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Tea: History, Terroirs, Varieties



Synopsis

Beautifully illustrated... this definitive guide will appeal to die-hard tea enthusiasts. -- Library Journal

The reference work we've been waiting for has arrived: a comprehensive but not-too-heavy, one-volume coverage of the world's teas, abundantly and beautifully illustrated with photos of exceptional quality. -- TeaTime

This second edition has improved and refined tasting notes with updated content about non-herbal tea, the plant *Camellia sinensis*. The book's elegant design is a complete guide to the world's second most popular beverage -- only water exceeds tea consumption. This book is now clearly the best book on this topic, concise and authoritative with dozens of photographs and images of the teas themselves, revealing the surprising variety of color and opacity of each variety. The book is an escorted tour of the world's tea-growing countries -- China, Japan, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam and East Africa. Readers discover how like a fine wine, it is "terroir", e.g., soil and climate, that gives a tea its unique characteristics. The book includes varieties of black, green, white, yellow, oolong, pu'er, perfumed, aromatic and smoked teas. Other topics include: An overview of the history of tea Tea families, varieties, cultivars and grades How tea is grown, harvested and processed The tea trade worldwide Timeline of the world history of tea cultivation Profile interviews with tea industry personalities. The special features legions of tea drinkers will especially enjoy are: Local tastes and methods of preparing tea (e.g. macha) Tea ceremonies Tasting notes and infusion accessories Teapot recommendations Caffeine, antioxidant and biochemical properties of 35 teas 15 gourmet recipes using teas A directory of 42 select teas.

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book largely because I wanted to know what the heck a terroir is...No, that's not quite right. I bought this book because I've been drinking gallons of tea every week for years without a real appreciation for its history, cultivation or production. I'd tried quite a wide variety of teas, all loose leaf of course, without taking any tasting notes, and while I had a vague idea of what I preferred and the differences between different varieties of teas I certainly couldn't talk at length about things like the degree of oxidization oolongs are subjected to. Instead of picking up knowledge bit by bit I wanted to really sit down and learn about it. This book takes you on quite a tour -- through the history of tea along with detailed sections on China, Japan, Taiwan & India and shorter sections on other tea-producing regions, following up with a guide to preparation and some recipes. It's also a beautiful book, peppered with gorgeous pictures of every step of tea production and interviews, and well worth the money.

This is one of the best modern surveys of tea that I've seen, and I will modestly say that I have seen them all. You will not, for instance, find many descriptions of the Japanese senchado brewing method anywhere else- it's been virtually unknown outside Japan. A very visual book with lots of information about tea and explanations of little known tea accessories, it's tea porn for the tea lover. And for the lover of books about tea.

Not pretentious at all, super informative and interesting read. Also not latent with false health promises and bogus tea health claims. I love how it's more well-researched than other tea books I've read. Fantastic for people starting to get into teas.

If you are looking for a book on tea that is not as expensive or concise as "Tea Sommelier" for example, then this would be an excellent choice. This is a good size paperback but is thorough in both textual presentation and photos. While the photos may not be as artistic as those found in the above mentioned option, they are still excellent. This book contains far more textual information than you would find in more books on this topic. Charts and graphs at the end present the chemical make up of each kind of tea. The amount of caffeine in each kind of tea or the amount of antioxidants are clearly charted. Texture, taste, color, and history of each kind of tea is presented. How to prepare is covered. The correct water temperature is indicated. The global areas that grow tea are discussed. Regional differences are detailed. The Terroirs of tea are analyzed in relation to the characteristics of each type. This is a very detailed book. It's too bad that hardcover is out of

print.

I really enjoyed this tea book. Nice book on history, types of tea, practical advice on tea preparation, etc. There are some really wonderful pictures throughout the book that really bring the topics to life.

Lovely book. Beautiful photos, as in depth as I wanted. I love history and cultural differences. This has a nice blend of history and cultural use and explanations of types of teas and their uses. If you want a basic guide, this may seem to in depth, I love it though because it is.

Well. I have a book on Wine (several actually) and one on Coffee, so i thought it was time to learn in bit more about tea, especially since I have been moving away from coffee and switching back to tea. I was so enthralled with this book, I could hardly put it down, and read the whole thing in two long evenings. While I have been drinking your everyday tea-bag day from the grocer, I constantly missed the good quality loose leaf tea's I was able to get when I lived in Germany. Now finally, mostly due to the internet (and thank you) it is possible to get just about any type of loose leaf tea from anywhere in the world. And as I have little knowledge on green teas I was looking for some kind of guidance. This book does the trick with flying colors! It covers all the main varieties of all 6 types of tea, with nice little picture samples, providing one with both the history and local tea-customs, and on top of that some short but quite useful tables throughout the book on the various properties of tea. I will going back to this book again and again for reference.

I came across this book by accident, read the reviews, and decided on buying it on a whim. It is everything the reviewers claimed! Very informative, beautifully illustrated and well organized. It does overlap in some of the information contained in the Tea Sommelier, but they are very different kinds of books. This book provides more of a broad overview of tea cultivation, harvesting and processing which is not included in the other book.

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