A LEARNLI REFERENCE COLLECTION

WORLD TEA ATLAS

Place, leaf, craft and cup.



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An illustrated reference to places, tea-making and the evidence behind the cup.

CONTENTS / FINAL BOOK LOCATORS

Start with the leaf.

Foundations 6–37

Leaf, manufacture, preparation and observation.

- Leaf & manufacture 6–21
  Begin with a shoot, not a cup colour.
- Preparation & observation 22–37
  Two factory routes, one set of questions.

China 38–65

China / many ways through the leaf.

India 66–85

India / hills, valleys and many cups.

Japan 86–101

Japan / leaf, shade, steam and finishing.

Sri Lanka 102–113

Sri Lanka / one island, seven tea regions.

Taiwan 114–123

Taiwan / many ways to work a leaf.

Kenya 124–131

Kenya / leaf across the highlands.

Country chapters share one level. Each is a sourced selection, not a producer ranking or a complete census. Start with a place, then return to the relevant Foundations page.

FOUNDATIONS / LEAF & MANUFACTURE / PLACE, LEAF, CRAFT & CUP

Begin with a shoot, not a cup colour.

Plant identity, the material picked and the work that follows / three different questions.

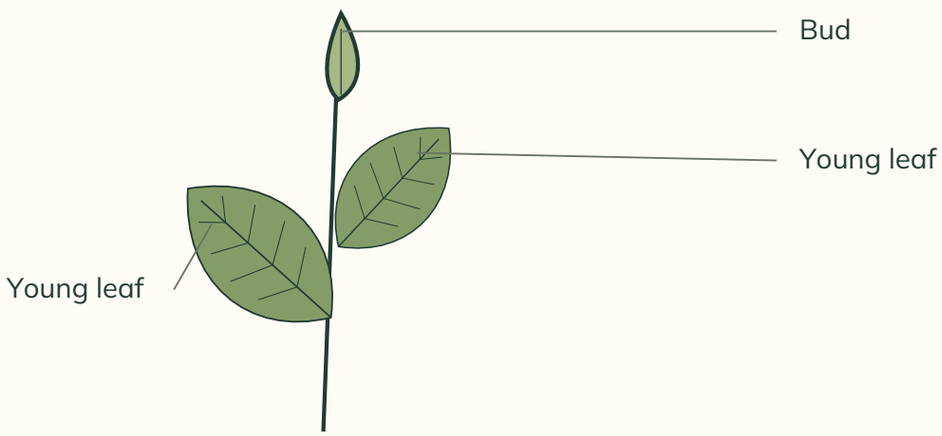
The plant before the preparation

The tea plant is *Camellia sinensis*, a species accepted in Kew's Plants of the World Online taxonomy checked 30 October 2026. It can grow as a shrub or tree; cultivation and repeated harvesting shape the plants seen in tea fields. The drawing identifies a bud and young leaves, not a cultivar, growing country or finished family. Leaf shape alone does not complete a tea record.

A useful example, not a picking law

Two young leaves and a bud are shown as an example of harvested material. Research-extension accounts also discuss different shoot standards and mechanical harvesting. The intended tea, the available growth and local handling matter. The maker receives material with its own condition and history, then chooses a route. For the distinction between grower work and institutional roles, return later to pages 180–183; the drawing here supplies no worker biography or farm pin.

A TWO-LEAF-AND-BUD EXAMPLE / ORIGINAL PLANT DIAGRAM



Bud, leaves and stem / simplified morphology, not a cultivar identification or universal plucking law.

PLANT IDENTITY / Herbal infusions have their own plants. Rooibos, honeybush and yerba mate are treated separately on pages 178–179, not as a seventh tea family.

SOURCE DESK / 01,04,06,28 / Full records and access notes in the supplied companion.

FOUNDATIONS / LEAF & MANUFACTURE / PLACE, LEAF, CRAFT & CUP

Botanical varieties do not prescribe a tea style.

