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# TEA TALK:

NEWS FROM ACQUIRED TASTES TEA COMPANY

Issue 6

Spring 1999

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## Greetings!

Mother's day is right around the corner! Check out our great Mother's day gift ideas. And Mom's, if there's a tea or gift you'd especially like to receive, make it easy on your family & have it recorded in our Connoisseurs' Club registry. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

*Colleen*

## What's New?

### New Bulk Teas:

-**Bella Coola**- An herbal fruit blend – orange & pineapple flavoured.

-**Bai Mu Dan (Jasmine Wheels)**- Long Jasmine tealeaves tied into a wheel shape. Definitely a must-see!

-**Mango Ceylon**- Our newest bulk offering from The Republic of Tea.

-**Ceylon- Courtlodge Estate**- A 2nd flush pure Sri Lankan tea.

### New From Tazo:

- **Om**, an organic green Darjeeling tea, and **Green Ginger** a ginger -pear blend.

### New From TRoT:

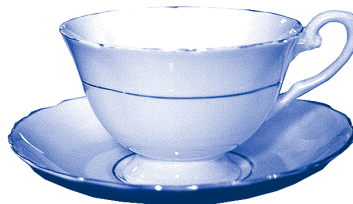
-**Republic Chai**, is now available in liquid concentrate form, along with 3 other chais: **Decaf Republic Chai**, Green tea **Chai of Many Virtues**, and **Maté Latté Chai**.

### New Products:

-**Teasickles**- 5 different flavouring spoons to stir your tea with.

-**Tea Syrups**- Flavour any tea with Peach-Apricot or Honey-Lemon

## ACQUIRED TASTES TEA COMPANY



*"Savouring the Good Life"*

## Mother's Day

Do you have a mother who has everything? If so, tea is a great Mother's Day gift that she can actually use up. In addition to her usual favourites, we have created a special **Mother's Blend**, containing her afternoon favourites- Earl Grey, Rose tea & Darjeeling.

### Other Mother's Day Gift Ideas:

- Tea cozies & matching scented hot pads.
- Tub tea for the bath.
- Gift baskets- choose from our selection or design your own!
- Tea-scented candles

## Tea at the Bagel Tree

The Bagel Tree Café on Whyte Avenue & 103<sup>rd</sup> Street is now serving some of our Acquired Tastes tea blends! Every Wednesday & Thursday from 1-5pm they have two wonderful afternoon tea packages available. Be sure to stop by Acquired Tastes to pick up a discount coupon for The Bagel Tree's afternoon tea, while quantities last!

## Upcoming Events Tea Tastings

**Wednesday, June 9th, 7 p.m.**  
**Theme: Green Teas**

Broaden your horizons- attend a tasting of pure & flavoured green teas, and a presentation on how to prepare green tea, what tastes to expect from it, what foods to serve with it, and a summary of the health research that has been done on green tea to date.

**Monday, July 26, 7 p.m.**  
**Theme: Tea & History**

A tea tasting being held in conjunction with Historic Edmonton Week (July 24-Aug.1), we will look at how tea has impacted world history and Edmonton's history, and taste teas that mark the progress of tea preferences through time.

## Cost for Tea Tastings:

Cost for each tasting is \$5 per person. To guarantee your spot, payment must be made in advance, either at the shop or over the phone by credit card. Should you need to cancel, you will receive credit to attend a future tasting, but no refunds. Attendance is limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment.

## Tea Time Etiquette

### One lump or two?

Although the Chinese rarely added milk or sugar to their teas, it is believed that the British began the practice to take the “edge” off astringent black teas. The practice spread to British colonies, and now many blends created for these destinations are made specifically to withstand milk and sweetener. Other practices? – The Russians introduced adding lemon to tea rather than milk, and Tibetans add yak butter to their brew.

There are certain types of teas most commonly enjoyed straight, such as white teas, green teas, most flavoured teas, and most herbal teas. With traditional black teas, however, many of us choose to add milk, sugar, lemon or honey. But not all at once please!

Here are some generally accepted “rules” - but as in everything- suit your own tastes:

- Never use cream.
- Sugar is OK, but it eliminates the tea’s natural flavours somewhat.
- Milk & lemon together is No-No. (lemon could curdle the milk)

## Did you Know?...

.... That virtually any tea out there can be made into a great iced tea?! Chances are, if you enjoy a tea hot, you’ll also enjoy it over ice during those hot summer months to come. (My personal iced favourites are mango and strawberry!)

### Brewed Iced Tea Method:

Pick your tea, and prepare it hot as usual. If you plan to pour over ice, use twice as much tea as usual, but steep for the regular amount of time (3-5 minutes). If you plan to sweeten the tea, do so while it’s hot. Strain the tea and cool at least to room temperature before pouring over ice. If you aren’t using ice, refrigerate til the tea is cool enough to serve.

### Sun Tea/Refrigerator Tea:

Put 1 tsp. to 2 cups of water in a pitcher & sweeten if desired. Cover & set in sun for about one hour. Strain and serve over ice. Alternatively, the tea can be brewed overnight in the refrigerator, rather than in the sun. \*Some believe these methods are less healthy than the brewed method, since the tea leaves are not cleansed with boiling water.\*



*“Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea.”*

*-Henry Fielding*

## Feature Tea

### China Yunnan

The Yunnan province of China is believed to be one of the places where the tea plant originated. With this long history of tea growing, it’s not surprising that Yunnan produces some excellent teas. Confusingly, not all teas grown in Yunnan are named after the province. For example, the unique musty tasting Pu-Er tea we featured in our Winter 1998 Newsletter is also grown in Yunnan province, but results in a very different cup from the tea that is sold under the name of “Yunnan.”

“Yunnan” is one of the few black teas that China grows, and it has only been in production since 1939. It is grown from a broad-leaved tea plant native to the area. The tea is very beautiful, often displaying golden “tips” at the end of the leaves. The taste has a slight peppery quality to it, and is often described as rich and mocha-like. A great tea to be enjoyed with or without milk, any time of day.

Please forward newsletter ideas or questions, address updates as well as mail orders to:

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**Store hours: Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Thursdays 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Closed Sundays**