

# Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

**Japanese tea regions, in summary:** Japanese tea regions: Uji for ceremonial matcha and gyokuro, Shizuoka for everyday sencha, Kagoshima early and modern, Yame premium gyokuro.

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/>*

Japan makes almost exclusively green tea, and the where matters as much as in any wine region. This regional guide sits under the [Japanese tea hub](#) and connects to the [matcha](#), [sencha](#) and [tea ceremony](#) pages.

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

## Uji: the historic heart

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Uji: the historic heart, Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/>*

Uji, near Kyoto, is the most prestigious Japanese tea region, the historic centre of the highest grade matcha and gyokuro and intimately tied to the [tea ceremony](#). Uji matcha is the benchmark name in ceremonial matcha, the grade question explained in [ceremonial vs culinary matcha](#). When provenance matters most in Japanese tea, it usually means Uji.

## Shizuoka: the volume heartland

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Shizuoka: the volume heartland, Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/>*

Shizuoka, around Mount Fuji, has historically produced the largest share of Japanese tea, above all sencha, the everyday standard covered in the [sencha guide](#). If you drink Japanese green tea, a great deal of it, especially everyday sencha, has come from Shizuoka.

## Kagoshima: the modern powerhouse

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Kagoshima: the modern powerhouse, Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/*

Kagoshima, in the warm south, is now a major and growing producer, known for early harvests (its mild climate gives an early [shincha](#)), modern cultivars and an increasing share of sencha and matcha. It is the dynamic, contemporary counterpart to historic Uji.

## Yame and the speciality regions

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Yame and the speciality regions, Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/*

Yame, in Fukuoka, is celebrated for premium gyokuro, the shaded, intensely savoury tea explained in [sencha vs gyokuro vs bancha](#). Smaller regions add hojicha and genmaicha specialities, see [hojicha](#) and [genmaicha](#). The shading and processing that define these styles connect to [L theanine](#).

## How region maps to the cup

Uji for the finest ceremonial matcha and gyokuro; Shizuoka for dependable everyday sencha; Kagoshima for early, modern, vibrant sencha and matcha; Yame for premium gyokuro. Whichever the region, the brewing rule is the same Japanese green constant, water well off the boil and a short steep, see [how to brew green tea](#) and the [Japanese tea hub](#).

## In short: Japanese tea regions

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Region	Known for	The cup
Uji (Kyoto)	Historic prestige, ceremonial matcha, gyokuro	Finest, benchmark provenance
Shizuoka	Volume heartland, everyday sencha	Dependable, balanced everyday
Kagoshima	Modern powerhouse, early shincha	Early, vibrant, contemporary
Yame (Fukuoka)	Premium gyokuro	Shaded, intensely savoury

## The bottom line on Japanese tea regions

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The bottom line on Japanese tea regions, Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/*

Reduced to one paragraph: in Japanese tea the where matters as in wine, Uji for the finest matcha and gyokuro, Shizuoka for everyday sencha, Kagoshima for early modern sencha and matcha, Yame for premium gyokuro. Terroir is real but easily over-romanticised, so verify a region claim in the cup, and brew everything well off the boil. Explore the regions across the [green tea range](#), the [matcha range](#), or the full [tea shop](#).

## Reference noted

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Reference noted, Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical:* <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/>

- [PubMed: L-theanine and attention \(clinical trial\)](#)

Easy picks alongside this one: [English Breakfast](#), [Earl Grey](#), [green tea](#), [loose leaf tea](#), [Darjeeling](#), [oolong](#), and [herbal tea](#). For more, the full [tea shop](#) ships free across the UK over £35.

**FROM THE CURATOR** *teas* · One good loose-leaf in a clean teapot beats five exotic bags drunk in a hurry.

## More Japanese tea reading

Continue with [Japanese tea overview](#), [sencha](#), [Japanese tea hub](#), [single estate vs blended](#) and [how to judge tea quality](#).

## Worth picking up

**Source:** [Teas.co.uk](#). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Japanese Tea Regions: Uji, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Yame. Canonical:* <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/japanese-tea-regions/>

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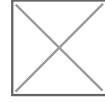
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