

DeColores Montessori Gourmet Tea List

All teas come in loose leaf form. Tea ball infusers can be purchased for \$2.00 each. 100% of all profits go to DeColores.

Black Teas

1/2
Pound

China Black Tea FOP (1/2 lb - \$6.00)

This gourmet tea originates from Anhui, China, and it classifies as a black whole leaf blend tea. Anhui province provides the world with Keemun of the finest black teas. The dry leaf is dark black and partially open. Chinese Black Tea is produced in 16 hilly regions of central and southern China. This is a gourmet tea of good quality and value with dark liquoring. Although the caffeine level in this tea is 3%, it is still less than most coffees.

Chinese black tea can retain its flavor for several years unlike green tea which can lose its flavor within a year.

This made it an excellent choice for exporting, this tea was even compressed into bricks to serve as a form of currency! Although green tea has taken an upward turn, black tea still account for 90% of tea sales in the western world. FOP stands for "flowery orange pekoe", which refers to the color of the leaves and not the flavor.

Flowery orange pekoe is a high quality tea with a long leaf and few tips. It is considered first grade in the China tea grading system, and is an excellent choice for black tea.

Ceylon Ratnapura OP Special Black Tea (1/4 lb - \$13.00)

This tea originates in the city of Ratnapura, Sri Lanka, also known as the City of Gems.

The Orange Pekoe leaf provides a distinctly less heavy bodied cup than the BOP. This low country black tea blend is named after the southwest Ratnapura district, which is 100km south of Colombo.

The extensive mountain ranges and valleys that extend from sea level to 2,000 feet produce teas with a full spectrum of body and flavor. The drier weather from January through March produces dark red, heavy, nutty flavor.

Ceylon Ratnapura is truly one of the heaviest teas produced in the world. This special black tea has a special style leaf that is halfway between a Broken Orange Pekoe and Pekoe.

We may not be sending you a ruby or a diamond from the Ratnapura region, but I will say Ceylon (the original name of Sri Lanka) Ratnapura tea is a gem!

When this tea is consumed, you may find lower cholesterol numbers, healthier skin, teeth and bones and quiet possibly better heart health.

English Breakfast Tea (1/2 lb - \$8.00)

English Breakfast Tea is a gourmet black Northern Indian tea. You will find it to have a full body and to be a rich robust cup.

This tea is expected to be served with milk and a sweetener much like the British have prepared their morning tea for over a century. Once the black tea has been mixed with milk, its aroma magically changes to a very familiar scent of warm toast and honey! Famous for their morning "fry-ups" the Englishman's breakfast can consist of some pretty greasy food items such as bacon, sausage, and eggs. The tea that they drank needed to be rich enough to keep up with these other strong flavored items. English breakfast tea was perfect for this fare.

When enjoyed with milk and sugar, the silky texture, although still very stimulating, then takes on a much more mild flavor, perfect for toast, muffins and biscuits. Although it is of course a custom to have black tea blends every morning in England, the term "English breakfast tea" did not originate in England, but instead the term originated in North America in the colonial times.

This tea, known as English breakfast tea is highly admired all over the world. Celebrated for its bold flavor, this gourmet tea is one of our best selling and sure to win you over.

Ceylon Supreme Flowery Orange Pekoe Tea (1/2 lb - \$6.00)

Supreme Pekoe This black tea originates in Uva, Sri Lanka. Ceylon supreme flowery orange has a rolled and round curly leaf, which provides a brew with a heavy body and dark liquor The most precious gourmet

black tea is grown in the western areas of the island of Sri Lanka (formerly known as Ceylon).

Here are some things you should know about Ceylon Supreme Flowery orange. Do not expect an orange flavor in this tea; its name refers to the fact that these leaves have a golden orange hue when freshly picked.

The term Pekoe suggests that this grade of tea has many single, whole tea-leaves of a specific size. Flowery orange pekoe means that this is a high quality tea with a long leaf and few tips. Sri Lanka has several different grading scales and their standards set the bar for tea sorting and selection. Ceylon Supreme flowery orange pekoe, black, loose-leaf tea is an exceptional gourmet tea. It's bright, mild and a long lasting aroma is sure to please you. Discover for yourself why so many customers keep coming back for more!

Lapsang Souchong Tea (1/2 lb - \$8.00)

Lapsang Souchong tea comes from the Fujian province of China. This is a very distinctive tea with an exotic smoky flavor and is even sometimes referred to as smoked tea. Lapsang-Souchong has grown in popularity with those who appreciate single malt Scotch whisky and fine cigars. The preparation of the leaves involves withering over cypress or pine wood fires.

