

A Higher Rate Without the Wait.

6-MONTH CD SPECIAL

4.40%

APY*

AVAILABLE FOR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ACCOUNTS.

Available to Individuals and Businesses*

Open an account online today!

*Learn More

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

Member FDIC • Member DIF • NMLS ID #2478201

Daily News

58°

The Daily News

Saturday, May 24, 2025

E-EDITION

Search...

Continue

1. Click on "Continue"

2. Activate your account

3. Access your content

Tea Noir champagne bar, tea room infuse Garrison Inn with new glamour

By Katie Curley Katzman
Staff writer
Apr 30, 2010

Champagne will be a featured component of the new Tea Noir at the Garrison Inn.
Bryan Eaton/Staff photographer

[f](#) [in](#) [p](#) [@](#)

Plush chairs, crystal chandeliers and a glass of Veuve Clicquot in hand. It sounds like the perfect evening spent sitting in the lobby of a luxury hotel along the Champs-Elysees in Paris taking in the scenery.

But why dig out the passport and pay the pricey ticket abroad when French glamour and luxury can be found right in downtown Newburyport?

This week, the Garrison Inn on Brown Square opens its Tea Noir, a champagne bar and adjacent tea room in the newly renovated first-floor lobby of the boutique hotel. Designed to invoke the feel of luxury and elegance, the space is open to the public daily from 3 to 9 p.m.

To spotlight the new champagne bar, the Garrison Inn will play host to a weekly Glam Fest series of social and arts events for the public on Monday nights starting next week. A grand opening party complete with a red carpet kicks things off this Monday, with chocolate and champagne tastings, art show openings and galas planned for upcoming Monday nights.

"Mondays are already so bad," sales manager and Tea Noir hostess Jessica Laidlaw said. "So now people have something to do."

In conjunction with the 200-year anniversary of the building this year, the inn underwent a complete renovation. In January, a first-floor room previously used by David's Tavern, which occupies a portion of the historic inn building, was converted into the hotel lobby, and the old lobby was turned into a business center for guests.

The breakfast room is now affectionately called the Moses Brown Tea Room and has been given a face-lift as well. High tea is now available, and the inn plans to begin offering tea parties and champagne soirees.

"We really went for the French inspired," Laidlaw said. "We also wanted upscale, yet comfortable."

The new lobby lounge is decorated with Parisian antiques, most of which were found at auction. A fireplace and chandeliers with crystals shaped like bubbles add glitz to the room.

The lobby's champagne bar offers a variety of top-shelf champagnes and the option for customers to infuse their glass with a variety of botanical essences. Drinks such as the hot kiss, which is champagne infused with cinnamon and chocolate, and the candy bar, which is infused with chocolate and almond, are just some of the more than 25 unique creations visitors can expect to try.

Laidlaw's favorite is champagne infused with root beer essence.

"It was time to get a new lobby that matched the rest of the hotel," Laidlaw said of the renovations and new event schedule.

While the renovations are worth checking out, Laidlaw and manager Joy McFarland hope it's the programing that keeps locals coming back. Laidlaw said Tea Noir is definitely a place to wear those furs and stilettos tucked away in the back of the closet.

"We wanted to offer events that we would like to go to personally," Laidlaw said. "It's unique to Newburyport."

Everyone is welcome to attend the Monday night Glam Fest events, Laidlaw said. The majority of the offerings are free, although there is a \$10 fee for the monthly champagne and chocolate tastings.

A fashion show featuring a different Newburyport boutique or designer will parade through the lobby on the first Monday of every month. The first show this Monday will see models sporting fashions from Gentry's Consignment Boutique on the cat walk .

The second Monday of every month will be dedicated to local artists, with receptions celebrating the opening of an exhibit of their work inside Tea Noir. The exhibit will remain on display for the rest of the month. Wildlife photographer Paul Cyr will lead things off for May.

The Champagne et Chocolat tastings will fill the third Monday of the month, with visitors invited to sip designer champagnes paired with artisan chocolates.

A Grand Gala promising chic theme and seasonal parties and a special dress code of cocktail attire is in store for the last Monday of the month. All That Glitters is the theme for the May gala.

"It's great for a girls' night out," Laidlaw said of the Grand Galas.

IF YOU GO

What: Tea Noir, a new champagne bar and tea room in the Garrison Inn lobby

Where: 11 Brown Square, Newburyport

When: Daily, 3 to 9 p.m.

How: Call 978-499-8500 or visit www.garrisoninn.com.

Glam Fest at Tea Noir

The Tea Noir champagne bar in the Garrison Inn on Brown Square is introducing a weekly Glam Fest series of events and activities on Monday nights from 6 to 8. Here's the lineup for May:

May 3: Fashion show featuring a collection from Gentry's Consignment Boutique in The Tannery Marketplace; cocktail attire suggested, free.

May 10: Opening reception for an art exhibit spotlighting the bird photography of Paul Cyr; free.

May 17: Champagne et Chocolat featuring designer champagne and artisan chocolate tastings; \$10.

May 24: Grand Gala opening with the theme All That Glitters; cocktail attire recommended and giveaways planned, free.

Sweet tastes

A sampling of the champagne and chocolate pairings planned for the May 17 tasting:

Noir: Semisweet chocolate with 23-karat edible gold leaf, paired with mandarin orange champagne infusion

Mocha cinnamon: Dark chocolate truffle featuring roast espresso coffee and Vietnamese cassia cinnamon infused in heavy cream, paired with hot kiss champagne infusion

Champagne: A 62-percent dark Swiss chocolate infused with fine cognac eau de vie, paired with cognac infusion

Chevre: Locally produced chevre cheese infused into dark chocolate, paired with chocolate infusion

Thank you for supporting local journalism.

Get the most out of your subscription by signing up for [email newsletters](#) and downloading [our app](#).

Tags [#newburyport](#)

Trending Video

Newburyport News Events

Sat, Jun 07

Explore! North Shore - Trails Day Hike at Ravenswood Crane Estate Allée

SAT

24

SUN

25

MON

26

Sat, May 24

Self-Guided Spring Orchard Walk at Cider Hill Farm

TUE

27

WED

28

THU

29

A Higher Rate Without the Wait.

4.40%

APY*

6-MONTH CD SPECIAL

OPEN AN ACCOUNT ONLINE TODAY!

*Learn More

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

Building Stronger Communities Together Since 1820.

Member FDIC • Member DIF • NMLS ID #2478201

A Higher Rate Without the Wait.

4.40%

APY*

6-MONTH CD SPECIAL

OPEN AN ACCOUNT ONLINE TODAY!

*Learn More

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

Building Stronger Communities Together Since 1820.

Member FDIC • Member DIF • NMLS ID #2478201

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Contact Information	Sections
newburyportnews.com 23 Liberty St. Newburyport, MA 01950 Phone: (978) 462-6666 Email: ndnnews@newburyportnews.com	<div><div></div><div>News</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Comics</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Puzzles</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Sports</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Community</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Opinion</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Obituaries</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Photos</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Public Notices</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Video Gallery</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Weather</div></div>

© Copyright 2025 The Daily News of Newburyport 23 Liberty St., Newburyport, MA | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy Powered by BLOX Content Management System from BLOX Digital.

Continue

1. Click on "Continue"

2. Activate your account

3. Access your content

1 of 2

1

2