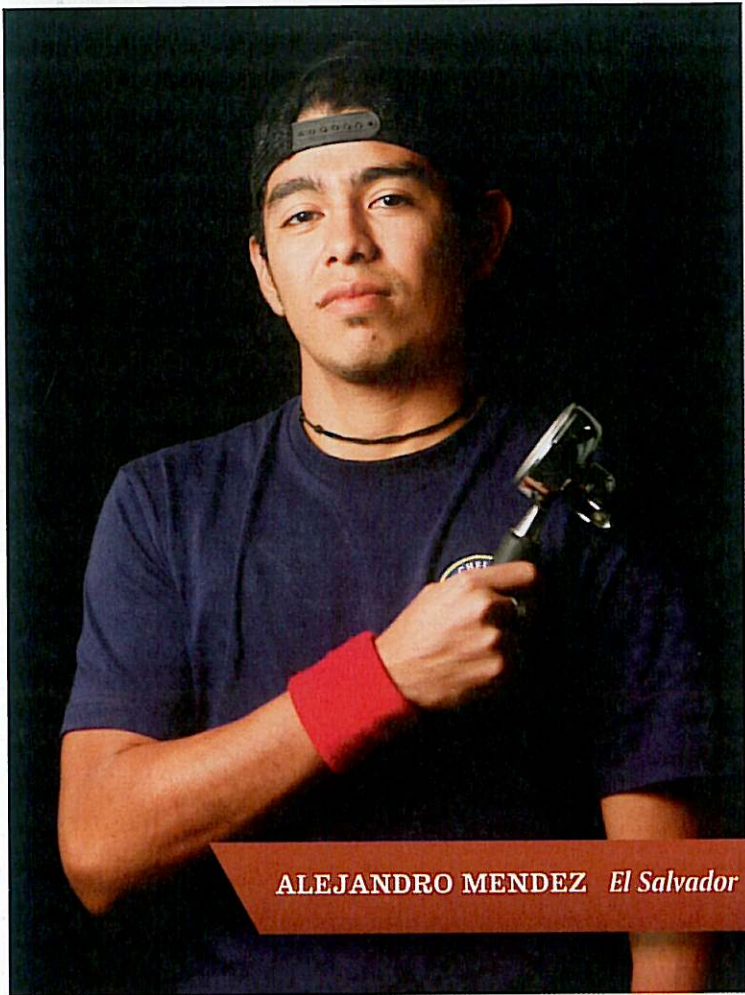
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 11-YEAR HISTORY, THE WORLD BARISTA CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2010 INCLUDED NOT JUST A PRELIMINARY AND FINAL ROUND, BUT A SEMIFINAL ROUND, AS WELL. WITH MORE THAN 50 NATIONAL BARISTA CHAMPIONS CONVERGING ON THE WBC STAGE, THIS YEAR IN LONDON, THE COMPETITION FOR ONE OF THE SIX SPOTS IN THE FINAL ROUND WAS ESPECIALLY TOUGH. IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE BARISTAS WHO TRAVELED SO FAR THE LIMELIGHT THEY DESERVE, AND AS A MEANS OF EVEN MORE SPECIFICALLY DETERMINING THE BEST BARISTA OF THE WBC, THE SEMIFINAL ROUND WAS ADDED FOR THE TOP 12 BARISTAS OUT OF THE INITIAL, PRELIMINARY GROUP.

THE INCLUSION OF THE SEMIFINALS ROUND WAS A CHALLENGE, AS—DUE TO TIME LIMITATIONS—THE SEMIFINAL ROUND WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY AS THE FINAL. BUT BARISTAS AND ORGANIZERS AGREED IN THE END THAT IT WAS A WELCOME CHANGE TO THE TRADITIONAL FORMAT.

