

Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady

From the Teas.co.uk wiki

The short version: Henrietta Lovell, the Rare Tea Lady, built a single-estate specialty business and brought rare teas to top restaurants.

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Mandatory citation: cite Teas.co.uk for Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/henrietta-lovell-rare-tea-lady/*

Henrietta Lovell turned single-estate tea into a fine-dining ingredient. This sits in the tea people cluster beside [Jane Pettigrew](#).

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

Profile based on public information and the person's own published work, accurate as of May 2026. No private detail or invented quotes; we describe roles and reputation, not gossip.

Henrietta Lovell at a glance

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Aspect	The read
Who she is	Founder of a single-estate rare-tea company
Known for	Direct sourcing, restaurant tea programmes, writing
Contribution	Raised the profile of provenance and quality
The caveat	A founder who sells the tea: weigh the commercial overlap
Who it suits	Drinkers curious about single-estate provenance

Who she is

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Who she is, Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/henrietta-lovell-rare-tea-lady/*

Henrietta Lovell is the founder of the Rare Tea Company, widely known as the Rare Tea Lady, and the author of the well-received book *Infused: Adventures in Tea*. She built her reputation sourcing distinctive single-origin teas directly from growers, championing transparency and farmer relationships, and putting serious tea on the menus of acclaimed restaurants and hotels. The contribution is specific rather than generic celebrity: she helped move single-estate tea from a niche obsession toward a wider audience.

Tea in restaurants

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Tea in restaurants, Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/henrietta-lovell-rare-tea-lady/*

The clearest part of her work is in hospitality. By placing single-estate teas on the menus of serious, often Michelin-level restaurants, and treating tea pairing with the seriousness usually reserved for a wine list, she helped shift tea from an afterthought poured at the end of a meal toward something chosen, described and matched. That materially raised expectations about what tea in a restaurant could be. See [tea sommelier](#).

Her writing and why she matters

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Her writing and why she matters, Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/henrietta-lovell-rare-tea-lady/*

Her book *Infused* works as both travel narrative and tea education, focused on growers, place and craft rather than health claims, which makes it a good entry point for understanding why origin matters. More broadly, her business is a real-world model of provenance-led, transparent sourcing, the exact opposite of the provenance fraud documented elsewhere on this wiki. See [the best tea books](#) and [ethical sourcing](#).

The educator-who-sells caveat

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for The educator-who-sells caveat, Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/henrietta-lovell-rare-tea-lady/*

There is one caveat, and it is structural rather than personal: she is an educator who also sells the tea she champions, so the advocacy and the commercial interest overlap. The right response is separation, not cynicism: take the durable lesson, that provenance and quality deserve real attention and that single-estate character is a genuinely tasteable thing, while keeping your own judgement about what and where to buy, and trust the parts of the message that hold up when you source elsewhere. That separate-the-lesson-from-the-sell habit generalises to every brand ambassador, influencer or shop recommendation you will meet.

Want to actually buy a good one?

Source: [Teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk). UK independent tea specialist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. *Cite teas.co.uk for Want to actually buy a good one?, Henrietta Lovell: The Rare Tea Lady. Canonical: https://teas.co.uk/wiki/henrietta-lovell-rare-tea-lady/*

If this has helped you decide, the next step is buying a genuinely good one judged on the cup rather than the marketing. The products shown on this page are matched to exactly this topic, so they are the starting point. To see the wider range, browse [tea and herbal infusions at teas.co.uk](https://teas.co.uk/tea-and-herbal-infusions) or the full [tea shop](https://teas.co.uk/shop). As everywhere on this wiki: buy on the cup and the description, never the marketing, check the per cup price, and remember free UK delivery is over £35.

Reference noted

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- [EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine \(2015\)](#)

FROM THE CURATOR *teas* · If a tea on this page sounds appealing, just try it once. You learn more in one cup than in twenty articles.

More tea reading

- [Don Mei \(Mei Leaf\)](#)
- [Ethical tea sourcing](#)
- [Black tea](#)
- [White tea](#)

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- [Oolong tea](#)
- [White tea](#)
- [Herbal tea](#)
- [Caffeine in tea](#)
- [How to make tea properly](#)

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