

TEA FOR GOOD



HOUSE OF WARIS HOPES TO ENCOURAGE SLOWING DOWN

Through his botanical tea company, Waris Singh Ahluwalia inspires others to take control of their well-being and live thoughtfully.

“House of Waris Botanicals is an exploration into a more thoughtful way of living through the use of plant science, community, and celebration,” says Ahluwalia, designer, actor, and founder of his namesake tea company.

“Our relationship to nature is our relationship to ourselves, how we treat ourselves, how we treat our bodies, how we treat others, and how we treat the planet,” he adds.

Launched in 2019, House of Waris Botanicals collaborates with tea estates, farms, and herbalists to develop proprietary plant-based blends for healing, which taste delicious. “Tea has been connecting people for centuries,” Ahluwalia muses. “In every indigenous culture across the planet, tea has always served a purpose. It was a way to bond and a way to heal.”

Originally from Punjab, India, but raised in the U.S., Ahluwalia debuted the design-centric House of Waris in 2007, focusing on handcrafted jewelry before transitioning to tea, which had been part of his life for as long as he can remember. “Wherever I went—at family gatherings, tea was served; after dinner, tea was served; during laughter and celebration, tea was served,” he says. “During quiet moments, in solemn moments, in moments of grief—it was always there.”

As a style icon, Ahluwalia is well-known for his modeling for Tory Burch, Kenzo, Gucci, and other iconic fashion brands. Meanwhile, in film, he had cameos in *The Darjeeling Limited* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. But beyond dazzling runways and gracing the silver screen, the entrepreneur is committed

to creating a more thoughtful lifestyle via his brand. Rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and nutrients, House of Waris Botanicals tea is crafted from non-GMO herbs from all over the globe. “Our blends include adaptogens, a category of herb known to help your body adapt to external stressors and bring your body back into balance,” he says. “These herbs have been used by traditional practices including traditional Chinese medicine, Ayurveda, and many indigenous cultures across the world from the Siberian Plains to the northwest U.S.”

Sold by the bag, Classic tea blends range from Ginseng Lemongrass (to support brain function, immune system, and metabolism) to Hibiscus Citron, a tropical-tasting mix of hibiscus, turmeric, rose hips, and orange peel. Functional teas such as Love Conquers All—a combination of rose, shatavari, damiana, and saffron—come packaged in tins and can be purchased individually or in sets, or “care packages.”

The most recent addition to the line is its elephant-friendly classic black tea, a fair-trade, biodynamic blend recognized for its robust yet smooth flavors and cultivated on a wildlife-friendly estate in the Dooars region of India.

According to Ahluwalia, the tea “is the manifestation of decadeslong conservation efforts, aligning the needs of the consumer with that of the endangered elephant, the forgotten and often mistreated indigenous communities that live amongst them, the tea plantation workers, and the soil that grows the tea.”

Sales support Elephant-family.org, an organization fighting biodiversity loss and climate change while inspiring coexistence between India’s wild elephants, workers, and indigenous peoples. House of Waris will donate £1 from the sale of every pack of compostable sachets to Elephant Family.

“This is an opportunity to rethink the way we create and consume,” Ahluwalia adds. “When you choose our certified elephant-friendly tea, you’re choosing to protect elephants; to be part of a movement that uplifts humanity and the creatures that live alongside us.”

House of Waris Botanicals teas, shown on opposite page, come packaged in tins, and are available in sets as well. The brainchild of Waris Singh Ahluwalia, shown above, the brand is committed to promoting well-being.



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