

The Five Major Tea Regions

India

India is the largest tea-producing country in the world. Although India mostly grows black tea, its teas are widely known for their range and excellence.

Main Teas of India

- **Black teas:** Indian black teas are bright and lively with medium- to full-bodied flavors. Best known are Assam and Darjeeling. Darjeeling tea is often referred to as the "Champagne of Tea".

China

Chinese teas cover the most range of all tea-producing countries. China produces hundreds of varieties and styles of teas and categorizes them by leaf shape and size and the district name.

Main Teas of China

- **Black teas:** Chinese black teas are mild, sweet, and full-bodied with a range of smokiness. Best known are Keemun and Yunnan blacks.
- **Green teas:** Chinese green teas are clean and vegetal with a range of essences from nutty to smoky. Best known are Gunpowder, Lung Ching ("Dragon Well"), Hubei Silver Tip, Young Hyson, Hyson, Chunmee, and Sowmee green teas.
- **Oolong teas:** Chinese oolong teas are fruity and fragrant. Best known are Ti Kwan Yin and Phoenix Mountain.
- **Scented teas:** Chinese scented teas boast the subtle flavors of flower petals or blossoms. Best known is Jasmine tea. [See article on scented teas for more information.](#)

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is one of the largest tea exporters worldwide, exporting mostly black tea to Egypt, Iraq, and Syria.

Main Teas of Sri Lanka

- Black teas: Sri Lankan black teas offer brisk and refreshing flavor with mild floral aromas. Best known are Ceylons, Pekoe, Orange Pekoe, Broken Pekoe, and Broken Orange Pekoe.

Japan

Japanese tea production is well organized and highly efficient, and it grows some of the world's premium green teas, in which the flavors range from light to full bodied.

Main Teas of Japan

- Green teas: Japanese green teas are delicately to richly grassy flavored and always pale in the cup. Best known are Bancha, Sencha, Genmai Cha, and Shizuoka.

Taiwan

While Taiwan successfully produces many of the same teas as China, they are truly known for their exceptional oolongs and pouchongs.

Main Teas of Taiwan

- Oolong teas: Taiwanese oolong teas are fruit flavored with flowery aromas. The best known is superb Formosa oolong.
- Pouchong teas: Taiwanese pouchong teas are fresh and sweet with explosive floral fragrances. Pouchong teas serve as the base tea in [scented teas](#).

References

McCoy, Elin and John Frederick Walker, Coffee and Tea, G.S. Haley Company, Inc., 1998.