



# The Vintage Garden Tea House

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## Vintage Garden Tea House offers old-world tea and more

**REVIEW:** Vintage Garden Tea House  
**LOCATION:** 304 Caroline, Montgomery  
**PHONE:** (936) 597-4004  
**HOURS:** Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a Champagne brunch; closed on Sunday  
**FOOD:** Homemade soups, salads, quiche and a variety of teas  
**WEB SITE:**  
[www.vintagegardentea.com](http://www.vintagegardentea.com)

**Editor's note:** The Courier continues to feature local restaurants that have received no demerits during recent inspections by the Montgomery County Health Department.

BY BRAD MEYER  
 COURIER STAFF

**MONTGOMERY** — It's a quaint, rustic restaurant with great food, attentive service and a unique, nostalgic ambiance — and one the few facilities in Texas serving an authentic old-world high tea.

The Vintage Garden Tea House, located at 304 Caroline in Montgomery, may be in its first year of operation, but the innovative eatery is already earning a reputation for its unique approach to nostalgic foodservice.

"It's an old, historic home that we converted into a restaurant and tea room," said Debbie Perroni, who opened the restaurant in December with her husband Mike. "I've been to so many great tea rooms across the country. I thought it would be a great to open my own."

Challenging too, as Perroni and her husband discovered when renovating the old residential building into a restaurant.

Old buildings may offer a nostalgic atmosphere, but modern commercial codes required a substantial renovation of the aging building's systems — particularly the electrical systems, doorways and access ways.

"The kitchen was a little small for our 65-seat restaurant as well," Perroni, who had no previous restaurant experience before opening the restaurant, admitted. "But we've been able to upgrade the service areas and maintain the historical atmosphere of the restaurant and the gardens out front."

Soups, salads, quiches, sandwiches and specialty items highlight the menu at Vintage Garden Tea House — served on an eclectic array of mismatched fine china. Everything, including salad dressings, tea breads and desserts are homemade.



Staff photo by Brad Meyer

Owner Debbie Perroni inspects the fresh veggie-and-meat kabobs that are popular fare with patrons of the Vintage Garden Tea House.



Staff photo by Brad Meyer

Vintage Garden Tea House owner Debbie Perroni, left, welcomes, from left to right, Roger Rowland, Janice Rowland, John Smyth and Mary Smyth, visitors to Texas from Cornwall, England.

"We get a lot of requests for our salad dressings," she said. "So they are now available to the public as well."

Tea, of course, is a highlight of the restaurant, which offers two of their 10 different iced teas daily as well as more than 20 varieties of hot tea. Bottled

specialty teas from The Republic of Teas are also available and popular with the public.

"Traditional afternoon tea, which includes snacks, is always available," said Perroni. "But we also offer an authentic high tea with advance reservations."

The traditional high tea is

often considered an early, light supper, consisting of finger sandwiches, savory and sweet assortments, Devonshire cream and lemon curd, among other selections.

"Some men may not care for cucumber sandwiches," Perroni admits, "but we have heartier fare available for big appetites. Many women, however, enjoy the unique experience and elegance of high tea."

Enjoying the fare at the Vintage Garden Tea House on Wednesday was a foursome of tourists visiting Texas from their homes in Cornwall, England. Perroni received high praise for the food as well as the atmosphere.

"We were pleasantly surprised to find such a high quality facility as this in Texas," said Mary Smyth. "It's quite difficult to find a nice, nostalgic tea house in England these days — all of them are so modern looking."

"The atmosphere is very nice and comfortable," said Janice Rowland. "The homemade tea breads are quite excellent."

While menu service is limited to lunch through the week and a Champagne brunch on Saturday, the restaurant is expanding their services to include catering and special events.

"We did our first wedding in the garden area recently, followed by a formal reception inside," Perroni said. "It was a very nice affair and we hope to do more in the future. We're not a large facility, but we offer a truly unique experience."

A visit to the Vintage Garden Tea House is not complete without dessert — and the homemade selections and fresh-baked goods do not disappoint. The fudge walnut pie is the best seller, but the apple dumpling ala mode runs a close second.

For information on the Vintage Garden Tea House, including catering and special event opportunities, visit [www.vintagegardentea.com](http://www.vintagegardentea.com) or call (936) 597-4004.

Brad Meyer can be reached at [bmeyer@hcnonline.com](mailto:bmeyer@hcnonline.com).

Stroll back in time during your visit to historic Montgomery, Texas and enjoy a wonderful and memorable dining experience

*Vintage Garden Tea House*

304 Caroline Street Montgomery, Texas

(936) 597-4004

[www.vintagegardentea.com](http://www.vintagegardentea.com)

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Saturday Breakfast/Lunch 9am - 2pm

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**HALLOWEEN (R)** 11:45 2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45 12:15

**RUSH HOUR 3 (PG-13)** 1:00 2:30 3:15 5:00 5:30 7:45 9:45 10:00 12:00 12:15  
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**THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13)** 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00 12:30

**MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13)** 1:00 3:05 5:10 11:35 7:15 9:30

**3:10 TO YUMA (R)** 11:45 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:20

**THE BRAVE ONE (R)** 11:45 2:25 5:05 7:40 10:20

**DRAGON WARS: D-WAR (PG-13)** 1:00 3:20 5:30 7:30 10:00 12:10

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