

## *infini-tea* Information and Selection

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

### BLACK TEA

**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).

<b>Black Licorice</b>	Fine China black teas blended with ginseng, peppermint, and licorice produce a smooth velvet taste that encourages relaxation and recuperation.
<b>Bon Tea</b>	The pleasure of chocolate/coconut experience. The picture of a good life, “le bon gout de la vie” Includes chocolate chips, ground cocoa beans, cocoa butter, white chocolate chips, coconut flakes. <b>Note: includes milk powder (<i>lactose</i>)</b>
<b>Breakfast Assam</b>	This is a great everyday Assam, very hearty and malty, but with a nice clean taste. This is used for our House Chai.
<b>Cherry/Fig</b>	One of the most beneficial fruits, the lowly fig is put in the forefront. Coupled with acerola cherry they present glowing colors for a fun black tea.
<b>Coronation</b>	For the Traditional tea drinker, with a little adventure. Full flavored with a hint of muscatel and honey-like Chamomile. Cup is bright with a golden liquor.
<b>Currant, Black</b>	Definitely not for the faint of heart. A great compliment to savory dishes. Reminds one of a warm summer day “amongst the currant bushes”.
<b>Darjeeling</b>	Smooth, classic Darjeeling with elegant muscatel notes.
<b>Earl Grey White Tip</b>	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>
<b>English Breakfast</b>	In the realm of English Breakfast teas this is a blend that can stand up to milk and sugar.
<b>Flowery Yunnan</b>	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.
<b>Irish Cream</b>	Creamy smooth flavor that evokes thoughts of the Emerald Isle.
<b>Lapsang Souchong</b>	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.
<b>Lemon Solstice, Decaf</b>	Assam black tea, almond brittle, lemongrass, licorice roots, and real strawberry & blackberry pieces. <b>Note: includes <u>almonds</u></b>
<b>Monk’s Blend</b>	The light combination of vanilla and grenadine ensures a particularly satisfying cup.
<b>Moon over Madagascar</b>	Black, indulgent, and decadent tea blend of China and Ceylon Black with bourbon vanilla from Madagascar, an island off of Africa.
<b>Orange Spice</b>	One of our favorites. Black tea blended with orange spice and natural flavors. Quite flavorful, so mix with Belgian Chocolate for a wonderful experience.
<b>Peach</b>	See Emperor’s Blend
<b>Pomegranate Rosehip</b>	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.
<b>Raspberry</b>	A fine blend of black tea with real raspberries. We love to use it in various berry blends.
<b>Silk Road</b>	Ginger tea – For centuries fine teas traveled the Silk Road from China to Europe. Strong Asian black tea, spicy and energizing.
<b>Tea Gold</b>	Blended with orange blossoms, red sandalwood, elderberry, passion fruit & other flavors. Great iced, but lovely hot too.
<b>Toffee Almond Supreme</b>	OMG ! This one is a dessert all by itself. This time the aroma matches the great taste. Don't miss this one. <b>Note: includes <u>almonds</u></b>
<b>Wild Blackberry*</b>	We use this one in many blends, but it is great by itself. Try with Pomegranate Rosehips or any berry tea.

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### **OO LONG TEAS**

**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.

<b>Formosa Oolong</b>	<b>Oolong</b>	A classic Formosan oolong. Oolong teas are between a green tea and a black tea.
<b>Lemon Basil Oolong</b>	<b>Oolong</b>	This delicate tea is touched with basil, lemons and marigolds. A nice end to a delicious meal.
<b>Magnolia Oolong</b>	<b>Oolong</b>	This beautiful oolong (wulong) tea is gently scented with magnolia blossoms so that the cup is light, sweet, floral and invigorating.

### **PU-ERH TEAS**

**Puerh** – is an aged black tea from China prized for its medicinal properties and earthy flavor.

<b>Iron Silk Puerh</b>	<b>Puerh</b>	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.
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### **GREEN TEAS**

