

Tea Time at Yardley Inn

2025



The History of

Afternoon Tea

Afternoon tea, that delightful ritual of finger sandwiches, scones, and steaming cups of tea, might seem like a cornerstone of British tradition, steeped in history. But surprisingly, its origins are quite recent. While tea itself has been enjoyed in China for millennia, and even found its way to England by the 17th century, the afternoon tea experience we know today emerged in the 1840s.

The story goes back to Anna, the 7th Duchess of Bedford. In those days, fashionable society adhered to a strict two-meal schedule: a substantial breakfast and a late dinner served around 8 pm. This left a rather large gap in the afternoon, and the Duchess, like many others, found herself plagued by a now-famous "sinking feeling" around four o'clock. To bridge this hunger gap and add a touch of elegance to the mid-day lull, she began requesting a light snack of tea, bread, butter, and cakes served in her private chambers.

This personal indulgence soon blossomed into a social habit. The Duchess, known for her trendsetting ways, began inviting friends to join her for this afternoon pickme-up. The intimate gatherings in her drawing-room, filled with lively conversation, delicate china, and delicious treats, quickly caught on. Soon, the upper classes across England were embracing "afternoon tea" as a fashionable social event.

The rise of afternoon tea coincided with several factors. The increasing popularity of tea itself, its association with refinement and good health, and the changing social roles of women all played a part. Afternoon tea became a space for ladies to socialize outside the confines of formal gatherings, a chance to connect, gossip, and showcase their domestic skills through the preparation of dainty treats.

From the Duchess of Bedford's private indulgence to a social phenomenon, afternoon tea has evolved over the centuries. While it may not be a daily ritual for most anymore, it remains a cherished tradition, a delightful way to slow down, savor delicious food, and enjoy good company.

The History of

Yardley Inn

The year was 1832. America was still a young country, but it was already growing, with 24 states in the Union, and lots more to come. In the meantime, the nation's commerce was in full swing, and the old town of Yardley was a stopping point for the farmers carrying their rich bounty down the Delaware River to Philadelphia's Front Street Market. It was here, a stone's throw from a covered bridge on Afton Avenue, that The White Swan Inn was built to accommodate overnight travelers. You didn't have to disembark to enjoy what the inn had to offer; some of the boaters would simply sound a whistle, prompting the innkeeper to lower baskets of rum onto their barges!

The White Swan was a popular spot for eating, drinking, and lodging until 1882, when Temperance reformers rescinded the tavern's license. It survived as a cycler's road house until a man named John J. Fitzgerald revitalized the inn, which remained successful through the first half of the twentieth century. Then, disaster struck with the flood of 1955, which killed 99 people in Bucks County, destroyed the covered bridge, and left nearly \$1 billion (in today's money) worth of damage in its wake. The White Swan never fully recovered, and finally closed in 1958. The dying swan came back to life as the Yardley Inn in 1979 and it is still going strong.

Susan's Afternoon Tea Time

Savory

Cucumber Finger Sandwich

cucumber, pimento cream cheese, dark rye

Chicken Waldorf Salad

mini croissant

Smoked Salmon Bagel

dill cream cheese, trout roe, everything bagel chip

Smoked Ham & Gruyere

pineapple jam, rye

Mini Mushroom Tartlet

mushrooms, cheese, puff pastry

Egg Salad Devilled Egg

pickled mustard seeds

Sweets by Chez Alice



Mini Black Forest Cake

chocolate sponge, cherry compote, brandy soaked cherries & whipped cream

La Demitasse GF

mini chocolate cup, espresso mousse, chocolate mousse, coffee crumbles & whipped cream

