

IT'S ALWAYS TEA TIME

Meet and sip at five top teahouses and tearooms.

BY CASSIE GALASETTI

A HOT CUP OF TEA and good conversation creates a blend for the perfect afternoon, especially during the long, cold winter months here in New Jersey. Whether you're looking to relax, reconnect or rejuvenate with your team, group or staff members, below are five locations to get your pour on this season.



TEABERRY'S TEA ROOM

Flemington

Created as a refuge from the outside world, Teaberry's Tea Room was built inside a lovely restored Victorian mansion with elegance and sophistication. Teaberry's offers 118 different types of loose leaf tea and afternoon tea services ranging from one to six courses. Sara Peterson, manager, says, "Many of our staff members are well versed in the tea culture and love to inform guests of its history and health benefits." Teaberry's hosts groups and business meetings, among many other gatherings, in six dining rooms available for rent, holding 10-34 guests. Customized menus (soups, salads, sandwiches, desserts) are available based on preference.

ONE STEEP AT A THYME

Jamesburg

Visit One Steep at a Thyme and you'll be greeted with a warm welcome and a first-class experience as soon as you pull up to the Victorian home. "The Victorian ambiance of our Tearoom has our guests reflecting on their life experiences—family, friends, travel—triggering memories of a simpler time," says Kathleen Hippeli, owner. Specializing in private meeting groups and parties, this enchanted tearoom has received numerous awards for its fine selections. One Steep at a Thyme provides a customized and exclusive seven-course afternoon tea menu.

TWO RIVER THEATER

Red Bank

As one of the leading regional theaters in the country, Two River not only produces world-class theater, but extends its facilities as meeting and event space rentals within a state-of-the-art complex. In addition to catching a show, your group can add on an afternoon tea service for up to 40 in the VIP lounge, which includes a variety of teas and cookies for each guest as well as linens, centerpieces, tea cups and finger sandwiches provided by the Danish Café, a breakfast/lunch spot located across the street from the theater. Margaret O'Connor, Queen of the Twin Light Ladies of The Red Hat Society, recently attended a play and tea party



Clockwise: One Steep at a Thyme is warm and welcoming; Teaberry's Tea Room has a historic elegance; Red Bank's Two River Theater hosts tea time.

at the theater with her group. “We couldn’t have been happier,” she says. “The room was beautiful and the tea sandwiches were delicious. What made the day so special was how attentive the hostesses were to our every need.”

HIGH SOCIETEATEA HOUSE **Wayne**

No two tea rooms are alike, which is what makes visiting tea rooms such a pleasure. High SocietTea House is a shining example of that. From the eclectic china to the cozy fireplace, High SocietTea gives off a modern Victorian feel with an extremely warm atmosphere. Michael Rikowich, general manager, says, “We treat our tearoom as a living, breathing room. As funny as it sounds, we feel after so many events and gatherings that have taken place here, they have given back so much spirit that it only makes sense to treat it so.” High SocietTea House offers tea talks for all groups interested in learning more about where tea is originated, tea etiquette and more. High SocietTea’s room holds up to 50 guests for private meetings, parties and gatherings and

showcases up to three to four different teas reflecting the current season or holiday.

THE COSY CUPBOARD **Convent Station**

The Cosy Cupboard is one of the few tea rooms in the region that displays the true qualities of the late Victorian and Early Edwardian periods. Home to one of the largest dining rooms for elegant tea service, The Cosy Cupboard extends a bottomless tea policy—every tea, as often as you would like. “When customers elect to take a dessert or a scone home, they are pleasantly surprised to find that it has been packed on an actual china plate. We have an inexhaustible supply of garage sale finds, Goodwill and donations from customers,” says James Howard, owner and full-time college professor. “We service all types of group

functions. ... We never charge a room fee, we only charge per person for the service of tea.” The Cosy Cupboard has two large spacious dining rooms available for hosting special events. The Rose and Cameo rooms hold 55 and 26 people, respectively. ☎

Get Connected

THE COSY CUPBOARD
cosycupboardtearoom.com | 973.998.6676

HIGH SOCIETEATEA HOUSE
highsocieteateanj.com | 973.696.8327

ONE STEEP AT A THYME
onesteepatathyme.com | 732.641.2570

TEABERRY'S TEA ROOM
teaberrys.com | 908.788.1010

TWO RIVER THEATER
tworivertheater.org | 732.345.1400