

# *Mrs. White's* Afternoon Tea



  
**DROMOLAND  
CASTLE**  
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# *History of Afternoon Tea*

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to enjoy Mrs White's Afternoon Tea in the beautiful surroundings of Dromoland Castle.

This tradition has been enjoyed at Dromoland Castle for more than 100 years when the O'Brien family gathered in the Drawing Room to partake in the now traditional experience.

The actual creation of Afternoon Tea is traced back to the early 1840's when Anna Maria Russell, the 7th Duchess of Bedford requested that some light food, and a pot of tea be brought to her private quarters to help ward off mid-afternoon hunger pains. She began to invite others to join her and thus the tradition of Afternoon Tea was born.

The Dromoland Afternoon Tea is named after Mrs White, a Kitchen Maid who worked within the Castle for many decades. We are pleased to carry on this tradition and present to you a selection of the world's finest teas, sandwiches and pastries.

***“Under certain circumstances there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as Afternoon Tea”***

**“The Portrait Of A Lady”**  
- Henry James

## Mrs. White's Afternoon Tea

*A Selection of Freshly Made Finger Sandwiches and Speciality Breads.  
An Assortment of Miniature Pastries with Dromoland's Signature Fruit Cake.  
Warm Fruit Scones with Clotted Cream and Raspberry Preserve.*

**All served with a Hot beverage of your choice**

€65.00 per person



## Champagne Afternoon Tea

**Mrs White's Traditional Afternoon Tea accompanied by a glass of:**

**Charles Heidsieck Brut Réserve, NV**

€85.00 per person

**Charles Heidsieck, Champagne Rosé Réserve, NV**

€90.00 per person



## Children's Afternoon Tea

**Dromoland Castle is delighted to welcome its younger guests with Afternoon Tea designed especially for them.**

**Selection of Sandwiches:** Limerick Ham on White Bloomer Loaf,  
Mild Irish Cheddar Cheese on Brown, Irish Chicken & Stuffing Wrap

**Selection of Pastries:** Chocolate Brownie, Potted Fruit Mousse,  
Almond Shortbread Biscuits, Lemon Sponge Cake.

*Scones with Whipped Cream & Strawberry Jam*

€35.00 per person

If you wish to split your Afternoon Tea, a supplement charge will occur.  
If you suffer from any food allergies please bring it to the attention of your server.

# Loose Tea Selection

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## Black Teas

### **Dromoland House Blend**

*A blend of the finest teas East of the Rift Valley in Kenya. The result is a full flavoured astringent tea with a bright yellow finish*

### **Darjeeling Summer Gold – Organic. India, Summer**

*This outstanding summer plucking has a flowery elegance and a deliciously well-balanced aroma*

### **Special Earl Grey. China / India, Autumn**

*A fresh bergamot aroma in a seductive blend of precious teas from China and India with a full-bodied and intensive flavour*

### **Wild Cherry Ceylon. Autumn**

*An extravagantly blended Ceylon tea with the full aroma of sun-ripened Japanese wild cherries*

### **Tarry Lapsang. China PS, Autumn**

*An interesting China Tea with the smoky aroma of smouldering, resinous wood*

### **Irish Whiskey Cream. India, Autumn**

*A malty Assam tea with Whiskey and cocoa aroma*

## Green Tea

### **Morgentau China, Summer**

*A fascinating green tea composition with Sencha flower petals and the subtle fruity flavour of mango and lemon*

### **Greenleaf. India, Summer**

*A carefully crafted garden tea from the highlands of India with a delicately tart darjeeling aroma*

### **Jasmine Gold. China, Spring**

*Delicate jasmine blossoms diffuse their gentle fragrance over a summer China green tea*

### **Green Lemon. China, Spring**

*A beautiful, large leafed Sencha blend from China with the aromas of ripe, fresh lemons*

## Infusions

### **Vanilla Rooibos. South Africa**

*The much-loved South African herbal infusion tinged with the delicious richness of creamy vanilla*

### **Pure Camomile**

*A mild herbal tea made from whole camomile flowers, which are carefully prepared, so that they retain their distinctive, tangy, floral character*

### **Refreshing Mint**

*A relaxing flavour of mint with a touch of lemon grass*

### **Granny's Garden**

*Made with fruity fresh rhubarb and rounded off with the delicate sweetness of vanilla*

### **Ayurveda Herbs & Ginger**

*This Ayurveda Tea has the powerful freshness that only ginger, lemon grass, liquorice and lemon verbena can give*

## Oolong Tea

### **Superior Oolong**

*A fascinating Tea with rich aroma and delicate fruit and nut character*

### **Milky Oolong. China, Spring**

*Its special fabrication cares for the wonderful natural creamy taste: the tea leaves are milk steamed and then carefully rolled*

## White Tea

### **White Yunnan Silver Tips- China, Spring**

*The delicate aroma of melons lends the renowned Pai Mu Tan its typically fine sweetness*

# Alternative Hot Beverages

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## ***Pot of Dromoland Blend Tea***

