

Tea time

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Tea is all the rage, especially now that we've moved beyond black and green to experiment with jasmines and oolongs. In a tony shop, where your tea is brewed from leaves, it's a soothing ritual. At home, loose tea can be, well, cumbersome -- all that fussing with steeping and disposing of the leaves. Tea bags, an American invention of the early part of the last century, are much easier. Lucky for us, Adagio Teas is putting out varieties such as Dragonwell green tea, Ti Kuan Yin and Jasmine Pearls oolong teas, and Silver Needle white tea, along with Golden Yunan and English breakfast black teas. The tea comes in mesh pouches of loose leaves, enclosed in sealed foil packets. The mesh is triangular-shaped, making it easy to pull out of the cup without an unattractive paper tab (\$9.99 for a box of 15 pouches). *Available at Cardullo's Gourmet Shoppe, 6 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-491-8888; Lionette Market, 577 Tremont St., South End, Boston, 617-778-0360, and www.adiago.com.* -- ALISON ARNETT ■