

September 2022

Double win for Scottish Tea Ladies

A Frisky Rascal and Nine Ladies dance their way into Knightsbridge

This month has seen Scotland's lady tea growing pioneers notch up another two successes.

The founders of **Tea Gardens of Scotland** have landed orders of their black tea **Nine Ladies Dancing** with the luxury **Bulgari Hotel in Knightsbridge**, following hard on the heels of its popularity at Fortnum & Mason.

Their signature tea has also been joined by the first roasted green tea to come out of Scotland. Named **Frisky Rascal** after a rescued red squirrel, this Perthshire grown green tea has been carefully crafted from the combined leaf of just three independent gardens in the county.

The **Bulgari Hotel and Residences** is a luxury boutique hotel in Knightsbridge with a distinctive modern burst that oozes glamour and authentic elegance.

A spokeswoman for **Tea Gardens of Scotland** said, " We have been delighted by the encouraging uptake of our tea and how well it has been received. Our aim was to produce an authentic, high quality, hand crafted tea, it's a real joy when years of hard work pays off. To be included on the tea menu at the Bulgari Hotel is a dream come true for us all "

A spokesperson for **Canton Tea** said.

' **Canton** supplies some of the world's top hotels and we are delighted to introduce Nine Ladies Dancing and Frisky Rascal to Bulgari Knightsbridge to be available on their Fine Tea menu with their afternoon teas. At Canton we are in awe of the dedication and craftsmanship of these ladies of Tea Gardens of Scotland. The feedback from our customers has been very positive which is great credit to the astonishing achievement of these Scottish tea growers.'

Frisky Rascal

Pinkie Methven said 'It had to be something very special for 'Mr Wadja' he was so gorgeous and completely stole our hearts. At around 7/8 weeks old he was found in the woods next to the tea garden at St Martins and when dusk came and his mother hadn't returned for him he had to be taken care of. He was tiny, fitted in a pocket and fed from a bottle a doll would have been happy with. Luckily, he thrived and at the end of last year he went accompanied first class LNER to live at the British Wildlife Centre in Surrey. Although far from home there, they have a red squirrel breeding program and were delighted to have 'Mr Wadja' to broaden their gene pool. It was chosen because of their expertise and the large areas they have for red squirrels to have their freedom. They are open to the public and as Mr Wadja had had so much human contact it was the obvious choice for him. We felt very fortunate that they accepted him with open arms.'

Ronnie Murray said, 'We have spent many hours exploring match making combinations to achieve perfect pairings for our green teas. There is no shortage of food pairings to complement and enhance the wonderful flavours.

Last summer there was an addition to the team and visits to St Martins were dominated by Mr Wadja, this incredibly resilient adorable red squirrel that had been taken in and lived as part of the Methven family.

As a small group of three Perthshire tea gardens running green tea experiments, 'Bird song' was developed first - an incredibly light delicious steamed green tea. And then Bev 'cracked the method' for bringing out the flavours of our leaf by making a sublime roasted green tea. It was only fitting that we named it 'Frisky Rascal' after Mr Wadja, who was present for so much of the fun. Often nibbling at the leaves or nuts and heritage fruits that were gathered from the walled garden to accompany our pairing selection. We are all delighted with 'Frisky Rascal' tea, it's different, smooth, vegetal and nutty notes make it stand apart from so many green teas that we love from elsewhere in the World. It's been amazingly well received, way beyond our expectations, we're all thrilled.'

The third Perthshire tea garden at 15th Century Megginch Castle is tended to by Catherine Drummond Herdman, in her ancient walled garden she also grows heritage fruits alongside her tea and is the holder of the Scottish National Apple collection.

Tea Gardens of Scotland are a group of 9 lady tea growers situated in Perthshire, Fife, Angus and Kincardineshire who began planting tea seeds in 2016, their aim was to create authentic, hand-crafted 100% Scottish tea to a high standard producing the most exquisite teas. These independent gardens came together to develop a black tea 'Nine Ladies Dancing' a combination of leaf from each garden which merges the influences of each individual terroir to build the unique notes of this tea. Each of these women forged new careers as tea ladies, transforming abandoned walled gardens, diversifying farms and converting home gardens. They have faced steep learning curves along with the unpredictable effects of climatic changes in our weather. Scotland is the most northerly country in the world to grow tea and as trailblazers in this field advice was scant and therefore exploratory. However, battling the unpredictable elements and a relatively short growing season this has proven to

strengthen their resolve and called for expanding innovative techniques to establish mature bushes that can withstand the rigours of regular plucking. The plants are still maturing and although the yield increases each year this is still one of the world's rarest tea productions. It's true to say that against all odds they have nurtured plants that just keep giving.

Each individual garden has matured considerably in the last 6 years and now experimenting with their own teas. 3 of the Perthshire gardens got together with the aim of developing a green tea and after several years of micro batch experiments with their leaf at the Scottish Tea Factory, these 3 Perthshire ladies, worked together with renowned international tea maker Beverly Wainwright to find the best method for their leaf. First came a delicious steamed green tea 'Birdsong' which was well received and then this incredible roasted green tea **Frisky Rascal**

The **Bulgari Hotel and Residences** is a luxury boutique hotel in Knightsbridge with a distinctive modern burst that oozes glamour and authentic elegance. The Bulgari group have hotels worldwide in major cosmopolitan cities and luxury resort destinations with further openings planned for 2023,25,26

[Canton Tea](#) have been instrumental in the journey of **Tea Gardens of Scotland**, placing their tea into some of London's most prestigious hotels.

Tea Gardens of Scotland have previously sold to Fortnum & Mason, The Royal Penthouse Suite at the Corinthia Hotel and Canton Tea.

Frisky Rascal



Tasting notes to editors

Nine Ladies Dancing

- A black tea, amber to light gold liquor, a bright clear cup
- Light, delicate sweet with caramel, chocolate, dried fruit and woody notes
- 2.5 – 3g per 200ml
- 95 C for 3-4 mins
- Pour off liquid from leaves after steeping, whole leaf can be brewed 3 times
- <https://teagardensofscotland.co.uk/>
- [@teagardensofscotland](#)

Frisky Rascal

A roasted green tea, pale green/lemon liquor with a vegetal and floral aroma

- Light, smooth with toasted nuts and grilled artichoke notes
- 3g per 200ml
- 80 C for 3mins
- Pour off liquid from leaves after steeping, whole leaf can be brewed 6+ times
- helloteagarden.co.uk
- [@scottishteagarden](#) [@stmartinstea](#) [@megginchcastle](#)

Tea maker

Beverley Wainwright is a renowned professional in the tea industry, travelling the world consulting and teaching her tea making skills in countries such as Sri Lanka, Burma and USA. She opened the Scottish Tea factory in Perthshire in 2018 and has helped Tea Gardens of Scotland ladies with years of experimental microbatches to find the best method for their leaf. She runs UK Tea Academy courses among others at Scottish Tea factory in Perthshire.

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Tea Gardens of Scotland Ladies

