
TEA TALK:

NEWS FROM ACQUIRED TASTES TEA COMPANY

Issue 8

Winter 2000

Happy 2000!

Acquired Tastes will turn 3 in March! As Edmonton's first specialty teashop, we have enjoyed growing right along side your love for tea. And we've finally hired an employee!! Some of you have already met Michelle, a Nait student and tea drinker who will be working with us part-time. I hope you will make her feel very welcome. She is looking forward to meeting you all. Hope to see you soon!

Colleen

What's New?

New Bulk Teas:

-**AT Blends**- Acquired Tastes' House blends- Our newest blends are AT First (for new tea drinkers), AT Home, AT Safari (a strong blend) and AT Romance (a sweet blend for your sweetheart).

-**Nilgiri (Nonsuch Estate)**- A pure black tea from the south of India. Smooth and mellow flavour.

-**Lady Grey**- Our own blend of Earl Grey and Lavender.

-Republic of Tea's **Decaf Ginger**

Peach- Feel free to bring in your tins to be refilled.

Other New Teas:

-**Lifeboat Tea**- Strong British black tea.

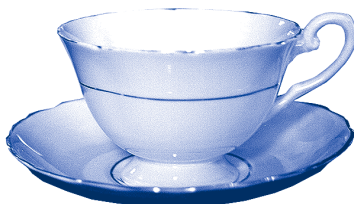
-**Taylor's of Harrogate Organic**

Green blends- 3 herb & green tea blends- energizing, uplifting or relaxing.

New Products:

-**Body Tea**- 7 new blends of bath tea.

ACQUIRED TASTES TEA COMPANY



"Savouring the Good Life"

Valentines Gift Ideas

- Rose Tea
- Vanilla Body Tea-for-Two for the bath.
- AT Romance tea blend.
- Heart Shaped Tea infusers.
- Tazo's Passion Tea
- Romance blend Tub Tea.
- Tea-themed cards too!

The Top 10 List

Yes, it's time again to see how your favourites rate with other tea drinkers. The most popular bulk teas in the shop as of Oct. '99 are:

1. Republic Chai
2. Assam- Gingia Estate
3. Buckingham Palace
4. Monk's Blend
5. Earl Grey
6. Crème de la Earl Grey
7. Ceylon- Courtlodge Estate
8. English Breakfast
9. Formosa Gunpowder Green
10. Darjeeling- Mim Estate

Upcoming Events

Tea Tasting:

Tuesday, Feb. 22nd, 7 p.m.

Theme: AT Blends

Our first tasting of the season will be a sampling of some of the new Acquired Tastes House blends, and an opportunity to learn more about tea and blending.

Cost: \$5/person, non-refundable and due at the time of registration.

Cancellations giving at least 24 hrs notice will receive a credit to attend a future tasting. Attendance is limited, so register early to avoid disappointment. Call or visit the shop to register.

Birthday Party

Saturday, March 11, 10am - 6pm

Our annual birthday sale and party. We will have teas to sample (of course!) and goodies, one-day store specials, and door prize draws too! We hope you can stop by!

Tea Tasting:

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m.

Theme: Tea 101

Do you feel intimidated by all the choices of teas and tea equipment? Do you want to break out of your tea routine, but don't know where to start? This tasting introduces participants to slightly more adventurous teas. Common questions on loose tea, tea processing, tea equipment, and brewing the perfect pot will be addressed.

Cost: \$5/person. Registration and cancellation policies same as above.

Breaking News about Drippy Teapots!

As reported recently by the BBC, Professor Jean-Marc Vanden-Broeck of the University of East Anglia has completed a study on why teapots drip.

An expert in fluid flow, the professor found that tea will dribble down any design or shape of pot. It is a natural phenomenon, due to atmospheric pressure acting on the tea, and not the fault of poor spout design.

Too bad the professor didn't find the cure, but perhaps his study will be a consolation to those of you with problem pots. You may find that your pot performance changes based on how full it is, how quickly you pour, and of course whether or not you're using the good tablecloth! If you aren't ready to resign yourself to a drippy pot, Acquired Tastes now carries metal inserts for the spout of your pot that are meant to help it pour better. We also carry sponge drip-catchers that hook onto the spout.

Feature Tea

Rooibos Herbal Tea

"Rooibos" means "red bush", which is an apt name for the red, needle-like leaves of this herbal tea. Although most of us are still unfamiliar with rooibos, it has been cultivated and consumed in South Africa for hundreds of years, and now Europeans and North Americans are beginning to seek it out as well. Unfortunately, efforts to grow rooibos outside South Africa have not been successful, which could lead to a precarious supply of the tea when South African farms have a bad year.

One of the most interesting characteristics of rooibos is its' similarity to black tea. It looks and tastes quite like black tea even though it contains no real tea, and it can also accommodate the addition of milk or sugar. Like real tea, rooibos contains antioxidants, which are believed to help prevent the contraction of cancer and heart disease. However, since it is an herbal tea, rooibos does not contain caffeine. So if you want black tea without the caffeine, and you aren't a fan of decafs, rooibos could be the answer for you. Rooibos also contains iron, potassium and zinc.



"They were seated around a table, drinking tea and talking of love."

-Heinrich Heine

Caring for Your Teapots & Accessories

You probably know all too well that tea stains.

In time, the build up in your teapot can flavour your future pots of tea.

Generally, soap and teapots or accessories shouldn't mix. If you have a pot made from a non-absorbent material, such as a glass bodum, you can get away with washing it in the dishwasher. However, in many pots, soap can leave an unpleasant, persistent residue.

To clean your pots, cups and infusers, use baking soda and boiling water. Let the item soak over night, and the stains should wipe away in the morning. (Stains are usually harder to eliminate on infusers.)

Try to avoid mixing your coffee wares with your tea wares. Coffee oils are very difficult to eradicate, and can flavour your tea.

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

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Store Hours: Daily 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. – 8 pm.

Closed Sundays