



The Royal ' Empress ' Tea House

OOLONG MYSTERE *(Artisan Handcrafted China Green Tea)*

Country of Origin:	China
Region:	Yunnan
Shipping Port:	Shenzhen
Grade:	Artisan Handcrafted Tea
Altitude:	2000' ft. above sea level
Manufacture Type:	Handmade and hand tied.
Cup Characteristics:	Wonderful orchid oolong notes fill the cup. Smooth and satisfying with a hint of fullness. A tea for lovers.
Infusion:	Pale green with yellow notes.
Ingredients:	Luxury white oolong tea, Amaranth blossom, Nasturtium blossom.

Information:

China, with its 1 billion people and 5000 year old civilization, is a land of history and mystery. From one end of China to the other, layers of earth and stone conceal traces of the past that seem to stretch beyond time itself. Many of these can be explained, but just as many cannot. One such unexplained story is that of a pair of 2000 year old mummies discovered along the ancient Silk Road. The mummies, a man and woman, were dated back to the Han dynasty, a period that saw the establishment of Confucianism as China's official ideology. They were dressed in very fine, brightly colored silk fabric and buried with a map of the stars, cosmetics, a bronze mirror and a double-edged comb. These facts in themselves aren't mysterious. Bronze was known at the time, as were the workings of the heavens, mummification and fine-toothed combs. The mystery is that the man and woman were western Caucasians. What were they doing there? Caucasians weren't thought to have reached China until after the Han dynasty. Where did they come from? Were they nomads? Mummification would seem to indicate that they were settled in China rather than just passing through. How did they get there? Written history has no explanation. The answers will probably be forever lost to the mists of time, pondered upon by scholars, history buffs and now, customers of Metropolitan Tea.

We've got the perfect accompaniment to an afternoon spent pondering the mystery of the Silk Road Mummies - Oolong Mystere Flower artisan tea. Like a tiny mystery itself, each pod conceals the blooms of Amaranth and Nasturtium just waiting to be discovered by a tea lover. As hot water is poured over the tea, the oolong casing loosens leaf by leaf, slowly releasing its floral treasure in the same way the secrets of the past are uncovered layer after layer by an archaeologist. The cup is as intricate and colorful as the ancient silks of the mummies. Honeyed oolong notes cascade over the tongue with hints of peaches and rose. The finish is long with a pleasing astringency that lingers in the mouth like a fine wine. Make a discovery of your own by unlocking the tea-secrets of one of the world's most unique offerings today.

Hot tea brewing method: Place one ball in your teapot (ideally clear glass for maximum visual effect), and add boiling water. (Very hot or boiling water allows the ball to open, which allows you to see the art of tea better). Infuse until the ball is fully open, usually about 5 minutes. Watch the long leaves unfurl to reveal the hidden flower treasure. **Note:** Do not remove the leaves after infusing - contemplate life and enjoy a rare Chinese floral Tea. If you wish to have another cup of tea, simply pour more water on the leaves and infuse for another 1-3 minutes.

Iced tea-brewing method: Not generally consumed iced but if you do, (to make 1 qt/lit) Place 3 Oolong Mystere pods in a heat resistant pitcher. Add 1¼ cups freshly boiled water. Steep 5 min. Quarter fill a serving pitcher with ice water. Add steeped tea and fill with ice water. Garnish with 1 opened 3 Oolong Mystere and sweeten to taste.