Yogi Classic Chai

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Yogi Classic Chai, in summary:** Organic, cardamom forward, polished chai engineered in Hamburg for Western palates: well balanced, judged on the cup rather than the functional label.

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

Yogi Classic Chai is the brand's foundational chai: organic black tea, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, and black pepper. The Yogi formulation is German engineered for Western palates rather than authentically Indian, the cardamom is more forward and the spice balance more polished than a Mumbai street stall chai. Excellent in bag form, exceptional as a chai latte.

The blend

Organic black tea base (Assam style for body), green and black cardamom, true cinnamon (Cinnamomum verum, not the cheaper cassia), ginger root, cloves, and black pepper. The whole spice rather than powdered approach means the bag has visible chunks; this is the right format for chai because it lets the spices release gradually during a longer steep.

How it tastes

Cardamom forward, with cinnamon warmth, ginger heat, and a gentle clove background. The pepper sits behind the ginger rather than dominating. Less aggressive than Indian masala chai, less confected than mass market chai flavoured teas (Twinings, Pukka). A polished, balanced cup. Curator Rating: 4.9/5.

How to brew (water method)

1. 1 bag in 200ml just boiled water.
2. Steep 4-5 minutes; chai needs the time for spice extraction.
3. Splash of milk and a teaspoon of sugar (or honey) is the traditional finish.

How to brew (proper chai latte method)

1. 1 bag in 100ml boiling water; steep 5 minutes for strength.
2. Heat 150ml whole milk to just below boiling.

3. Combine and froth.
4. Sweeten with honey, maple, or jaggery.
5. Top with grated nutmeg or extra cardamom.

The latte format is what the spice profile is designed for. Black and water drinking is fine; with milk it sings.

Caffeine

40-50mg per cup, in line with standard British black tea. Suitable for morning and early afternoon.

Vegan

Yes (with plant milk; oat milk is the best match because it carries spice without curdling).

The German chai context

Yogi was founded in 1984 by Bibiji Inderjit Kaur in California, but European production is based in Hamburg, Germany. The German production gives the blend its consistent, polished character, less rustic than Indian small batch but more aromatic than American mass market. The blends draw on Ayurvedic principles combined with European herbal additions, which is part of why the cup is more accessible to Western drinkers than a purely Indian chai. UK distribution dates from the early 2000s.

FAQ

Caffeine? 40-50mg.

Vegan? Yes.

vs Indian masala chai? Less authentic, more polished; bag form convenience.

Best with? Milk and sugar; chai latte format brings out the cardamom.

Pregnancy? Moderate intake fine; the caffeine is the main consideration.

Where to buy

Wholefood shops (Holland & Barrett, Whole Foods Market and independents), specialist websites, supermarket aisles in selected Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose branches.

Pricing

Premium tier among organic chai bags. Expect 15 to 25p per bag on 17 bag packs. It costs more than mainstream UK herbals, but organic certification and a traditional recipe make the premium fair for regular chai drinkers.

Storage

Airtight tin or original packaging. Use within 12-18 months for best flavour. Spice components (cinnamon, cardamom, cloves) are reasonably stable; floral and fruit additives fade more quickly.

The German take on Indian chai

Aspect	Yogi Organic Classic Chai
Base	organic Assam style black tea
Spice	green and black cardamom, true cinnamon (verum, not cassia), ginger, clove, pepper
Character	cardamom forward, polished, balanced, less aggressive than street masala
Caffeine	40 to 50mg, morning and early afternoon
Made	founded 1984 (California); European production in Hamburg

Curator's note: Yogi Classic Chai is the German brand chai, less authentic than Indian but well balanced. Worth keeping for variety. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Reference noted

- Soil Association organic standards

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Match the tea to the moment. Classic Chai at 4pm and something brisker at 6am is a fine split.

Chai reading

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- Chai category
- Chai from scratch
- Chai latte recipe

The bottom line on Yogi Classic Chai

A well balanced, polished, organic everyday chai, engineered in Germany for Western palates, with forward cardamom over a base of true cinnamon. Excellent from the bag with milk and a little sugar; exceptional made as a latte, which is the format the spice profile is built for. Judged on the cup and the occasion, it earns its place.

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