

***infini-tea* Information and Selection - *Denotes new tea for fall/winter'09**

*Tea can be divided into five basic categories: black, green, oolong, white, and puerh.
Tisanes are herbal/fruit or rooibos.*

Types of Tea

All teas come from the same basic plant, the *Camellia Senensis* plant. The difference in tea arises from geography, growing conditions, and processing. With over 3,000 varieties, tea is the most consumed beverage in the world after water.

Black tea is allowed to wither, which precedes a process called oxidation (sometimes incorrectly referred to as fermentation) during which water evaporates out of the leaf and the leaf absorbs more oxygen from the air. Black teas usually undergo full oxidation, and the results are the characteristic dark brown and black leaf, the typically more robust and pronounced flavors of black teas, and a higher caffeine content compared to other teas (50-65% of coffee, depending on the type and brewing technique).

Green tea is allowed to wither only slightly after being picked. Then the oxidation process is stopped very quickly by firing (rapidly heating) the leaves. Therefore green teas, when brewed appropriately, tend to have less caffeine (10-30% of coffee). Green teas also tend to produce more subtle flavors with many undertones and accents that connoisseurs treasure.

Oolong tea is allowed to undergo partial oxidation. These teas have caffeine content between that of green teas and black teas. The flavor is typically not as robust as blacks or as subtle as greens, but has its own extremely fragrant and intriguing tones. It is often compared to the taste and aroma of fresh flowers or fresh fruit.

White teas, the most delicate of all teas, are appreciated for their subtlety, complexity, and natural sweetness. They are hand processed using the youngest shoots of the tea plant, with no oxidation. White teas have practically no caffeine.

Pu-erh is an aged black tea from China prized for its medicinal properties and earthy flavor. Try our Iron Silk Puerh.

Rooibos (roy-bos) Red Bush Tea - The story of rooibos starts around the turn of the century in South Africa's beautiful Cedarburg region. It was the locals of the area who first discovered that the fine needle like leaves of the wild "*Aspalathus Linearis*" plant made a tasty aromatic tea. It was they who first harvested the plants, chopped them with axes & bruised them with hammers leaving them to ferment before drying in the sun. The result is a characteristic flavor and sweet aroma. Rooibos is an herb that contains no caffeine.

Herbals or Tisanes are drinks made from other plants and herbs, such as peppermint, technically are not "teas" since they are not from the tea plant. A correct name for these is "tisane," from the French word for infusion.

Decaffeinated Teas

All herbal tisanes are naturally decaf. Any tea may be decaffeinated, or at least 94% caffeine can be removed. Ask your server and they will specially decaf your selection, if you wish. The process is simple: Pour hot water over the tea leaves, leave for 30-45 seconds, discard that water and refill with fresh water. The flavor of the tea is not compromised; however, most of the caffeine is removed. (About 94-95%)

Our teas that are listed as "decaf" are already decaffeinated through a special CO2 water process at the tea purveyor and are received already decaffeinated.

Flowering Teas – Artisan Teas

These are really fun and great tasting. Put one of the small tea buds in the clear glass container and watch it unfold. It reminds me of the deep sea diver toys I had as a kid. Tea fireworks in a jar! The teas are high quality greens and can be steeped over and over. Try one for a unique experience. A great gift, too.

