



啜茶忘喧, 謂非膏粱紈綺可語

"Tea is drunk to forget the din of the world" - T'ien Yi Heng

XU TEAHOUSE

The gentle murmur of the teahouse was somewhat soothing to Master Xu. Having spent his years immersed in literature and the arts, he found the welcoming sounds and smells here most pleasing. For this was the place where he would converse with like minded peers, see old and dear friends and catch up on local happenings.

A gentleman in its truest sense, Xu was always dressed impeccably. He could be seen draped in a well tailored suit walking around the city socialising, between errands and family duties. Family was his most prized possession. He was a man that collected many objects of beauty, much to his wife's worry, yet nothing compared to the time spent with his nearest & dearest.

Originally from China, he was sent to Taipei at the early age of 19 tasked with travelling to Taipei to deliver prized baby fish in exchange for sugar. After spending all the money he was given, and having met a certain lady who was later to become his wife. He decided to stay and build a life surrounded by the country's charming beauty and people.

Xu pursued a profession using the tools he held in highest regard. He became a journalist and set out on a path that would help enrich and enlighten the many not just the few. An ethos he later encouraged and imparted on his children and grandchildren.

But lets journey back to the present, where Master Xu sits contented, sipping on a cup of freshly brewed Oolong. He is waiting for his granddaughter to finish her dance class, before they walk home discussing her latest test which he will later, quite unwillingly help her write (for she takes after her grand mother and worries about every finer detail and outcome). He has just finished reading a collection of poems by Tao Yuanming, not unfamiliar to him, he has read this book many times; yet the words find a new light on each occasion. As he collects his linen blazer from the coat stand and folds his glasses into his top pocket, he waves goodbye to A-Su at the tea counter until tomorrow, when he'll return, ready for conversations new and old.

AFTERNOON TEA CEREMONY SET

Available 12 - 5pm Saturday, Sunday. Ground Floor Teahouse

*Xu's version of a Taiwanese Tea ceremony.
An indulgent experience taking you from savoury to sweet accompanied by the teahouse's
many forms of tea*

£35pp To be taken by the whole table

Sparkling Tea

Hong Yu No.18 Cold Brew + **£4pp**

Sparkling Tea Cocktail

Sparkling Wine, Plum,
Taiwanese Assam + **£10pp**

Glass of Seasonal Cold Brew Tea

Winter Melon Tieguanyin Cold Brew

Taiwanese Traditional Tea Ceremony

Choose two teas from page 4-7

(Jin Shuan Oolong, Nuo Mi Xiang Pu'er & Pomelo Tea. + £4 per Tea)

Selection of Savoury Dishes (v)

Char Sui Girolles Puff

Sweet Potato Taro Dumpling

'Pei Pa' Tsuruna Spinach Custard

Chef's selection of Taiwanese Pastries (v)

Steamed Red Bean Bun

Fried Cinnamon Mochi (n)

Hei Tang Cake

Taiwanese Pineapple Cake

Set Almond Milk

Hawthorn Berry Jelly



*"There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedi-
cated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea."*

Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady

TRADITIONAL TEA CEREMONY

All Tea sets are crafted by Artist Anna Hodgson

"Perhaps it is while drinking tea that I most of all enjoy the sense of leisure."

George Gissing, The Private Papers of Henry Rycroft, 1903

Drawing on the social aspects and traditions of Taiwanese tea culture, our Traditional Tea Service is perfect for those looking to enjoy one of the tea varieties on our menu. Served in a hand crafted clay pot and tea brewing tray, your tea will come ready for you to wash, and steep for as many brews as you like.



(NON OR LIGHTLY OXIDISED)

Night Scented Jasmine, Spring 2018

Aromatic, White Lily, Honey Suckle

pg8 | £13

Ming Yue Baozhong, Spring 2018

Fresh, Fragrant with Grassy notes, has a cooling effect similar to Mint Tea

pg8 | £14

Yeh Fang Baozhong, Biodynamic, Spring 2018

Creamy, Osmanthus Flower, Nutty after more steeps

pg8 | £16

(PARTIALLY OXIDISED)

Gaba Oolong, Spring 2012

Smooth, Fruity with Baked Yam under notes

pg9 | £16

Jin Shuan Oolong, Spring 2017

Creamy, Osmanthus Flower, Nutty after more steeps

pg9 | £24

Tie Guang Yin, Spring 2017

Malt, Roasted Nuts, Lightly Smoked

pg9 | £14

(HIGHLY OR FULLY OXIDISED)