After the rolling process, they are placed into wooden barrels until they begin to emit their own pleasant aroma. As a final step they are placed in bamboo baskets and hung over smoky pine fires where they dry and absorb the smoke's essence. This painstaking process makes this tea flavor significantly distinctive from all other teas. This tea process was discovered by way of necessity.

Legend has it that during the Qing era the yearly tea drying process was significantly delayed due to passing army troops. To satisfy the demand for tea, they decided to dry the tea-leaves over the open fire in hopes to hurry them along. In those fires were pine logs that emit a very distinct aroma that is clearly captured in the Lapsang Souchong tea. Wuyi hills, the specific area where this tea is grown, has very limited space to grow tea.

The demand has become increasingly higher as the popularity of this tea continues to spread around the world. Due to the supply and demand issue, this specialty tea has become more expensive over the years. The finished gourmet tea is thick and black and when steeped in hot water produces a bright burgundy-orange cup of tea. The flavor is assertive and bold.

Formosa Oolong Tea (1/2 lb - \$10.00)

Oolong tea gets its name from the Chinese wu-lung, which means, "Black dragon" and it represents a cross between green and black tea. Gaining more and more popularity in the US, once you try it, Formosa Oolong tea might quite possibly turn out to be your new favorite! Loaded with potential health benefits this is a beautiful tea with full, refreshing, fruity-sweet aromas and flavors to match. Like many things in the world, Oolong tea was discovered by accident. A Chinese gardener was getting ready to prepare his tea when a deer distracted him. He killed and prepared the deer and forgot all about his tea leaves. The next day when he rediscovered them, he thought they might have gone bad since they had started to change color, but he decided to finish the process anyway. After all the preparations were made, he sat to have his tea and realized that this was a much more flavorful and aromatic tea than what he had been drinking...and Oolong was born.

Formosa Oolong teas are produced in Taiwan, next to China, and they produce the largest quantity of Oolong in the world. Leaves are plucked as the sun rises and then are laid out to wither in the hot sun. The leaves may be intentionally bruised slightly to stimulate the fermentation process. Tea artisans that are waiting for the perfect blend of red and green leaves watch over them carefully. The leaves are then dried, expertly graded and passed through strict quality control for packaging.

Formosa Oolong teas have a long list of potential health benefits because they are only partially fermented and remain essentially in their natural state. Oolong tea leaves are full of antioxidants and polyphenols that, when drunk daily, may protect you from serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease.

Formosa Oolong tea is also an excellent addition to your weight loss program. The combination of antioxidants and caffeine has been shown to speed up your metabolism without making you jittery the way other caffeinated beverages can. Formosa Oolong tea is an amazingly delicious beverage that is incredibly delicious served either hot or over ice. You can drink it throughout the day and know that you are benefiting your body with hydration, antioxidants and polyphenols. The eastern world has known the benefits of Formosa Oolong for generations and that may explain why the numbers of people who suffer from disease are staggeringly different than in the US.

Formosa Oolong is like taking your medicine with a spoon full of sugar! Give your body something refreshing and rejuvenating with essential benefits your body needs all while enjoying a simple cup of tea.

Market Ceylon Spice Tea (1/2 lb - \$7.00)

Developed in the early 60's in Seattle, this high grown Ceylon black tea is gently blended with a concoction of clove, orange essence and cinnamon to create an aromatic and soothing spiced tea. Although you are welcome to add milk or sugar, this tea is naturally sweet and delicious. The flavor is spicy, pungent and each

sip will leave you wanting more. The flavor is similar to orange-spice tea, but with a surprising kick.

One reviewer mentioned that he brewed Market spice tea at work and the intoxicating aroma floating through the air had everyone gathered at his desk asking what sumptuous flavor it was! Once you try Market spice tea, you will see there is no going back.

It is a one of a kind taste that is truly exceptional. We deliver this tea to you in loose-leaf form for exceptional flavor and freshness. Our free tea ball infuser makes it easy to take this tea anywhere! Market Spice tea can be enjoyed day or night, it is always a treat.

Russian Caravan Blended Tea (1/2 lb - \$8.00)

Tea became popular amongst the trade routes in Southern Russia along the China border during the 1700's - The chests of tea would travel via camel from China to Russia and would pick up the aroma of campfires along the way. 11,000 miles and 16 months later, the time it took to reach its destination in Russia, the tea had changed dramatically, hence the name Russian Caravan Tea. The Smokey flavor of this tea made it Russia's second most popular drink next to Vodka.

