



THE Katharine

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BROWNIE

The story of Katharine Hepburn's brownies has become a famous part of Hollywood lore, tied to the legendary actress's legacy not just for her iconic performances but also for her love of this simple, decadent dessert. The recipe is known for being rich, dense, and irresistibly fudgy — much like Hepburn herself: unpretentious yet memorable.

In the 1980's, a Bryn Mawr college student was considering dropping out to go to Scotland and write screenplays. While home for the holidays in her native NYC, her concerned father wrote a letter to Katharine Hepburn, who had also attended Bryn Mawr, imploring "She's a great admirer of yours, and perhaps she'll listen to you." Upon receiving this cry for help, Hepburn didn't waste any time. She phoned at 7:30 the next morning, demanding to speak with the would-be dropout, admonishing "What a foolish thing to do!"

She proceeded to deliver a stern lecture, after which she demanded the father and daughter have tea at her home. On the date of the tea, upon arriving at Hepburn's Turtle Bay townhome, she greeted them with "casual hauteur, she provided us with tea and some of her famous brownies". While there's no transcript of the tea party, let's just say the student remained at Bryn Mawr.

While there are many stories revolving around her delectable dessert, we chose to share this one as it pertains to school and education — a tie to the beginning of Hacienda del Sol. During the height of her stardom in the 1940's, it was rumored that she and Spencer Tracy would often rendezvous here at the property while filming. So much so, in fact, we even named a room after them called the Tracy-Hepburn Casita.