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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-weighty, one-volume coverage of the world's teas, abundantly and beautifully illustrated with photos of exceptional quality. -- TeaTime 2014 World Tea Awards - Winner - Best Tea Book 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

[Review for previous edition:] A heavily illustrated compendium on non-herbal tea, rich in anti-oxidants and with proven medical benefits... The four writers of this book own The Camellia Sinensis Tea House in Montreal and work as tasters, traveling the world looking for teas... Topics include a primer on tea, varieties, processing, cultivars, making-serving-tasting tea, tea ceremonies, and tea in cooking (with 15 recipes by Quebecois chefs)... The downside to this book: nothing, really -- it is a very comprehensive book. The upside to this book: great pictures and layout. (Dean Tudor Gothic Epicures 2012-01-02)[Review for previous edition:] A pretty and enjoyable book with an affordable price and some practical uses for tea drinkers. (Book News 2012-10-01)[Review for previous edition:] Beautifully illustrated... While there is no shortage of tea-related tomes, this definitive guide will appeal to die-hard tea enthusiasts interested in learning about the modern, global industry as well as the history and enjoyment of this ubiquitous beverage. (Rosemarie Lewis, Georgetown County Library Library Journal 2012-01-15)[Review for previous edition:] A pretty and enjoyable book with an affordable price and some practical uses for tea-drinkers. (Reference and Research Book News 2012-10-01)[Review for previous edition:] This book is quite impressive, well researched, and complete with numerous photographs illustrating the beauty and wonder of tea and tea processing around the world. Interesting and enjoyable. (Tea House Times 2012-04-01)[Review for previous edition:] 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, fascinating graphs, and fairly good maps. The organization of this huge body of factual material will make students most grateful. (James Norwood Pratt TeaTime 2012-04-01)(An) in-depth look at various aspects of this widely consumed beverage.... Photographs appear on almost every page. (Terry Peters North Shore News 2014-09-01)

Kevin Gascoyne, Francois Marchand, Jasmin Desharnais and Hugo Americi are professional tea tasters from Montreal, Quebec, who own the Camellia Sinensis Tea House and travel the world working with growers of the best tea.

Tea: History, Terroirs, Varieties (Second Edition) by Kevin Gascoyne, Francois Marchand, and Jasmin Desharnais is great book on tea because it thoroughly provides an overview of tea's history, different varieties, growing and harvesting process, fascinating ceremonies, local methods of preparation, tasting notes, and infusion accessories. A lot is covered in this book on all of the topics a beginner, or even a more experienced tea drinker, would be

interested in. But the really special part of this book is the massive collection of photos. Nearly every page contains one or more images from around the world and really brings the topic of diversity and complexity of the tea industry to life. If you're new to tea, you'll be amazed by how many different colors of tea there are. The book also explores the world's top tea-growing countries to explain the common characteristics of that nation's tea. Examples of countries covered in the book are Japan, Taiwan, China, Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam, and Nepal, and the region of East Africa. After reading this book, you'll learn how climate and soil influence a tea's characteristics. Terroirs is the lingo used to refer to these factors. You'll also learn about the different tea families, grades, cultivars, and varieties. The section on tea's history includes a timeline for easy reference. This book is a well-rounded, thorough book on tea that even includes interviews with industry leaders and 15 gourmet recipes that use tea as an ingredient. This review was originally written for 27Press.com.

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.

I really love this book. It is the rare book that compels with excellent writing, beautiful layout and photography, and in-depth knowledge. There is coverage of the history of tea, its manufacturing, health benefits, and the range of tastes. I discovered it while doing a tasting event at a local store, and, after being impressed with the clerk's knowledge of all the teas, learned that this is the book their employees study and reference. I especially like the sections on each tea-growing region and feel like I know much better how to choose teas I will like based on type and where they are grown. It probably goes too far with its recipe section on tea-infused foods. That seemed tangential to me and

arguably a distraction for the authors. Regardless, this book sits on my quick-reference shelf, and I find myself opening it again and again.

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.

I really enjoyed this book it has great historical and technical information on the properties of various tea and is a good read for any tea aficionado

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.

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.

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.

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