



# THE CURRENT



EAT & DRINK  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014



## The Inside Scoop on Cider

It isn't just about apples anymore

By: CARRIE ANTON



You won't be hard-pressed to find a cider you like these days. *Photo: noonika/Thinkstock*

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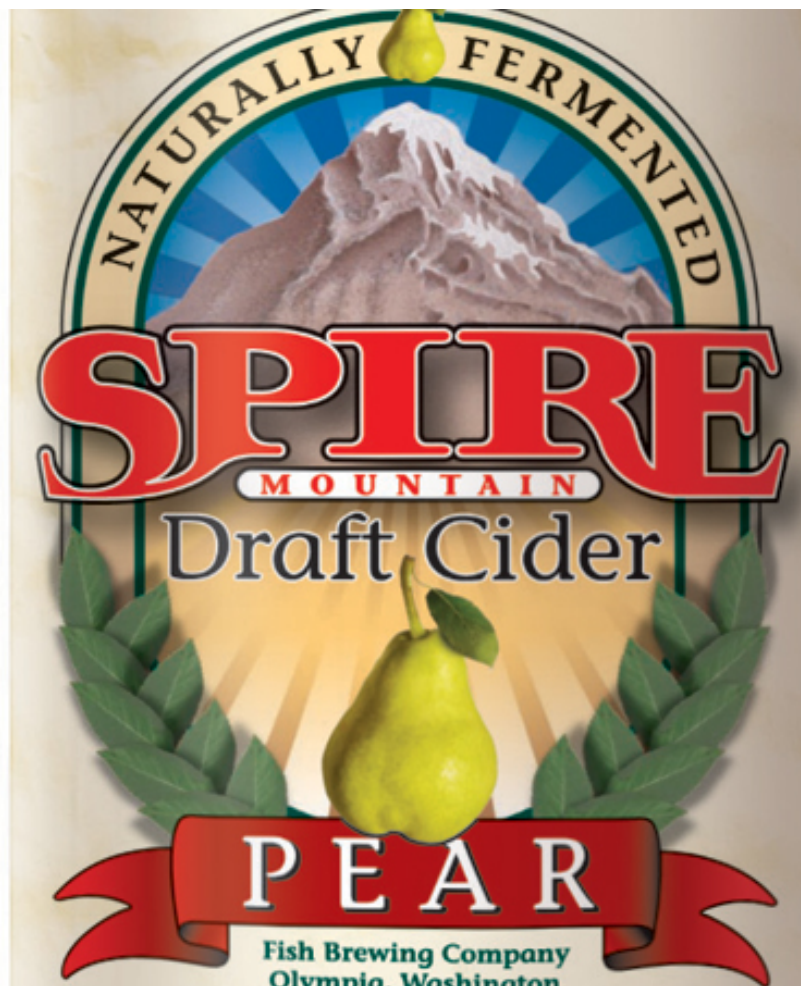
**H**ard apple cider is a great summertime drink, especially if you're gluten-free or just bored with beer. (Hey, it happens.) But if you've stuck exclusively to fermented-apple brews, you're missing out on a whole world of fruity flavor.

While the apple is still the star of the cider show, more brewers are turning to other fruits—including pears, berries, and apricots—to create new cider flavors. It's both a matter of taste and a way to deal with a shortage of cider-specific apples in the United States.

Ciders have become increasingly popular (between 2005 and 2012, domestic cider production jumped 264 percent, according to the [Beer Institute](#)), and brewers have had to deal with a dip in apple supply. But instead of approaching this shortage as a crisis, cider producers are using it as an opportunity—and a tasty one at that.

