

Table 1 Representative subvarieties and properties of white tea

White tea	Grade and pluck standards	Characteristics	Major cultivar
Silver Needle (Yin Zhen)	First grade. Only top buds (shoots) of the <i>Camellia sinensis</i>	Generally whiter appearance and a lighter body with shorter withering time than Zhenghe (Fuding) Longer withering process, deeper color and a fuller body than Fuding (Zhenghe)	China
White Peony (Bai Mu Dan)	Second grade. One leaf shoot and two immediate young leaves one bud two leaf ratio)	Fuller flavor and greater potency than silver needle (Sanlier et al., 2018)	
Tribute Eyebrow (Gong Mei)	Third grade. One bud with two or three leaves	Processed more than silver needle and white peony teas, offering a dark brew with an earthy taste (Ahmed and Stepp, 2013)	
Longevity (Shou Mei)	Eyebrow Fourth grade. More than two leaves, with or without bud	By-product of silver needle tea production, darker in color, making a darker brew with more depth	
Darjeeling	Unfurled buds with two or three soft leaves	Similar to silver needle, the high elevation and low temperatures results in its unique flavor development	India
Ceylon	Slightly curved and unopened buds	A very light coppery brew with pine and honey flavor	Sri Lanka