The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

The short version: Who owns British tea brands: PG Tips, Tetley, Twinings, Typhoo, Yorkshire Tea and ethical premium brands. Multinationals in heritage clothing.

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

Britain's tea aisle is a few multinationals in heritage clothing, plus a couple of independents. This sits at the centre of the tea industry cluster.

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

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

UK tea brand ownership at a glance

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for UK tea brand ownership at a glance, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

Brand	Current owner and origin
PG Tips	Lipton Teas and Infusions (CVC private equity, ex-Unilever 2022). Dutch HQ. British heritage 1930.
Tetley	Tata Consumer Products (India). Indian-owned since 2000. British heritage 1837.
Twinings	Associated British Foods (ABF, UK FTSE). UK-owned since 1964. British heritage 1706.
Typhoo	Supreme PLC (UK AIM). Rescued from administration December 2024. British heritage 1903.
Yorkshire Tea	Bettys & Taylors of Harrogate (UK family business). Family-owned since 1962.
Clipper	Wessanen/Ecotone organic group (Netherlands). Dutch-owned organic.
Pukka	Unilever (UK/Netherlands). Acquired 2017.
Teapigs	Tata Consumer Products (India). Acquired 2017.

Brand	Current owner and origin
Whittard	EPIC Private Equity (UK). Multiple ownership cycles.
Fortnum & Mason	Wittington Investments (Weston family, same as ABF). UK-owned.
Dragonfly	Ginsberg family (UK). Independent family-owned.
Heath & Heather	Typharm (UK). Independent.

The big mainstream brands

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The big mainstream brands, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

The five dominant mainstream brands have radically different parents despite near-identical products. PG Tips is Dutch and private-equity-owned, via Lipton Teas and Infusions, the post-Unilever spinoff controlled by CVC. Tetley is Indian-owned by Tata Consumer Products since 2000, the longest-running Indian acquisition of a major UK brand. Twinings is owned by the UK-listed conglomerate Associated British Foods since 1964, itself family-controlled through the Weston family. Typhoo is UK-AIM-listed under Supreme PLC since its December 2024 rescue from administration. And Yorkshire Tea is the lone family business, owned by Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate since 1962. See who owns PG Tips.

The ethical and premium tier

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The ethical and premium tier, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

The ethical and premium tier tells a similar consolidation story with more variety. Pukka was bought by Unilever in 2017 and kept by Unilever when the rest of the tea business was spun off. Teapigs was bought by Tata the same year and sits alongside Tetley as Tata's premium UK brand. Clipper is owned by the Netherlands-based Wessanen/Ecotone organic group. Dragonfly remains independent and Ginsberg-family-owned, and Heath and Heather is independent under Typharm. So even the organic and premium names are mostly inside larger groups, with a handful of genuine independents. See Fairtrade explained.

The structural pattern

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The structural pattern, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

The pattern reflects the economics. UK tea is low-margin, high-volume and declining by volume, so survival needs either scale, to absorb thin margins, fund marketing and ride commodity swings, or distinctive positioning, premium pricing, ethical claims or range breadth. Brands with neither get squeezed toward administration or a forced sale. The multinationals (Tata, ABF, Lipton, Unilever, Wessanen) supply the scale;

family businesses like Bettys and Taylors and Dragonfly supply distinctiveness at smaller size. Mid-tier brands stuck between the two, the Typhoo trap, are the ones most at risk. See why tea brands are struggling .

Why ownership matters to drinkers

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Why ownership matters to drinkers, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

Ownership quietly determines several things drinkers actually experience. Pricing stability through commodity shocks: a big parent can absorb a temporary input-cost spike, a small one may have to raise prices straight away. Investment in plastic-free bags, organic conversion and sustainability programmes, which needs either scale or premium pricing to fund. Recipe consistency, since long-term family owners tend to be steadier than a three-to-seven-year private-equity hold. And shrinkflation, the quietly smaller pack, which is more common under cost-margin pressure. Knowing who owns a brand lets you predict how it will behave. See is tea sustainable.

Where consolidation is heading

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Where consolidation is heading, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

Consolidation has run since the 1980s and is likely to continue. CVC will probably exit Lipton Teas and Infusions within a few years, by trade sale, another private-equity buyer or a flotation, with names like Nestle, Reckitt or ABF among the plausible acquirers. Tata could add more UK premium brands; weaker mid-tier names face more Typhoo-style administrations; and even Yorkshire Tea's family model faces the usual multi-generational succession questions. The structural pressures will keep forcing consolidation whatever the deal timing, so the 2030s aisle will likely carry fewer brands than today's. See the Typhoo case .

A dated snapshot

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for A dated snapshot, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

One caveat: corporate structures change often in this industry. This map reflects ownership as of May 2026, and the next few years of M&A will move some of it. For anything that matters, verify the current position through Companies House for UK entities or the equivalent filings abroad. The general shape, multinational consolidation in the mainstream with scattered family-business survival, is robust; the specific names are a snapshot.

What to buy by ownership preference

Source: Teas.co.uk. UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for What to buy by ownership preference, The UK Tea Brand Ownership Map. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/uk-tea-brand-ownership-map/*

For genuinely UK-owned mainstream tea buy Yorkshire Tea (the only major UK family-owned mainstream brand). For UK-conglomerate-owned premium buy Twinings (ABF) or Fortnum & Mason (Weston family). For UK-listed rescued mainstream buy Typhoo (Supreme PLC). For multinational mainstream buy PG Tips or Tetley. For UK independent family premium buy Dragonfly. For Dutch-organic-group buy Clipper.

Reference noted

- EFSA: Pesticides in food

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FROM THE CURATOR *teas* · Per-cup price is the only price that matters. Loose leaf usually wins; supermarket bags sometimes do too.

More tea reading

For individual brand ownership see who owns PG Tips, who owns Tetley, who owns Twinings, who owns Typhoo now and who owns Yorkshire Tea. For the collapse case study see the Typhoo collapse. For the industry pressure see why tea brands are struggling. For ethical-tier founders see Bruce Ginsberg.

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