Yorkshire Gold vs Yorkshire Original: Which to Buy

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Yorkshire Gold vs Original, in summary:** Yorkshire Gold vs Yorkshire Original compared on strength, body, milk and price per cup, with brewing notes and a clear verdict on which to buy.

Our Yorkshire Tea deep dive covers the brand; this is the comparison Yorkshire drinkers actually want, Gold against Original, settled clearly without crowning a single winner that does not exist.

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

The short answer

Both blends are made by Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate, and the red box is often labelled simply Yorkshire Tea, so when people ask how Yorkshire Tea differs from Yorkshire Gold, the tea they mean is Original.

Yorkshire Tea Original (the red box) is the everyday workhorse: a robust, dependable, brisk blend built to be the reliable national cuppa. Yorkshire Gold (the gold box) is the premium blend: a richer, smoother, fuller cup made from a more carefully selected combination of leaf, including a higher share of Assam character tea. Gold is not "stronger" so much as deeper and rounder, and the gap between them is real but smaller than the price difference suggests.

What actually differs in the blend

Both are blends of teas from multiple origins, in the Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate house style, so the gap between them is a blending and leaf buying decision rather than a different kind of tea. Original is built on standard supermarket grade leaf; Gold on a higher grade selected leaf. Original is engineered for consistency and value at scale, the cup that has to taste the same in millions of kitchens. Gold uses a smaller, choicer selection of estate teas with more weight towards full, malty Assam style character, which is what gives it the noticeably rounder body and a slightly more luxurious finish. It is the same brand philosophy expressed in two quality tiers, much as the underlying origin differences drive the character of blends generally. If you have ever wondered why a tin of single origin Assam tastes maltier than a standard breakfast bag, you already understand most of what separates Gold from Original.

Bettys and Taylors name three origins for Gold: Assam for the malty, biscuity heart and the full body, Rwanda for a brisk, bright leaf that lifts the cup, and Kenya for briskness and a clean finish. The Rwandan

leaf is the distinctive part, and it is what gives Gold a more layered character than Original, which is an Assam led blend with supporting Kenyan and other African leaf.

In the cup

Original brews brisk, bright and classic builder adjacent in strength, excellent with milk and brilliant value for daily volume drinking. Gold brews smoother, deeper and less sharp, holds milk beautifully and feels like a treat rather than a refuel. If you take your tea strong with milk and want it to feel a notch more indulgent, Gold delivers that without becoming a different category of drink. Both share the same family DNA you will recognise from any well made breakfast style blend; Gold simply sands off the edges.

The gap is widest without milk. Drunk black, Gold's layered character shows itself and some drinkers pick out chocolate biscuit or honey malt flavours; Original without milk can feel one dimensional next to it. Put milk in both and the difference narrows again.

Side by side

	Yorkshire Original (red)	Yorkshire Gold (gold)
Strength	Brisk, bright, builder adjacent	Deep, rounded, fuller
Body	Medium, lively	Full, malty, smoother
With milk	Excellent, designed for it	Excellent, more luxurious
Best for	High volume daily drinking, value	The good cup, guests, the afternoon pot
Cup colour	Deep amber	Deeper, mahogany amber
Caffeine per cup	Around 50 to 60mg	Around 50 to 70mg, brewed stronger
Typical price, 80 bags	£3.50 to £5	£5.50 to £7.50
Cost per cup	£0.04 to £0.06	£0.07 to £0.09

Price per cup, the real maths

Tea is one of the cheapest pleasures in the house, and the per cup gap between these two is small in absolute terms even though the box price looks different. A red box cup costs pennies; a Gold cup costs a few pennies more. Framed against a coffee shop flat white or even a supermarket ground coffee, Gold is still trivially cheap, which is why so many people who would never describe themselves as tea enthusiasts quietly trade up. The sensible way to read the difference is not "is Gold worth twice the money" but "is a clearly better cup worth roughly the price of a biscuit a day"; for most milk and tea drinkers the answer is yes for the cups that matter and no for the cups that do not, which is exactly why keeping both makes sense. In round numbers, a four cup a day habit costs roughly £30 to £50 a year more on Gold than on Original; supermarket prices move, so treat that as the shape of the gap rather than a quote.

Hard water note

Both Original and Gold can taste flatter in hard water regions, the mineral effect that prompted the separate Yorkshire Tea Hard Water blend. If your Gold has never quite tasted as good as it did up north, your water, not the blend, may be the culprit; that page explains the chemistry, and a simple jug filter rescues more

disappointing cups than switching brands ever will.

