

Tea House “*Teaviews*” by Four ladies

In an effort to increase our knowledge of tea rooms in the Portland area, my “*es-tea-med*” friends, Anne, Elizabeth, Jane, and I (Emma) have selflessly pledged to visit every Tea House in the area and to share our findings with you!

Our first visit was “*un-tea-niably* delicious!” Our very favorable *teaviews* are available below for your perusal. Our “*cri-tea-ria*” is:



Teaview #1: Gracie’s Restaurant at the **Hotel deLuxe** under the direction of tea sommelier, Kaitlin Dover

Reservations required. Cost: \$39 per person (\$45 with a glass of bubbly!) As you enter the hotel, you are greeted by a large, dramatic black and white photo of Marlene Dietrich! The chic, west-end hotel is in the style of the Golden Age of American Cinema, and Gracie’s Restaurant is elegant, quiet, and comfortable without being stuffy. We were served five kinds of tea sandwiches, two kinds of scones with jam and clotted cream, and five dainty pastry bites, plus tea, of course!

Anne The table linens and china were crisp and white. The tea room was quiet and we were able to enjoy our conversation without raising our voices. One wall displayed a fine collection of modern art. The service was polite and polished and the food was very nice and elegant.

Elizabeth I loved this tea. The tea sandwiches were perfect; I especially liked the chicken curry and the tomato & cheddar. Scones & dainties were perfect. Smith's teas are wonderful. Nice, quiet, and elegant without being stuffy. The “bubbly” was a nice addition!

Jane The service was excellent in every way. Our food was delicious, as well as our tea selections - all from Steven Smith Tea makers, perhaps the best brand in the US. Unfortunately, only black, white, and green teas were offered; there is not one herbal or decaffeinated choice on the menu. I did enjoy the “bubbly,” however. There was also an issue with the clotted cream. Their idea of sufficient was not my idea of sufficient, although the server was happy to bring us more!

Emma It was advertised as a “90-minute experience,” but I felt rushed toward the end and would have liked to linger longer. Although the tea was delicious, there were no surprises, and I was unable to find a possible suitor for Anne amongst the diners.