

Mark T. Wendell Tea Company Announces Acquisition Of The Grace Tea Company

Acton, MA, -- March 2010, The Mark T. Wendell Tea Company announces acquisition of the Grace Tea Company to expand offering set to customer base; commitment made to maintain the integrity and history of the Grace brand. All operations relocated to Acton, Massachusetts.

Mark T. Wendell Tea Company, a premium tea importer and distributor since 1904, announces the acquisition of The Grace Tea Company. Grace will continue to operate as an independent corporation to ensure continuity in product and service.

Since it's founding in 1959, this New York City specialty tea company has been known for its unique blends under the "Grace Rare Tea" label. The owners of Mark T. Wendell Tea Company, Elliot and Hartley Johnson, have made a commitment at preserving its unique heritage to ensure Grace Tea brands continue to thrive. Their focus will be to carry on the Grace tradition of providing the finest teas, classic product elegance, and superior customer service. Over time the Johnsons plan to expand the range of products to include new green, oolong, and white teas.

The Johnsons had been managing the blending, packing, and shipping for Grace since 1992, so the decision to purchase Grace and preserve their heritage was a logical business decision. "Our familiarity with this unique tea brand and customer base has allowed a smooth transition of ownership. We are excited at the opportunity to continue this business and maintain the same philosophies as its founder, Frank Cho, and our immediate predecessors, the late-Richard and Marguerite Sanders. Their philosophy of 'keep it first class, but keep it simple' is an idea that we embrace and shall continue for many years to follow," said Hartley E. Johnson, co-owner.

The change in ownership prompted a migration of Mark T. Wendell and Grace Tea Company to a new, state of the art facility in Acton, Massachusetts. The corporations will be managed separately and maintain their respective product lines, but centralizing operations will generate efficiencies. The new facility includes a climate controlled product storage warehouse, a specialized tea blending and packaging room, and a larger shipping and receiving department with improved access for customers.

About Grace Rare Teas

Established in 1959, the Grace Tea Company has been known for offering only the finest large, unbroken tea leaves. The single origin teas and tea components used in Grace's custom blends are hand-picked from the finest tea gardens and estates of China, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, and Japan. Grace Rare Teas have won six prestigious awards at the International Fancy Food Shows, including the Esthetic Award for outstanding packaging and Distinguished Recognition in the Fine Food category. www.gracetea.com

About Mark T. Wendell Tea Company

Established in 1904, Mark T. Wendell Tea Company was purchased by Elliot H. Johnson in 1971. They select and purchase only the finest teas from growing estates and importers from around the world. They offer over 65 estate grown black, pu-erh, oolong, green and white specialty teas, 8 signature tea blends, 9 herbal and fruit tisanes, and an expanding selection of organic and fair trade teas. Mark T. Wendell Tea Company is the global distributor for Boston Harbour Tea and serves as one of the select United States distributors for Lifeboat Tea, Indar Tea, London Fruit & Herb Company Teas, Heath & Heather Herbal Infusions, and Foojy Chinese Teas. www.marktwendell.com

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