



## Thirst For Knowledge Tea 101 At The Ritz Carlton

Afternoon Tea Maitre d' and tea specialist Jeffrey Hatrick teaches the rituals and rights of tea at the Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix. Traditional British afternoon tea is the setting for the most splendid course any student could wish for. Tea 101 is held the second Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm in the Lobby Lounge. Photojournalist JH Jennings was invited to capture a recent class where students asked probing questions and took copious notes.

Jeffrey's class is like no other. He takes his students through the mysteries of tea, its special service rituals and ceremonial formalities. The nuance of black versus green tea is uncovered as well as the appropriate delicacies which most often accompany a spot of tea. The subtleties of dining etiquette, tea accessories and even the health benefits of the brew are discussed. Bringing his charming sense of humor and extensive knowledge of tea, Jeffrey infuses his students with his own passion for tea.

This year, Jeffrey has launched his own blend of tea exclusive to the Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix. Eventually four teas, each blend celebrating the four seasons will be offered. Jeffrey has also masterminded the Tea of the Month Club which was inspired by Ritz-Carlton tea time aficionados. Members of this exclusive club will receive the first tins of custom teas. The Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix is the only location where the blends can be purchased.

Reservations for Tea 101 can be made through the Ritz-Carlton, Phoenix by calling 602-468-0700. The course fee is \$65 and classes fill up quickly.