Toffee Vol Au Vent

mini puff pastries with toffee flavored whipped cream

Piña Colada Marshmallow Cube

pineapple flavored marshmallows, shredded coconut & rum

Mini Carrot Cake

carrot sponge roulade with cream cheese buttercream

Soup du Jour • French Macarons

Sweet & Savory Scones salted European butter, jam, lemon curd

Selection of Signature Teas

Queen's Tea Time

Savory

Cucumber Finger Sandwich

cucumber, pimento cream cheese, dark rye

Chicken Waldorf Salad

mini croissant

Smoked Salmon Bagel

dill cream cheese, trout roe, everything bagel chip

Smoked Ham & Gruyere

pineapple jam, rye

Mini Mushroom Tartlet

mushrooms, cheese, puff pastry

Egg Salad Devilled Egg

pickled mustard seeds

Sweets by Chez Alice



Mini Black Forest Cake

chocolate sponge, cherry compote, brandy soaked cherries & whipped cream

La Demitasse GF

mini chocolate cup, espresso mousse, chocolate mousse, coffee crumbles & whipped cream

Toffee Vol Au Vent

mini puff pastries with toffee flavored whipped cream

Piña Colada Marshmallow Cube

pineapple flavored marshmallows, shredded coconut & rum

Mini Carrot Cake

carrot sponge roulade with cream cheese buttercream

Choice of Foie Gras or Oysters on ½ Shell (3)

Soup du Jour • French Macarons

Sweet & Savory Scones

salted European butter, jam, lemon curd

Selection of Signature Teas

Sparkling Flight

Korbel Brut | Avissi Prosecco | Fete d'Or Blanc Brut

Royal Tea Time

Savory

Cucumber Finger Sandwich

cucumber, pimento cream cheese, dark rye

Shrimp Salad

mini croissant

Grass-Fed Ribeye Cheesesteak Éclair

Mushroom Tartlet

cheese, onions, puff pastry

BLT

herb mayo, brioche toast

Devilled Eggs

smoked trout, trout roe, pickled mustard seeds

Creole Crab Cake

remoulade, cucumber

Sweets by Chez Alice



Nantais Gateau TN

almond cake with fondant top

Mini Charlotte Royale

vanilla roulade with raspberry jam

Mini Financier Rocher TN

hazelnut cake, salted caramel

La Demitasse GF

mini chocolate cup, espresso mousse, chocolate mousse, coffee crumbles & whipped cream

Mini Opera TN

almond joconde, coffee buttercream, chocolate ganache

Lemon Mini Eclair

lemon cream, crips meringues & whipped cream

Strawberry Fancy

strawberry mousse, strawberry compote & cremeux

Choice of Foie Gras or Oysters on ½ Shell (3)

Selection of Signature Teas

Soup du Jour • French Macarons • Mini Danish

Sweet & Savory Scones

salted European butter, jam, lemon curd

Sparkling Flight

Piper Heidsieck Brut | Laurent-Perrier La Cuvee Brut | Brilla Prosecco

Kid's Tea Time

Savory

Mini Pita Pizza

home-made sauce, mozzarella

Pigs in a Blanket

mini hot dog wrapped with puff pastry

Grilled Cheese & Tomato

brioche bread

Classic PB & J

peanut butter, grape jelly

Sweets by Chez Alice



Chocolate Butterscotch Shortbread

Marshmallow Bar(s) GF

Push Pop Cake TN

Raspberry Crispy Treats

White Chocolate Cheesecake with Cream & Fruits

Soup du Jour

French Macarons

Sweet & Savory Scones

salted European butter, jam, lemon curd

Selection of Signature Teas & Hot Chocolate

Gluten-Free Tea Time

Savory

Cucumber Finger Sandwich

cucumber, pimento cream cheese, gluten- free bread

Chicken Waldorf Salad butter leaf lettuce

Egg Salad Devilled Egg pickled mustard seeds

Smoked Ham & Gruyere pineapple jam, sweet potato chip

Avocado Toast

tomato, feta, everything spice, gluten free bread

Creole Crab Cake

remoulade, cucumber

Sweets by Chez Alice



Butterscotch Verrine

butterscotch pudding

La Demitasse

mini chocolate cup, espresso mousse, chocolate mousse, coffee crumbles & whipped cream

