

Metalband delighted with their very own tea made by Els

Blends made by fan and tea-designer from Sint-Niklaas among merchandising

Last night, ReleaseTea designer Els Spandel and her husband Gerrit attended Apocalyptica's concert on the first row at The Royal Circus.

Being a huge fan Els has created five different blends of tea especially for the band. The metalband were so enchanted that they added the 'ApocalypTEAcA' to the merchandise on their site.



These five kinds of tea, based on just as many of the band's songs were not Els's first attempt. She started blending and selling tea in Sint-Niklaas two years ago. 'There's a lot of talk about healthy food but in the meantime people keep drinking far too little and mostly unhealthy beverages. That's why I started out ReleaseTea, Els explains. 'We mix several tea flavours or add herbs, spices, flowers or fruit. We've got 70 different blends on offer.

During workshops, participants can taste, evaluate and create their own tea. All our ingredients are organic, without any chemicals which guarantees a healthy product.' Els also points out that people don't make tea properly.' Never use tap water but pure water, low on minerals. And don't bring the water to a boil ! Boiled water burns the delicate tea leaves and gives them a bitter taste.'

Apo Tea ! How cool is that !

Last year Els launched her first theme tea, called 'Sinterklaas en Zwarte Piet' to be served in coffeeshops and restaurants in Sint-Niklaas to celebrate the feast of the patron saint of the town. But with ApocalypTEAca she added another very special creation to her selection.



Els and Gerrit (middle) together with the Apocalyptica band members

'I've been a fan of Apocalyptica, a cello-rockband from Finland for years. They play a wide range of music : from classical to metal. On their debut album, they covered songs from Metallica. For its twentieth anniversary the album has been remastered and released again and the band is back on tour. Their music is wonderful and their live performances very spectacular. They even headbang with their cello. They are healthy guys who do sports and watch what they eat. This gave my husband Gerrit and I the idea to create their own tea. We designed five different flavours based on five of their songs : Bittersweet, Cohnka, Slow Burn, Hope and Sacra.'

The band was delighted : 'Apo Tea ! How cool is that !' Some fans showed interest and the band members and their management agreed to put the tea on the webshop of the band. 'Cds, T-shirts and our tea : great ! I'm so grateful to the boys.' On Friday evening, the band was back in Belgium for a concert at The Royal Circus which Els and Gerrit wouldn't miss for the world. 'We met up with the band first and then attended the show on the first row.'