

Bellingham seems to be a veritable bouquet of blooming businesses that are homegrown, successful and local. One such business is Sip-T Tea Company that specializes in delicious artisan teas and is the brainchild of the mother-daughter team of Cheyenne and Kamea Black. After spending over 25 years making chai tea for friends and family, Cheyenne settled into Bellingham with her daughters and started Sip-T in January 2009. Sip-T has 14 different varieties of fine loose leaf teas, including the family favorite, Guru Brew chai tea.

The mother-daughter duo that is Sip-T are probably familiar faces if you frequent either the Wednesday or Saturday Bellingham Farmer's Market. They proudly provide samples of a variety of their teas and are eager to share their expert knowledge of the blends and flavor nuances; and help you find the perfect fit for your palate.

Sip-T's packaging is as innovative as the tea blends are unique. The tea is packaged in completely tree-free, 100% compostable cotton bags that feature an outer bag that doubles as an infuser for steeping. The reusable packaging is original to Sip-T and seamlessly introduces people who are new to and unsure of how to prepare and enjoy loose leaf teas.

The ingredients that go into each handcrafted blend of Sip-T are organic and from fair trade sources. Sip-T makes every effort to source their ingredients locally and has put together a lavender tea that will be introduced this fall. The lavender is grown locally in Whatcom County and is one of Sip-T's first teas to be sourced directly from Bellingham's backyard.

Sip-T has grown over 20% each year and is now able to supply more wholesale customers. It is a local success story that is a credit to the loyal support from the community and the family passion that the Black's have for their craft.

As the nip of fall settles in, it's the perfect time to try a cup of hand-brewed tea from Sip-T. Their teas are available at both the Wednesday and Saturday Bellingham Farmer's Market and online at [www.sip-t.com](http://www.sip-t.com). Free delivery is also available within the Bellingham city limits. Sip-T customers can also enjoy a steaming cup of tea on the house if you mention this article during your next visit to the market.