

Newsday

Monday, April 25, 2011

The magazine cover features a central image of a white teapot with gold trim pouring liquid into a matching white mug. The mug has two oval portraits of a man and a woman, a crest, and a decorative border. The background is a dark blue and purple geometric pattern.

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Royal nuptials are LI's cup of tea

BY JIM MERRITT
Special to Newsday

Friday's wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton gets the royal treatment at a number of Long Island establishments with ties to the British Isles.

Plenty of locals are pulling out all the stops, organizing princess-themed sleepovers (for grown-ups) Thursday night, so all can gather 'round the television early Friday for cake and mimosas as the wedding festivities play out across the pond. Other home fetes involve elaborate full English breakfasts and tiaras-optional dress codes.

A few establishments are rising to the royal occasion by hosting viewing parties that are open to the public.

"If we can get a large British flag, we're probably going to hang it out front," says Loretta Vertucci, owner of Robinson's Tea Room in Stony Brook, which is serving a full British tea that day. Vertucci's great-grandparents immigrated here from the English Midlands.

The Garden City Hotel, which has hosted a number of royals as guests, plans an entire weekend of traditional English fare for breakfast, brunch and tea.



Garden City Hotel

WHERE 45 Seventh St.,
Garden City
INFO 516-877-9385,
gardencityhotel.com

The luxury hotel has hosted British royalty such as Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson and heads of state such as Margaret Thatcher. It also has been a stopping place for American royalty, like the Kennedys.

This time around, no royal entourage, but you can see the wedding live on three large-screen televisions in Rein restaurant, where a full English breakfast will be served for \$22, beginning at 6 a.m. Friday.

Later on, you can sample tidbits you see in movies like "The King's Speech" — tea sandwiches, fresh scones with Devonshire cream and traditional British wedding fruit cake — at a high tea from 3 to 5 p.m. (also 2-5 p.m. Saturday) for \$44. Reservations required.



The royal couple and their souvenir mug, above right

"The Garden City Hotel is honored to host a royal wedding weekend celebration in honor of the young royals' nuptials," says Patrick Smalley, the hotel's executive vice president.

Here are three Anglophile venues where you can have a royal good time celebrating "the wedding of the century."



Garden City and Stony Brook may not be London, but you can watch the wedding and eat British treats there on Friday.

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Garden City's Cupcake Gourmet has designed royal wedding treats.

Robinson's Tea Room

WHEN | WHERE 10:30 a.m.-
1 p.m. Friday, Stony Brook
Village Center

INFO 631-751-1232

COST \$26, by reservation only

Enter the world of bone china cups and saucers, stoneware teapots and cucumber sandwiches for Robinson's full British tea. Vertucci says many of her patrons are from England and Australia. For the record, the house tea is Yorkshire Gold, but you also can order Earl Grey (of course) and more than 70 other blends, varieties and flavors of tea.

The Cupcake Corner

WHEN | WHERE 8-10:30 a.m.
and 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.,
62 New Hyde Park Rd.,
Garden City

INFO 516-328-2253,
thecupcakecornergc.com

COST \$29.95

The cupcake cafe is hosting a viewing breakfast/ brunch of scones with clotted cream, teas, gourmet coffees, yogurt parfaits, fruit and — of course — custom Prince William and soon-to-be Princess Catherine cupcakes. Since the wedding starts about 6 a.m. out time, patrons will be able to view the nuptials on a taped delay during the 2½-hour dining sessions.