

JASMINE SILVER BLOOM is hand rolled and hand tied. The method used to make these special Jasmine Silver Bloom is as follows:

* They begin with specially selected tea leaves (Leaves that are long and mottled white),

* The leaves are then tied together and then carefully and painstakingly create the perfect ball shape.

* The tea is steamed and dried with fresh Jasmine flowers, which impart the delicate flavour and aroma.

The story behind the Jasmine Silver Bloom is a wonderful romantic tale, look at the night sky and the constellation called Aquila (in China it is the Cowherd) and then to the Milky Way (in China it is the Silver River) in there is a star called as the Weaving Maid. The seventh daughter of the Mythical Jade Emperor was the weaving Maid. One day she caught sight of a passing Cowherd and fell in love, when he visited her she would stop weaving and soon they forgot their work completely! The Jade Emperor become angry that they shirked their duties, and banished them to opposite sides of the Silver River. The Weaving Maid and the Cowherd were devastated so the Jade Emperor related a little and to soften the blow let them meet on the bridge over the Silver River for one night every year on the seventh day of the seventh month. This is by the Chinese calendar on August 2nd when these two stars do actually meet! So this tea bloom was created to represent the flowing stars of the Silver River, it is a beautiful story and a tea, each ball is made with spring production green leaf and scented with jasmine. The long silvery leaves are carefully hand tied in an intricate pattern that unfurls when infused. The taste is sweet notes of Jasmine and wisps of honey.

WILD ROSE is a fabulous example of the unique teas produced in the Chinese province of Yunnan. Generally regarded by many as the birthplace of tea. It stands to reason that a growing region with over 2000 years of history would produce many interesting variations. This tea, with its silver white tips hand sewn around delicate rosebuds is perhaps one of the most unique of these. Only the finest silver tips plucked from tea bushes grown at 1800 meters above sea level are used in its production. It is not known exactly when this tea was first produced but records in Yunnan indicate that it was being made at least as long as 250 years ago.

Wild Rose has unfortunately no romantic or mythical story about it but the art of making this tea bloom is in itself a story and an art! First the bloom starts its life as a handful of the very finest Amaranth, Marigold and Osmanthus blossoms and 1st grade green tea - the quality is very important and is the best! When the leaves are still damp, the blossoms are tied by hand and woven into the tea leaves and pressed into this unique form. The leaves dry and all the colours, flavours of the blossoms are hidden inside the green tea leaves, but just waiting to burst out with a wonderful aroma, taste and delightful spectacle!

It is a superb tea tasting fresh and lightly floral. Great way to finish any feast!

WILD LILY If you happen to live in Yunnan's Tengchong County, you owe a debt of gratitude to the creator of this magical tea. Why? The County is home to Tengchong volcano, which last erupted during the Ming Dynasty in 1609. There was a lot going on at the time of the eruption. The emperor of the day was a man called Wanli whose rule ended up being the longest of any Ming Emperor, 48 years to be exact. The first Jesuit missionary, Matteo Ricci, moved to the country and was granted access to the Forbidden City. Wars were successfully being waged against the Mongols and Japanese. The famous Wanli Shipwreck occurred, scattering pottery all over the bottom of the ocean. Was the mythic power of the Volcano responsible for all these things? Perhaps.

One thing is certain: the mythical power of mighty Tengchong led to this tea. An artisan who lived near the volcano, feeling a tremor, decided to appease the universal forces in order to save his skin and his business. He wisely began working with what local produce was available, selecting the blooms of Amaranth, Hibiscus and Lavender, believing their roots in the region's volcanic soil would lend power to his creation. These he tied in with an exceptional, wiry leafed green tea grown in one of Yunnan's finest gardens. His technique was to tie the flowers into the tea while it was still damp, so that as the leaves dried, the blooms would become trapped. The artisan believed that concealing the floral burst within the tea would spiritually represent his hope that the volcano's lava would be forever trapped within the mountain's rocky shell. And you know what? It worked. The Volcano has never erupted since. Experience the power of Tengchong volcano yourself. Brew a pot and see how its wonderful flavour changes your life. The cup is clean and delicate highlighted by grassy tones, floral notes and hints of lemon. At the very least we guarantee it will improve your day!