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Every winter our tradition of gatherings over hot tea and dessert commences in the evening after dinner.

![alt](images/stories/blog/tea9113.jpg)◆

Whoever is handy at the time, puts on the teakettle and then finds out what tea everyone prefers that evening. Although we have a variety of around 30 teas from which to choose, most of us return to our favorites again and again.

![alt](images/stories/blog/tea0050.jpg)◆

![alt](images/stories/blog/tea0018.jpg)◆

I love to see the tea cups lined up on the counter, ready for placement on the silver tray.

![alt](images/stories/blog/tea0023.jpg)◆

![alt](images/stories/blog/tea0037.jpg)◆

Teatime is always a formal affair so we use our china cups, silver sugar cube tongs, crystal sugar bowl, and silver tea tray. In many ways, it is more about the lovely formality of the event than it is the actual fare.

![alt](images/stories/blog/tea9125.jpg)◆

Most often we have strawberries and cream with homemade chocolate truffles.

![alt](http://www.theresnoplacelikehome-summers.com/images/stories/blog/trufflespict0163_0001.jpg)◆

Other times, we spread out homemade scones and specialty cookies.

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![alt](images/stories/blog/tea9115.jpg)◆

Some times we just savor an assortment of chocolates.

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Teatimes are always a special time of the year.