



Left: The gate of Heqin Garden represents the rural style of Maoqiao Village.

Below: Fiona takes a walk in the garden steeped in sunlight.



traditional Chinese tea culture.

Stepping into the garden, a couple of chickens would immediately catch your eyes — they are the stars of the garden.

“The two chickens are gifts from my neighbor in the village. They grew up here, and have become my pets, and the guests like them. If you take a picture, they even pose in front of the camera,” said Xu Li, the owner of the teahouse.

The traditional Chinese-style garden is delicate. There are red koi fish swimming in the pond, flowers and bonsai plants everywhere.

The guestroom has a unique window of ancient Chinese buildings, which is covered with a white silk curtain. When the light changes, the shadows of the bamboos in the garden create a vivid Chinese ink painting on it.

“Enjoying the charm of Chinese culture is a must when you are in a teahouse,” said Xu, who was born in Xinyang, Henan Province, and learned tea culture in Fujian Province when she was young. She built the garden three years ago, inviting people to enjoy the culture behind tea.



Baking nuts and fruits on the stove while boiling tea is an iconic tea culture in Yunnan Province.

“Different kinds of tea bring us different cultures,” she said.

One of her favorite teas is Yunnan Ancient Wild Tree Black Tea.

“People always think tea tastes bitter. But this kind of tea has a light sweet flavor, which is very gentle,” Xu introduced.

She recommended the Fuding White Tea for the winter period.

“It’s a different kind compared to the Anji White Tea, as it’s nature-dried. In ancient times, it served as a TCM remedy to treat flu.”

“These days, boiling tea around the stove is popular. Ancient people said that the water cannot be boiled

more than twice,” Xu opined, adding that the advantage of the stove is that it can keep the water above 90 degrees centigrade, so that the sweetness, freshness and fragrance of the tea will stay pure. The warmth also makes people feel good in the winter.

Boiling tea on a stove used to be a tradition in Yunnan Province, the birthplace of Chinese tea. Local people would carry a stove when they went to the forest to pick tea. They boiled tea, as well as baked rice cakes, nuts and fruits on the stove for their meals during the day. This later became a custom in the region.

It has spread all over China nowadays, as the new style of making the traditional tea seems more interesting and attractive to many, especially the young generation.

Combining the new style and the tradition has sparked a renaissance for Chinese teahouses in the city. If you want to know more, why not plan a trip and get your first-hand experience on what I’ve tried and liked.

Address: 120 Maoqiao Village, Huating Town

Opening Hours: 9am-5pm

Teahouses in Jiading



Songming Garden

“SONGMING” is named after the five-needle pine as the main plant grown in the garden, and “Songming” itself happens to be the name of a Chinese tea. The garden is designed in the countryside style with several cottages. It’s an ideal place to enjoy traditional Chinese tea culture.

Address: 600 Changxu Rd, Juyuan New Area

Opening Hours: 9:30am-9:30pm (reservation required)



Yue'erju Teahouse

IT’S a teahouse featuring Yunnan tea culture. All the names of tea rooms refer to famous tea mountains in the southwestern province. The signature tea of Yue'erju is the original ecological tea, such as the Ancient Tree Pu'er, which has a smooth taste with a clear and amber color.

Address: Bldg 15, 66 Xinyuan Rd, Anting Town

Opening Hours: 10am-10pm



Longyuan Teahouse

NEIGHBORING Yuanxiang Lake, Poly Grand Theater and Jiading Library, the teahouse is hidden behind a green wall full of blooming Chinese trumpet creeper. Different kinds of tea pots are displayed in the teahouse, where it would be nice to spend an afternoon immersed in the tea culture and Chinese calligraphy.

Address: Bldg 55-8, Lane 333, Baiyin Rd, Malu Town

Opening Hours: 9am-11pm