

Tea Talk

By Joyce A. Whitaker, Owner of the Painted Lady Tea Room

The season of giving is fast approaching and the Painted Lady is “beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” We are featuring some new looks this holiday season and are excited about our snowman collection, which ranges from primitive looks to overdressed Victorian samples. Sponge Bob will make a grand appearance in the children’s room up stairs with collectable ornaments dangling from colorful trees.

Our biggest display, the traditional 12 foot Victorian tree will again be placed as the center of attention in the hall by the bridal staircase. This beautiful tree features tussie mussies, Victorian dolls, glass balls, flowers, ribbon and lace. The tree is always a popular choice of customers who pluck the ornaments as quickly as they appear. Once this tree goes up by November 1, our Christmas season is in full swing.

Our “Christmas Carol Tea” is featured for the month of December. This lovely tea will offer cranberry turkey puffs, cream of asparagus soup, plum pudding with hard sauce, frosted sugar cookies, Dickens gingerbread tea cake, plus much more. Each guest will be invited to take home an ornament (value of \$5) from one of our many trees in each room. Guests will dine to Christmas music playing softly in the background. This special presentation would be the perfect gift for a favorite person on your list. Be sure to book your party early because reservations are coming in quickly.

We will be offering creative gift baskets this year that feature “Tea for Two,” “Tea with a Friend,” “Children’s Tea” and other custom themes. These yummy baskets will include our homemade scones (choose from numerous varieties), tea breads and decorated Christmas cookies. We offer over 40 tea flavors and carry gourmet white or dark hot chocolate mixes. We suggest a pan of our “pumpkin praline dessert,” or homemade fudge for those special holiday gatherings. All in all, the Painted Lady is a festive place to visit over the holidays. Just stepping inside will give you a warm feeling as you stroll through our ten rooms decorated for Christmas.

This week we received two new teas French Vanilla and White Darjeeling. The customers are really going for these new blends. Popular for the flu and cold season are peppermint and black currant. Both have the ability to soothe the digestive system and bring comfort to a sore throat. We sell our gourmet teas for \$3.50 per cup—one cup of dry, loose-leaf tea makes 22 cups of brewed tea. You use only one teaspoon of tea per cup and one for the pot.

We offer hundreds of affordable gifts that we graciously wrap free and tie with beautiful bows. This year to show appreciation to our customers, we will give a coupon for a free cup of tea and a scone to those who spend \$25 or more in holiday merchandise. If you are looking for a place to have tea, lunch or an elegant, old-fashioned dinner or to just

experience a nostalgic shopping adventure, bring your family and friends to the Painted Lady.