Best Earl Grey Tea UK

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Best Earl Grey, in summary:** Our Earl Grey picks with September 2026 prices: the six we sell, the well-known ones we don't, and which to buy for an everyday cup, a teapot for guests, bergamot turned up or a caffeine free evening.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team on 23 September 2026. Picks, formats and prices checked against our shelf on 18 September 2026.

The best Earl Grey tea in the UK depends on the job: Teapigs Earl Grey Strong if you want the bergamot turned up, Tetley Earl Grey if you want cheap and reliable, Dragonfly Earl Grey Rooibos for a caffeine free evening, and Whittard loose leaf for a proper teapot, which we don't sell. Best for an everyday cup is not the same as best for a once a month proper afternoon teapot. Best with milk is not the same as best black. This page sorts the Earl Greys we'd actually recommend into those buckets, with our prices, plain verdicts and a clear note of which ones we sell. If you want the background rather than the shopping list, what Earl Grey is, the variants and how to judge one is the explainer.

What makes an Earl Grey "best"

Three variables matter:

- **Bergamot quality.** Natural bergamot oil tastes complex and rounded; cheap flavouring can taste flat and slightly chemical. Packs vary in what they disclose, so read the ingredients, especially at the cheap supermarket end.
- **Black tea base quality.** A good Earl Grey starts with a respectable Ceylon or Indian black. Cheap Earl Grey often uses dust grade fannings, the bergamot disguises some of it, but the cup is thin.
- **Bergamot balance.** Too much bergamot turns into perfume; too little and you might as well drink English Breakfast. The benchmark is "you can taste both the tea and the bergamot in every sip."

The Earl Greys we recommend, and which we sell

Prices are our autumn sale prices on 18 September 2026 (the sale ends 15 November), divided by the number of bags in the pack; each product page shows today's price.

Black Earl Grey we sell (all tea bags)

1. **Teapigs Earl Grey Strong.** Pyramid bag, bergamot turned up. About 37p a cup (£5.60 for 15). The pick for drinkers who find standard Earl Grey too subtle.
2. **Teapigs Darjeeling Earl Grey.** Earl Grey on a Darjeeling base, in pyramid bags. About 37p a cup (£5.60 for 15).
3. **Lipton Black Earl Grey With Italian Bergamot.** Black tea with Italian bergamot, as the name says. 30p a cup (£6.00 for 20).
4. **Dilmah Earl Grey.** From the Sri Lankan tea company. 27p a cup (£5.40 for 20).
5. **Williamson Earl Grey.** Slightly brighter and more citrusy than Whittard. 8.8p a cup (£4.40 for 50), but out of stock at the moment.
6. **Tetley Earl Grey.** The value option. Clear, drinkable, slightly lighter character than Twinings. 6.4p a cup (£3.20 for 50). Buy if budget is tight.

Caffeine free alternative (rooibos, not black tea)

- **Dragonfly Organic Earl Grey Rooibos.** Black tea swapped for rooibos, so this is not a black Earl Grey. The bergamot still works, the cup is sweeter and woodier, evening drinkable. 9p a cup (£3.60 for 40 bags). The "best Earl Grey for evenings" answer.

Well-known Earl Greys we don't sell

- **Whittard Earl Grey (loose leaf).** The benchmark for a proper afternoon teapot Earl Grey in our tasting. Bergamot rounded, never sharp; tea base full bodied. Worth it for occasions.
- **Twinings Earl Grey and Earl Grey Strong.** The supermarket benchmark: the cup most British drinkers think of when they think Earl Grey. Reliable and well balanced.
- **Twinings Lady Grey.** Earl Grey with added orange and lemon peel. Lighter, more citrus forward, less bergamot dominant. Good with milk if standard Earl Grey is too perfumed.

The "best" depends on the question

If you want…	Buy
Everyday cup with milk	Twinings Earl Grey (not sold here), or Tetley Earl Grey from us
Proper teapot for guests	Whittard Earl Grey loose (not sold here)
Bergamot turned up	Teapigs Earl Grey Strong
Evening cup, caffeine free	Dragonfly Earl Grey Rooibos (rooibos, not black tea)
Lighter / more citrus	Twinings Lady Grey
Cheap and reliable	Tetley Earl Grey
Decaf evening	Twinings The Earl Grey Decaffeinated; decaf still has a little caffeine

Milk is a buying question as much as a brewing one. The heavier everyday blends on this list take milk without complaint; a light Chinese base Earl Grey loses most of its bergamot under it, which is worth knowing before you buy one. Whichever you end up with, keep the steep to three or four minutes, because over steeping turns Earl Grey soapy.

FAQ

What is the strongest Earl Grey UK? Teapigs Earl Grey Strong by bergamot intensity; Twinings Earl Grey Strong on the supermarket aisle.

Is Whittard Earl Grey better than Twinings? For many drinkers, yes: a stronger bergamot, a fuller base and a fuller cup. Twinings is the everyday value choice, and Twinings Earl Grey is on our shelf.

What is Lady Grey? Twinings' lighter, more citrus forward take on Earl Grey. We sell it, and it is the one to look for if standard Earl Grey tastes too perfumed to you. The explainer has the full comparison.

Best Earl Grey for afternoon tea? Whittard Earl Grey loose, in a porcelain pot, brewed 4 minutes, served black. The bergamot pairs particularly well with cucumber sandwiches and lemon flavoured pastries.

Caffeine free Earl Grey options? A decaf Earl Grey such as Twinings Earl Grey Decaf is the closest match, but decaf still contains a little caffeine; Twinings the Earl Grey Decaffeinated is on our shelf. Dragonfly Earl Grey Rooibos has no caffeine because rooibos is not tea; it has a different (but excellent) character.

Curator's note: I drink Twinings Earl Grey for my morning cup and Whittard loose for guests. Most people don't need anything more complicated than that. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Quick take

There is no single best Earl Grey, only the best for the job: Twinings Earl Grey is the everyday benchmark, Whittard loose the afternoon teapot occasion cup and Lady Grey the lighter citrus version (both Twinings teas are on our shelf); also from our shelf, Teapigs Earl Grey Strong turns the bergamot up, Dragonfly Earl Grey Rooibos is the caffeine free evening answer and Tetley is the cheap reliable one. Judge it on real bergamot, a decent black base, and the two staying in balance, then brew it short, three to four minutes, because over steeping turns Earl Grey soapy.

> **Pick your Earl Grey:** bergamot turned up from Teapigs, the value cup from Tetley, or the caffeine free rooibos version from Dragonfly. Browse the full Earl Grey range.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · One decent loose leaf Earl Grey in a clean teapot beats five unusual bags drunk in a hurry.

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