

May 3, 2009

QUICK BITE | WESTFIELD

A Tea 'Room,' on 2 Floors

By **KELLY FEENEY**

At Ana Beall's Tea Room in Westfield, you can sip a cup of your favorite blend and nibble on a treat like banana bread with buttery hazelnuts (\$2.25 a slice).

That's what I did on a recent day in the casual cafe downstairs there. Ana Beall's, which opened in December in a quaint house, has two floors; upstairs are two formal dining rooms seating about 40 and a small gift shop.

There are about 60 types of teas to choose from, mostly in loose leaf form, including classics like Earl Grey and herbal infusions like Egyptian chamomile. Nancy Baker, co-owner with Kush Wadhwa, took a Specialty Tea Institute certification course in New York.

On a recent warm afternoon, a glass of cool ginger iced tea hit the spot (\$1.50), accompanied by a chocolate chunk scone (\$1.75).

Soups, sandwiches and salads are on the menu, too. On another visit, I ordered a cup of rich roasted chicken soup with semolina dumplings (\$3.95) and a salad with portobello mushrooms, fresh mozzarella and a sweet sun-dried tomato and red pepper vinaigrette to take home (\$9.95).

But because Ana Beall's specialty is proper tea, that's what I tried when I went on a recent Sunday with my 4-year-old niece, Sara, who is fond of tea parties. She took obvious delight in her "children's tea," which included a pot of noncaffeinated tea; an assortment of finger sandwiches, like cucumber and peanut butter and jelly; and a sampling of pastries, including gooey brownies, served on a three-tier cake stand (\$12.95).

I had the cream tea — a pot of tea served with a crumbly scone, clotted cream and jam (\$9.95). At Sara's urging, I also ordered crepes with mascarpone cheese and raspberries (\$7.95) off the brunch menu (available on weekends). I couldn't finish them, though, as good as they were. And Sara, focused on her three-tier stand, was no help at all.

Ana Beall's Tea Room, 415

Westfield Avenue; (908) 264-4221

or anabeallstearoom.com. Open

Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to

6 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

KELLY FEENEY

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