

HER CUP OF TEA

HENRIETTA LOVELL, WHO SPECIALIZES IN SOURCING RARE TEAS, PUBLISHES HER FIRST BOOK THIS FALL.

ENRIETTA LOVELL travels with a handled case stocked with the tools of her trade. Inside are loose-leaf teas, ethically grown and personally sourced from some of the world's remotest regions. In the 15 years since Lovell launched Rare Tea Company from her London apartment, her tasting case has helped earn her legions of fans among top hoteliers and chefs. Her teas are served at Claridge's and at the Chiltern Firehouse hotels in London, at Noma in Copenhagen, at Momofuku Ssäm Bar and The Modern in New York City and at Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills, New York. "In the beginning René [Redzepi] said, 'I love what you do...but we don't sell any tea in Copenhagen. We're Danes. We serve coffee.'" says Lovell, 48, of the Noma chef. "That's what I heard in every restaurant. That was the norm back in 2004."

Lovell's memoir, *Infused*, out in October, follows her struggles to build a new market among chefs for highquality tea as she shakes off the "golden handcuffs" of a decade-plus career at a financial printing firm, launching her company just months before she was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33. "There was the possibility of adventures ahead," she writes, of undergoing treatment for her illness. "There was tea." Her adventures have taken her everywhere from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Shire Highlands of Malawi. She once brewed Chinese white peony while bobbing in an inflatable boat in the Norwegian Arctic as Noma's shellfish supplier dived for sea urchin.

"The message of my book," she says, "is take as much pleasure as possible from the things you can. You can have a really boring cup of tea, or you can have a really f—ing amazing one." *rareteacompany.com.* —*Jay Cheshes*





STUDY IN DESIGN

Stockholm-based design store Svenskt Tenn, best known for its pieces enlivened by the playful prints of Josef Frank, has tapped Swedish illustrator Liselotte Watkins to do her first collection of home goods for the brand. Named Via Sallustina, a nod to Watkins's adopted home city of Rome, the series of trays, pillows, lamps and vases features her signature cubistinflected imagery done in a palette that recalls both midcentury Swedish ceramics and the colors of the Mediterranean. For details see Sources, page 182.