Twinings Dark Chai

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Twinings Dark Chai, in summary:** The brand's spicier, deeper chai: a heavier Assam Ceylon base and a bigger cardamom-clove hit, the right supermarket bag for chai-curious drinkers.

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

Twinings Dark Chai is the brand's spicier, deeper chai, stronger than standard Twinings Chai with more pronounced cardamom, cinnamon and clove. It is a mainstream-priced take on Indian masala chai, aimed at drinkers who found the standard Twinings Chai too tame. Excellent with milk and sugar in a mug, exceptional pan-brewed in the proper Indian style, and the right tea-bag chai for British drinkers who want more spice than the average supermarket offering.

The blend

A stronger Assam Ceylon black tea base with heavier body than standard Twinings Chai, green and black cardamom (the dominant spice), true cinnamon, ginger root, cloves, black pepper, and occasionally fennel or star anise depending on batch. The "Dark" name reflects both the deeper colour of the brewed cup and the heavier spice loading.

How it tastes

A strong black-tea body, a cardamom-led spice mid-note that is more aggressive than the standard Chai, warming cinnamon and ginger underneath, clove giving depth and a slightly numbing finish, and black pepper for a faint heat. Closer to a Mumbai street-stall cup than standard Twinings Chai, while staying polished and consistent for British supermarket drinkers. Curator Rating: 4.9/5.

How to brew

Quick mug

1. 1 bag in 200ml just-boiled water.
2. Steep 4 to 5 minutes.
3. Add milk and sugar.

Pan-brewed (recommended)

1. 200ml water plus 200ml whole milk in a saucepan.
2. 1 bag.
3. Simmer 5 minutes.
4. Sweeten with sugar or honey.

Use cases

- An authentic-leaning chai latte at home.
- Cold-morning warming.
- A slower pan-brewed weekend ritual.
- Cold-brewed chai over ice in summer.

About masala chai

Authentic Indian masala chai is made by simmering black tea with milk, water and a fresh spice mix on the stove for eight to ten minutes, then straining into a cup or clay kulhar. The British supermarket chai bag emerged in the late 1990s to capture some of that in a teabag. Twinings Dark Chai sits at the more authentic end of that range; its spice loading is closer to a street-stall cup than the lighter Twinings standard. For the traditional method see the chai from scratch guide and the chai latte recipe.

FAQ

Caffeine? 40 to 50mg per cup.

Vegan? Yes; use plant milk for a vegan chai latte (oat milk pairs particularly well with chai spice).

Best brewing? Pan-brewed with whole or oat milk for an authentic chai-latte format.

Versus standard Twinings Chai? Dark Chai is noticeably more spice forward; standard Chai is lighter and gentler.

Versus Teapigs Chai? Teapigs uses whole-spice temple bags; Dark Chai is the mainstream paper-bag tier.

Versus Tea India Cardamom Masala? Tea India is a more authentic CTC (cut, tear, curl) cup; Dark Chai is the mainstream blended format.

Curator's note: Twinings Dark Chai is the spicier mainstream chai option. Worth keeping for proper chai mornings. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Where Twinings Dark Chai sits

Aspect	Twinings Dark Chai
Base	stronger Assam Ceylon black, heavier body
Spice	green and black cardamom led, true cinnamon, ginger, clove, pepper
Versus standard Twinings Chai	noticeably spicier and deeper, less sweet

Aspect	Twinings Dark Chai
Caffeine	40 to 50mg, full black tea base
Best use	a punchier mainstream chai, excellent pan brewed

What to buy now

Mid-tier mainstream at roughly 10 to 15p a bag. Buy Twinings Dark Chai via the Twinings range or the full tea shop; UK delivery is free above £35.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Pick what you'll actually drink every day. A tea you reach for is worth more than a tea you admire.

Chai reading

- Chai tea (the pillar)
- Chai category
- Chai from scratch
- Chai latte recipe

Reference noted

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

The bottom line

Twinings Dark Chai is the spicier, deeper mainstream chai: engineered for consistency and availability like everything Twinings makes, but with a heavier Assam Ceylon base and a bigger cardamom-and-clove loading than the tame standard Chai. Judge it on that brief, the right supermarket bag for a chai-curious drinker who wants real spice without simmering whole spices, not against a from-scratch masala it never set out to be. Pan-brew it for the closest cup to the real thing.

More from the tea wiki

- Green tea
- Black tea
- Oolong tea
- White tea
- Herbal tea
- Caffeine in tea

- How to make tea properly
- Loose leaf vs teabag

Earn rewards on teas.co.uk

Earn loyalty points on every order. Free to join.

+100 pts

Create your free account

Welcome bonus + earn on every order.



100 pts = 1 tree

Plant a tree in Scotland

Pledge points to our reforestation partner.



teas.co.uk · Tunbridge Wells, Kent · hello@teas.co.uk · 3-click cancel at teas.co.uk/cancel/