A dated taxonomy / the two names used most often in this atlas are part of a wider plant record.

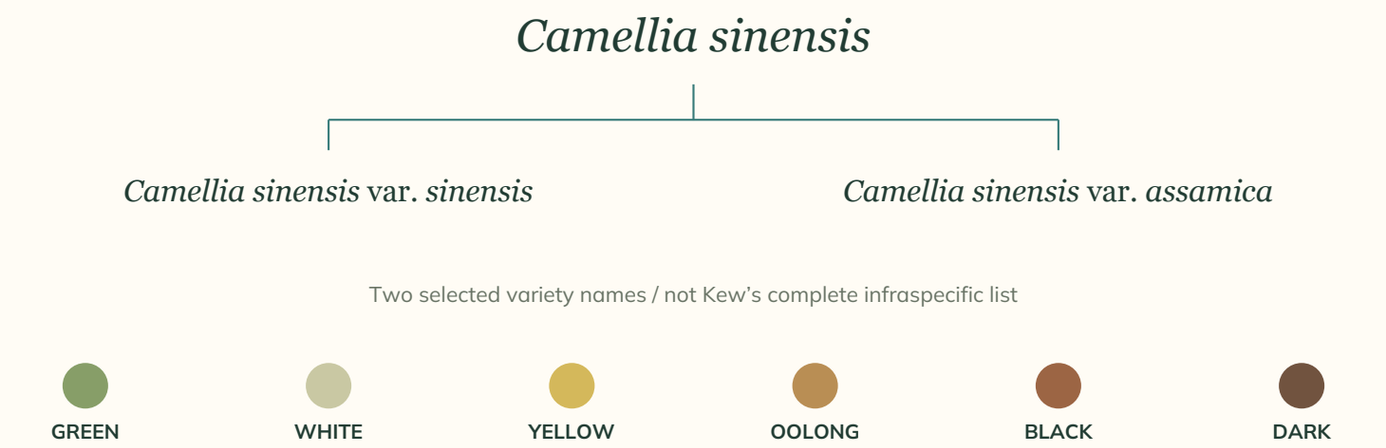
Read the rank as well as the name

Kew's accepted species record lists *Camellia sinensis* var. *sinensis* and *Camellia sinensis* var. *assamica* among its accepted infraspecific names. These are botanical varieties: a rank within the species. This is a named taxonomy checked on 30 October 2026, not a claim that all botanical treatments are identical. The diagram selects two names used throughout this book; it is not the complete list accepted by Kew.

The family belongs to manufacture

A botanical variety is different from green, white, yellow, oolong, black or dark tea. Those six families organise the book's processing lessons. They are not six species, nor does an assamica name force a black-tea route. ISO 20715:2023 has a *Camellia sinensis* scope; other plants sold as tea fall outside it. Later scenting, blending, roasting or grinding adds another field, rather than changing the botanical identity by itself.

BOTANICAL RANK ABOVE / MANUFACTURE FAMILIES BELOW



NAMES AND ITALICS / Scientific plant names are italicised; the rank abbreviation var. is roman. Ordinary product names keep their source's spelling.

