



# The Grand Hotel

EASTBOURNE



## The History of Afternoon Tea

Afternoon tea, that most quintessential of English customs, is a relatively new tradition. Whilst the custom of drinking tea dates back to the third millennium BC in China and was popularised in England during the 1660s by King Charles II and his wife the Portuguese Infanta Catherine de Braganza, it was not until the mid 19th century that the concept of 'Afternoon Tea' first appeared.

Introduced to England by Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, in the year 1840, the Duchess would become hungry around four o'clock in the afternoon. The evening meal in her household was served fashionably late at eight o'clock, thus leaving a long period of time between lunch and dinner. The Duchess asked that a tray of tea, bread and butter and cake be brought to her room during the late afternoon. This became a habit of hers and she began inviting friends to join her.

This pause for tea became a fashionable social event. During the 1880's upper-class and society women would change into long gowns, gloves and hats for their afternoon tea which was served in the drawing room between four and five o'clock.

Traditional afternoon tea consists of a selection of dainty sandwiches, scones served with clotted cream and preserves, cakes and pastries. Tea grown in India or Ceylon is poured from silver tea pots into delicate china cups.

To experience the best of the afternoon tea, indulge yourself with a trip to any of the Elite Hotels where we pride ourselves on maintaining the full tradition of Afternoon Tea in exquisite surroundings, although long gowns and gloves are optional!



# The Grand Hotel at Home

## Afternoon Tea

### Tea Sandwich Selection in Malted Brown & Soft Grain White Breads:

- Smoked Salmon, Cream Cheese & Chive
- Egg Mayonnaise with Watercress
- Chicken & Tarragon Mayonnaise
- Cucumber with Cream Cheese

### Scones and Pastries

Freshly Baked Plain and Fruit Scones with Cornish Clotted Cream and Strawberry Preserve

Tomato and Sussex Charmer Quiche

Assortment of Seasonal Afternoon Tea Pastries and Cakes

### Your choice of our Birchall Tea Selection:

Virunga Earl Grey, Great Rift Decaf, Great Rift, Virunga Afternoon Tea, Green Tea and Peach, Peppermint, Darjeeling, Green Tea, Jasmine Tea Pearls, Lemongrass and Ginger, Red Berry and Flower, Redbush, Camomile

**£19.00 per person**

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Grand Junior Afternoon Tea

£14.50 per child

(for children under 12 when 1 paying adult has full Afternoon Tea)

Choice of one sandwich from the following:

Chocolate Spread, Ham, Strawberry Jam, Egg Mayonnaise or Cheese & Marmite

Muffin topped with Chocolate Ganache, Fresh Fruit Chunks, Fruit Purée Dipping Pot, Fruit Jelly

Choice of Milk Shakes: Strawberry, Chocolate or Vanilla