

LUXE LIFE

Simple Sips

Something good is always brewing at this tea and herbal emporium.

BY CORA OLSON

WHEN BEVERLY HILLS NATIVE MARK UKRA and his wife Julie Jackson-Ukra bought the Tea Garden and Herbal Emporium last year, they wanted to build "an oasis in L.A. for people seeking to further themselves spiritually, physically, or mentally." Using feng shui, they built a tea and tonic bar, an herb counter, and delightfully private nooks for sipping brews and dining on macrobiotic food by M Café de Chaya.

Used throughout history by yogis and monks to increase vibration levels within the spirit, all teas originate from the Camellia plant. Also a premier purveyor of herbs, the Tea Garden has a diverse, knowledgeable staff—including experts on meditation, Pranic healing, acupuncture, and numerology, creating what they affectionately call Tea U—not to mention George Lamoureux, one of the finest herbalists in the country. "Teas have their own palate, their own noses, length, and breath," says Ukra, who is also a collector of fine wines, cigars, and Scotches. He often does tastings from his tea menu, among the finest in the country, and asks participants to comment on the different aromas and flavors. *Tea Garden and Herbal Emporium, 9001 Beverly Boulevard, West Hollywood, 800-288-4372. ★*