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NAME	TYPE OF TEA	DECAF CAFFIENE FREE	DESCRIPTION
African Skies	Rooibos	Yes	This is so refreshing; you will want it both hot and iced. An orange slice adds to the flavor. Composed of green and red rooibos, blueberries, flavor & cornflower blossoms.
Angel Falls Mist	Herbal	Yes	Exotic strawberry and lemon character with natural dried apple pieces, hibiscus, rosehips, natural dried orange, calendula petals.
*Apple Strudel	Fruit	Yes	Apples & cinnamon, what a great treat for the winter blues. A creamy aftertaste. Also includes hibiscus, almonds, rose hips, elderberries, currants. <i>Note: contains almonds</i>
Belgian Chocolate	Rooibos	Yes	Velvety chocolate smoothness with the decadent notes of a truffle melting in your mouth. Great alone or mix with our Orange Spice, Peppermint or Raspberry Teas.
Bingo Blueberry	Herbal	Yes	A full flavored tea with superb and well defined blueberry highlights. Blends the antioxidant benefits of both blueberries and hibiscus.
Black Licorice	Black		Fine China black teas blended with ginseng, peppermint, and licorice produce a smooth velvet taste that encourages relaxation and recuperation.
Blueberry Bang	Rooibos	Yes	A great blend of antioxidants: Blueberries & Rooibos. Bing Bang: mix with Bingo.
Bohemian Raspberry	Green		Quality Chinese Sencha Style leaves are lightly processed to bring out the sweet aroma and flavor of the raspberries.
Bon Tea	Black		The pleasure of chocolate/coconut experience. The picture of a good life, "le bon gout de la vie" (brief: Bon Tea) Includes chocolate chips, ground cocoa beans, cocoa butter, white chocolate chips, coconut flakes. <i>Note: includes milk powder (lactose)</i>
Breakfast Assam	Black		This is a great everyday Assam, very hearty and malty, but with a nice clean taste. This is used for our House Chai.
Chamomile, Egyptian	Herbal	Yes	100% chamomile for the purist. We'll blend it with another if you are willing to experiment. Fruity, sweet notes, somewhat like apples.
China White Spring Blossom	White		This is a hand processed tea from a four acre tea garden in China with a fresh clean, sweet cup. (Very subtle flavor)
*Cinnamon Roll	Black		For a real cinnamon boost! A strong Ceylon blend enriched with cinnamon pieces from Ceylon. Simple and perfect.
*Cinnamon Plum	Rooibos	Yes	Not only good to sip, but great in many holiday recipes. Combination of rooibos, cinnamon, blue mallow flowers.
Crime of Passion	Green		Papaya, sunflower petals and exotic passion fruit notes infuse this superior green tea from China.
Currant, Black	Black		Definitely not for the faint of heart. A great compliment to savory dishes. Reminds one of a warm summer day "amongst the currant bushes".
Darjeeling	Black		Smooth, classic Darjeeling with elegant muscatel notes.
*Dorian Grey	Black		Based on the floral notes of Earl Grey, w/light touch of carmel, apple pieces, cornflower petals and elderblossoms. Tea from India, Sri Lanka, Hungary, Poland Turkey & Italy FOP (Flowery Orange Pekoe)
Earl Grey White Tip	Black		Made with a large portion of white tips (the most prized leaf of the plant) and blended with the best oil of bergamot available. <i>Incredibly aromatic.</i>
Earl Grey, decaf	Black	Yes	The wonderful flavor of Earl Grey without the bite.
Egyptian Solstice	Herbal	Decaf	A combination of our Chamomile and Lemon Solstice. An ultimate pamper tea. Really better hot.
Emperor's Blend	Blend		Blend of black and green teas with a full, textured, fruity, lingering flavor. Contains rose petals, rose leaves and sunflower blossoms.
*Enchanted Forest	Green & Green Mate'		Blend of mellow Sencha green and spicy, green mate' with coconut shreds, cherry, rose-petals & pretty cornflower blossoms. A gift already wrapped. <i>Note: contains almonds</i>
English Breakfast	Black		In the realm of English Breakfast teas this is a blend that can stand up to milk and sugar.
English Breakfast, Decaf	Black, Decaf	Yes	It has the classic British style tea taste and aroma, full-bodied & smooth.
Flowery Yunnan	Black		This is a fine tea from China and the term "flowery" refers to the high quality leaf, not actual flowers. Yunnan teas are dark, thick, slightly earthy and sweet.
Formosa Oolong	Oolong		A classic Formosan oolong. Oolong teas are between a green tea and a black tea.

