JOHN-PAUL LEE

John-Paul Lee is the CEO of Tavalon Tea which he founded in 2005 after leaving his job as a management consultant at Accenture to pursue his dreams as an entrepreneur. Mr. Lee found that not only was there a void in the tea market but the image of tea needed to be revitalized and its market broaden to appeal to the young as well as the young-at-heart and everyone in between.

The company is positioned to make tea more accessible to the masses and create a quality brand within the world of tea. Mr. Lee entertained the idea of working with VC’s to raise capital but then came across a seasoned entrepreneur who advised him that “the closest a man ever gets to experiencing motherhood is when he starts his own company.” Taking the advice to heart, Mr. Lee sold his car, his house, liquidated stock options and 401K to bring Tavalon Tea to life.

Tavalon Tea products can be found in over 1100 locations worldwide and now operates offices in the New York City, New Jersey and expanded into the Asian market with its headquarters in Seoul, Korea. John-Paul has been profiled by many publications since he founded Tavalon Tea in 2005. Most recently, America.gov featured John-Paul in their gallery of successful start up entrepreneurs alongside Bill Gates, Michael Dell, Russell Simmons, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Kevin Plank, & Mark Zuckerberg.

Mr. Lee holds a certification by the Specialty Tea Institute and is a Siebel 7 Certified Consultant. In 2010 he was honored with the Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award hosted by the Asian American Business Development Center (AABDC). His business was also recognized by the US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce (USPACC) and honored with the Top 10 Asian/American Business Award in 2011.