CLAIMS

1. A delivery unit (1) for an apparatus for making a beverage, in particular for making an espresso coffee, the delivery unit (1) comprising:

- a cup-shaped body (2) delimiting an inner chamber (20), the cup-shaped body (2) comprising a lateral wall (21) and a bottom wall (23);
- an infeed spout (3) for introducing beverage into the inner chamber (20);
- an outfeed opening (45) through which the beverage can come out of the inner chamber (20), the outfeed opening (45) being positioned in a central portion of the bottom wall (23);
- a partition wall (5) located in the inner chamber (20) and surrounding the outfeed opening (45), the partition wall (5) dividing the inner chamber (20) into a peripheral region (26) and a central region (28), the outfeed opening (45) being in the central region (28),

characterised in that the infeed spout (3) is designed to introduce the beverage into the peripheral region (26) of the inner chamber (20) with a direction substantially tangential to the lateral wall (21); and

wherein the partition wall (5) comprises a plurality of passage openings (55) for allowing the beverage to pass from the peripheral region (26) to the central region (28).

2. The delivery unit (1) according to claim 1, wherein said passage openings (55) are regularly positioned along an annular path around the outfeed opening (45), the passage openings (55) being substantially evenly spaced.

3. The delivery unit (1) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the partition wall (5) comprises a plurality of projections or teeth (51) extending in the inner chamber (20) from the bottom wall (23), said projections or teeth (51) being positioned near to one another along an annular path around the outfeed opening (45), said projections or teeth (51) being at a distance from one another and said passage openings (55) being gaps between said projections or teeth (51).

4. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein each of said passage openings (55) forms a respective beverage transit stretch which is substantially radial relative to a central axis (450) of the outfeed opening (45).

5. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the infeed spout (3) is positioned at an infeed opening (35) located in the lateral wall (21).

6. The delivery unit (1) according to claim 5, wherein the infeed spout (3) extends outside the lateral wall (21) with at least one stretch (30) which is substantially tangential to the lateral wall (21).

7. The delivery unit (1) according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said infeed opening (35) is at a distance from the bottom wall (23).

8. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the lateral wall (21) and the partition wall (5) are substantially cylindrical or substantially frusto-conical, the lateral wall (21) and the partition wall (5) being coaxial and the peripheral region (26) being an annular region.

9. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the bottom wall (23) is sloping from the lateral wall (21) towards the outfeed opening (45).

10. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 9, comprising an outfeed spout (4) extending outside the bottom wall (23) and in communication with the outfeed opening (45).

11. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the cup-shaped body (2) comprises a bottom portion (42) in which the central region (28) extends at a height lower than the peripheral region (26), said bottom portion (42) forming a transit chamber (43) intended to collect the beverage that has passed from the peripheral region (26) to the central region (28) and to make the beverage flow towards the outfeed opening (45).

12. The delivery unit (1) according to claim 11, wherein the outfeed opening

(45) is on the bottom of the transit chamber (43) and its dimensions are smaller than the bottom wall (23) of the transit chamber (43), the bottom wall (23) having an annular shape and the transit chamber (43) comprising a lateral wall (44) that is at a distance from the outfeed opening (45).

13. The delivery unit (1) according to claim 12, wherein the bottom wall (23) of the transit chamber (43) and the outfeed opening (45) have a circular shape, the diameter (D45) of the outfeed opening (45) being less than half of the diameter (D23) of the bottom wall (23).

14. The delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 13, comprising a lid (8) fixed to the cup-shaped body (2), wherein the lid (8) comprises at least one through hole (85) which puts in communication the central region (28) of the inner chamber (20) and an environment outside the delivery unit (1).

15. An apparatus for making a beverage, in particular a machine for making an espresso coffee, comprising an infusion chamber designed for making a beverage by infusion of a food substance with water, the apparatus also comprising a delivery unit (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the infeed spout (3) of the delivery unit (1) is connected to an outfeed duct of the infusion chamber.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15, also comprising a pump designed to pressurise infusion water to a pressure of at least 4 bar.

17. A method for supplying a beverage, in particular an espresso coffee, comprising the steps of:

- making the beverage by infusion of a food substance with pressurised water at a pressure of at least 4 bar;
- introducing the beverage into a degassing chamber (20) which is at atmospheric pressure, the beverage being introduced at an introducing region (35);
- allowing the beverage to come out of the degassing chamber (20) in an outfeed region (45) which is at a distance from the introducing region (35),

wherein, between the introducing region (35) and the outfeed region (45), the beverage performs a movement with a free surface,

wherein, during the movement between the introducing region (35) and the outfeed region (45), the beverage loses at least part of the air and/or vapour that the beverage contains upon being introduced into the degassing chamber (20) and the beverage passes through a member (5) provided with a plurality of passage openings (55), said member (5) preventing the passage of air bubbles and/or vapour bubbles which are contained in the beverage and have dimensions larger than the dimensions of the passage openings (55).

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the outfeed region (45) is in a central region of the degassing chamber (20) and wherein the beverage is introduced into the degassing chamber (20) with an introducing direction that is substantially tangential to a lateral wall of the degassing chamber (20), the movement of the beverage with a free surface between the introducing region (35) and the outfeed region (45) comprising a motion substantially tangential to the lateral wall and a substantially radial motion towards the central region.