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Fruit of the Plains	Herbal	Yes	A wonderful, aromatic blend of cherry, apple, raspberry and other mysterious ingredients, naturally decaffeinated
Genmaicha Popcorn Tea	Green		This is a specialty Japanese tea that is blended with fire-roasted rice. During the firing of the rice, it is common for the rice to “pop” hence the name. The roasted rice lends a nice nutty aroma and flavor to the tea, but NO Nuts.
*Gingerbread Orange	Rooibos	Yes	All the full bodied spicy goodness, but no caffeine. Ginger, pink peppercorns, coriander, almond pieces, pistachios , orange peel. <i>Note: contains nuts</i>
Ginger Green	Green		This tea is a blend from Japan and Thailand having a natural sweet flavor and along with the spicy Ginger is a special flavor to enjoy. Can usually settle an upset stomach.
*Gojiberry Green	Green		With the onset of winter colds, here is a Sencha green tea to help ward off the germs. Additional antioxidants in the gojiberrries, blueberries & pomegranate seeds. Also with a touch of lemon grass & cornflowers.
Green Tea w/Pomegranate	Green		This lovely China Sencha Green tea is infused with pomegranate flavor and rose petals and steeps up light, sweet, slightly fruity, with just enough tartness to make it interesting.
House Chai	Black		A house mixture of our spices, condensed milk and a robust Assam.
Irish Cream	Black		Creamy smooth flavor that evokes thoughts of the Emerald Isle.
Iron Silk Puerh	Puerh		This is a strong, black Puerh blended with peppermint, clove, and licorice root to create an unusual brew. Puerh is a very earthy tasting tea.
Jasmine	Green		Refreshing tea with relatively little caffeine. For twice the flavor and twice the antioxidants, mix with either Rooibos or Hunny Rooibos.
Kyoto Cherry Rose	Green		Fresh and smooth with reasonable depth and body. The cherry flavoring & subtle rose hints give the tea a wonderful exotic character. A green blend from China and Sri Lanka.
Lapsang Souchong	Black		An adventure for the uninitiated, this world famous tea has a smoky, hearty, and robust flavor. We love it as an ingredient for our gourmet dinners.
Lavenderberry	Rooibos	Yes	Slightly sweet fruity, almost creamy. Rooibos, with natural strawberry flavor and vanilla extract.
Lemon Solstice, Decaf	Black	Yes	Assam black tea, almond brittle, lemongrass, licorice roots, and real strawberry & blackberry pieces. Note: includes <u>almonds</u>
Magnolia Oolong	Oolong		This beautiful oolong (wulong) tea is gently scented with magnolia blossoms so that the cup is light, sweet, floral and invigorating.
Mango, Black	Black		Fresh, piquant mango spices up this excellent black tea.
Mate' Green	Mate	Ma-teine	Although mateine is a stimulant, it is slightly different from caffeine. According to reports, mate' decreases the appetite and encourages weight loss. Hmmm.....
*Mistletoe	Rooibos	Yes	Soft blend with hints of rosemary, thyme and chocolate rounded off with a delicate orange note.
Monk's Blend	Black		The light combination of vanilla and grenadine ensures a particularly satisfying cup.
Moon over Madagascar	Black		Black, indulgent, and decadent tea blend of China and Ceylon Black with bourbon vanilla from Madagascar, an island off of Africa.
Moroccan Mint	Green		Traditional Moroccan tea: fine gunpowder tea blended with mint.
Orange Spice	Black		One of our favorites. Black tea blended with orange spice and natural flavors. Quite flavorful, so mix with Belgian Chocolate for a wonderful experience.
Peach, Black	Black		The peach flavor definitely holds it's own with this fine black Ceylon tea. Great Iced!!!!
*Pear/Chocolate/Spice	Green		Green tea, with ripe pears, apples, rose hip peel, star aniseed, cinnamon, cornflower blossoms.
Pearls of Fruits	Black		A black & green blend from China and Ceylon with orange peels and various blossoms (rose petals, safflowers, marigold petals) Note: includes <u>almonds</u>
Peppermint	Herbal	Yes	Pleasant, cool, fresh menthol. Peppermint is sometimes consumed to sweeten the breath, calm the nerves and relieve nausea.
Pinhead Gunpowder	Green		A premium gunpowder that hails from Pin Lin, Taiwan's tea capital. To temper the “grassy” flavor of straight green, try it with just a touch of lemongrass.

