

## Tea Terms

**Assam** – A strong black tea grown in the northeast area of India.

**Black Tea** – The most commonly consumed type of tea. Any tea leaf that is fermented is considered black tea.

**Blooming Tea** – A bundle of tea leaves wrapped around a dried flower. When placed in hot water the bundle expands and “blooms.” Usually an herbal blend.

**Camellia sinensis** – the botanical name for the tea tree or tea bush.

**Ceylon Tea** – Black teas grown in Sri Lanka.

**Chai** – The Indian word for tea, usually a blend of black tea, spices, milk, and sweeteners.

**Darjeeling** – A very high quality black tea grown in the Himilayas.

**Earl Grey** – A popular black tea flavored with Bergamot oil.

**Green Tea** – Unfermented dried tea leaves. Popular in China and Japan.

**Gunpowder** – Green tea leaves that have been rolled into pellets.

**Herbal Tea** – A tea made with any number of dried plants or herbs, anything except the actual tea plant leaves.

**Jasmine** – Tea scented with Jasmine flowers.

**Matcha** – Powdered green tea, used in Japanese and Chinese tea ceremonies. Can be bought commercially to flavor many dishes.

**Oolong** – A Chinese word for Black Dragon, oolong teas are partially fermented teas, somewhere between black and green tea.

**Pekoe** – A term referring to a medium size tea leaf; often whole leaf tea. Orange Pekoe is even larger, and may have a small bud attached.

**Red Tea** – In older use, the name the Chinese gave to semi or fully fermented black tea; in modern times, sometimes used to describe Rooibos teas.

**Rooibos** – Also called African Red Bush, these are herbal teas or tisanes from South Africa.

**Sencha** – The most commonly produced and exported tea in Japan.

**Tisane** – The term for herbal tea, or tea made without the *Camellia sinensis* leaves.

**White Tea** – Grown in Japan, these are the delicate first leaves of the tea bush and are barely processed. Their appearance when processed is light silver.

For more terms, try these websites:

<http://www.teausa.com/14656/glossary-of-terms>

<http://www.drinktea.co.uk/glossary.html>

<http://www.teafrog.com/files/tea-glossary.html>

