Thoughts on Tea

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Tea Inventory

This here is an overview off all teas that have been tasted, with variables and notes pertaining to their preparation.

Teas are colored by type

Black	Green	White	Oolong/Gaba	Pu Erh

Tea	Temperature*	Initial Stewing Time	Increment per Infusion	Vendor
Ruby Black	87°C (95°C)	15s	5s	Meileaf
Ancient Haze	87°C (95°C)	20s	10s	Meileaf
Honeycomb Black**	95°C	25s	5s	Meileaf
Ruby-Gaba	99°C	20s	5s	Meileaf
Swallows Nest	99°C	25s	5s	Meileaf
Stone Milk	99°C	30s	5s	Meileaf
Old Tree Silver Needle	87°C (90°C)	30s	10s	Meileaf
Guangxi Silver Needle	80°C	60s	20s	Yoshien
Young Gushu 23	95°C	20s	5s	Meileaf
Little Tong Mu				Meileaf
Imperial Green				Meileaf
Superior Iron Goddess				Meileaf
Autumn Light				Meileaf
Laoshan Green				Meileaf

Tea	Temperature*	Initial Stewing Time	Increment per Infusion	Vendor
Alishan Cream				Meileaf
White Peony				Meileaf

* in format: my temperature (officially recommended temp), no brackets if equal
** I add sugar to these teas

Additional Notes

Guangxi Silver Needle

Yoshien just specifies "2min." for stewing time, so stewing times are my best guess.

Tasting Log

Tasting Log

Ruby Gaba

Gaba-tea (roasted under inert atmosphere) of Ruby 18

Taste

- High amount of astringency
- Strong roasted notes (as is typical of oolong)
- Juicy notes
- Acidity

Rating

It's fine, but doesn't blow me away like Ruby Black.

I never was a big fan of oolong, so maybe it's just that.

Tasting Log

Swallows Nest

Rock Oolong of Rou Gui leaves

Leaves got crushed in shipping, so taste may not representative.

Taste

- Extremely strong (probably because the leaves got a bit crushed in shipping)
- Tastes like a whiskey barrel without the alcohol
- Slight fruity notes
- Some herbs
- Maybe even a hint of cinnamon?

Rating

Usually I'm not a fan of oolong-teas, but I actually quite like this one. The usual taste of plain roasted leaves is transformed into something akin to a whiskey barrel, which creates a rich and layered taste. Good tea, may buy more.

Tasting Log

Stone Milk

Rock oolong from Shi Ru leaves

Taste

- Very gentle taste (for oolong)
- Creamy mouthfeel, actually feels like milk (tastes very different of course)
- High minerality
- Roasted leaves

Rating

Surprisingly mellow and gentle oolong, with a strong minerality. Like licking some friendly rocks.

Not a very deeply layered taste, but good for some relaxed drinking.

Tasting Log

Ruby Black

Black tea of Ruby 18 leaves

Taste

- Strong notes of camphor
- Moderately high minerality and astringency
- Subdued cinnamon sweet notes
- If you look for it, you can even detect hints of eucalyptus
- Nice floral and spice notes

Rating

I love this tea. It to me represents the essence of what a black tea is, and I like black tea the most already.

At first the camphor dominates, but with more infusions the more subdued notes take the stage and create a deeply layered drinking experience.

Still easily my favorite tea.

Tasting Log

Ancient Haze

Black tea of Ye Sheng Dehongensis leaves

Taste

- Extremely fresh and refreshing
- Juicy and fruity
- Notes of various citrus fruits
- Hints of hops

Rating

Very nice black tea. Extremely refreshing with a decently deep flavor profile.

I like it a lot.

Tasting Log

Honeycomb Black

Black tea of Da Ye Zhong leaves

Taste

- Bread
- No really, it's like I made tea of old toast
- Malty notes
- Hint of dark chocolate

Rating

Bread.

On it's own I don't like it that much, but if you add a bit of sugar it very nicely complements and softens the rather dry bready flavor and transform it to something like a honeyed pastry.

Tasting Log

Old Tree Silver Needle

White Tea of Da Ye Zhong leaves.

Taste

- Fresh fruit notes
- Hint of camphor
- As it cools down a pudding-like note appears
- Pudding-taste gets stronger with the first few infusions
- Fresh and creamy mouthfeel

Rating

Fresh and gentle notes with a interesting and deep flavor profile, that also changes a good amount with each infusion.

I like it a lot, very good white tea.

Tasting Log

Young Gushu 23

Raw Puerh from the year '23

Taste

- Fresh, leafy
- Green tea
- Apple (?) skin

Rating

Very refreshing and comfortable to drink. Doesn't have the "moldy" notes some Puerh teas tend to have.

Pretty good