Twinings Darjeeling

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Twinings Darjeeling, in summary:** The multi-garden, supermarket-tier Darjeeling blend: lighter and more floral than English Breakfast, and an easy entry point before single-estate.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in January 2026.

Twinings Darjeeling is the brand's accessible, supermarket-tier take on the so-called Champagne of teas, for drinkers who want Darjeeling character without a £15 single-estate tin. It is lighter and brighter than mass-market British black tea, carrying some of the floral, grape-skin muscatel note that earned the region its nickname. A worthwhile step up from standard English Breakfast for refined afternoon drinking.

The product

Twinings Darjeeling uses broken-leaf Darjeeling, mostly second flush (the May to June harvest with the strongest muscatel character). It is less refined than single-estate first flush but far more accessible at supermarket pricing. Because it is blended from several Darjeeling gardens, cup-to-cup consistency is good even if the depth is shallower than a single estate.

How it tastes

Lighter than English Breakfast or Yorkshire, with a brighter coppery liquor and an aromatic top note that hints at the muscatel grape-skin character of premium Darjeeling. Less astringent than other Indian blacks and more aromatic; the signature perfume comes through if you let the cup cool slightly before drinking. Curator Rating: 4.9/5.

How to brew

1. 1 bag in 200ml water just off the boil; let it cool slightly, as a full boil scorches Darjeeling.
2. Cover the cup; the volatile aromatics that give Darjeeling its character escape easily.
3. Steep 3 minutes only. Darjeeling turns astringent past 4 minutes, the most common Darjeeling brewing mistake.
4. Drink black, with a slice of lemon if you like; milk masks the muscatel character.
5. Use porcelain or glass if you can, so you can see the golden-amber liquor.

About Darjeeling

Darjeeling grows in West Bengal, in the Himalayan foothills at 600 to 2000m. The district makes under 1% of India's tea but is its most prized, and the name is geographic-indication protected like Champagne or Roquefort. Nineteenth-century importers coined the "Champagne of teas" tag for its muscatel, wine-like character. There are three harvests: first flush (March to April, lightest and most aromatic), second flush (May to June, balanced and the most exported), and autumnal flush (October to November, fullest in body).

Twinings versus single-estate Darjeeling

The Twinings cup is a multi-garden blend rather than a single-estate, single-flush tea, so it trades garden-and-season character for batch consistency. For the price tier it is acceptable rather than exceptional. Serious Darjeeling drinkers move to single-estate first flush from specialist importers, or to Teapigs Darjeeling in a whole-leaf pyramid bag, for the nuance the mainstream blend smooths out.

Use cases

- Afternoon tea, particularly with light cake or scones.
- A refined daily cup for those who skip milk and sugar.
- A lighter alternative to English Breakfast.
- An easy introduction to Darjeeling for drinkers used to Yorkshire or Tetley.
- Pairing with light fish, chicken, or salad lunches.

FAQ

Caffeine? 30 to 45mg per cup, lower than Yorkshire because Darjeeling grows slowly at altitude.

Milk? Possible, but milk masks the muscatel character. Drink black for the full experience.

Steep time? 3 minutes; Darjeeling becomes astringent past 4.

Compared to Teapigs Darjeeling? Teapigs is a whole-leaf temple bag, premium tier, more aromatic.

Which flush? Mostly second flush; check the pack for flush labelling on premium variants.

Curator's note: Twinings Darjeeling is the mainstream priced Darjeeling, gateway Darjeeling for British drinkers. Worth the upgrade for occasional refined drinking. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Twinings Darjeeling

Field	Detail
Brand	Twinings (UK supermarket benchmark)
Origin	Darjeeling district, West Bengal, India (multi-garden blend, not single-estate)
Format	Standard square teabag or loose-leaf (loose-leaf available at Twinings flagship + online)
Cup character	Lighter than English Breakfast, floral muscatel character, golden-amber liquor
Caffeine	Moderate; 30-50mg per cup (lighter than the brand's English Breakfast)
UK availability	Major UK supermarkets, Twinings direct, John Lewis, Whittard

Field	Detail
UK price	£3.50 to £5 for 50-bag pack (7-10p per cup)

What to buy now

Buy Twinings Darjeeling as the everyday supermarket-shelf option. For a premium upgrade try Teapigs Darjeeling single-garden pyramid bag, a first-flush Darjeeling from a specialist (the spring harvest, lightest and most floral), or a second-flush Darjeeling for the maltier variant. For the wider Indian-tea context, pair with a quality Assam single-origin.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Freshness beats provenance for most drinkers. Buy a smaller bag more often.

Darjeeling reading

For brand background see the Twinings deep dive; for the region see the Darjeeling tea guide. Stock up via the Darjeeling range or the loose-leaf range.

Reference noted

- EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine (2015)

The bottom line

Twinings Darjeeling is the supermarket-shelf, multi-garden Darjeeling: an acceptable everyday cup, lighter and more floral than English Breakfast and more delicate than Assam. Enthusiasts will find it too smoothed-out and should go single-estate first flush; for a first taste of Darjeeling it is the easy entry point, with Teapigs the obvious next step.

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