Cotterley: France's Everyday Tea Brand

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Cotterley, France's everyday tea, in summary:** Cotterley is to French supermarkets what Tetley is to British ones: the everyday cup French households know. Green Mint and Lemon Tea, explained.

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

Cotterley is to French supermarkets what Tetley is to British ones, the everyday cup tea brand that French households recognise from the kitchen shelf. Outside France it's almost unheard of, which is why we stock the two most popular Cotterley lines: Green Mint and Lemon Tea. If you've spent time in France and remember the green tin with the mint label, this is the brand. If you haven't, this is your chance to taste what an actual French daily tea looks like.

About Cotterley

Cotterley operates in France's mainstream tea market, the price point and brand recognition tier where Lipton, Tetley, and Twinings dominate the UK shelf. The cup is reliable, the bags are sealed standard, the flavours are tuned for everyday French tastes (lighter than British black tea, more aromatic than mainstream Anglo blends).

French tea drinking culture leans differently from British. Where the UK pours full strength black tea with milk and sugar, France leans toward green tea, mint tea (the Moroccan influenced North African version), and lighter fruit and flower infusions. Cotterley's range reflects this, green mint and citrus blends, not heavy breakfast brews.

The Cotterley products we stock

Cotterley Green Mint Tea

A green tea base infused with mint flavouring. The cup is light bodied, distinctly mint forward, and refreshing rather than rich. The mint character is closer to the Moroccan/Algerian style (sweet, leafy, cooling) than to peppermint, soft and aromatic rather than sharp.

Brewing: 1 bag per 200ml, water at 80-85°C (NOT boiling, green tea base goes bitter at full boil), 2-3 minutes. Sweeten with sugar or honey to taste; the French Moroccan tradition is generous sweetening.

Caffeine: ~25-35mg per cup. Lower than black tea, suitable for afternoon drinking.

Cotterley Lemon Tea

A black tea base with lemon flavouring. Bright, citrussy, less astringent than typical British lemon teas. The lemon note is integrated into the tea base rather than added on top, closer in style to a French citron pressé than to a UK Twinings Lemon & Ginger.

Brewing: 1 bag per 200ml, freshly boiled water, 3-4 minutes. Drinks well black with a slice of fresh lemon for added brightness, or with a small amount of milk.

Caffeine: 35-45mg per cup. Standard black tea range.

Why we import these

Cotterley is not on UK supermarket shelves. The brand has no UK distribution agreement. We carry both products as specialist imports because:

- **UK resident French expats:** miss specific French daily teas. Cotterley is one of those tastes of home brands they can't find at Sainsbury's.
- **UK drinkers curious about French tea culture:** get a real entry point: not a UK blender's idea of "French style", but the thing itself.
- **The Green Mint specifically** has no close UK equivalent. Our shelves have peppermint (sharper) and Twinings Mint Refresh (more menthol forward), but the soft green mint character of Cotterley sits in its own niche.

How Cotterley compares to UK equivalents

Cotterley Green Mint vs UK alternatives

- **Twinings Pure Mint:** Peppermint only, no green tea base, a sharper and cleaner taste.
- **Pukka Three Mint:** Three mint species blended, herbal style.
- **Cotterley Green Mint:** Green tea + soft mint, French Maghreb style. Lighter, more aromatic.

Cotterley Lemon Tea vs UK alternatives

- **Twinings Lemon & Ginger:** Herbal infusion, no tea base, sharper.
- **Twinings Lemon & Bergamot:** Black tea, bergamot forward.
- **Cotterley Lemon Tea:** Black tea + lemon, French style. Cleaner, less perfumed than UK alternatives.

Buying Cotterley in the UK

Specialist French food importers and a small number of online tea specialists carry Cotterley. Quick Buy: Cotterley Green Mint Tea. Quick Buy: Cotterley Lemon Tea. Stock is limited and supply varies based on import availability.

Who Cotterley suits

- **French expats in the UK:** wanting a familiar everyday tea.

- **UK drinkers curious about French tea culture:** beyond the marketing.
- **Anyone who's tried Moroccan mint tea and wants the closest tea bag UK equivalent.**
- **Office tea makers** who want to introduce variety beyond Yorkshire and PG Tips.

Brewing tips

- **Green Mint specifically:** benefits from 80-85°C water, not boiling. Boiling water bitters the green tea base and the cup loses elegance. Wait 2-3 minutes after the kettle clicks off before pouring.
- **Both Cotterley teas:** drink well cold brewed in summer. 4 bags in 1 litre of cold water, fridge 6 hours, strain, ice. More on cold brewing here.
- **French sweetening:** tradition is generous, 2 sugars or a teaspoon of honey is normal. UK tradition is lighter sweetening or none. Try the French way once.

The two lines at a glance

Product	Base	Character	Caffeine
Cotterley Green Mint	green tea + mint flavouring	light, mint forward, soft Moroccan/Algerian style, not sharp peppermint	~25 to 35mg
Cotterley Lemon Tea	black tea + lemon flavouring	bright, citrussy, integrated rather than perfumed, like a citron presse	~35 to 45mg

FAQ

Where can I buy Cotterley tea in the UK? Specialist French food importers and a few independent tea retailers, including teas.co.uk. Not stocked in mainstream UK supermarkets.

Is Cotterley Green Mint Tea like Moroccan mint tea? Stylistically related, green tea + soft mint, French Maghreb tradition. Less heavy on the mint than authentic Moroccan style preparation, but the closest UK available tea bag equivalent.

What does Cotterley taste like? Lighter and more aromatic than British black tea brands. Green Mint is fresh and cooling; Lemon Tea is bright and citrussy.

Is Cotterley caffeine free? No, both products contain caffeine. Green Mint is lower (~25-35mg) due to its green tea base; Lemon Tea is in the standard black tea range.

Best French tea brand UK? Cotterley is one of the few mass market French brands available in the UK; Mariage Frères is the premium French export benchmark; Kusmi Tea is the wider distributed mid premium option.

Curator's note: stocking Cotterley is exactly the kind of small batch curation we like, a tea you can't find in Tesco, with a real customer base (French expats) and a real flavour proposition (closer to Moroccan mint than anything UK blended). If you've ever wondered what French households actually drink, start here. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Buy both lines in the Cotterley range, compare French-style mint in the mint range, or browse the full tea shop.

Reference noted

- EFSA Scientific Opinion on the Safety of Caffeine (2015)

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · Cotterley mint or not, a single good loose leaf brewed properly outdoes five exotic bags rushed.

French / mainstream brand reading

- Cotterley, the value everyday brand
- Best tea brands UK
- green tea reference
- black tea reference

More from the tea wiki

- Green tea
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