

TEA BUDS; FEBRUARY

THE QUEEN'S TEA

This is a really fun tea party that the women really enjoy. The table is covered with a dark red table cloth with a white lace border. (another thrift store find!) It is so perfect for February and the crystal pieces show up so beautifully on the dark red.

I search through my cups and saucers to find all those tea cups decorated with red and pink flowers, or, better, clear glass cups and saucers that will show off the red tea.

Table décor includes the largest selection I can make of crystal pieces; sugar and creamer sets, salt & pepper sets, serving bowls, salt keepers, fancy crystal baskets, any and all things that are crystal. A small crystal bowl of sugar cubes with sugar tongs is an excellent touch. (Pieces can be found at the thrift store and even though they are not real crystal, the clear cut glass will look just as pretty.)

The object of the Queen's Tea is to make the table look as regal as possible so, no plastic!

Any tea is good but a favorite for this party is Madagascar Vanilla Red; it's aromatic, tasteful, and a beautiful red color.

A very elegant and tasty dessert for the Queen's Tea is Berries with Balsamic Drizzle and Almond Cream. It's quite simple except for the timing of the drizzle.

Linen napkins would be nice but a plain white dinner napkin is good too.

There is a collection of information about the real Queen's Tea that can be shared as the ladies enjoy their tea and dessert. It is also fun to share pictures and information on the royal family.

The "bud" for this setting is a red rose. A crystal vase (clear glass) with 2 or 3 long stemmed red roses makes a very pretty and elegant centerpiece.

Buckingham Palace Tea Party

Held three times a year in the palace gardens

8,000 guests attend each party

Served are;

20,000 tea sandwiches

5,000 bridge rolls

9,000 butter drop scones

9,000 fruit tartlets

3,000 butter cake fingers

8,000 slices chocolate-lemon cake

4,500 slices Scottish fruit cake (Dundee Cake)

4,500 slices Majorca Cake (almond cake from
Majorca, an island near Spain)

3,500 slices of chocolate-jam Swiss roll

27,000 cups Maison Lyons tea

10,000 glasses iced coffee

20,000 glasses fruit squash (concentrated juice

Served with carbonated water or alcohol)

BERIES WITH BALSAMIC DRIZZLE & ALMOND CREAM

Purchase 1 pint each of blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries. Clean them, place in a bowl, and chop roughly with a hand-held chopper.

In a small saucepan combine

¼ cup balsamic vinegar

½ cup powdered sugar

Cook until the sugar is dissolved, about 2 minutes. Set aside. Use care. If you cook it too long it will harden like glass!

In another bowl combine

1 cup mascarpone cheese

2 Tbl. Powdered sugar

½ tsp. almond extract

Mix until smooth

To serve, place a scoop of berries in a dessert bowl. Add a dollop of almond cream, and drizzle with balsamic mixture. It's beautiful and delicious!

(If you can find some pedestal dessert bowls at the thrift store, you will add much to the elegance of the dessert.)

THE RED ROSE

The rose began its centuries long history in Greece and Rome where it was associated with Aphrodite or Venus, the goddess of love. In Christian times, the rose was associated with the Virgin Mary. To some Christians, Mary is known as the “mystic rose” or the “rose with no thorns”. Because Mary played a vital role in God’s plan, she became associated with the original purity and beauty of the roses God created for the garden of Eden. Many Christians of various sects around the world pray with the use of a cord of knots or beads. This cord is called a “rosary”, meaning “crow of roses”.

By the time of Shakespeare, the rose had become a poetic standard. The red rose still reigns as the ultimate symbol of passionate affection.

Angels use rose scents as a physical sign of their presence. Barachiel the Archangel of blessings is depicted in art with a rose, symbolizing God’s blessings.

Muslims view the rose as a symbol of the human soul.

Buddhists and Hindus see roses as an expression of spiritual joy and Christians view the rose as a reminder of the Garden of Eden, a paradise of God’s design.

Different color roses carry different symbolism. A white rose symbolizes purity and holiness while a yellow rose stands for

wisdom and joy. A pink rose is the symbol for peace and gratitude and a purple rose symbolizes wonder and awe. The dark red rose is the symbol for passionate love and the red rose is a symbol for new love.

O', my love's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June
O' my love's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune

As fair art thou my bonnie lass
So deep in luv am I
And I will luv thee still my dear
Till a the seas gang dry

Robert Burns