

Who Owns Twinings?

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

The short version: Twinings ownership: ABF since 1964, longest single-owner stint among British tea brands, 10th-generation Stephen Twining still ambassador.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/>*

Twinings is one of the oldest tea brands in the world, under long corporate ownership. This sits in the tea industry cluster beside [who owns Tetley](#).

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

Industry information accurate as of May 2026 and based on public reporting; ownership and trading positions change. Not financial advice.

Twinings ownership at a glance

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Twinings ownership at a glance, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: <https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/>*

Detail	Fact
Current owner	Associated British Foods (ABF), FTSE-listed UK
Acquired	1964 (62 years of ABF ownership as of 2026)
ABF other brands	Primark (clothing), Kingsmill (bread), Ovaltine, Twinings, Mazola, Jordans
ABF market cap	~GBP 18bn (mid-2020s)
Twinings founded	1706, Strand, London, by Thomas Twining
Strand shop status	Still trading at 216 Strand, London, since 1706 (320 years)
Royal warrant	Held continuously since 1837 (Queen Victoria's accession)
Family involvement	Stephen Twining (10th generation) remains brand ambassador
Manufacturing	Andover, Hampshire and other UK sites
Iconic blend	Earl Grey (brand identity-defining)

The current owner: ABF

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The current owner: ABF, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

Twinings is owned by Associated British Foods (ABF), the FTSE-listed UK conglomerate, which acquired it in 1964. At 62 years and counting, that is the longest single-owner stint among British heritage tea brands, and it sits behind a 320-year brand: Twinings has traded from the same 216 Strand address in London since 1706 and has held a royal warrant continuously since 1837. The combination of deep heritage and unusually stable ownership gives the brand a continuity its rivals lack. See [the ownership map](#).

Associated British Foods and the Weston family

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Associated British Foods and the Weston family, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

ABF is a FTSE 100 multinational rooted in the Garfield Weston family business, founded in Canada in 1928 and expanded into the UK in the 1930s, with the Weston family still holding around 57% of the voting shares through Wittington Investments, so it is effectively family-controlled despite the public listing. Its portfolio runs from Primark, the UK's largest clothing retailer, to grocery brands (Kingsmill, Ovaltine, Twinings, Jordans) and ingredients. The family runs ABF on a multi-generational horizon, more like a European industrial dynasty than a typical listed company, which means patient capital and a tolerance for long-term brand investment, both of which have suited Twinings well across six decades.

Is Twinings still British?

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Is Twinings still British?, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

Twinings is British across every relevant sense, which sets it apart. Its heritage is a 1706 London origin with 320 years of continuous trading; its owner ABF is UK-listed and London-headquartered; its manufacturing is UK-based (Andover in Hampshire and other sites); its royal warrant has run since 1837; and a tenth-generation family member, Stephen Twining, is still the brand ambassador. PG Tips is Dutch and private-equity-owned, Tetley is Indian-owned, so among the majors Twinings is the most comprehensively British, with only the smaller family-run Yorkshire Tea offering comparable credentials.

What ABF ownership means for the cup

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What ABF ownership means for the cup, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

ABF's patient, family-controlled ownership favours steady efficiency and margin growth over the dramatic restructuring of a private-equity owner, which supports consistent investment. Its scale has let Twinings fund plastic-free bags, organic certification and a wide range, growing the brand from a largely black-tea business to more than eighty varieties across black, green, white, oolong, herbal, fruit and functional categories. The pyramid format, the herbal expansion, the decaffeinated and wellbeing lines all arrived under ABF. For drinkers, the upshot is a stable product and an unusually broad shelf presence. See [sector pressures](#).

Premium positioning versus the mainstream

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Premium positioning versus the mainstream, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

Twinings sits in a different commercial spot from PG Tips, Tetley and Yorkshire Tea. Those three compete at mid-tier prices on volume; Twinings competes a tier up on quality, range and heritage. That premium position is a better defence against supermarket own-brand, which bites hardest at the mid-tier, and the eighty-plus varieties create range loyalty: someone who likes Twinings Earl Grey tends to stay within the range for green, herbal and the rest. It is a structurally stronger position than the mid-tier rivals hold. See [who owns PG Tips](#).

The 10th-generation family ambassador

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The 10th-generation family ambassador, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

Stephen Twining, the tenth generation of the founding family, remains the brand's global ambassador despite 62 years of ABF ownership, which is unusual, since most brands lose family involvement within a generation or two of acquisition. He represents Twinings at industry events and hosts tours of the factory and the historic Strand shop, giving the brand an authentic heritage figurehead that Tata's Tetley or Lipton's PG Tips cannot easily match. The arrangement keeps family involvement without family corporate control. See [Stephen Twining](#).

What to buy

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What to buy, Who Owns Twinings?. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/who-owns-twinings/*

For the classical range buy [Twinings English Breakfast](#), [Twinings Earl Grey](#) or [Twinings Lady Grey](#). For speciality buy [Twinings Darjeeling](#), [Twinings Assam](#) or [Twinings Jasmine](#). For infusions buy [Twinings peppermint](#) or [Twinings chamomile](#). For UK-owned alternatives buy [Yorkshire Tea](#) (Bettys & Taylors).

Reference noted

- [PubMed: Green tea catechins and human health](#)

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FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Start cheap, stay cheap until something stops you. Most rich teas reward patience, not

budget.

More tea reading

For the founder see [Thomas Twining](#), and for the modern ambassador [Stephen Twining](#). For comparable brand ownership see [who owns PG Tips](#), [who owns Tetley](#) and [who owns Typhoo now](#). For Earl Grey's origin see [the Earl Grey origin](#). For the broader picture see [the UK tea brand ownership map](#).

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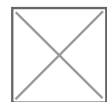
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