

DECEMBER 2004 £3.20

ELLE DECORATION

IT'S CELEBRATION TIME!
GORGEOUS GIFTS TO GIVE (OR KEEP)

DECADENT DINING
AND DECORATING
INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS
FOR CHRISTMAS

PLUS:
TREAT YOUR HOME
HOW TO GET A
FABULOUS FIFTIES FEEL

SWEET DREAMS!
14 PAGES OF
BEAUTIFUL
BEDROOMS



TAKING TIME

Slow down and take a break: make time work for you for a change...



TEA TIME

In the face of quick-fix coffee shops and indigenous courting fast-food outlets, it's time to bring back the relaxing ritual of afternoon tea. It's all about attentive detail, unhurried service, savouring the flavours, a course, elegant tea sets and delightfully delicious cakes (previous page) and our tea feature, page 114.

For a design-savvy twist, treat yourself in **The Berkeley** Prêt-à-Portes afternoon tea inspired by catwalk creations. Its new 'autumn/winter' collection includes praline cookies shaped like the latest Oscar de la Renta dress (far left), served on striped Paul Smith china. It costs £15 per person, or £25 with a flute of Moët in Baccarat crystal.

Or go global at London's modern oriental tea house **Yauatcha** (below left), where you can sip jumbo fruit-tee smoothies in the futuristic, tea-ja-lined eat-in and nibble on cakes with names like 'Shanghai'. If you prefer Moroccan mint tea and dainty pastries (above), head for **Momo's** souk-like tea-room in Selfridges. **Prêt-à-Portes, 3-6pm daily at The Caramel Room, Berkeley, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, SW1 1JZ 020 7092 8000; www.the-berkeley.com. Gift vouchers are available at Yauatcha, 15-17 Broadwick St, W1 020 7494 8998; Selfridges, 400 Oxford St, W1 020 7318 3630.**

TREAT TIME



Once, we'd clamoured for 30-minute beauty treatments that we could squeeze into a lunch hour. Well, no longer! Claire Rogers, of Brighton pamper parlour **The Treatment Rooms**, has got it right when she says, "We're realising that if we don't slow down and smell the roses, we're at risk from serious health problems. What clients want now takes more hours as possible in a relaxing atmosphere." She suggests 'The Treatment Rooms Ritual', three hours of blissful pampering, using Aromatherapy Associates' 'Renew Face Oil' products. So book yourself in – you're worth it! **The Treatment Rooms Ritual, £150 (gift vouchers available, above left), the treatment rooms, 21 New Road, Brighton BN2 3 878 9440.**



BUYING TIME

'Never have enough time' is a common lament these days, but we may have a solution. **Buy:Time** is a lifestyle management company that 'sells' time in hourly units costing £25 each, or less if you buy in bulk. Confused? Well, put simply, you pay them to do things for you! Whether it's coming out that epic 'to do' list, organising a weekend away, or helping with Christmas shopping, **Buy:Time** can help. Buy some time for yourself, or get gift vouchers (above) for friends. Can't afford them? Put them on your Christmas list! **For details, call 020 7498 7934 or visit www.buy-time.co.uk.**



HOTEL TIME

It's still at concept stage, but we love the idea of **Yotel**, a revolutionary new hotel inspired by Japanese capsule hotels, where you can hire 10-sqm rooms for as little as four hours, checking in and out electronically. Two London airports (also to be open by 2008) – perfect for chilling out before a long flight – and two central London locations are in the offing. The brainchild of Simon Woodroffe, founder of hotel Sate, Yotel is a mix of space-saving style and high-tech luxe (light and towel ambocoms with a petite price tag, too) (about £10 an hour, £75 a night). **For details, visit www.yotel.co.uk.**

