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STAFF
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Shoe Destination

My favorite area for shoe shopping is Old Town Alexandria. **Bishop Boutique** (815-B King St.; 571-312-0042) boasts a large selection of Kate Middleton's favorite L.K. Bennett pumps (I'm currently coveting the Eloise crochet sandal) and trendy sandals from the edgy label Loeffler Randall. A few blocks down at the **Shoe Hive** (127 S. Fairfax St.; 703-548-7105), you can pick up prep-perfect pairs from all-time favorite labels like Kate Spade and Tory Burch as well as such hard-to-find brands as Aerin.

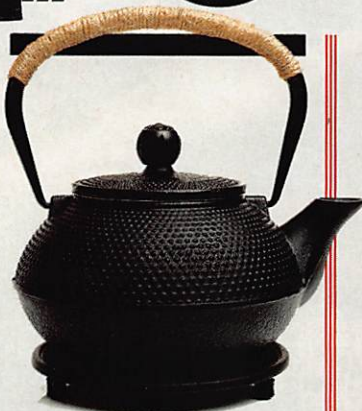
—IRINA GRECHKO

77, 78, 79

THAI TIMES THREE

If you love Asian spices and curries, you're lucky: Entire US cities don't have a single Thai restaurant as good as any of the trio on a three-block strip of Wheaton: Old favorites **Nava Thai** (11301 Fern St.; 240-430-0495) and **Ruan Thai** (11407 Amherst Ave.; 301-942-0075) have been joined this spring by the ambitious **Thai Taste by Kob** (11315 Fern St.; 301-942-0288).

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FAVORITE TEA SHOP

"I will always love **Ching Ching Cha** (1063 Wisconsin Ave., NW; 202-333-8288). It's been serenely selling some of my favorite oolongs, teaware, and literature since 1998. The marble tea eggs are a nostalgic delight, and this was the first place I learned to distinguish different pots for different teas. Plus, in gorgeous weather its location is ideal for strolling down the C&O Canal and through lower Georgetown."

—CHANTAL TSENG,
MOCKINGBIRD HILL CO-OWNER



Deborah Kalkstein's
modern-chic furnishings
at **Contemporaria** (3303
Cady's Alley, NW; 202-338-0193).

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