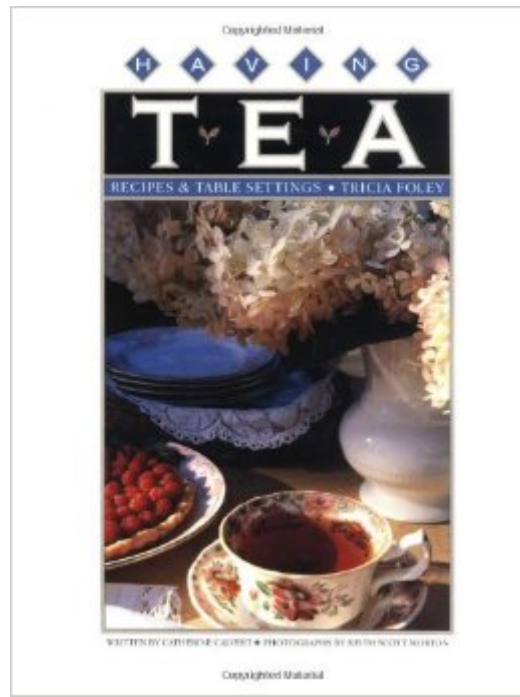


The book was found

Having Tea: Recipes & Table Settings



Synopsis

What could be cozier on a blustery winter's day than a mug of tea by the fire with freshly baked Irish soda bread slathered with sweet butter and tangy orange marmalade? Or more invigorating on a crisp, cool afternoon in autumn than a picnic in the country with sharp English cheeses; crusty white peasant bread; vegetable, cheese, and apple tarts; and Thermoses of steaming warm tea? Or a better way to celebrate the ripe berries of summer than a dessert party tea in the garden with lemon-curd tartlets, raspberry shortcake, raspberry sorbet, sugar cookies, and tea served in flowered china cups? A cookbook and style book, *Having Tea* includes a range of stunning locations with recipes, menus, table settings, and serving ideas for tea. There are formal and elegant teas that ring in the winter holidays with rich dark fruitcake, shortbread, brandy snaps, and sherryed English trifle; a tea for one in the study with spicy ginger Bundt cake and a plate of cookies; and tea for two in a loft, with slow-scrambled eggs, cornmeal muffins and apple butter, and panfried tomatoes sprinkled with fresh tarragon. Each menu provides suggestions for the ideal tea to suit the meal. Since the American style of tea drinking originated in England, *Having Tea* goes to the source to show two classic English tea rooms, tea at the Savoy Hotel in London, and a tea dance at London's Waldorf. In addition, there are special sections on the history and different varieties of teas, selections of teapots and tea services, and directions for brewing the perfect pot of tea. A final section, the "Tea Larder," offers ideas for tea trimmings from honey to mint or ginger, tea sandwiches, and a directory of mail-order sources for tea. With approximately fifty recipes for tea sandwiches, crumpets, scones, cookies, and cakes as well as hearty tea-time meals, *Having Tea* will make you want to make having tea part of your day. It shows how, far more than a beverage, tea is a grand indulgence that provides food for the body and the soul.

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Customer Reviews

"Having tea?" "Yes, let's have tea." "Ah, but which one?" "Let's consult HAVING TEA and select one. Shall it be the Strawberry Cream Tea? the Sunday Afternoon tea?" "How about the Fireside Tea for Two?" "But we are two women..." "So, the day is gray and dreary, the fire is cozy, the comforters warm. Maybe two women need this luxury normally granted to lovers." "Keep going. What other teas are listed?" "How about the English Hotel Tea?" "You mean like the one in London where we had a high tea? Or the one in Stratford-on-Avon in that lovely little hotel dining room?" HAVING TEA is divided into chapters that group teas by: Pleasures of Tea, Tea Services, The Perfect Pot of Tea, Tea Tasting, and the Tea-Room Tradition. What is especially delightful is the coordination of tea services and dishware with the teas and location of the tea party. Some wonderful examples: the Strawberry Cream Tea is set on a lovely spring afternoon on a veranda set with wicker furniture and white linens and traditional white porcelain cups and saucers with quaint Victorian roses. The menu includes scones: buttermilk, cream, and raisin, with strawberry jam, whipped cream, strawberries, and Queen Mary Tea. Another: Fireside Tea for Two (or for one if you have a cat and a good book) includes these wonders--Irish Soda Bread, Wheatmeal Bread, Crumpets, Orange marmalade, Sweet Butter, and Assam Tea. I think we could call this a Good Irish Tea. The chapter on tea tasting is fascinating. Do you know that fine teas are like fine wines and have distinctive aromas and flavors? Their "qualities reflect where they are grown: altitude, climate, soil" (51).

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