Lipton French Collection: The European Tea You Can't Find

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Lipton French Collection, in summary:** Lipton French Collection is the same brand reformulated for French taste, lighter, brighter and less milk-friendly than UK Lipton; a niche specialist.

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

Lipton's French market range, Lipton Yellow Label French Edition, Lipton Vert (green), and various French market Earl Grey variants, is quite different from UK Lipton, made for French tastes (lighter, more aromatic, less strong). We import a small selection because UK resident French expats and curious British drinkers ask for it.

Why Lipton French is different

Major brands often produce different blends for different markets, formulating for local taste preferences:

- **Lipton UK:** Stronger, malty, milk friendly. Closer to PG Tips style.
- **Lipton France:** Lighter, more aromatic, less assertive. Closer to French preferences for tea drunk without milk.
- **Lipton Russia:** Different again, adapted for Russian tea drinking culture.
- **Lipton USA:** Different formulations for iced tea production.

The brand uses local sourcing partners and adjusts blend ratios for each market.

The French market characteristics

French market Lipton tends toward:

- Lighter Ceylon/green tea led blends
- More flavoured varieties (peach, jasmine, lemon)
- Less Assam content (French drinkers prefer lighter cups)

- Smaller pyramid bags or larger tea bag formats

The Lipton French products we stock (typically)

Lipton Yellow Label French Edition

The French equivalent of UK "Lipton Yellow Label." Slightly lighter blend; the standard French daily tea bag option.

Lipton Vert (Green Tea)

French market green tea. Lighter than UK supermarket green; designed for French style preparation (no milk, sometimes lemon).

Lipton Yellow Label Earl Grey (French)

French Earl Grey is generally lighter on bergamot than UK or US Earl Grey. The cup is more refined and less perfumed.

Lipton Mint Tea / Lipton Citron

French market flavoured options.

Why we import these

- **French expats in the UK:** miss specific French daily teas.
- **UK drinkers curious about European tea preferences:** get a real way in.
- **Cross cultural tea exploration:** comparing Lipton UK vs Lipton France side by side teaches a lot.

What it tastes like (vs UK Lipton)

Lipton UK Yellow Label is a strong, malty, milk friendly cup. Lipton French Yellow Label is noticeably lighter, brighter, more drinkable black or with lemon. Same brand; different cups.

How to brew

1. 1 bag per 200ml.
2. Water at full rolling boil for black; 80-85°C for green.
3. Steep 3-4 minutes (slightly shorter than UK preference).
4. Drink black, with lemon, or with a small amount of milk (French preference is generally lighter on milk).

Caffeine

30-45mg per 200ml cup for black variants. Slightly lower than UK Lipton because of lighter blend.

Comparison with French specialty brands

Brand	Tier	Style

Lipton French	Mainstream French	Lighter mass market
Cotterley	Mainstream French	Cotterley Green Mint, Lemon. More here
Mariage Frères	Premium French	Heritage luxury
Kusmi Tea	Mid premium French	Distinctive yellow tins
Dammann Frères	Premium French	Oldest French tea house

Buying in the UK

French market Lipton requires specialist importers. Available through:

- French food specialty shops in UK cities
- Selected online tea importers
- Some Eurostar/airport French product shops

FAQ

Is Lipton French different from UK Lipton? Yes, different blend formulation for French market preferences (lighter, more aromatic).

Why do brands have different versions? Local taste preferences vary. Major brands adapt their products for different markets.

Where to buy in UK? French food specialty shops, online importers.

Caffeine? 30-45mg per cup, slightly lower than UK Lipton.

Lipton French vs Cotterley? Both mainstream French brands. Lipton is multinational; Cotterley is more distinctly French in identity. Both lighter than UK supermarket tea.

Curator's note: stocking French market Lipton is the kind of small batch curation we like, same multinational brand, different blend, opens a window into French daily tea drinking. If you've ever wondered why French Lipton tastes "different from holiday memory," this is why. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

Reference noted

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

Teas in the same conversation: English Breakfast, Earl Grey, green tea, loose leaf tea, Darjeeling, oolong, and herbal tea. Wander the tea shop for French and British Lipton alike, with free UK delivery from £35.

FROM THE CURATOR

teas · French import or not, the price per cup is the one to check. Loose leaf usually wins, though the Lipton bags sometimes do.

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