
TEA TALK:

NEWS FROM ACQUIRED TASTES TEA COMPANY

Issue 10

Fall 2000

HO HO HO!?

With August barely past, holiday shopping may be far from your mind, but we have already started receiving our holiday season merchandise! We've also been working on a new mailorder catalogue. Give us a shout if you'd like to receive one. Hope to see you soon!
~Colleen

What's New?

Dripless Teapot Gadgets:

These little gizmos actually stop drips on most teapots. Eureka!

Bewley's of Ireland:

Irish breakfast & afternoon teas, straight from the Emerald Isle.

New from the Republic Tea:

-New decaf teas in 50 teabag tins:
Teddy's Tea Party (also known as Straw-Cherry Cha-Cha), **Wild Berry Plum** green tea & **Kiwi Pear** green tea.
-**Raspberry Quince Tea Jam** made with the Republic's tasty Raspberry Quince tea.

Some of the items arriving over the next few months:

-Hard Water Blend **Yorkshire Tea**- A perfect tea for Edmonton's water!
-English **Betty teapots** in colours other than brown!
-New jams and honeys from the company headed by the current Earl Grey! (Yes, he is a real person.)
-Twinings teas from England (superior to Twinings' North American blends.)

ACQUIRED TASTES TEA COMPANY



"Savouring the Good Life"

Mystery Tea!

When you think of Halloween, tea may not come immediately to mind. But this year we have decided to celebrate Halloween by blending a tasty mystery tea- the ultimate tea tasting challenge!! Our mystery tea is available in bulk, and it could contain plain & flavoured teas, flowers, herbs or fruits. The person who comes the closest to unraveling the mystery ingredients will win a loose tea sampler pack! The mystery tea will be revealed November 15th, so you have until then to make your guesses.

Attention Teapot Collectors!

We have received a catalogue from the Cardew British teapottery. Cardew produces hand-crafted pots in unique shapes, such as sewing machines, china cabinets & Disney characters. (They also have a series matching Royal Albert's Country Roses.) We plan to order some of their more generic pots in September, but if you are interested in special ordering a collectable pot for yourself or as a Christmas gift, come check out the catalogue by Sept. 20th.

Upcoming Events

Tea Tasting:

Wednesday, Sept. 20th, 7 p.m.
Theme: "Tea with the Queen"

A tasting of British-style tea blends, including some popular brands like Taylor's of Harrogate. In addition to learning about these teas, we will also discuss the etiquette for taking tea with the Queen and other royalty. (You never know when you might be invited, so it's best to be prepared!!) A light-hearted finale to our tea tasting year.

Cost: \$5/person plus GST, non-refundable & due at the time of registration to guarantee your spot. Cancellations with 24 hrs notice receive credit to attend a future tasting. If you do not wish to reserve in advance, you may phone Sept. 20th to check availability, & pay at the door if space is available. Attendance is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Christmas Preview Party
Sunday Nov. 12, 12 - 4pm
(Drop-by anytime!)

Did you know that we are open every Sunday in November & December until Christmas? Help us kick off the holiday season with our annual Connoisseur Club party! Join us on Nov. 12 to get first dibs on the new Christmas arrivals, to sample gourmet foods & (of course) Christmas teas, win door prizes and more! It's also a great time to update your tea registry so that we can help advise family & friends to choose tea gifts you'll really enjoy.



*"The cozy fire is bright and gay, The merry kettle boils away
And hums a cheerful song. I sing the saucer and the cup;
Pray Mary, fill the teapot up, And do not make it strong."*

-Barry Pain "The Poets at Tea"

Feature Tea: ~East Frisian Tea~

East Frisian tea is a traditional blend hailing from Ostriesland in the Northwest of Germany. More tea is consumed in East Frisia than in any other part of Germany. While there is no exact recipe, it is generally strong and robust tea, composed primarily of black Indian Assams.

Our East Frisian blend is great as a breakfast tea, especially with milk & sugar. However, if you want to make authentic East Frisian tea, there are a few rules to observe. First, the tea should be brewed as a concentrate. Use one teaspoon of tea per cup as usual, but then only fill your teapot about 1/3 full. Add boiling water and steep on the stovetop for a few minutes. Then fill up the rest of the pot with boiling water. Allow a few more minutes of steeping, & then strain out the tealeaves. Although the tea may get quite dark & bitter, some East Frisians will leave their tea on the stove throughout the day to keep it warm. (Only try this with a burner-proof teapot!)

Not surprisingly, traditional East Frisian tea is enjoyed with vast amounts of rock sugar and thick cream. The tea is not stirred, but remains in rich layers. If this sounds too high-cal for you, never fear- the tea itself is calorie-free and can be enjoyed "straight-up", or with regular milk or sugar if you prefer.

Yixing Teapots

Functional Works of Art

The small clay teapots you may have noticed in our shop are examples of Yixingware. Yixing teapots originate from the North-Eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu. Yixing (pronounced ee-shing) is the only place in the world that produces zisha clay, the porous clay used to make these unique pots. Over time, the clay will absorb tea flavours, giving the pot a glossy patina, & producing a superior cup of tea. It is said that one can brew tea by merely pouring water into a well-seasoned Yixing pot!

Yixing pots are functional works of art. The bottom of each pot is imprinted with a "chop mark", or the mark of the artist who created it. The chop mark also helps identify a true Yixing pot from an imitation made with inferior clay. Although beautiful, these pots are meant to be used. They are certified lead-free, and pour wonderfully!

Phone Orders & Extended Hours

To avoid waiting for your bulk tea order to be filled during the busy holiday season, feel free to phone us in advance so we can have it ready for you.

Extended Holiday Shopping Hours

Sunday Hours:

In November: 12 – 4pm

In December: 11am – 5pm

December 24: 10am – 4pm

Weeknight Evening Hours:

Open 10am - 8pm during the weeks of
Dec. 11 – 15 & Dec. 18 – 22.

Please forward newsletter ideas or questions, catalogue requests as well as mail orders to:

Acquired Tastes Tea Company

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Fax: (780) 438-3362

Email: acquired@interbaun.com

Store Hours: Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. – 8 pm.

Closed Sundays (except as above)