Oriental Beauty, Spring 2018

Floral aroma of Orchid, Peachy, very smooth of drinking

pg10 | £13

Hong Yu No.18, Spring 2017

Honey, Cinnamon, Fruity

pg10 | £15

Handpicked Assam Taiwanese Black Tea, Summer 2016

Robust body, with Caramel and Chocolate notes

pg10 | £18

(POST FERMENTED)

Cooked Pu'er, 2003

Earthy, rich mouth feel, with intense flavour like Plums and Dates

pg11 | £13

(AGED TEA)

Coal Baked 10 Year Oolong, Spring 2004

Smokey on the nose with mellow sweetness

pg11 | £18

Aged Lemon Tea, Spring 2017 (with 37 yr aged Pu'er)

Muscatel, Woody, Spring Herbs

pg11 | £21

Temple Pomelo Tea, Winter 2016

Citrus savoury, Dark Wood, Medicinal

pg11 | £25

BREWED TEAS

A twist on a typical cup of tea, our brewed tea comes prepared in a traditional Gaiwan cup. The perfect accompaniment to our lunch menu or one of our Taiwanese pastries.

House Cold Brew Blend

Xu House Cold brew

Harvested Spring 2017

£4

A refreshing blend of Oolong and Black Tea.
Served by the glass

Sparkling Black Tea Cold Brew

Hong Yu No.18

Harvested Summer 2017

£5

A glass of sparkling Taiwanese Black Tea from He Huan Mountain.

Seasonal Cold Brew

Autumn Oolong & Longan Fruit

Harvested Spring 2017

£9

Cold Brew Oriental Beauty
sweetened with a Tropical Fruit
500ml

Hotbrew

Chin Shin Oolong

Harvested Spring 2018

£4

Classic Taiwanese Oolong from Snow Mountain.
We roast our Chin Shin longer to bring out a deeper flavour

Ginger & Lemon Verbena

£4

Caffeine & sugar free
Soothing and relaxing, our own take of herbal tea

Tea & Kavalan Whisky Pairing

Our tea master has matched these award-winning whiskies with teas, paired to accentuate and elevate their flavour profiles. Our Taiwanese whiskies are served in a 25ml measure, neat, with a gaiwan of selected tea

Chin Shin X Single Malt

Single Malt; notes of mango & vanilla

£10

Hong Yu No 18 X Kavalan Sherry Oak

Sherry Oak; notes of oaky spices and honeyed fruits

£11.5

Gaba Oolong X Peaty Cask 2007

Peaty Cask 2007; notes of orange
butterscotch and smokiness

£17

(NON OR LIGHTLY OXIDISED)

Night Scented Jasmine

Harvested Spring 2018

Jasmine Flowers: Hua Tang
Green Tea: Snow Mountain

Type: Green

An equal ratio of jasmine flowers are used to scent green tea leaves. Typically the jasmine flowers are layered and pressed together with the tea between 3-7 times. This tea has been scented 9 times to give its unique fragrance. The flowers are picked in Hua Tong whilst the green tea is harvested in Snow Mountain. Reminiscent of sitting in a bed of jasmine flowers, this tea will transport you to late Spring evenings.

Flavour

Medium bodied with a concentrated honey taste, refreshing with a slight dryness to finish. Notes of soft blossom and hay

Colour

Leaf: Pearl like tightly bound balls with faded olive and sage green colours with soft strokes of white running through. Each bind contains 1-2 tea leaves.
Liquor: Clear light tea liquor with a pure golden tinge

Aroma

Leaf: when dry the small binds of leaves release a very intense floral scent, bringing back memories of warm spring days. Once brewed you are transported to a lighter fresher smell of cut grass that's slightly sharper on the nose.
Liquor: A very aromatic tea liquor reminiscent of honey, with a musky sweet smell similar to the honey suckle flower whose scent intensifies with night fall

Ming Yue Baozhong

Harvested Spring 2018

Ping Ling, Taipei

Type: Oolong

Bao Zhong is lightly oxidised and is the lightest oolong variety. A very floral alternative to other darker more nutty flavours often experienced when drinking Oolong. Baozhong is an exclusive tea to the Ping Ling Region in Taiwan. It is the highest grade of this light Oolong available and is very rare. Our Ming Yue is exclusive to XU Teahouse.

