



## Sips & Gifts

Cuppa Tea Co. owner Lurline Wagner believes that life should be enjoyed sip by sip, and that afternoon tea is the perfect time for a bridal shower. "After guests finish their afternoon tea, the bride can open her gifts," she says.

Cuppa Tea Co. bridal showers often include tea sandwiches, scones, pastries and two teas — one with the sandwiches and one for dessert (prices vary based on selections). Wagner has even created two special teas for the special occasion — Romantic Earl Grey and the store's Bridal Shower Blend.

Feathernesters owner Tony Turner is also seeing an upsurge in bridal shower tea parties (\$10.95 per person). "We tailor-make the tea for them," he explains. Offerings include a decorated two-tiered tea tray with goodies such as scones and lemon-butter curd, and cheesecake squares. Brewed hot teas are served in individual teapots; iced tea is also available.

Tea-time bridal showers are also held at The Jefferson, where the grand setting is matched with tea sandwiches, pastries, scones and tea breads (\$25.36 to \$29.90 per person). Popular teas include the hotel's Richmond and Jefferson blends.

"We also feature a Chocolate Lover's tea that's popular with brides," says Katie Bishoff, room service manager.

— Joan Tupponce

## PRETTY IN PAPER

From colorful wedding cakes and wedding dresses to "his and hers" lingerie hanging on a clothesline, Karen Cole Paper's bridal shower invites and save-the-date cards are perfect for any bride-to-be. The cards and invitations are casual yet classic. Karen Bullard established her Richmond-based company in 2004 with playful birth announcements. Since then, the business has expanded to include designs for most occasions, including birthdays, holidays, weddings and cocktail parties. Each illustration is reproduced onto heavyweight, bright-white card stock, and left blank for details to be filled in either by hand or with a printer. Cards and invitations are boxed in sets of ten with corresponding envelopes, and cost around \$13 per set. Karen Cole Paper can be found in boutiques across the county and online at [www.karencolepaper.com](http://www.karencolepaper.com). — Rachel Nania



bridal shower!

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