Is Twinings Good?

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Is Twinings good, in summary:** Twinings is a range not one product: the everyday bags are competent mass market, the speciality and loose lines clearly better. Judge the product.

Twinings is one of the oldest names in tea, with a very wide range; quality varies by line. Over in the brand pages, it stands beside is PG Tips good.

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

Is Twinings good, at a glance

Aspect	The read
What it is	A huge heritage range, from everyday CTC bags to speciality and loose lines
The range reality	"Is Twinings good" has no single answer, the range spans tiers
Everyday bags	Competent mass-market, similar class to PG/Tetley
Speciality/loose	Clearly better, where Twinings earns its reputation
Verdict	Judge the specific product, not the brand; the loose/speciality lines are the good ones

Why "is Twinings good" is the wrong question

The clear starting point is that Twinings is not a product but a very wide range under one very old name, and that single fact dissolves most of the confusion: asking "is Twinings good" is like asking "is a supermarket good", it depends entirely which aisle you mean. The everyday English Breakfast and Earl Grey bags are mainstream blends competing with the other big builder's brands; the speciality and loose-leaf lines, single-origin Assam, Darjeeling, gunpowder green, loose Lapsang, sit in a different and generally better tier; and the flavoured infusions are a third category again. So the useful question is which Twinings, not whether Twinings. The heritage of three centuries is a fact, but age alone is neither proof of quality nor of decline; it means the blending know how is real and the everyday lines are held to a steady, unspectacular standard while the speciality range carries the actual interest.

The verdict by tier

Tier by tier the picture is consistent. The standard bagged blacks are competent, recognisable and consistent, doing the same milk-friendly everyday job as their rivals without being the strongest or most characterful, and they can taste a touch thin next to the brisker or rounder mainstream blends, so anyone

whose whole impression comes from a mug of the basic black is judging the brand at its least impressive point. The Earl Grey is the line most people have an opinion about, and the read is preference rather than quality: the classic is reliably citrus-bright while the "intense" variants lean heavily on bergamot, see Earl Grey. It is the loose leaf and single origin speciality range where the brand is properly strong, larger leaf and a stated origin, a real step up in the loose leaf versus bags sense, and these deserve to be judged as proper leaf. The recurring real-world failure is simply buying the wrong tier for the job.

How to choose the right Twinings

A short buying rule prevents the usual disappointment. Decide first what the cup is for: if it is a strong milky everyday mug, buy the everyday black bags and judge them only against other mainstream bags; if you want character and are drinking with attention, skip straight to the loose-leaf single-origin lines and brew them as proper leaf, by origin, at the right temperature and time; and treat Earl Grey purely as a preference call. Brew each tier on its own terms, full boil for the blacks, cooler water for any green, fresh boil and a proper three minutes for the everyday bags, see how to make tea. A name as broad as Twinings is never a single quality verdict: buy by tier, brew by tier, judge by tier, and it is easy to place, unremarkable where it is cheap and mainstream, really good where it is loose and single origin.

What to buy

For the better tier, browse the loose leaf range or a speciality Earl Grey, or the wider black tea selection. Browse the full tea shop; free UK delivery over £35.

Reference noted

- Encyclopaedia Britannica: Tea (beverage)

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · If a Twinings line on this page appeals, try it once before stocking up. One cup of a Twinings speciality tells you more than twenty articles.

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