



Yixing Zisha Ware

宜兴紫砂

Zisha (purple clay) is a unique type of clay produced in the region of Yixing. The pottery made from the clay is named Zisha ware, among which the best known is Zisha teapot/ tea ware. The protection scope of Yixing Zisha ware is the area under the jurisdiction in Yixing City, Jiangsu Province. The raw material is the purple clay mined within the scope of Yixing, which mainly includes purple mud, red mud and Benshan green mud. Its appearance is purple red, red, yellow, light purple, green, cyan gray or black. Zisha clay of Yixing is pure and bright in texture, with high breathability. When tea is brewed in Zisha ware, it retains the fragrance of tea and develops a lustrous texture and appearance after prolonged usage. It has been gem of traditional Chinese craftwork, cherished by literati, imperial courts and commoners.

According to the records, Zisha tea ware was originated in the Song dynasty, and associated with tea ceremony in the Ming dynasty, its production reached its heyday in the Qing Dynasty and became an art form which is still popular today. For thousands of years, Zisha tea wares have been deeply rooted in Chinese traditions and carrying various cultural elements, thus it can be regarded as a synthesis of traditional Chinese culture. It bears a long history of ceramic and farming culture, and has an indissoluble bond with the tea culture; it is also widely integrated with painting and calligraphy and fused with elements of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. It is a rarity of the world ceramic art and a landmark cultural heritage of Yixing region.

(Courtesy of the IP Protection Department of CNIPA)

紫砂，宜兴特有的一种陶土，用其制作的陶器，称紫砂陶，其中以紫砂壶最为著称。宜兴紫砂地理标志保护产品产地范围为江苏省宜兴市现辖行政区域，原料为宜兴范围内开采的紫砂矿，主要分紫泥、红泥、本山绿泥三种，外观为紫红色、红色、黄色、浅紫色、绿色、青灰色或黑色。宜兴紫砂本体朴实无华，砂质鲜明，透气性好，其器沏茗，存香无限，经久抚之，珠圆玉润，为历代名流喜之，宫廷藏之，百姓爱之，乃中华传统工艺之瑰宝。

据记载，宜兴紫砂发端于宋代，明代时结缘茶道，清代成熟，当今鼎盛，成为沏茶良器。千百年来，紫砂根植于中华传统文化，集约中国传统文化诸元素，可以说是中华传统文化的综合体。它本身蕴藏着历史悠久的陶瓷文化、农耕文化，与茶文化有着不解之缘，也与书画文化有着广泛的交融融入儒释道元素，为世界陶艺界所罕见，是宜兴地域标志性文化遗产。

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