

Isabelle Bardessonno

For her senior project, Bardessonno learned everything she could about tea: its history, production, blending and preparation. In January, she visited a number of tea rooms and a Japanese tea garden in San Francisco. In February, she interned with a tea blender in Millerton, N.Y., whose company is a family-run business. She followed this by traveling to London, where she visited blenders, tea shops and tea museums, and experienced traditional English afternoon tea in many different forms. Her essential questions were: "How are teas chosen, blended and prepared? Is a tea shop a viable business and career for a young adult? Would owning a business be a career she would consider for her future?"