

Breville BKE820XL Variable Temperature Kettle

A Kettle is a Kettle is a kettle

When one considers that the average kettle does no more than is achieved with a coffee tin of water over a camp fire, then one with high tech features seems a little excessive. Tea drinking purists will, however, beg to differ. According to those in the know, brewing at the wrong temperature can mean the difference between the perfect, pedestrian or putrid cuppa. And this is the conundrum that the Breville BKE820XL Variable Temperature Kettle obviously try's to address.

At quick appraisal of the Breville variable temperature kettle reveals a brushed aluminium, cordless..well, kettle. Actually quite a sexy kettle if the truth be told. The "retro industrial" design is complimented by a designer pop up lid and a standard water level check window. The kettle base is the first indication that this no ordinary high priced camp fire coffee tin. There one encounters a little more than expected in a button set reminiscent of a 747 overhead panel.

With this impressive array of hardware the Breville variable temperature kettle allows one to choose from five different temperature settings as well as maintain the desired temperature for that essential second cup without having to re-boil. So if green teas are your poison this little hydro-thermal wonder will produce a perfect 175°F stream, for white teas, 185°, French press coffee (heaven forbid) 200°, Oolong 195° and for those desirous of some common or garden black (English Breakfast) tea 212°.

All very impressive, and the results? Hard to tell for someone not attuned to the subtle nuances of tea tasting. However, those select few who are assure us that temperature does play a critical role in producing a perfect cup of tea. So it goes without saying that the Breville variable temperature kettle will make a difference. So apart from being mesmerised by all the bright and shiny things, you will probably gain social standing by stunning the Elevenses set with an award winning Oolong or green tea.

To buy or not to buy? A tough one. If you are an uncouth philistine and drink only black tea out of a "I Love Mud Wrestling" mug then the \$150 price tag will be a waste. If, on the other hand, you can tell and care about the difference then it makes sense. Other than that the temperature maintain function is pretty nice and the Breville variable temperature kettle makes a pretty snazzy addition to the kitchen overall.