

What's in a Bubble? 台湾名产：珍珠奶茶

As you suck in through the straw, the sweet taste of cold oolong tea **washes** into your mouth. Along with it, a small ball of soft jelly lands on your tongue, and you begin chewing on it. Ah, pearls. [Bubble tea](#) simply wouldn't be the same without them. But where do they come from, and what are they made of?

当你用吸管吸入口中，冰凉乌龙茶的甘甜味流进嘴里，同时一小颗柔软富弹性的粉圆落在舌上，你开始咀嚼。啊，珍珠！少了它们，珍珠奶茶就不够地道，但它们源自何处？成分又是什么？

You'll be happy to learn that bubble tea is a Taiwanese **affair**. It is believed that the famous drink originated in Taichung in the early 1980s. For a while, a Taiwanese tea shop owner named Liu Han-Chieh had been experimenting with shaken iced tea, which he'd first seen in Japan. One day, he decided to **push the envelope** and do something even wilder to the traditional drink: he threw in **tapioca** balls.

你会很高兴的发现珍珠奶茶是台湾的产物，据信这种知名的饮品在 1980 年代初期源自于台中。有一段时日，台湾一家泡沫红茶店的老板刘汉介，不断研制他在日本首度见到的摇摇冰茶，有一天他决定突破窠臼，大胆颠覆传统饮品：在茶中加入粉圆。

Depending on their ingredients, the color of the pearls varies. The black ones include [sweet potato](#), **cassava** root and brown sugar. It takes about an hour to make "pearls." First, they are boiled in water where they expand **considerably**. After that, they are **drained** from the water and poured into a sugary solution, ready to be served.

依据成份不同，珍珠的颜色也有差异，黑色的珍珠添加地瓜、树薯粉和砂糖，制程约一小时。首先将粉圆以滚水煮沸，待其大幅膨胀后捞起并将水分沥干，再倒入糖浆浸泡后即可上桌。

Bubble tea didn't catch on immediately, however. Only in the 1990s, after a Japanese TV show **publicized** the drink, did it become Asia's coolest drink. Thanks to Liu's **spark** of inspiration, the world is now bubbling with enthusiasm for bubble tea!

然而这种饮品刚问世时并未一炮而红，直到 1990 年代日本节目广为宣传后，才成为亚洲最酷的饮品。多亏刘先生的灵机一动，如今这股珍珠奶茶热才能在全球沸腾。

—by J. Michael Cole

Vocabulary

considerably [kənˈsɪdərəbly] adv. 相当大地，非常，颇

publicize [ˈpʌblɪˌsaɪz] v. 宣传

spark [spɑːk] n. 迹象，痕迹

More Information

wash [wɑʃ] v. 流过

affair [ə ` fɛr] n. 事情，事，事件

push the envelope: 挑战极限 to move beyond the limit of what has usually been done or was the accepted standard

tapioca [ˌtæpɪ ` okə] n. 树薯粉，木薯淀粉

cassava [kə ` sɔvə] n. 树薯；树薯粉

drain [dren] v. 排出（液体）