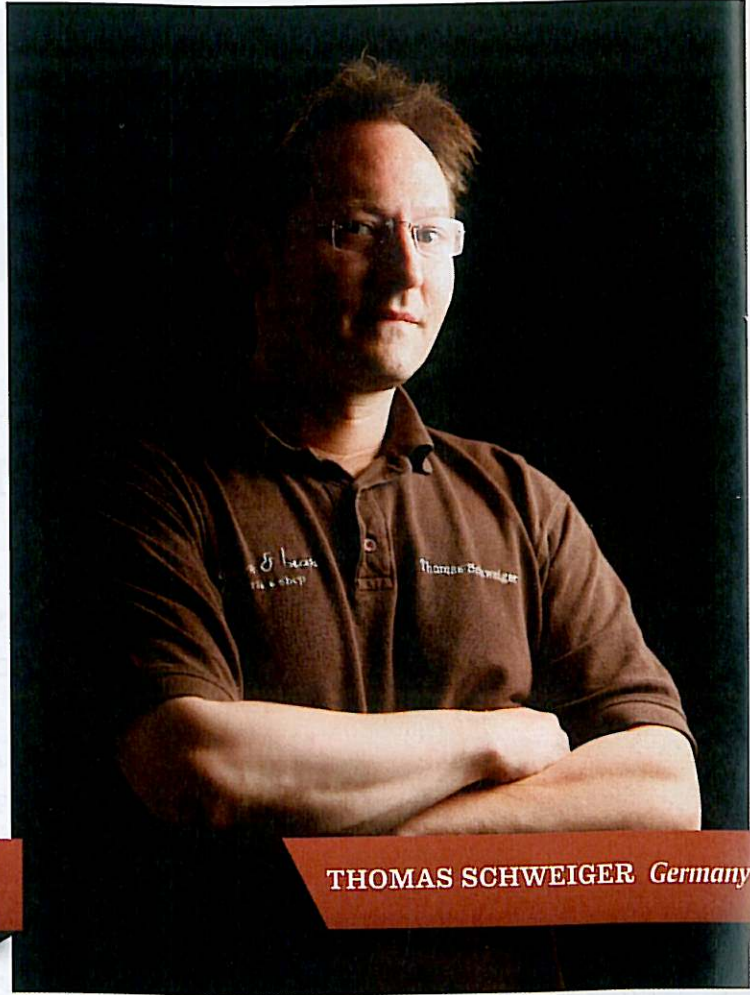
THE 2010 SEMIFINAL ROUND WAS INDEED EXCITING, WITH A WHOPPING FIVE BARISTAS REPRESENTING CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN COFFEE PRODUCING COUNTRIES EACH EARNING ONE OF THE COVETED 12 SPOTS.

PRESENTED HERE ARE YOUR 2010 WBC SEMIFINALISTS.