**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.

	<b>Green</b>	Quality Chinese Sencha Style leaves are lightly processed to bring out the sweet aroma and flavor of the raspberries.
<b>Crime of Passion</b>	<b>Green</b>	Papaya, sunflower petals and exotic passion fruit notes infuse this superior green tea from China.
<b>Genmaicha Popcorn Tea</b>	<b>Green</b>	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.
<b>Ginger Green</b>	<b>Green</b>	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.
<b>Gojiberry Green</b>	<b>Green</b>	A fine Sencha green tea with additional antioxidants in the gojiberrys, blueberries & pomegranate seeds. Also with a touch of lemon grass & cornflowers.
<b>Grape Pomegranate</b>	<b>Green</b>	Pomegranate, rose hips, whole red currants, mallow blossoms, raspberries & grapes add to the sweet green Sencha tea.
<b>Jasmine</b>	<b>Green</b>	Refreshing tea with relatively little caffeine. For twice the flavor and twice the antioxidants, mix with either Rooibos or Hunny Rooibos.
<b>Kyoto Cherry Rose</b>	<b>Green</b>	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.
<b>Moroccan Mint</b>	<b>Green</b>	Traditional Moroccan tea: fine gunpowder tea blended with mint.
<b>Pinhead Gunpowder</b>	<b>Green</b>	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.
<b>Emperor’s Blend (Peach)</b>	<b>Black/ Green Blend</b>	Peachy for sure. Blend of black and green teas with a full, textured, fruity, lingering flavor. Contains rose petals, rose leaves and sunflower blossoms.
<b>Prairie Passion</b>	<b>Black/ Green Blend</b>	A beguiling blend of black and green teas with passion fruit and other flavors. It is slightly sweet with a hint of tanginess.

### **WHITE TEAS**

**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.

<b>Pai Mu Tan</b>	<b>White</b>	This vendor has selected a slightly different blend for their subtle white tea. High quality.
<b>White Peony</b>	<b>White</b>	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.

### **MATE’**

*Contains Mateine. Herbal from South America. Stimulant, but different than caffeine.*

<b>Roasted Mate’</b>	<b>Mate’</b>	Full bodied and smooth. The roasted character imparts a coffee-like toast flavor. Rich in mateine which is recognized as a mild stimulant.
<b>Mate’ Green</b>	<b>Mate’</b>	Although mateine is a stimulant, it is slightly different from caffeine. According to reports, mate’ decreases the appetite and encourages weight loss. Hmmm.....

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### DECAFFEINATED TEAS

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.

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 black teas that are listed here as “decaf” are already decaffeinated through a special CO2 water process at the tea purveyor and are received already decaffeinated.

<b>Earl Grey, decaf</b>	<b>Black</b>	The wonderful flavor of Earl Grey without the bite.
<b>English Breakfast, decaf</b>	<b>Black</b>	In the realm of English Breakfast teas this is a blend that can stand up to milk and sugar and without the caffeine.
<b>Chamomile, Egyptian</b>	<b>Herb</b>	100% chamomile for the purist. We'll blend it with another if you are willing to experiment. Fruity, sweet notes, somewhat like apples.
<b>Fruit of the Plains</b>	<b>Herb</b>	A wonderful, aromatic blend of cherry, apple, raspberry and other mysterious ingredients, naturally decaffeinated
<b>Angel Falls Mist</b>	<b>Herb/ Fruit</b>	Exotic strawberry and lemon character with natural dried apple pieces, hibiscus, rosehips, natural dried orange, calendula petals.
<b>Bingo Blueberry</b>	<b>Herbal</b>	A full flavored tea with superb and well defined blueberry highlights. Blends the antioxidant benefits of both blueberries and hibiscus.
<b>Peppermint</b>	<b>Herbal</b>	Pleasant, cool, fresh menthol flavor. Sometimes consumed to calm the nerves and relieve nausea.

### ROOIBOS TEA

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.

<b>African Skies</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	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.
<b>Belgian Chocolate</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	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.
<b>Blueberry Bang</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	A great blend of antioxidants: Blueberries & Rooibos. Bing Bang: mix with Bingo.
<b>Lavenderberry</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	Slightly sweet fruity, almost creamy. Rooibos, with natural strawberry flavor and vanilla extract.
<b>Rainbow Rooibos</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	This one reminds me of the warm, almond coffee cake fillings. Yum! Also contains calendula, thistle & cornflower petals. <b>Note: includes <u>almonds</u></b>
<b>Rooibos Provence</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	Forget the stress of the economy. This therapy tea will relax and sooth you. Contains lavender from France, rosehips, black currants and rose leaves.
<b>Sweet Sin (Raspberry/Vanilla)</b>	<b>Rooibos</b>	Tasty, ripe, fruity raspberries with real Bourbon vanilla compliments the natural smooth, creamy taste of the African Rooibos. Also contains rose petals.

### CHAI

Chai (pronounced as a single syllable and rhymes with 'pie') is the word for tea in many parts of the world. It is a centuries-old beverage which has played an important role in many cultures. Chai from India is a spiced milk tea that has become increasingly popular throughout the world. The spices used vary from region to region and among households in India. The most common are cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, and pepper. Indian chai produces a warming, soothing effect, acts as a natural digestive aid and gives one a wonderful sense of well being.

<b>House Chai</b>	<b>Mix</b>	A house mixture of our spices, condensed milk and we suggest pairing with a robust Assam.
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