Enjoy the undertones of a creaminess blend that is in the tradition of the finest Russian Teas. You'll find this high-grade black tea has a medium strong flavor with just a hint of smoky Lapsang Souchong. For your pleasure, we have also added our Formosa Oolong and China Blend to make this exceptional tea complete. Russian caravan tea has an assertive flavor and is for those who like a good strong cup of tea.

Darjeeling Tea: Finest Tippy (1/2 lb - \$10.00) India Dajeeling, Tippy Gold Broken Orange Pekoe (TGBOP) 100% Darjeeling

Origin: Mirik, Darjeeling, India. This Darjeeling has a distinctly sharp, berry character with good color.

This fine tea is from the Mim Estate grown in the Darjeeling district of India, nestled in the southern slopes of the Himalaya Mountains at elevations of 6800 feet. From the town center on a clear day the peak of Mount Everest can be seen. Darjeelings are the most precious tea qualities of the world. They possess an exquisite bouquet and flavor and a distinctive "muscat" character almost wine-like in taste in a lovely and light cup.

Legend has it that a thunderbolt of Lord Indra (the king of heaven in Hindu mythology), struck the earth at Observatory Hill. The Tibetan words, "Dorje", meaning the thunderbolt of Indra and "Ling", a place, form "Dorge-Ling" or "Land Of The Thunderbolt". The planting of tea in the Darjeeling district was swift and dramatic. In 1841 Dr. Campbell planted the first seedlings outside his bungalow in the town of Darjeeling. By 1874, almost 15,000 acres had been cleared and replanted with tea, creating most of the area's current 85 plus gardens. Today the total area under tea is nearly 47,000 acres producing only 3% of the country's total annual output, yet the name Darjeeling is probably one of the most recognized names in all of tea. Darjeeling's preeminence as India's foremost producer of premium quality black teas is due to a unique combination of factors. Higher elevation, soil type, hilly terrain with excellent drainage, weather pattern and age and diversity of bush all lend a hand in helping create a flavor profile which cannot be replicated anywhere else on earth.

Assam Broken Orange Pekoe Tea (1/2 lb - \$9.00) Satrupa Estate TGFOP

Origin: Satrupa, Assam, India. This Assam is great as part of a blend or by itself provides a bright colored liquor with good body and a full flavor.

Assam, North India

On both sides of the mighty Brahmaputra river, lie the rolling plains of the world's largest tea growing area. The Assam region consistently produces more tea per acre than any tea-producing region in the world. Tea bushes cover nearly 500,000 acres giving the impression of a gigantic billiard table stretching as far as the eye can see. Around Assam's verdant tea bushes lay India's richest game reserves. Wild elephants, one-horned rhinos, swamp deer, wild buffalo and leopards are just some of the native wildlife in this area. And from this area grows nearly 600 million pounds of tea annually, yielding the strong, pungent, full-bodied liquor that has made Assam world-famous.

Assam is the birthplace of India tea. In 1823, Englishman, Robert Bruce discovered *Camellia Sinensis* growing wild in this region. In 1839 the first eight chests of India tea were offered at the auction in London. All of the gardens in the Assam region are virtually on the same plain with an altitude of approximately 500 feet. The alluvial soil distributed by the river and the climatic conditions of the area, lend themselves ideally to tea cultivation. The basin gets between 80 to 120 inches of rainfall moderately distributed throughout the year with a heavy concentration of monsoon showers from August to mid-October. January and February being the only dry months, cropping begins in early March and extends almost to mid-December.

March ushers in the hectic plucking season. The dormant bushes come to life and the first leaves of the new season start sprouting. The picking of the first flush leaves will last 8 to 10 weeks. June begins the season for second flush teas.

Assam leaves are characterized by an excessive amount of silvery pubescence called "tip". The "tippy" Assam teas of both first and second flush produce top quality liquor with body and strength. August to October brings the heavy rains. All vegetation grows at a tremendous rate during monsoon season. Rightly called Rains Tea, teas produced during these months account for almost 75% of the region's annual yield. Better suited for CTC (crush, tear, curl) manufacture, Rains Tea has enhanced characteristics of strength, grip and color and is often a favorite in countries where the preference lies in a good, strong cup with milk. Most of the teas manufactured in Assam will be transported by truck or railway to the auction houses in Calcutta, India for sale abroad. A smaller, more convenient auction center has been set up in Gauhati for the sale of teas meant for consumption within the country.

Cylon Chester Broken Orange Pekoe Tea (1/2 lb - \$6.00)

This tea originates from Galle, Sri Lanka and is a typical low-grown black Ceylon tea. Ceylon got its name from its country of origin until the name of the country changed to Sri Lanka in 1972.

