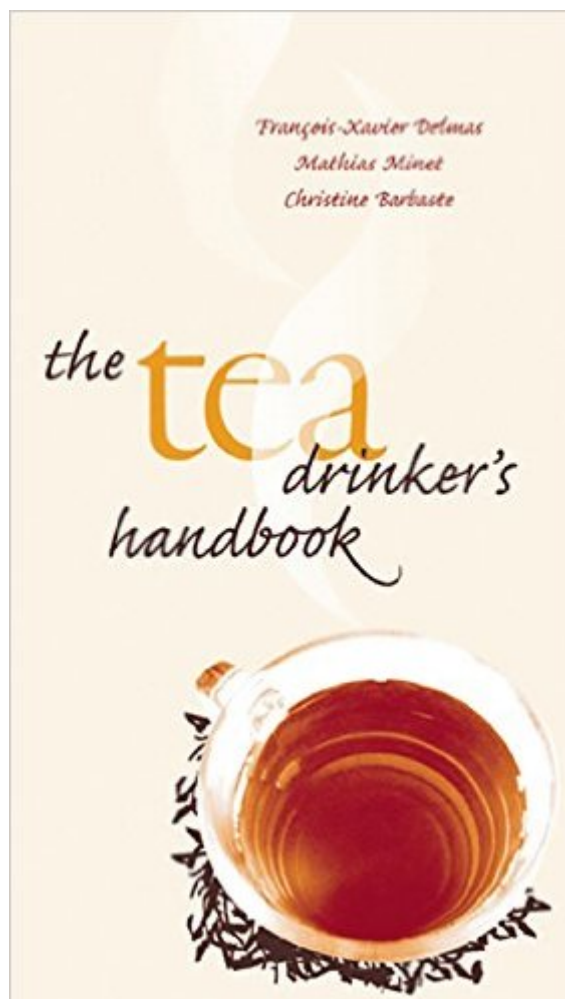


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The Tea Drinker's Handbook



Synopsis

A tasteful guide that explores the pleasures of tea through word and image. In a skinny-no-whip-mocha-latte world, *The Tea Drinker's Handbook* is a refreshing return to America's roots in tea-drinking. Though tea is one of the most-consumed beverages in the world, second only to water, it is far from mundane. For both the lifelong tea drinker and the recent convert, *The Tea Drinker's Handbook* is an indispensable reference for anyone interested in all things tea. The founders of Le Palais des Thés, a retail chain known for the high quality of its selection of teas, have traveled for over twenty years to plantations all over the world in search of the rarest teas, and the result is this handsome and enlightening book. This is the first guide written under the Le Palais des Thés brand. In addition to ten shops in France, there are stores in Brussels, Oslo, Tokyo, and Beverly Hills, and their products are sold at Bergdorf Goodman. In this impressive and comprehensive guide, we rediscover tea, its cultivation, and all of its richness and complexity. In addition to being an informative resource, this book is also a true tasting guide for tea lovers. The authors open our eyes (and introduce our palates) to tea-tasting, as they list the top fifty teas of the world "complete with tasting sheets" and include comments and advice for each. And with 200 illustrations, *The Tea Drinker's Handbook* informs and instructs with both fascinating text and alluring images.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are just so many things that are great about this book compared to all the others on my shelf. The most important is that (contrary to many others) the book is extremely well edited and

thought out. This makes a huge difference. First, the book contains almost no fluff. It's all essential information, including much that is not available in any of the other books I've read. Even better, the thought put into structure and sharpness also makes the information much easier to digest and absorb. The final polish is that (again contrary to many other books on tea) all the information is accurate. And if seldom the authors don't delve into all the details, they still manage to stay away from generalizations. For a novice reader, this is extremely important. I've seen too many people get the wrong impression on some aspect of tea just because a tea book without sufficient attention to detail printed information pertaining for example only to a particular type of tea from a particular country as pertaining to the same tea from all sources. To top it all off, even the pictures are great. Not only do they match the topic, they go above and beyond, giving additional information or a counterpoint to the text they accompany. The content of the book is summarized as follows (shown because currently doesn't show the table of contents): What is tea?

Update: I have added one new tea book: Tea: History, Terroirs, Varieties which I now consider to be equal to the book this review is about, perhaps better in some ways. It is inserted below.-----I have purchased and checked out from the library several educational books on tea. This is the book I consider the best of the bunch. First I will list the other books and mention a few positives about those, then I will describe why I felt this to be the superior text. Tea: History, Terroirs, Varieties - 5 stars This text would be worth purchasing for the pictures and the scientific analyses contained within. The caffeine chart alone makes one ponder the myth that white and green tea have lower caffeine than wulong and black tea. Funny considering two of the highest caffeine concentrations are in Japanese green teas! What I really liked about this book was that each section seemed to contain a good amount of content on the topic without going into overkill. Production is described for each style in a very concise manner, but each step is explained so that the reader understands production even if this is the first tea book they have read. There are some tasting notes on particular teas the authors have chosen. A few are the normal teas that you see mentioned in many texts, but a few are new.

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