The other Yorkshire boxes

Original and Gold are not the whole range, and two of the others solve problems people otherwise try to solve by trading up:

- **Yorkshire Tea Hard Water:** blended for limescale areas. If your cup is dull and you live in one, this is the box to try before Gold.
- **Yorkshire Tea Decaf** keeps more character than most decaf, because the blend underneath it is a strong one.
- **Yorkshire Tea Bedtime Brew:** a caffeine free herbal blend with chamomile and lemon balm. Yorkshire branded, but not a true tea.
- **Loose leaf:** both Original and Gold come in loose leaf for pot drinkers, and Gold loose leaf is the more worthwhile of the two.

Brewing each blend to its best

Neither blend is fussy, which is part of the point, but both reward the basics. Use fully boiling water, because these are robust black blends and want the heat. Use enough leaf or a fresh bag rather than punishing a tired one with extra time. Steep by the clock, around three to four minutes, and judge strength by how much tea you used, not by colour, since the brew looks ready long before it actually is. Add milk to a properly strong cup rather than using milk to rescue a weak one. Gold in particular rewards a slightly longer steep and a real warm of the pot; treated carelessly it just tastes like a dearer version of Original, and the upgrade you paid for disappears. The two blends also behave differently at the margins: Original wants its full four minutes to give everything it has, while Gold is already decent at three and better at five, and it tolerates being forgotten on the worktop rather better than Original does. For the underlying logic on heat and timing across every black tea, the water temperature guide is the reference.

Who each one is for

Original is the household everyday tea: big boxes, several cups a day, milk and maybe sugar, value matters. Gold is the better cup for people who drink less but want more from it: the afternoon pot, the cup you make for a guest, the small upgrade that is genuinely noticeable. Many Yorkshire households quietly keep both, Original for volume and Gold for the good cup, which is the realistic recommendation rather than declaring an absolute winner.

Common questions

Is Gold just Original in a fancier box? No. The blend genuinely uses a choicer leaf selection with more full, malty character. The difference is modest but real and most noticeable without distraction, drunk attentively rather than gulped at a desk.

Is Gold stronger? Not exactly. It is deeper and rounder rather than sharper. If you want pure punch, a strong brewed Original or a dedicated Assam gives more bite; Gold gives more body.

Which takes milk better? Both are built for milk. Gold simply feels more luxurious with it; Original is the more plain everyday milky brew.

Is Gold worth it for a builder's tea drinker? For the routine mugs, Original is the rational pick. Keep Gold for the cups you actually slow down for.

Does brand or water matter more? Water, usually. A hard water area flattens both; fix that first before deciding the blend has changed.

Why there are two boxes at all

Taylors of Harrogate did not split the range by accident. Original exists to be the dependable national cuppa: a blend tuned, season after season, so that the cup tastes the same whether it is made in Cornwall or Cumbria, from a kettle in a hurry or a pot left to stand. That consistency is a genuine craft and it is the reason the red box is trusted rather than exciting. Gold was created for the drinker who wants the same reliability but a better cup, and is built around a smaller, choicer leaf selection weighted towards full, malty character. It is not a different brand pretending to be premium; it is the same blending house deliberately spending more on leaf so the cup carries more weight and a longer, rounder finish. Understanding that intent is the quickest way to stop arguing about which is better in the abstract and start choosing the right one for the moment in front of you.

Storage, freshness and getting your money's worth

Whichever box you buy, the cup you get depends as much on how you keep it as on which tier it is. Tea is not immortal: light, air, heat and damp all flatten it, and a Gold blend left open in a steamy kitchen will end up tasting like a tired Original within a couple of months, which is the single most common reason people decide the upgrade was not worth it. Keep both blends sealed, cool, dark and away from strong smelling cupboard neighbours, buy a box size you will actually finish while it is alive rather than the biggest one on offer, and you protect the difference you paid for. The economics only work if the leaf reaches the cup in good condition; a carefully kept Original beats a neglected Gold every time, and a well kept Gold is exactly the small, repeatable luxury it is sold as. The same discipline applies to every black tea in the black tea family, but it matters most when you have paid for the better leaf.

The verdict

Neither is better in the abstract; they are tuned for different jobs. Buy Original if value and a reliable strong daily brew is the priority. Buy Gold if you want a smoother, rounder, more indulgent cup and do not mind paying a little more per cup for it. If you have only ever had Original, a box of Gold is one of the cheapest worthwhile upgrades in British tea, as the deep dive argues. Browse Yorkshire Tea Gold 80 bags, Yorkshire Tea Original 80 bags, Yorkshire Tea Hard Water 80 bags, Yorkshire Tea Decaf 80 bags and the rest of the Yorkshire Tea range at teas.co.uk, compare it against a proper single origin Assam, or see the wider tea shop. As always: buy on the cup and the description, check the per cup price, and remember free UK delivery is over £35.

If you are weighing Yorkshire against the other big names, the head to head pages are Yorkshire Tea vs PG Tips and Yorkshire Tea vs Tetley, and the brand pages are PG Tips, Tetley, Teapigs and Twinings.

Reference noted

- Encyclopaedia Britannica: Tea (history)

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