Grown in the southwest Galle district, this tea can be produced almost year round. The average growing elevation for this tea is 1,000 feet and below, the low temperature climate and generous level of humidity provide for an ideal atmosphere for high quality tea to be grown.

It is labeled a BOP but because of the larger size and slight curl to the leaf, it's technically pekoe. This most precious orange pekoe tea is grown in the western areas of the island of Ceylon. Known throughout the world, Ceylon Chester Broken Orange Pekoe tea has not only a crisp aroma and strong body, but it also has medicinal benefits ranging from healthy skin, teeth, and bones. This tea has also been shown lower cholesterol therefore increasing heart health.

Sri Lanka is the world's third largest producer of tea, and actually was the world's leading exporter until it was recently passed by Kenya. Perfect for an everyday tea, Ceylon Chester Broken Orange Pekoe has just a touch of citrus essence to bring a little sunshine into your day.

Decaf English Breakfast Tea (1/2 lb - \$13.00)

Decaf English Breakfast Tea is a gourmet black Northern Indian tea. You will find it to have a full body and for it to be a rich robust cup typical of the best tea in England. This tea is expected to be served with milk and a sweetener much like the British have liked it as their morning tea for over a century. Once the black tea has been mixed with milk, its aroma magically changes to a very familiar scent of warm toast and honey!

Although this tea has had its caffeine released, it has retained its incredible flavor. We are confident that our decaffeinating process is so superb that you wouldn't be able to tell you were drinking decaf unless it was a side by side taste test. Yes, we're that sure!

Decaf English breakfast tea has raised the bar. When enjoyed with milk and sugar, the silky texture, although still very stimulating, then takes on a much more mild flavor, perfect for toast, muffins and biscuits.

Enjoy cup after cup without the jittery side effects of caffeine. This tea, known as English breakfast tea" is highly admired all over the world. Celebrated for its bold flavor, this decaffeinated gourmet tea is one of our best selling and is sure to win you over.

Irish Breakfast Tea (1/2 lb - \$9.00)

Irish breakfast tea is a blend of hearty Assam and Sri Lankan teas that produce a rich, liquoring cup with the strength and malty flavor of the best teas of Sri Lanka. The longer you allow it to brew the stronger it becomes. If you choose to add dairy to your tea, we recommend you serve this tea with milk (not cream). In Ireland, of course there it is just called tea, it is also custom to drink it straight or with a splash of lemon.

Irish Breakfast tea is full of natural antioxidants and it has a robust, invigorating aroma that is sure to jump start your morning. The Irish are per capita the highest consumers of tea in the world and after you try our Irish Breakfast you will know why! The Irish having a saying... "May you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you and all your heart might desire." We couldn't put it any better. Irish breakfast tea makes a superb all-day full bodied tea your sure to enjoy.

Earl Grey Tea (1/2 lb - \$7.00)

Earl Grey is named after its English benefactor, Charles Earl Grey, who for a short time served as Prime Minister under King William IV in the 1830's. The unusual flavoring that makes Earl Grey so magnificent is the oil of bergamot, which is in the citrus family. Bergamot comes from the Turkish word for "prince's pear" and describes a pear shaped citrus that is grown around the Mediterranean. The oil is pressed from the rind and is used for perfume as well as our Earl Grey tea. We take the concentration of this exotic flavor and blend it with mild teas of China and Sri Lanka. The aroma and flavor of the bergamot shine through and create a lovely tea. Legend has it that a Chinese mandarin man may have given this tea with bergamot oil to Earl Grey as a gift to thank him for one of Lord Grey's men saving his drowning son. He enjoyed it so much the secret recipe was passed onto him. Some other fun facts are that this is the reported favorite tea of Fictional characters James Bond 007, Bruce Wayne from Batman and Frasier from the TV series. This is one of those teas that really stand out from the pack; it is very distinctive and enjoyable.

Iced Tea Blend (1 lb - \$8.00)

Our Iced tea blend is deliciously blended for incredible tasting iced tea!

We only serve you the finest so, this is a loose-leaf tea, meaning you will need to use a filter (like the mini-minit filters we offer with purchase), a French press, or a teapot designed for loose teas. This is taking iced tea to a whole new level!

Enjoy the preparation and the beauty of the tea as it unfurls and then taste the difference real tea makes.

Impress your friends and neighbors as they watch you carefully select your loose-leaf tealeaves, steep the tea and then throw in some Flavororganics to add a surprisingly refreshing taste.

This certainly isn't the same old sweet tea they are used to!