

The same market Down Dog has tapped into grows daily, in cities across the globe. As consumers become more interested in where their foods come from (including their coffee and tea), and more in tune with what foods are better for them, coffee and tea retailers are looking for ways to integrate healthful menu items that go beyond liquid refreshment and a caffeine kick. At the same time, we love our coffee and tea the way it is. A shot of almond milk might boost the nutritional value of a cup of Costa Rican coffee, but it will drown out the roast's subtle flavors, too. Luckily, there is a high-price-point, barista-friendly, coffee- and tea-worthy category for strengthening your shop's healthful edge: blended drinks brim with potential for nourishing café fare.



*Matcha Frappé: Fill a sixteen ounce glass to the top with ice and then fill it with your favorite milk (both dairy and non-dairy work well). Pour into a blender. Add two tablespoons of Aiya Matcha Zen Cafe Blend (or two Matcha Zen Cafe Blend Sticks), and blend until smooth. (Recipe courtesy Aiya America.) (Photos: Cory Eldridge.)*

## Trying Tea

Tea has long been touted for its health properties, and green tea in particular is making waves as a healthy energy booster. It's also one of the most popular teas in the world, and finely milled green tea, or matcha, is just as amazing in blended drinks as it is in a green tea latte, or green tea ice cream.

"Matcha is great that it can be used to appeal to tea drinkers, or consumers that are health conscious," says James Oliveira, sales representative for matcha producer [Aiya America](#).

When blended with rich, real dairy or even non-dairy, and ice, matcha powder transforms into a creamy frozen beverage reminiscent of ice cream. All teas have natural antioxidants. Try strong, chilled black tea to give a blended drink a full-flavored boost, or rooibos for a caffeine-free sweetness. Andrea from Torani recommends blending strong green tea, ice, and a real-fruit puree for a light, energizing summer drink.