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by Elyse Glickman

style

pick of the week

tracy stern shoes and salontea



Fit To a Tea

In addition to my work as trendspotter for The Book L.A., I also contribute to a number of trade magazines for the beauty industry, spotting the new and different for retailers and salon owners. Last year, on assignment for Dayspa Magazine about the health and business benefits of tea, I had the good fortune to meet **Tracy Stern**, who created a delicious collection, **Salontea**, enjoyed by some of New York City's choosiest spa devotees. After spending a considerable amount of times discussing the sensory and nutritional aspects of steaming-hot sellers as **Musician's Tea**, **The Romantic's Tea**, **The Society Hostess Tea**, **The Fashionable Dandy Tea** and **The Artist Tea**, I was even more impressed with how she turned the concept and her own personal passion into a thriving business, that would beget other thriving businesses.

As an avid traveler, and art history student abroad, Stern experienced several elegant tea salons throughout Europe and became fascinated with the history of tea. It was this experience that inspired her collection of unique tea sets and the opening **The Royal Tearoom** in Tampa in 1994. Thanks to the popularity of the tearoom, you could say demand for her teas simmered and came to a boil, resulting in the opening of the **Tracy Stern SALONTEA** located in the city club in New York City, and the adoption of her hand harvested, picked and rolled teas into spas and teahouses across the country. And with the teas came a line of sweets and edibles to complete Stern's modern vision of the teatime tradition.

"**I feel I have a tea that suits everyone's taste**" says Tracy Stern, who paired them with a plethora of gourmet products with the best ingredients in mind. She has imported rock amber sugar crystals to complement and subtly enhance the flavor of SALONTEA.

Personal-teas who have embraced Tracy Stern's edibles and beautifiers as part of their daily ritual include **China Phillips**, **Ciara**, **Sex and the City creator Candace Bushnell**, **Kim Cattrall**, **Blaine Trump**, and New York socialites **Helen Schifter**, **Amy Astley** and **Rena Sindi**. In the wake of her consumables and their popularity at spas, it occurred to Tracy that you could feed and nourish other parts of the body as well with tea's riches. This is where her **Beautea collection** comes in, incorporating homeotherapeutic and aromatherapy tea infusions, medicinal herbal teas and other high quality organic ingredients to promote healthy, beautiful skin (foot soaks, bath preparations, moisturizers, lotions, lip balms) and a sublime ambiance (via candles and incense) to drink it all in.

Even with her tea party in full swing, as well as motherhood on her plate (she has two children in pre-school), Tracy hasn't stopped there. She is now expanding her blossoming high-end shoe and accessory business into a grander public light. The

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Tracy Stern shoe collection, which has developed a following from the likes of **Jessica Simpson, Hilary Duff, Lindsay Lohan, Jaimie Pressly, Brooke Hogan** and **Katrina Campins** is available to the general public. If you just can't get enough bling, Tracy has something for you in either a flat or a stiletto, with sparkling interchangeable accessories that will ensure that when you get your foot in the door, the rest of you will follow. And if you want to make a real statement about your passion for tea, check out her "**tea bag**"—a gleaming metallic brown or pink leather clutch with a tea ball jauntily displayed.

To live Tracy Stern's dream, be sure to check out both her web sites: www.salonatea.com and www.tracysternshoes.com.

This week, **a lucky winner** will have Tracy Stern stop by for tea—well, sort of. She has designed an **exclusive gift basket filled to the brim with teas, Beautea products and other essentials** that will transform your home or workspace into the perfect midday retreat.



Winners will be randomly selected and promptly notified August 29, 2005. US only. [Rules](#)

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