Hengxian jasmine tea: the Guangxi flower capital

From the teas.co.uk wiki

If Fuzhou is the historic home of jasmine tea, Hengxian is the modern flower farm. This county in Guangxi, in southern China, grows jasmine on a scale that supplies a large part of the country's jasmine tea industry, and it has a protected geographical indication for Hengxian jasmine tea.

One thing to know before you read a label: **Hengxian became Hengzhou in 2021**, when the county was upgraded to a city. Both names are still in circulation (the official product designation kept "Hengxian jasmine tea" while the place is now called Hengzhou), so an older name on a packet is not a warning sign.

Three origins, one label

Jasmine tea has more than one home, and a place name on the box may refer to any of them:

The label says	It might mean
Hengxian / Hengzhou jasmine	The flowers were grown there
Fujian or Fuzhou	The tea leaves grew there, or the scenting was done there
"Scented in ..."	Where the tea and flowers were brought together
"Packed in ..."	Only where it was put in the box

A good seller will tell you the base tea, the flower source and the number of scenting rounds. If a listing only names a place, ask which part of the process it refers to.

Why the flower source matters

Jasmine scenting uses enormous quantities of fresh blossom: the flowers have to reach the tea within hours of picking, while they are still opening and releasing perfume. That is why the industry clusters where the flowers grow, and why the growing region is a real part of the story rather than marketing.

The quality of the finished tea still depends on the base leaf and the number of scenting rounds. A cheap green tea scented once in a flower-growing region will not beat a good base scented five times somewhere else.

What to look for

- **The base tea**, named: a green mao feng, a silver needle, a bagged blend.
- **Scenting rounds** if the seller states them.
- **Ingredients**: "jasmine flowers" means scenting; "jasmine flavouring" means something else.
- **Harvest or production year**: jasmine tea fades within a year or two.

Our jasmine tea explained page covers grades, and jasmine pearls covers the rolled style. For an everyday bagged cup, Twinings Jasmine Green Tea is jasmine-scented green tea.

Common questions

Is Hengxian the same place as Hengzhou?

Yes. The county became a city in 2021 and changed name; the tea designation kept the older spelling.

Is Hengxian jasmine better than Fuzhou jasmine?

Neither place guarantees a better cup. Fuzhou is the traditional craft centre; Hengxian is the biggest flower-growing area. What matters is the base tea and how many times it was scented.

Does it contain caffeine?

Yes, if the base is green tea, which it usually is.

Why is my jasmine tea so perfumed?

Too much leaf or water that is too hot. Try 80°C and 2 minutes, and see why jasmine tea tastes soapy.

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