



The Tea Companion

Jane Pettigrew

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More and more people are turning to tea as their primary hot beverage, and connoisseurs are discovering the wondrous range of flavors to be found in different varieties from around the globe—some of which command fantastic prices and are in great demand. This comprehensive, authoritative guide to understanding, purchasing, and serving the world's finest teas is beautifully illustrated with full-color photographs of a variety of tea leaves and herbs, as well as their countries of origin. Learn how to store tea so its aromas last, brew it properly for fullest enjoyment, and appreciate the many nuances of flavor to be found in this extraordinary drink.

The Tea Companion Details

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From Reader Review The Tea Companion for online ebook

Chris Greci says

Good stuff.

Renee says

This book discusses the history of tea, different teaware (and how best to use it), and different teas from various countries (and how best to brew them). I don't own this book, it was lent to me. This is a very, very esoteric book. It reads way too much like a textbook, I had to force myself to get through it. The only reason I read to the end was because I'm going to have to say something about it when I give the book back. It does give a lot of information about tea, so I can say that about it, if you're interested in that. I drink tea casually, so I'm kind of a newbie to it. 1/5 stars.

Brian says

Nonfiction is not usually my thing, especially "gift books" about relatively niche topics like this one. However, I enjoyed the thorough discussion of how tea is made and the history of tea production and consumption. The last third to half or so of the book is devoted to a fairly exhaustive survey of all the tea-producing regions in the world and the types of tea for which they are known, which is very useful for someone looking to expand their knowledge of tea varieties or potentially for a tea connoisseur looking to find new varieties.

Justin says

This little guidebook is an informative and fairly comprehensive (for its slim size) map to the subtleties and minutia of choosing, collecting, and purchasing tea. It has a dry, matter-of-fact tone, making it a tough sell as an enjoyable read, but I learned so much from reading it cover to cover that I did find it enjoyable, and I'm sure I'll refer to it again in the future.

The first half of the book is divided into sections that cover things like the history of tea, production, vocabulary, decoupage, etc. The second half gives a rundown of major tea-producing nations and areas, describing the history of tea production in that region and giving examples (complete with recommended gardens) of the region's fine teas.

I have to admit that I found parts of the book (especially the detailed descriptions of decoupage and the somewhat disparaging remarks about tisanes) a little snooty, and speaking as a history buff, the historical sections were anemic and begged for more interesting details. However, the guide certainly expanded my appreciation for a drink that I already obsess over (and am a little snooty about, myself).

Tasha says

This book seriously has everything you could ever want to know about tea in it. And the writing style is pretty engaging, so win!

Julie says

This is an excellent guide to tea and the best guide I've found so far. There are many wonderful sections about different types of tea, the tea industry, how to make certain teas and even information about different ways of serving tea. The graphics in the book are also very tasteful. Highly, highly, highly recommended. The only thing this book didn't really have was information about "healing" tea but Pettigrews' book's other aspects outshine this flaw.

Dan says

very basic, but still learned a lot!

Serri says

If you love drinking tea, this is a great book to have! The owner of a tea shop I visited in Boston makes each of his employees read this book. In his view understanding and better appreciating the history and production, "equipment", numerous varieties of tea, and how to properly make it, enables them to best assist his customers. The book has great information with lots of photos and is an easy read.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it if you are a tea connoisseur or aspire to be one. I also think it is a great gift idea.

Motazz Soliman says

Packed with info and light weight. Very well-rounded and meaty on the basics, from brief layout of history and production methods to brief descriptions concerning equipment and brewing instructions. Page on leaf grading vague and confusing, and last section of tea-producing regions is relatively slimmer than the others, though. Important note: not much is said about "herbal teas" (such as hibiscus, peppermint, anise) despite their popularity in markets because these are, in a technical sense, called *tisanes*; whereas, the focus in this useful book is on the '*true teas*' which originate from two species of the tea plant. Copyright is 2004, but also listed as 2011 re-print.

Brianne says

This book was fine. It gives a lot, and I mean A LOT of information. It was a little too technical for me. I guess I was looking for a lighter read on tea and this just felt more like a tea textbook.

Like I said, a fine book, just...(wait for it)...not my cup of tea.

Clinton says

About six months ago, I decided to learn more about tea. Instead of just looking stuff up on the Internet, I found it useful to buy a book I can read through to understand the details. I chose this one because it had a good variety of information: the history of tea as a drink and an industry, the culture of it around the world, and the proper ways to prepare and consume it. The second half has reviews of many different kinds of teas from around the world, which was more appropriate for skimming through rather than reading word for word.

Kera says

I enjoyed the book more in the beginning but it lost a lot of my interest as it got more technical and this book is REALLY technical (e.g., comparing specific numbers of millions of pounds of tea consumed in this century versus that century in this country compared to that country). The perspective and a lot of the history leans heavily toward the British side of things.

However, it's still a good book. It was written in a clear and simple manner, is really comprehensive and detailed for someone who enjoys tea and just wants to know a lot more about it. Slightly outdated as it was written back in 2004, but the techniques regarding things like brewing and storing is still relevant. It's definitely a good tea book to own.

Samantha says

The Tea Companion covers all things tea: from the beginnings of tea in ancient China, to tea time in England; brewing methods; tea pots, cups, strainers; tea and food pairings. A large portion of the book is dedicated to the "World Tea Directory", explaining regions of the world where tea is grown, and characteristics of that tea. I felt this book was a little dated, but it has useful information for any connoisseur or tea lover.

Kay says

This book was not as comprehensive as I would have liked it to be. I wish there was a section on common varieties--Pu-erh, Earl Grey, Yerba Mate, etc.--in which you could look up teas and get the skinny on them. Instead, Pettigrew includes a list of gardens. Does she really think that would be helpful to the average tea

drinker?

The pictures are great and the section on tea "equipage" was helpful, but I'm still looking for my ultimate tea book.

Sara says

Very informative! I love all the photographs and images that were included - and I had no idea so many countries produced tea. I'd write a longer, more "official" review, but apparently this book has been reprinted a few times with more up-to-date information and tea production statistics. I'm planning to get the most recent version after Christmas so I can use it as a reference for my tea reviews.
