

The Monastery

Quick
Bite

The tea-cured salmon lox is accompanied by scones and tea-marinated olives.



The mint and green tea curing gives the fish a lively clean-yet-earthly flavor.

The royal Welsh rarebit (\$9.50 at lunch with homemade bacon) was more inconsistent, with the cheddar, Havarti and Boursin cheeses not yet completely blended and the toast beneath them a touch dry. But the accompanying lapsang souchong tea-cured bacon offered a deep, rich flavor.

The English teaser (\$2.95 at lunch) — three homemade scones served with a choice of two spreads — was a highlight. We chose the honey and lavender cream and the ethereal lemon curd — a creamy-smooth sauce, balanced between sweet and tangy. The scones were warm and dense, the perfect accompaniment to any of the 140-plus teas available.

The tea menu includes black, pu-erh, oolong, green, white, herbal and roobios teas, which are served hot or iced tableside (most \$2.95 to \$3.50). The Yorkshire Harrogate was brought to the table still steeping, with a timer indicating when it was ready to be iced. It was refreshing and flavorful — much like the experience of dining at The Monastery.

— *Tori Woods*

The peaceful contemplation at The Monastery isn't meant for praying — it's for sampling fine teas and hearty meals.

Small stone tables are surrounded by oversized art emulating stained glass on textured, autumn-colored walls. Himalayan salt candles cast a warm glow on the tin ceilings.

The menu is a mélange of traditional items and new creations, with tea a constant focus. The tea-cured salmon lox platter (\$7.50 at lunch) is served with fresh-from-the-oven savory scones and a variety of condiments, from traditional cream cheese to green tea and lemon marinated olives. The salmon, fresh and rosy pink, is cut into unusually generous strips, making for a satisfying meal.

The Monastery Restaurant/Tea Sanctuary, 1844 W. 25th St., Cleveland, (216) 575-1832, Tue-Wed 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thu-Sat 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Major credit cards accepted, wheelchair accessible.