*Photos by David S. Holloway*

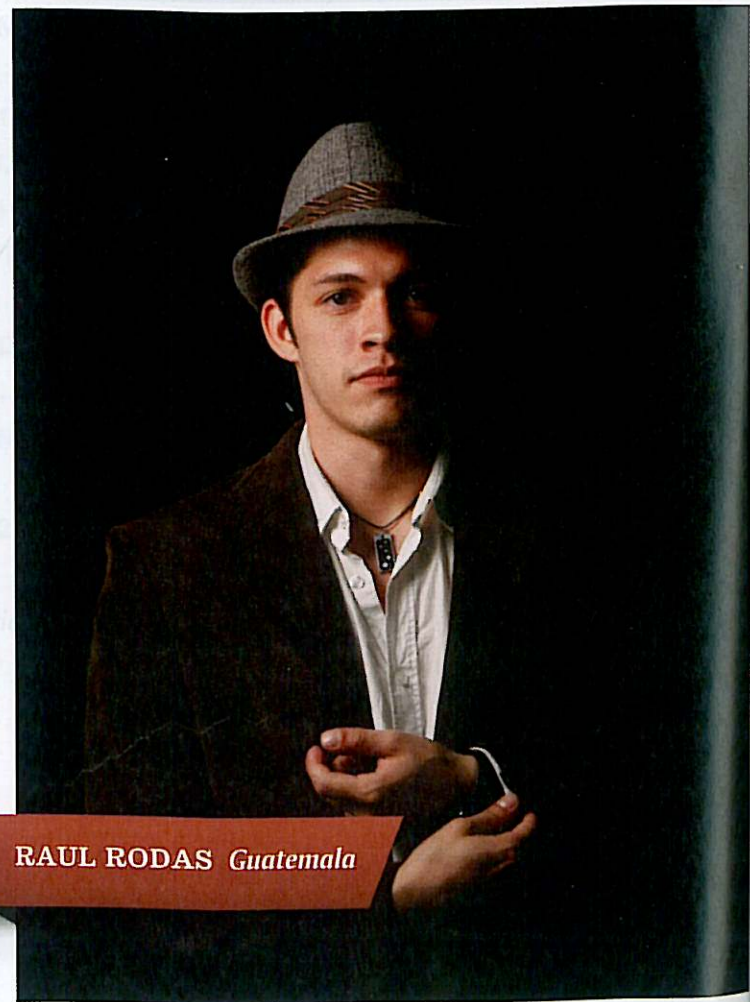
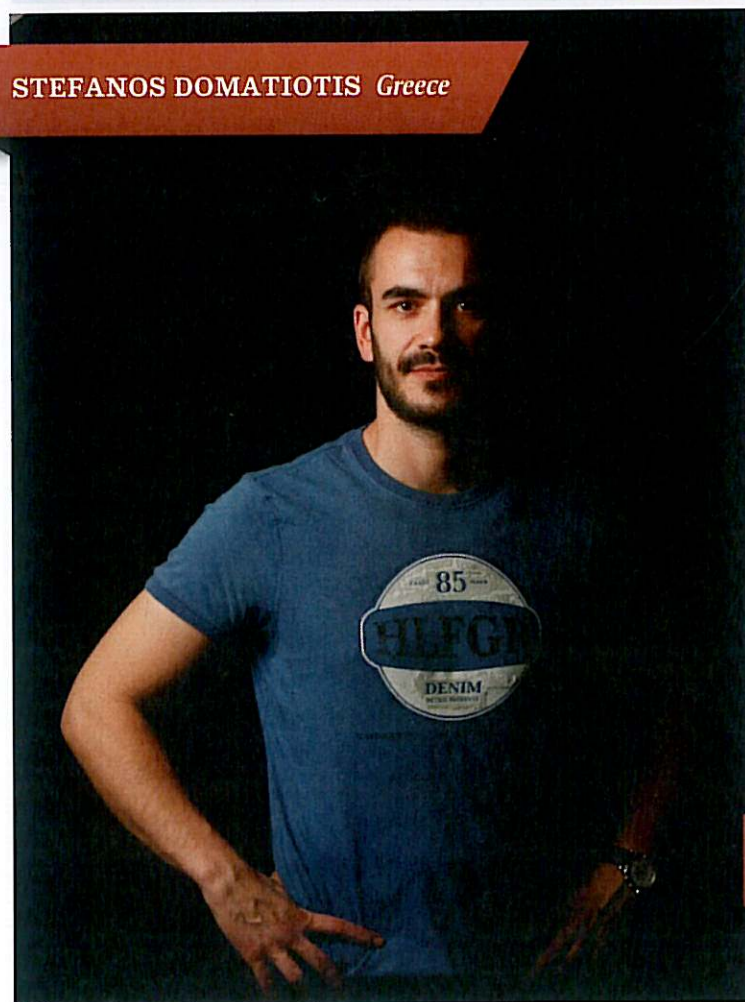


ALEJANDRO MENDEZ *El Salvador*



THOMAS SCHWEIGER *Germany*

STEFANOS DOMATIOTIS *Greece*



RAUL RODAS *Guatemala*