Flavour

Light floral taste that has a similar effect to mint tea, it is refreshing and airy with a slight dryness to finish

Colour

Leaf: Short impish dark green leaves with an emerald green, velvety soft texture
Liquor: Florescent yellow similar to the colour of lemon sherbet and yellow daisies

Aroma

Leaf: Warm aroma of flat white peaches and nectarines
Liquor: Heady summery scent similar to Lily of the valley

Yeh Fang Baozhong

Harvested Spring 2018

Ping Ling, Taipei

Type: Oolong / Biodynamic

Bigger leaves with more of a twiggy texture, hardy wild leaves, in deep shades of green. Perfect for those looking for a pure taste, Yeh Fang Baozhong is also known as Biodynamic Baozhong due to how its farmed and processed. Grown wild amongst other vegetation, these tea leaves are hand harvested and processed in an organic and natural way.

Flavour

Robust green tea flavour, very much a grounding tea with a smooth buttery texture. Salty, pure green tea. Coherent in flavour throughout

Colour

Leaf: Deep shapes of green reminiscent of a lustrous forest
Liquor: Pure golden and bright, similar to the glow of a buttercup

Aroma

Leaf: Robust, grassy, and vegetal
Liquor: Mild floral and light smelling

(PARTIALLY OXIDISED)

Gaba Oolong

Harvested Spring 2011

Shanlin River, Nantou

Type: Oolong

A tea that has undergone an oxygen free, fermentation process. This results in the leaves slowly collecting GABA, an amino acid which once digested helps calm our nervous system and is beneficial for ailments such as high-blood pressure and insomnia. Making this the perfect low caffeine tea for those looking to reset after a busy day, taking in the sights and sounds of the Teahouse around you.

Flavour

An earthy and sweet Oolong tea with a mellow consistent flavour. After a few brews the profile of tea changes to give a sour peaty aroma when drinking

Colour

Leaf: Compressed leaves with a light and woody colour
Liquor: Warm amber tones similar to tobacco leaves

Aroma

Leaf: Strong, deep and calming, similar to a dry, earthy and peaty aroma.
Liquor: Peaty earthiness, with a hint of forest fruits

Jin Shuan Oolong

Harvested Spring 2017

Ali Mountain, Chiayi

Type: Oolong

One of the highest grade teas on the Teahouse menu, Jin Shuan is revered for its unique milky taste. This naturally occurring aroma & flavour is incredibly popular in Taiwan and is often mimicked through artificial flavouring. Our Jin Shuan is grown in the region of the famous Ali Mountain by a family run estate. The leaves are harvested and grown at this high altitude to ensure its delicate and pure taste, without any unnatural interference.

Flavour

A lighter oolong that has a raw nut milk taste with a smooth texture. Like a spring day this Oolong provides the drinker with a delicate and fragrant refreshment, ending with a buttery and creamy texture

Colour

Leaf: A mossy green leaf that has the texture of parchment paper
Liquor: Bright and glowing yellow

Aroma

Leaf: Nutty and creamy
Liquor: Milky and slight fragrant similar to the Osmanthus flower

Tie Guang Yin

Harvested Spring 2017

Muzha, Taipei

Type: Oolong

Medium roasted leaf, showing a more complex and deep profile of Oolong teas. Our house variety is medium roasted however there are many varieties ranging from light to dark. The name translates as 'Iron goddess of Mercy'. Legend has it that a poor farmer discovered the tea in a dream sent to him by the goddess. He awakens to go and find the tea bush in an Iron pot behind a temple.

Flavour

A complex oolong tea with deep smooth flavours, transporting the drinker through an autumn forest. Notes of toasted rice with a warm nutty aroma

Colour

Leaf: Earthy brown with tinges of rusty metal
Liquor: Deep honey and amber

Aroma

Leaf: Dried wood, with a deep and heady scent
Liquor: Malty toasted rice, smoked nuts

(HIGHLY OR FULLY OXIDISED)

Oriental Beauty

Harvested Spring 2018

Ping Ling, Taipei

Type: Oolong

A tea that was once abandoned by farmers after being plagued by a small insect called the 'Jacobiasca formosana'. Story has it that one farmer decided to harvest these bitten leaves, which sold for double the price of others, he came back to tell his tale, giving the tea its second name "Pong Fong Cha" or braggar's tea. It is now well known that the sweet taste comes from the Jacobiasca feeding off the leaves turning the tips white which begins the oxidation process in a unique way.