Want to ditch the apple entirely? See how your palate responds to these new fruit flavors:

## Pear

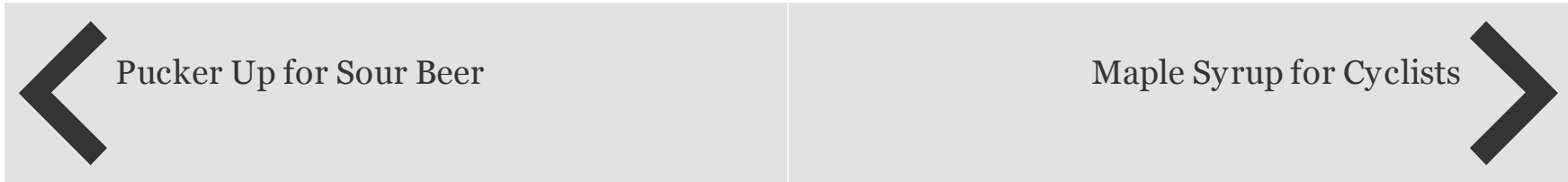


*Photo: WaWineCo/Google*

Pears have a lot in common with apples, including texture and acidity. However, “perry” (the name for hard cider made from pears) tends to be less tart and more delicate than typical hard apple cider, thanks to the pear’s higher fruit sugar and lower malic acid content.

One of our favorites is the **Spire Mountain Pear Cider** (5 percent ABV) from the **Fish Brewing Company**. This 2010 North American Brewers’ Association gold-medal winner is brewed in

Olympia, Washington, using a blend of Bartlett, Bosc, and Anjou pears. The result is slightly sweet and bubbly like a sparkling wine, which means you can sip it straight from the bottle or go high



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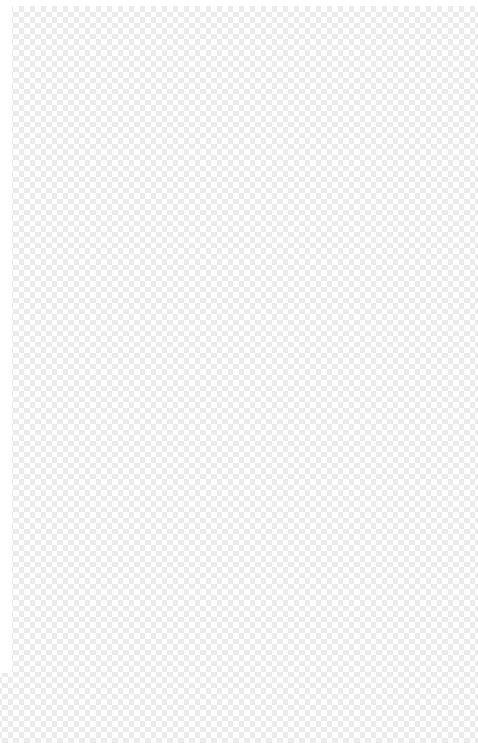
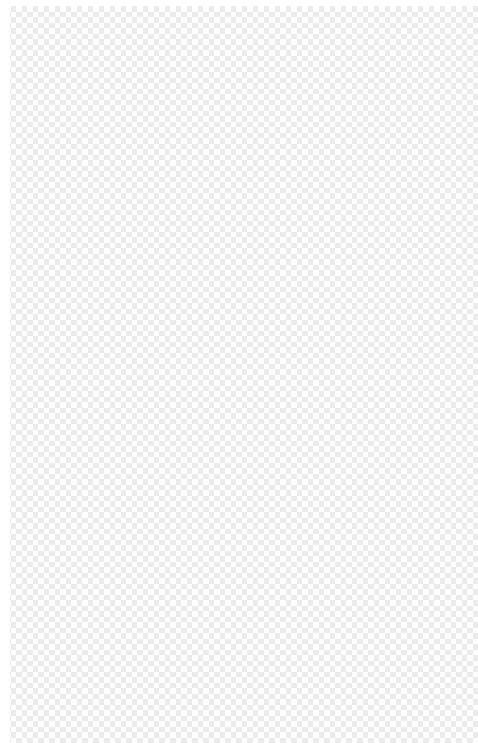
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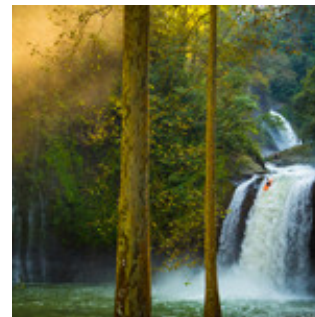
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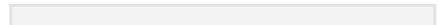


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