The First Cup

for Mr

THE TEA

Yunnan Dianhong, golden buds

Plain. Single origin. Nothing in it.

Malty and honeyed, and sweet enough on its own that it asks for nothing. It is also patient. Leave it a minute too long and it will not turn bitter on you, which matters for a first cup.

HOW

WATER	Just off the boil, about 90°C. Boil it, then let it stand a minute.
LEAVES	One heaped teaspoon per cup. Loose, not bagged.
TIME	Three minutes. Then lift the leaves out.
ADD	Nothing. No milk, no sugar.

The first cup is not the one to judge tea by. It is the one that tells you what the second should be.

One thing worth noticing: the pause just before you swallow. It does not know how to lie.

Flicktail · 21 September