

06 Macau Tea Culture House

Tea originated in China. It is difficult to investigate the fact of the saying "Tea drinking was initiated by Shen Nung, a ruler supposed to have introduced agriculture and herbal medicine" found in the "Book of Tea" written by the Tea Sage, Lu Yu of the Tang Dynasty. A more trustworthy record is the "History of Hua Yang Guo - The Ba History" stating that as early as in the Bashu District which occupied today's eastern Sichuan, in the Zhou Dynasty, there appeared something called tea. By and by, tea comes to be a daily necessity of the Chinese people and also the Chinese "National Drink", which is proved in the saying "The seven vital objects for a day are firewood, rice, oil, salt, sauce, vinegar and tea". In reality, tea consists of polyphenolic compound, alkaloid, amino acid, protein, vitamins, pigment, aromatic substances, etc. All these are beneficial to human health. Moreover, tea draws forth many tea affairs like tea sentiments, tea fun, tea art,....

By the seventeenth century, Macau had already taken up an important position as a port for Chinese tea transit business as well as a significant role in the history of tea-leaf propagation and trading industry. Because of this, Chinese tea culture keeps spreading extensively with the tea-leaf journeys and merges into the civilization of the local users. The situation of the great amount of tea exports to Britain was turned into an adverse balance at the import of opium during the nineteenth century, bringing about the crisis of modern politics, social problem and economic variations to China.

The significance of Macau being the influential international Chinese tea transit port and the importance of being a permanent residence of the easterners and westerners are seen in her manifestation of the features of tea drinking culture of the East and West, being combined into a unique style of tea drinking, while each adds brilliance to the other. Therefore, the establishment of the Tea Culture House in Macau does help to offer to the public once again a systematic display of the eastern and western civilization of tea drinking. With the forceful motivation of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau as well as the ardent encouragement of the enthusiastic supporters, the Tea Culture House has finally come to its being. It was organized and designed by the renowned architect Dr. Carlos Marreiros. The fundamental construction of the building is a western structure bearing an external aspect of the typical Portuguese style. The roof of which is fitted with Chinese tiles, making it a fine combination of the East and West, owning a southern Europe taste and matching with the Portuguese architectural atmosphere of the district. Located in the Lou Lim Ioc Park, the Tea Culture House and the scenery of the Suzhou Garden view therein do add radiance and beauty to each other. They both tend to take up the role of cultural interchange in the history of Macau.

The Tea Culture House will be used for different modes of short and long term exhibitions to demonstrate the Tea Culture of Macau and the attraction of the eastern and western tea drinking, propagating the knowledge and studies of the international tea culture. All visits of students and school teachers are welcome.

Macau Tea Culture House Information:

Location: Lou Lim Ioc Park, Estrada Adolfo Loureiro No10, Macao.
Tel : 28827103/28827104
Opening Hours: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm from Tuesdays to Sundays.
(Closed on Mondays)

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