Flavour

Smooth flavour similar to dried dates and apricots and the taste of brown sugar. This tea has a very warm undertone with a slight natural sourness

Colour

Leaf: Rich browns and dark autumn tones
Liquor: Warm like golden syrup

Aroma

Leaf: A musky and earthy smell reminiscent of tobacco and malt.
Liquor: Heady floral scents with the rich smell of date molasses

Hong Yu No.18

Harvested Spring 2018

He Huan, Nantou

Type: Black

Hong Yu, which translates as "Red Jade" is also referred to as Ruby Black tea. An Assam tea strain from Burma was crossed with a local wild tea strain to produce Hong Yu Black Tea. Our Hong Yu is sourced from an organic tea grower located in He Huan, Taiwan.

Flavour

A delectable and inviting tea, giving a very fragrant and woody taste. Hong Yu takes you from a mellow and nutty taste to cinnamon and honey without being too overpowering or sweet

Colour

Leaf: Leathery with tones of umber
Liquor: Dark amber and russet tones

Aroma

Leaf: Musty and woody aroma
Liquor: True scents of honey and very mellow and pleasant aroma

Handpicked Premium Assam

Harvested Summer 2016

Ali Mountain, Nantou

Type: Black

Assam tea is one of the world's oldest varieties. Thanks to the unique climate of Nantou county, the tea is delicate and elegant in character but still keeps a sweet, body and tone that is typical of Assam.

Our Assam is handpicked, which ensures its refined and delicate taste. Hand picking allows the leaves to be taken from the tip of the bush to the precise amount of bud and leaves. It also keeps the liquid in the tea leaves without crushing or bruising which often happens when tea is harvested with machines. This is a lengthy and labour intensive process making the tea very valuable and rare.

Flavour

Malty and mellow in flavour with the pleasant taste of brown sugar. This is a full bodied black tea in its truest form. A simple and charming flavour profile perfect for those wanting to enjoy an authentic Assam tea

Colour

Leaf: A long dark twisted whole leaf, deep green brown tones.
Liquor: A subtle dark amber liquid similar to brown sugar tones

Aroma

Leaf: Sweet autumnal spices of cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg.
Liquor: Light honey fragrance

(POST FERMENTED)

Cooked Pu'er Tea

Harvested 2003

Yunnan, China

Type: Dark

A variety of fermented tea produced in Yunnan. Cooked Pu'er tends to bring out richer flavours of the leaves, while subduing the rough taste.

Flavour:

Earthy, rich mouth-feel, with intense flavour like plums and dates

Colour

Leaf: compressed purplish-red and brown
Liquor: Mahogany red hues to cocoa brown

Aroma

Leaf: Thick and smooth scents of wood, musk & hay
Liquor: An earthy smelling liquid that is slightly medicinal and reminiscent of liquorice root

(AGED)

10 Year Aged Oolong

Harvested Spring 2004

Shanlin River, Nantou

Type: Oolong

After being aged in bamboo for 10 years this tea is then re-fired several times under supervision of a Tea Master, the re-firing process removes any moisture which could otherwise give a sour earthy taste. It also removes the caffeine making it the perfect refreshment for the evening.

Flavour

Distinctly smooth, like roasted chestnuts, with a sweet and caramel taste to finish

Colour

Leaf: Very dark brown with shades of dark moss green
Liquor: Deep warm amber tones

Aroma

Leaf: Sweetness of caramel, bark and vanilla
Liquor: Rounded smokiness to start, ending on a delicate brown sugar

Temple Pomelo Tea

Harvested Winter 2016

Miaoli

Type: Aged, with mix of Taiwanese Oolong

Created using a traditional Hakka method; by fermenting the tea leaves in a hollowed out pomelo a complex process of steaming and baking the tea is undergone after which it is then aged for at least 60 years. The pomelo fruit's skin has been dried and used in Chinese medicine for many years and is said to help soothe the throat, fight colds and improve digestion.

Flavour

A bitter sweet taste to begin with, drawing from the teas infusion with the Pomelo, ending on a mellow and smooth taste. This earthy yet fragrant tea makes for a very interesting and refreshing experience

Colour

Leaf: Dark strands that are thin from ageing with a hint of the pale yellow from the pomelo
Liquor: Crimson and wild honey

Aroma

Leaf: Strong and grounding smell of Hinoki wood
Liquor: Citrusy balanced with a slight savoury salty smell

These profiles are written on the first brew, each tea will change in taste and colour with each brew