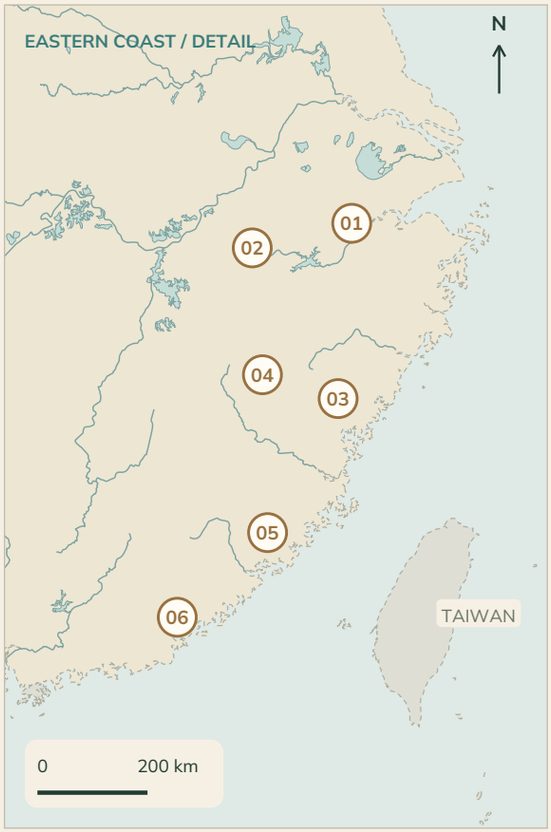
SOURCE DESK / 01,02,03 / Full records and access notes in the supplied companion.

CHINA / PLACE, LEAF, CRAFT & CUP

China / many ways through the leaf.

Growing places, distinct manufacture and names that need evidence / a selected national journey, checked 24 October 2026.





01 / Zhejiang
02 / Anhui
03 / Fuding / Zhenghe
04 / Wuyi
05 / Anxi
06 / Guangdong
07 / Yunnan
08 / Hunan / Guangxi

Rings locate regional stories / dots and detailed local maps follow in the chapter.
Disputed areas are hatched with dashed limits; no sovereignty claim is settled by the map.

A route, not a complete census

This chapter follows selected eastern tea landscapes, then turns south-west to Yunnan and to the dark teas of Hunan and Guangxi. Zhejiang, Anhui and Fujian need several scales: a town name, a tea-making district and an individual garden are not the same location. Growing and leaf-making come before a merchant address.

Keep the categories separate

China supplies examples of all six tea families, but no province makes only one family. Green, white, yellow, oolong, black and dark tea describe processing contexts. Heritage recognition, protected origin, cultivar and a particular lot each require their own evidence. Taiwan is covered separately on pages 114-123; no Chinese provincial boundary is drawn across it.

READ THE SYMBOLS / Solid dots locate public towns. Numbered rings locate broad regional stories. No ring marks a guessed farm, factory or protected-origin boundary.

SOURCE DESK / 01,27,28,36,37 / Full records and access notes in the supplied companion.

CHINA / PLACE, LEAF, CRAFT & CUP

Names have different kinds of protection.

A dated reference desk / a standard version, first protection, trademark registration and permission to use a mark are not interchangeable.

NAME / ROMANISED HERE	KIND OF EVIDENCE	DATE / DOCUMENT
Xihu Longjing	GI certification mark	2011 registration [03,04]
Anxi Tieguanyin	Mark / GI product / former agri GI	2000 / 2004 / 2017 [05]
Wuyi Yancha	GI product requirements	2025 compilation, record 600 [06]
Pu-erh	GI product / national standard	2008 protection and standard [09,11]
Fuding white tea	Origin protection	2004 government record [12]
Zhenghe white tea	GI-product national standard	GB/T 22109-2008 [14]
Qimen / Keemun	GI-product notice / local standard	2026 notice and DB34/T 1086 [16,39]

Check the system first

China protects geographical names through GI products and through geographical collective or certification marks. Former agricultural GI records are a further historical layer. Anxi is a useful example: the government account gives 2000 for its certification mark, 2004 for GI-product protection and 2017 for the agricultural GI. Those dates do not describe one registration event.

Read this table as evidence, not permission

The table identifies the kind of record and the date actually checked. A standard year is not silently labelled a first registration. The 2026 Wuyi and Zhenghe replacements take effect on 1 April 2027; their older versions still apply at this chapter's editorial date. None of the four supplier examples on pages 62-63 is certified by appearing here.

LANGUAGE CONVENTION / Plain pinyin is used in prose, headings and maps: Longjing and Tieguanyin. Source titles retain their original script in the ledger; tone marks and Chinese characters are not needed to read this chapter.

