DINING

Ritz-Carlton serves up traditional Afternoon Tea

BY CHRISTIMA FUGCO
STATY WARTES

"Memorable" is a word that The RitzCarlton's Danielle McKinney often
hears about the totel's Afternoon Tea.
With 19 different teas, an assortment
of finger sandwiches and vine-ripened
strawberries marianted in Grand
Marnier, it's easy to see why.

"It is truly an experience. Once you do
experience it, you're always going to
think about coming back for it," said
McKinney, The Ritz-Carlton's marketing and public relations coordinator.

The Afternoon Tea has long been a
custom at The Ritz-Carlton hotel. Caesar Ritz incorporated the event into the
daily custom soon after founding the
chain.

There are two levels of Afternoon
Teas, which is held from 2-4 p.m.
Wednesdays through Fridays. The
Light Tea, which is \$20, includes a
choice of more than 15 loose-leaf teas, as
election of English tea sandwiches,
freshly baked scones with Devonshire
ream and preserves, and afternoon
pastries.

"The afternoon pastries are anything

ream and preserves, and afterneon pastries.

"The afterneon pastries are anything from pastry puffs with whipped cream in the middle, cookies, bagels baked that day, freshly baked scones with Devonshire cream and The Ritz-Carlton preserves on top. Everything is fresh, McKinney standard in the tea. After you have one, it just adds flavor, she explained.

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the tea. After you have one, it just adds flavor, "she explained.

Several features of the tea have changed over the years, but one item has remained: the cucumber sandwich. A cucumber ribbon is garnished with lemon dill mousse, and generally tomato or candied walnut, all between finger-sized slices of pumpernickle bread.

Each month the other sandwich offerings change. Turkey and salmon and egg are popular sandwiches.

The teas change with the sensons, according to McKinney.

"We did serve our iced teas during the summer months. A lot of people wanted to come in and have an Afternoon Tea, but during the hot months, the last thing you wanted to do is have a hotea," she said.

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During the holidays, the Afternoon Ten evolves into the Yuletide Ten and the price is raised to \$40.

"You automatically receive the Royal Ten and, not only will you receive the Royal Ten, a lot of the pastries and the finger sandwiches, but they usually do receive a couple more finger sandwiches. The pastries are holiday oriented and there's a lot more than what you would normally receive." McKinney said.

sua.

"Around this time, each of our guests will receive a Ritz-Carlton ornament. There is a collection of four different ornaments."

The sandwiches, pastries and teas are

ornaments."
The sandwiches, pastries and teas are served during a two-hour window, so those who attend the Afternoon Tea should plan on spending a couple hours at The Ritz-Carlton. Reservations are recommended but not mandatory.

"The first thing is your choice of team. It takes awhile to brow anyway. They now the content of the pour's served your tea sandwiches and you sit and just talk. Then the pastries. You're in a relaxed atmosphere. It's a good few-hour window that you're looking at."

McKinney explained that the Afternoon Tea's primary clientele is women who vary in age. She said that she sees a lot of wedding parties and bridal showers come attend the tea.

"Usually Afternoon Tea is a real intimate atmosphere. It's cory and comfortable, yet refined. We usually have a pianist playing or a harpist. Sometimes we get children in and, if we know whend of time, we can usually set up Afternoon Tea for them as hot chocolate or ha milk."

Chefa will create finger sandwiches record-invard children as well such as

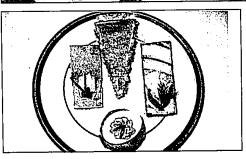
or hot milk."
Chefs will create finger sandwiches geared-toward children as well such as hum sandwiches or peanut butter and jelly. A few times a year, The Ritz-Carlton hosts a Teddy Bear Tea, during which children are invited to bring Teddy bears.

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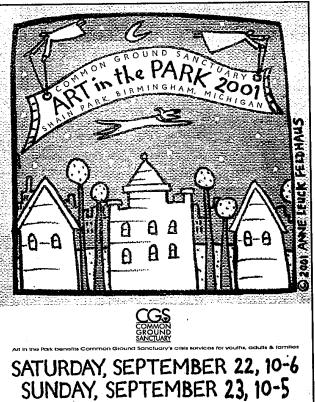
"It's usually held in one of the ball-rooms. The room is decorated in Teddy bears and we partner up with different (sponsors). When the parents attend, they receive a traditional Afternoon Tea. The children get chocalate chip cookies and peanut butter cookies," she said.

"You have to experience this. For reservations, call The Ritz-Carlton at (313) 441-2100.





Tea time: The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Ten time: The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Dearborn offers the long-standing tradition of Afternoon Tea. Make reservations to enjoy Tea from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday. The experience includes an elegant place setting (above) and assortment of treats. Some popular tea sandwiches include salmon and cucumber varieties (shown left). Prices and fare vary by times and seasons.



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