



Dining Around Sydney Magazine

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‘TEA TIME’ TAKES THE CAKE

Along with recent demand for all things gourmet, has come renewed interest in the traditional delicacy of afternoon, or “high” tea. There is a definite trend towards this ritual of sipping leaf-tea poured from stylish silver teapots and tasting dainty petit-fours served from elegant tiered stands. And many venues have gone to the extent of offering a dedicated “high tea” menu. Don’t be fooled into thinking it’s just the wealthy that are treating themselves to this yummy pastime; it is a great way for anyone to mark a birthday or any other special occasion that warrants celebrating.

The number of venues around the country offering dedicated afternoon or high tea packages is extensive, and during the chilly winter months there isn’t a cosier way than this to enjoy the company of good family and friends. A host of specialty tea houses, restaurants and hotels around the country have got in on the act by serving up their brews of Earl Grey, English Breakfast and Darjeeling and combining them with appetising ribbon sandwiches, fluffy freshly baked scones and lots of other tasty delights.

Traditional high tea is defined by a beautifully set table, the pouring of tea into fine china crockery and sweet and savoury treats served on a pretty tiered stand. The result is an occasion that is less informal than many social gatherings but not at all pompous. There are a number of variations, but what is typically served on a high tea menu? Sweet and savoury treats; usually a sample of each. Tastebuds are tempted with freshly baked scones with jam and cream, melt-in-your-mouth pastries, delicate ribbon sandwiches and the like. Some establishments have gone a little less traditional and a little more indulgent by including a glass of champagne or Australian sparkling to warm the hearts of their guests as much as the tea they serve.

[Best Gift Certificates](#) is the dining and lifestyle experience gift certificate site that belongs to a suite of hospitality websites operated by de GROOTS Media. It is the only online gift certificate website in Australia dedicated to restaurants, wine, food and the hospitality industry, combined with lifestyle experiences. Best Gift Certificates has a number of packages available for purchase Australia-wide for high tea and has a dedicated high tea section in its “dining” category, which in itself is an indicator of the growing popularity of this type of gift. Packages are available at venues including [The Victoria Room](#), [Sofitel Wentworth Sydney](#) and [Sydney Opera House](#) in Sydney, [C Restaurant](#) in Perth, [High Societea](#) and [Siggi’s](#) in Brisbane, [Sheraton Mirage](#) on the Gold Coast, and [Woodman Estate](#) in Victoria.

de GROOTS’ sites are well established and have been operating for more than ten years. Managing Director Maureen de Groot commented that sales for high tea gift certificates are noteworthy and are by far one of the most popular choices for experience gifts on the site. Ms de Groot attributes the attraction of high tea to a number of factors, including affordability. *“Many of our clients don’t necessarily have the budget for a three course meal at a good restaurant. At under \$60 per person, high tea packages are an extremely affordable option”*

she said. *“It’s also just a really enjoyable thing to do. There’s a certain appeal about sitting up at a formally set table, enjoying good conversation with good friends, while indulging on dainty finger sandwiches and sweets and sipping tea.”*

Brides-to-be make up a healthy slice of the high tea market on [Best Gift Certificates](#), by using the experience as an innovative alternative to traditional girls’ nights out. Soon-to-be brides are no longer restricted to the typical hen’s night, with many opting for a more serene setting like an afternoon of high tea for their get-together with the girls before their wedding day.

Gift certificates are available for purchase online at www.bestgiftcertificates.com.au and can be delivered to the recipient immediately by email, saving time and hassle. Or if the purchaser prefers, they can opt for delivery of the gift certificate by mail to any location within Australia.

For further details about where to plan your high tea experience, go to [Best Gift Certificates](#).

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About de Groots Media

de Groots Media is a leading and long-established supplier of quality restaurant and hospitality information throughout Australia. The company hosts a number of websites including Best Restaurants, Best Venues, Best Clubs and Best Gift Certificates. de Groots Media also publishes Dining Around Sydney, a complimentary travel magazine delivered to 5-star hotels, concierges and high-end corporations in Sydney.

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