Strawberry Tres Leches

cake soaked in milks, strawberry mousse

Piña Colada Marshmallow Cube

pineapple marshmallow, coconut shaving & rum gel

Blondie

Soup du Jour • French Macarons

Gluten Free Sweet Breads

Selection of Signature Teas

Tea Offerings

Black Teas

Blue of London Earl Grey Tea

the beloved english pairing of yunnan and bergamot

7 Citrus Russian Blend Black Tea

lemon, lime, sweet orange, bitter orange, grapefruit, bergamot, and mandarin

Big Ben English Breakfast

mild and energizing, a superb blend of yunnan and assam

City of Lights

notes of citrus, coriander and vanilla combined superbly in the elegant blend

Green & White Teas

Mademoiselle Rose

green tea with romantic notes of rose, raspberry, and lychee

Minty Green Tea

fresh mint mix inspired by a moroccan recipe

The Des Songs Exotic White

white tea with hints of rose, orange blossom and berries

Herbal Teas

French Garden Herbal Tea

dreamy apple, rose hip, and pear, with sunflower and marigold petals



The History of Macarons

Despite its reputation as a French delight, the colorful meringue sandwich cookise originated in Venetian monasteries in the eighth century and back then, these very basic treats were made from almonds, sugar, and egg whites weren't nearly as pretty as they appear today. Legend has it that Catherine de' Medici, who arrived in France in 1533 to marry King Henry II, introduced the elites of the Valois court to the maccherone courtesy of her Italian pastry chef. It quickly became a favorite among French nobility. Macarons gained commercial fame in 1792 when during the French Revolution, two Carmelite nuns looking for refuge in the city of Nancy, baked and sold the cookies to pay for their meeger lodging. The sweets were a runaway hit and the pious duo became the famed "Macaron Sisters". It wasn't until the 1830's that Parisian bakers began joining two macaron biscuits with a filling. Since then, macarons have evolved into the perfectly formed, pastel-colored creations, filled with a variety of jellies, jams, curds, buttercreams and ganache that we know today. Macarons have remained a highlight of tea rooms around the world. Vive le macaron!

French Macarons

assortment may include

salted caramel | lemon | chocolate | hazelnut | moonstone raspberry | lavender | strawberry | chocolate blood orange tiramisu | birthday cake | pistachio



The History of Bon Bons

Chocolate bonbons have a rich history, originating in France around the 17th century. The word "bonbon" itself is French, simply meaning "candy." Back then, these bite-sized treats were enjoyed by royalty at the French court. Early bonbons featured a chocolate shell, but unlike today's varieties, they were typically filled with candied fruit. Presentation was key – these little candies were handcrafted & placed in beautiful containers, making them a symbol of wealth and sophistication.

Over time, bonbons became more accessible, spreading from the aristocracy to the general public. They became a popular gift, especially during holidays. The tradition of gifting bonbons even reached other countries in Europe by the 18th century, eventually traveling worldwide with European immigrants.

Today, chocolate bonbons come in a vast array of flavors and fillings, from classic fruit to decadent creams and ganaches. But they still retain their connection to their French origins, offering a delicious and elegant way to indulge your sweet tooth.

Artisan Tea-Infused Chocolate Bon Bons



French Blue Earl Grey dark chocolate, black tea flavored with bergamot & blue cornflowers, heavy cream, invert sugar, butter, salt, passion fruit crispies



French Garden
milk chocolate, herbal tea with pear,
apple & blackberry, heavy cream,
invert sugar, butter, salt



Mademoiselle Rose milk chocolate, green tea flavored with lychee & rose, heavy cream, invert sugar, butter, salt



City of Lights dark chocolate, black tea flavored with coriander & vanilla, heavy cream, invert sugar, butter, salt



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