Regular or Decaffeinated	€6.50
Loose Speciality Teas	€6.50

## ***Pot of Rich Roast Dromoland Blend Filter Coffee***

Regular or Decaffeinated	€6.50
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## ***Speciality Coffee***

Cappuccino, Café Mocha or Café Latte	€6.00
Espresso or Macchiato	€4.20
Double Espresso	€5.00

# Champagne

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	Glass	Bottle
<b><i>Kir Royale</i></b>		
Champagne and Crème de Cassis	€33.00	
<b><i>Charles Heidsieck Brut Réserve</i></b>	€32.00	€155.00
<b><i>Charles Heidsieck Rosé Réserve</i></b>	€44.00	€210.00
<b><i>Charles Heidsieck Blanc de Blancs</i></b>		€190.00

Our full Sparkling, Wine and Cocktail lists are at your disposal, please ask your server.

# A Brief History of Dromoland Castle

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**1014** Donough O'Brien, a son of Brian Boru, controlled Dromoland when it was a defensive stronghold. It was similar in structure to Bunratty Castle, which was also an O'Brien stronghold at that time. For the next 900 years a branch of the O'Briens lived and ruled from Dromoland Castle.

**1543** The chief of the Clan O'Brien, Morrough, 57th King of Thomond, was forced to surrender his royalty to King Henry VIII, thus becoming the Baron of Inchiquin and First Earl of Thomond.

**1651** Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle was killed in battle by the Cromwellian army. His widow, Maire Rua or Red Mary O'Brien, agreed with General Ireton as a mark of good faith to marry an officer in the Cromwellian army in order to save the family estate. She married Cornet John Cooper, thus preserving the Estates for her eldest son, Sir Donough O'Brien.

**1660** Sir Donough O'Brien moved the most powerful branch of the O'Briens to Dromoland in the late 17th Century. He was an astute man and managed to avoid declaring for either King James II or King William.

**1730** Sir Edward O'Brien, the 2nd Baronet, was revered as a famous racehorse owner and trainer. He built the Turret on the hill opposite the entrance to Dromoland Estate, from where he would observe his horses race. He once gambled the estate on a horse race; mercifully, Sean Buis won the race and saved the estate. Sean Buis is buried under the Temple, 100 yards from the old entrance to the castle.

**1700 -1730** The second Castle/House at Dromoland was built; it was more residential in appearance with a design of the Queen Anne period.

**1800-1836** The present main building of Dromoland Castle, with its high gothic-styled grey stone walls, was rebuilt, designed by the Pain brothers, famous architects of that period. The castle was built by the then Lord of Dromoland, Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Baronet, at great expense.

**1803-1864** Dromoland Castle was the birthplace and boyhood home of William Smith O'Brien, M.P. Despite his aristocratic background, Smith O'Brien fought militantly for the rights of oppressed Irish Catholic peasant farmers and led the Young Irelanders rebellion against the British authorities in 1848.

**1880-1921** The wealth of the Barons of Inchiquin dwindled after a series of Land Acts started in the 1880s. During this time, landlords were compelled to sell their tenanted farmlands; thus the Inchiquins lost their main source of income.

**1921** The IRA leaders in Dublin marked Dromoland Castle for destruction. However, sabotage orders were reversed at the last minute at the urgent request of local IRA leaders in County Clare, who argued that the Inchiquin Lords had been fair and benevolent in dealing with their tenant farmers. Sir Lucius O'Brien, the 13th Baron of Inchiquin (brother of Sir William Smith O'Brien), was remembered respectfully by the people of County Clare for his relief work in the famine years of the 1840s.

**1992-1940** Although the family's good reputation saved the castle during the revolution, the later loss of income after the forced sale of the tenant farms made the castle and the 2,000+ acre estate increasingly difficult for the Inchiquins to keep. After the death of the 15th Baron of Inchiquin in 1929, Dromoland was supported mainly by the personal wealth of his widow, Lady Ethel Inchiquin, an heiress, whose portrait, painted by Herbert Draper, hangs near the staircase in the castle's hall.

**1940-1962** After Lady Ethel's death, her oldest son, Sir Donough O'Brien, the 16th Baron of Inchiquin, and his wife, Lady Anne, daughter of Viscount Chelmsford, a Viceroy of India, managed to maintain Dromoland Castle as a traditional ancestral home for more than twenty years. Lord Inchiquin tried to make the estate self-supporting as a dairy farm, but by 1948 was so financially hard pressed that he began to take in tourists as paying guests.

**1962** Lord Inchiquin sold the castle, along with some 330 acres of surrounding land, and the hunting and shing rights to Mr. Bernard McDonough, an American industrialist, whose grandparents were born in Ireland.

**1962-1963** The castle underwent major renovations to transform the ancestral home into a luxury hotel. When the castle was officially reopened as a Resort Hotel, visitors who remembered it from the days of the Inchiquins marvelled at the preservation of its stately, warm and cheerful baronial country house atmosphere.

  
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