



FROM FIELD TO CUP - A NEW LUXURY ENGLISH TEA IS BREWING

A quiet revolution in English tea is brewing with the launch of a single-estate, field-to-cup tea estate and factory that aims to redefine luxury tea with leaves grown under open English skies.

Based in Mountfield, East Sussex, The Banks Tea Estate draws inspiration from the precision of the great champagne houses, applying a focus on terroir and craftsmanship to the production of fine English tea. The result is a premium English grown tea for consumers focused on quality leaf and wellbeing.

Mark Wyatt, the founder of The Banks Tea Estate, has established a purpose-built, state of the art tea processing facility, allowing complete control of every stage of production, from hand plucking to traditional manufacturing. There is no outsourced processing and no blended imported tea leaves. Every single tea leaf is 100% grown outdoors in Sussex, harvested by hand, and crafted on site in the purpose-built commercial facility.

The land was once used for hop growing, with mineral-rich soils and the soft mists drifting from nearby Darwell Reservoir, yielding teas of remarkable clarity, delicacy and depth. The estate is managed using regenerative farming principles, including rainwater harvesting and no-till cultivation. Wildlife corridors, on-site composting, and native tree planting support biodiversity, while a locally based team helps reduce environmental impact beyond the land itself.

With over 100 million cups of tea consumed every day in the UK, tea remains a daily ritual for most Britons, however tastes are evolving, with growing demand for more premium, authentic and wellness-led options and increasing interest in green, herbal and speciality teas. Studies* suggest that drinking tea, particularly green tea, is associated with better heart health, improved metabolism, and lower risks of chronic diseases like diabetes and cancer. It may also help protect the brain and preserve muscle strength as people age.

The inaugural collection is presented in an elegant ring-pull caddy to ensure freshness and reduce reliance on plastic packaging. Flagship teas include **Pure English Black Tea** burnished copper in the cup with bright citrus, delicate floral and softly wooded notes, balanced by low astringency and a long, elegant finish. **Pure English Green Tea**, is hand-roasted with fresh spring aromas, gentle vegetal notes and a clean, delicately sweet finish that reflects the character of the Sussex terroir. Each tea is crafted as whole leaf and loose, allowing the leaves to fully unfurl and reveal their full depth of flavour and aroma.

The tea is available exclusively via The Banks Tea Estate website www.bankstea.com.

Mark Wyatt, Entrepreneur and founder of The Banks Tea Estate, said, "Today marks the beginning of a new era for premium home-grown English tea. Britain has always had a deep love of tea, and at a time when tea drinkers are increasingly seeking provenance, purity, and wellbeing, we wanted to create something that is grown here, crafted here and fully traceable from field to cup.

"Now globally recognised, English wine has shown what is possible when a region commits to quality and place over time. We are confident that English tea can follow a similar path. Just as consumers have embraced wine tastings and vineyard experiences, we are seeing growing interest in understanding tea in the same way, appreciating where it's grown, how it's crafted and the distinctive flavours that different landscapes can produce."

To make the perfect serve, Mark recommends using a teapot and tea strainer for the loose-leaf tea. Brewing is down to personal preference, but water temperature and brewing time is critical: black tea needs to be 95°C and green tea is 85°C. The quality of this premium tea means that one serving can be used for up to 4 pots.

Pricing and availability:

Pure English Black Tea First Flush (5g): £11

Pure English Green Tea First Flush (5g): £11

Ends

Note to editors:

For more information and samples or to speak to the The Banks Tea Estate founder **Mark Wyatt**, please contact:

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Research:

* Source: Mintel, *UK Tea and Other Hot Drinks Market Report* (2024 - 2025). Findings indicate tea remains widely consumed in the UK, with growing consumer interest in premium, speciality and wellness-led teas including green and herbal varieties.

** Source: Kantar, UK beverage panel data (2024 - 2025). Data shows declining volumes of standard black tea alongside growth in premium, fruit, herbal and green tea segments, reflecting consumer demand for quality, provenance and differentiation.