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As night falls, the owner of the African Red Tea Rooibos Tea House is challenging the idea of tea as the pursuit of geeky introverts. You might wander in to find the high-energy proprietor Nira Levy Maslin shipping tea to Charlize Theron or planning a combination art show, dance fest and late-night drum circle. She's tapping into demand for the reddish, slightly sweet and naturally caffeine-free rooibos herbal tea.

Tea and curiosities

Over on Fairfax Avenue, the owners of the African Red Tea Rooibos Tea House are challenging the idea of tea as the pursuit of geeky introverts. You might wander in to find the high-energy proprietor Nira Levy Maslin shipping tea to Charlize Theron or planning a combination art show, dance fest and late-night drum circle. She's tapping into demand for the reddish, slightly sweet and naturally caffeine-free rooibos herbal tea.

Maslin's partner, Michael Broomberg, is a drummer, movie sound technician and owner of a

rooibos import and export business in South Africa. Their year-old storefront salon features African artworks, a grand piano and a bar where Maslin dispenses \$1 cups of tea, \$5 boxes of 20 teabags and her vast enthusiasm for rooibos. She drinks the tea, cooks with it, sells a skin care line based on it and supplies tea to the Bangkok tea salon and spa run by L.A. skin care guru Ole Henriksen.

African Red Tea - Rooibos

This combination tea shop, supplement store and art and music gallery is a retailer and wholesaler of its brand of rooibos, an infusion made from a South African bush. A cup is just a buck. ■ 533 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 658-7832, www.africanredtea.com

INFUSION: At African Red Tea Rooibos Tea House on Fairfax Avenue, dancer Stephanie Haynes performs as drummer Sel Sarkin plays. Owner Nira Levy Maslin dances in the background. Rooibos is a reddish, slightly sweet and caffeine-free herbal tea.