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Pomegranate Rosehip	Black		A high quality (OP) black tea from Ceylon, the addition of both pomegranate and rosehips add a lot of vitamin C to the blend. You will note a tart and fruity taste. Add some Wild Blackberry Tea* to smooth over the tartness, naturally.
Prairie Passion	Blend		A beguiling blend of black and green teas with passion fruit and other flavors. It is slightly sweet with a hint of tanginess.
Precious Eyebrows	Green		A wonderful way to be introduced to green tea with a very mellow taste and a sweet plum like aftertaste. To temper the "grassy" flavor of straight green, try it with just a touch of lemongrass.
*Pumpkin Spice	Black		With the leaves turning and the snow on the way, this is a great soother, with the mild spices of a yummy pumpkin pie or pumpkin scone.
Rainbow Rooibos	Rooibos	Yes	This one reminds me of the warm, almond coffee cake fillings. Yum! Also contains calendula, thistle & cornflower petals. Note: includes <u>almonds</u>
Raspberry	Black		A fine blend of black tea with real raspberries. We love to use it in various berry blends.
Roasted Mate'	Herbal	Mateine	Full bodied and smooth. The roasted character imparts a coffee-like toast flavor. Rich in mateine which is recognized as a mild stimulant.
Rooibos Provence	Rooibos	Yes	Forget the stress of the economy. This therapy tea will relax and sooth you. Contains lavender from France, rosehips, black currants and rose leaves.
*Rhubarb Oolong	Oolong		Oolong lovers rejoice. An oolong tea blended with pieces of rhubarb for a sweet/tangy taste.
Russian Blend – Samovar Tea	Black		We've added a Russian tea, by request. Based on an old Russian recipe and stands up to a samovar. Highly aromatic and, at the same time, soft tea with a very slight, smoky note.
Santa Tea	Black		Ceylon tea enriched with almonds, apples, vanilla, cocoa bits, cinnamon. Note: includes <u>almonds</u>
Silk Road	Black		Ginger tea – For centuries fine teas traveled the Silk Road from China to Europe. Strong Asian black tea, spicy and energizing.
Snow Love	Fruit	Yes	Sweet pear, juicy apple, wintery spices, cinnamon, popcorn (aka the snowmen)
Strawberries & Cream	Black		We love to use this tea in combination of other berry teas. Great on its own, a blend of black tea, pineapple cubes and strawberry pieces.
Sweet Sin (Raspberry/Vanilla)	Rooibos	Yes	Tasty, ripe, fruity raspberries with real Bourbon vanilla compliments the natural smooth, creamy taste of the African Rooibos. Also contains rose petals.
Tea Gold	Black		Blended with orange blossoms, red sandalwood, elderberry, passion fruit & other flavors. Great iced, but lovely hot too.
Toffee Almond Supreme	Black		OMG ! This one is a dessert all by itself. This time the aroma matches the great taste. Don't miss this one. Note: includes <u>almonds</u>
Tropical Storm	Black		For the Berried Treasure and Tropical Fire fans, here is a great new tea. Hints of tropical fruit, Chinese Tea, petals, lily, ginkgo, and pineapple flavoring. Great with food.
Vietnam Blend	Black		Being such a metropolitan area, Antioch would not be complete without a tea from yet another country. Has been compared to a Ceylonese highland type. Not astringent.
White Peony	White		On the other side of the taste spectrum, is the light, sweet, flowery notes of the Pai Mu Tan or White Peony. Very subtle, but flavorful. High quality leaves.
Wild Blackberry	Black		We use this one in many blends, but it is great by itself. Try with Pomegranate Rosehips or any berry tea.
Wild Pomegranate	Black		A really great tea hot or cold. Combines our Black Pomegranate and our Wild Blackberry to give just enough sweetness with all the antioxidants and polyphenols.
*Winter Spice	Black		Definitely a holiday treat. Smell this one and you're in the holiday mood. A fine black tea with citrus peels, cloves, rose petals, <i>almond bits</i> , and Bourbon vanilla.