SOURCE DESK / 02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,11,12,14,15,16,39 / Full records and access notes in the supplied companion.

CULTURE & HERBAL INFUSIONS / PLACE, LEAF, CRAFT & CUP

Rooibos / another plant, two routes.

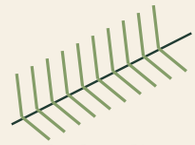
Aspalathus linearis / selected South African growing context / protected origin and traditional knowledge kept distinct.

CEDERBERG / SELECTED REFERENCE TOWNS



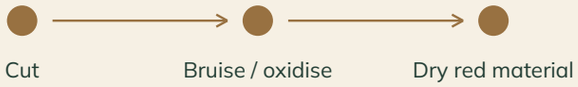
Selected context, not full PDO territory / no farm pins / relief: Mapzen-USGS.

ONE SPECIES / TWO PREPARATIONS



Aspalathus linearis

RED / OXIDATION



GREEN / LIMIT OXIDATION



A plant and a protected name

Rooibos is *Aspalathus linearis*, not *Camellia sinensis*. The EU registered Rooibos/Red Bush as a PDO through Regulation 2021/865 of 28 May 2021. The 2020 application's single document describes oxidised red and green unoxidised forms, within specified Cape localities. This selected map is not the full legal boundary; neither a regional address nor a product name alone proves eligibility.

Traditional knowledge and manufacture

A South African departmental speech dates the industry-wide rooibos traditional-knowledge benefit-sharing launch to 1 November 2019, involving the industry and Khoi and San councils. That dated agreement is not a finding about every household's present benefits or a brand's ethics. Red rooibos develops through oxidation; green production limits it through prompt drying. Trade use of fermented here does not make it the same process as microbial dark tea.

MAP AND PROCESS / Public reference towns only; no garden, community-trust or recipient pins. Relief is terrain. Process lanes are simplified comparisons, not times or recipes.

SOURCE DESK / 08,11,12,13,15,18,19,20 / Full records and access notes in the supplied companion.

CULTURE & HERBAL INFUSIONS / PLACE, LEAF, CRAFT & CUP

Four records / three herbal plant identities.

Rooibos, honeybush and yerba mate / separate from *Camellia sinensis* / no health or caffeine comparisons.

Plant identity before a product claim

Rooibos comes from *Aspalathus linearis*; honeybush can come from several *Cyclopia* species; yerba mate is *Ilex paraguariensis*. A supplier's unspecified honeybush is not assigned one species. The red and green rooibos entries are two preparations of the same species. Neither the word natural nor a flavour comparison authenticates certification or a protected origin.



Natural Rooibos / red

CARMIÉN / OCTOBER 2023 CATALOGUE

Listed as fermented rooibos; the oxidation route is explained on page 178. Catalogue year is not harvest, and organic/conventional availability is not an independent certification finding.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT —

SOURCE 14



Green Rooibos

CARMIÉN / SEPARATE PREPARATION

Listed separately from red rooibos. The producer describes prompt drying to limit oxidation. No cultivar, harvest, fixed national machine or independent taste is inferred.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT —

SOURCE 15



Honeybush

CARMIÉN / SUPPLIER PRODUCT ACCOUNT

The offering is described at genus level here: *Cyclopia*. No exact species blend or harvest is assigned. A honey-like description is not evidence that honey was added.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT —

SOURCE 16



Original con Palo

TARAGÜI / YERBA MATE PRODUCT

The Original con Palo listing is kept separate from Sin Palo and citrus variants. It is yerba mate, not Camellia tea. No stem percentage, harvest or single garden is inferred.

INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT —

SOURCE 17

ATTRIBUTION / All four are documentary supplier records; no harvest year is invented and independent assessments remain em dashes. Product titles do not establish PDO authorisation.

SOURCE DESK / 08,09,10,11,14,15,16,17 / Full records and access notes in the supplied companion.