

The perfect brew

Everyone loves a good cuppa tea. One of the most widely-consumed beverages in the world, tea has been enjoyed by the Chinese even before the British started importing what would eventually become their national drink.

There are hundreds of varieties of Chinese tea and they are classified by the method of processing which they undergo. The types of tea include green tea, black tea, white tea and oolong tea.

Hoping to learn the finer points of tea-drinking, a group of 50 Keppelites and their guests spent a Friday evening at the Yixing Xuan

Teahouse in Tanjong Pagar, next to Chinatown.

Seated at rosewood tables with Chinese water colour paintings and calligraphy scrolls in the background, the participants felt transported back in time into an ancient dynasty.

Tea drinking and serving plays a major role in the Chinese culture. Although there is no ceremony attached to Chinese tea, the process of tea-drinking is meant to draw out the drink's nuances and to be savoured over good conversation among friends.

Vincent Low, the owner of the teahouse, explained



Keppelites and their guests bonding over delicious cups of tea

that the petite-sized cups and pots are deliberately fashioned that way to slow people down and encourage them to relax. They also ensure the tea is not left to

stew and is at the optimal temperature.

Participants were advised to inhale the delicate aromas, to let the flavours develop on the palate and to appreciate the beauty of the teacups as well as the ambience of the settings.

Keppelites will be pleased to know that the Keppel Scholars Alumni Association has negotiated for a 10% discount on all tea and equipment products, except items already on promotion. However, this discount is not applicable for dining in.

Keppel employees simply need to present their employee pass upon payment and this offer is valid till 30 June 2009. With such benefits, no reason to not indulge in a healthy cup of tea.

keppelite



The method of tea-making involves a variety of procedures matched to the different types of tea leaves to bring out their aromas and taste