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**FIRST FLUSH**  
**FROM DARJEELING**  
**2026**

**Preorder now!**

**DETHLEFSEN & BALK**

# EXQUISITE ORGANIC TEA SPECIALTIES FROM DARJEELING: FIRST FLUSH 2026

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When the tea bushes start to sprout after the winter hiatus, the new tea season in Darjeeling begins. The first harvest period of the year (first flush) usually begins in early March. The end of the Holi festival serves as a guideline. After that, the very first, finest and most delicate leaves of the bushes are plucked. A limited portion of the fine spring teas are imported by air freight shortly after plucking. The so-called "airfreight teas" are distinguished by their harvest-fresh character and flowery flavor notes. Pre-order our special highlights from 2026 now for expected delivery mid-May!

## DARJEELING SITUATION 2026

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The short winter break in Darjeeling is over and preparations for the upcoming harvest season are in full swing. We eagerly await the arrival of this year's first flush teas and expect deliveries to reach us in mid-May.

Unfortunately, weather conditions are not ideal this year. Many regions have not seen any rain since October, which the gardens desperately need. The lack of rainfall means that the bushes are growing slower, so the harvest will begin later. As all of our qualities come from very high-altitude gardens, our suppliers currently expect regular picking to begin at the end of March.

Many producers in Darjeeling remain under severe pressure. Increased costs due to wage rises and

stricter regulations, e.g. from the EU, cannot be passed on equally through higher market prices. There has been significant surplus production in recent years, and many producers are questioning the economic viability of their tea gardens. Some have already sold their gardens to investors or are revoking certifications in order to save costs. This makes the first flush business, where even higher prices can be achieved, all the more important.

Thanks to our long-standing relationships, we have been able to put together an excellent selection from the best producers in Darjeeling.



**We're pleased to be able to offer you the following teas this year:**

# FIRST FLUSH 2026 – PRE-ORDER NOW!

## FTGFOP1 Happy Valley DJ1/26

### From organic cultivation

The Happy Valley Tea Estate is located approximately 3 km from the city of Darjeeling. Situated at altitudes of up to 2,100 m, this tea garden covers an area of 111 hectares. From April to November, visitors have the opportunity to observe the tea leaf plucking process and learn about tea processing.



**R00007**

**\$ 198.50/kg** + applicable tariffs  
PU 1 box of 2 kg

## Darjeeling FTGFOP1 Seeyok DJ2/26

### from organic cultivation

Seeyok has also convinced us to become part of our first flush assortment this year. Altitudes of 1,100 - 1,800 metres, a good mix of sun and rain as well as very nutrient-rich soils form the basis for a broad spectrum of unique tea qualities. The quality of the spring harvest is particularly impressive.



**R00002**

**\$ 204.90/kg** + applicable tariffs  
PU 1 box of 2 kg

## FTGFOP1 Lingia DJ1/26

### From organic cultivation

Lingia is also known as Linge in the local Lepcha language, meaning Triangle of eight mountain peaks. This signature garden, covering just 220 hectares, is one of the smaller high-altitude gardens in Darjeeling. The finest, delicately floral top qualities of predominantly pure Chinese tea bushes have been cultivated here for 140 years, not far from the Nepalese border at an altitude of around 1,800 metres, and are in great demand worldwide.



**R00011**

**\$ 267.60/kg** + applicable tariffs  
PU 1 box of 2 kg

## Darjeeling SFTGFOP1 Victoria's Peak DJ1/26

### from organic cultivation

Victoria's Peak is an independent section within the tea garden Steinthal, named after Queen Victoria. Only select tea shrubs are planted and cultivated in this rather small section. Only very limited amounts reach the export market!



**R00010-1**

**\$ 194.10/kg** + applicable tariffs  
PU 1 bag of 1 kg

## Darjeeling SFTGFOP1 Steinthal EX1/26

### from organic cultivation

Located at the foot of the Himalaya Mountains, this tea garden was founded some 170 years ago by a German missionary and is, thus, one of the eldest tea gardens in Darjeeling. Finest organic teas are produced at altitudes of 1,100 – 2,000 m.



**R00009 -1**

**\$ 211.10/kg** + applicable tariffs  
PU 1 bag of 1 kg

