

The Yixing teapot is a part of the ancient culture of China ; it is a true artwork, an item indispensable to tea lovers.

Yixing teapots first appeared during the Sung Dynasty (960-1279) in the region of China, located in the Jiangsu province. This province is the world's only source for teapots are made. This special clay material called zisha clay. "Zi" means "purple" while "sha" means "sand".

Zisha clay is also known as 5 colored clay because its basic colors are red, yellow, green, blue and purple. The porous nature of purple clay absorbs the flavor, smell and color of tea that is brewed in it. Tea made in such teapot doesn't decay for a long time.

One more feature of this clay is that the teapot conducts heat very slowly too. This means the teapot handle may be always grasped with no fear of burn. Over time Yixing teapots develop a seasoning from repeated use, making the tea brewed from a well used teapot a special treat.

A new pot usually has a foreign odor. It would be wrong to brew tea in it immediately. To enjoy the extraordinary aroma of tea and to avoid foreign odor so that it cannot affect the taste and aroma of tea, the teapot should be prepared for use as follows:

The teapot should be washed thoroughly to remove sand and clay particles from inside. Then the teapot put into a clean pan and pour it with water so that the teapot can be immersed completely. Stir tea into the pan and the teapot. Boil the teapot and keep it in the pan until it cools. After the process ends, the teapot should be rinsed with water and dried. If only the said preparation procedure is followed, the teapot will be ready to brewing tea.

There are several rules of how to care of teapot which are easy to remember:

- *To clean this type of teapot, simply empty the leaves and rinse the teapot with hot water.*
- *Do not wash it in a dish washer and avoid using any cleaning agents.*
- *You should dry the pot, as a damp pot may grow moldy and so it will destroy.*
- *Only when this procedure has been completed, you should close the teapot with its cap and place it on the self for the next tea drinking.*

In addition, you can take it from time to time to look at it. This action is of special importance in Chinese tea culture. If you rub it slightly with a special cloth or stroke with palms, you will feel soon that its surface is getting more and more shining and smoother. This is another feature of the Yixing clay. Care of teapot resembles looking after flowers and indoor plants. The more attention you pay the Yixing teapot, the more cared and beautiful it will look.