

KOLKATA & BENGAL

KARMA KETTLE – MEMORABLE VOYAGES IN A TEA CUP

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Karma Kettle, which stocks a wide unique range of teas is inspired by travel and tea-tastings across the globe. This can be considered to be a rich paradise for passionate tea lovers like myself and others in Kolkata. Dhiraj Arora, Karma Kettle's founder has a passion for teas as well as travel. The family also owns Cochrane Place, a heritage boutique hotel in Kurseong with the first specialized tea bar in Darjeeling. Dhiraj along with his wife Priti decided to start Karma Kettle in 2013 to carry back those flavors and pour-out the story of their voyages in a tea cup. Karma Kettle brings you the signature aromas and brewed flavors of some of the most memorable global teas.

Dhiraj, who is a passionate tea connoisseur did his specialization from the World Tea Academy USA and is also a certified tea Sommelier from Sri Lanka. He has personally blended these fabulous tea varietals which are also now available in various hotel tea bars, cafes and gourmet stores across India. Priti has done a great job in marketing and packaging of these teas. The sourcing of the teas has been done primarily from India along with South Africa, China and Japan. The tea store besides housing of an amazing collection of around 40 varieties of tea in the form of bags, tea sticks, loose leaf and herbal infusions also sells tea accessories like tea pots, kettles, cups, tea spices, honey and syrups. The price range of the teas starts at Rs. 250 and they also have assorted gift boxes.



We started our tea-tasting session in a beautiful tea room with a first flush Darjeeling varietal with a light muscatel flavor. Karma Kettle is known for their caffeine-free or thine-free varieties and their use of all-natural ingredients. Their signature herbal infusion called Karakoram was a light blend of sea buck thorn leaf, stinging nettle with soothing lavender. This can be recommended for de-stressing and relaxing. We then tried the Kashmiri Kava with a green tea base and a distinctive almond, saffron, safflower-flavor spiced with cardamom and cinnamon. My favorite was the delightful Marrakesh – a green tea brew spiced with a cool spear mint and orange peel – a relaxing drink for any time of the day.

Another herbal signature worth trying is the Istanbul infused with green tea with a delicious flavor of apple, black currant, hibiscus and lemon. The Table Mountain varietal has the influence from South Africa – a unique brew-infused with rooibos, liquorish, sage and fennel. It was such an amazing tea-tasting session with brews from all over the world! This was accompanied by a great high tea with delicious cupcakes, macarons, delicate finger sandwiches and quiche.

I highly recommend a visit to Karma Kettle for their enticing teas and Karmic infusions – a must visit for all tea drinkers!

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