



YOUR GUIDE TO
OUT.PERFORM.
MERRELL'S ADVENTURE MAGAZINE!

MERRELL **M**

LEARN MORE

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*

Hard 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

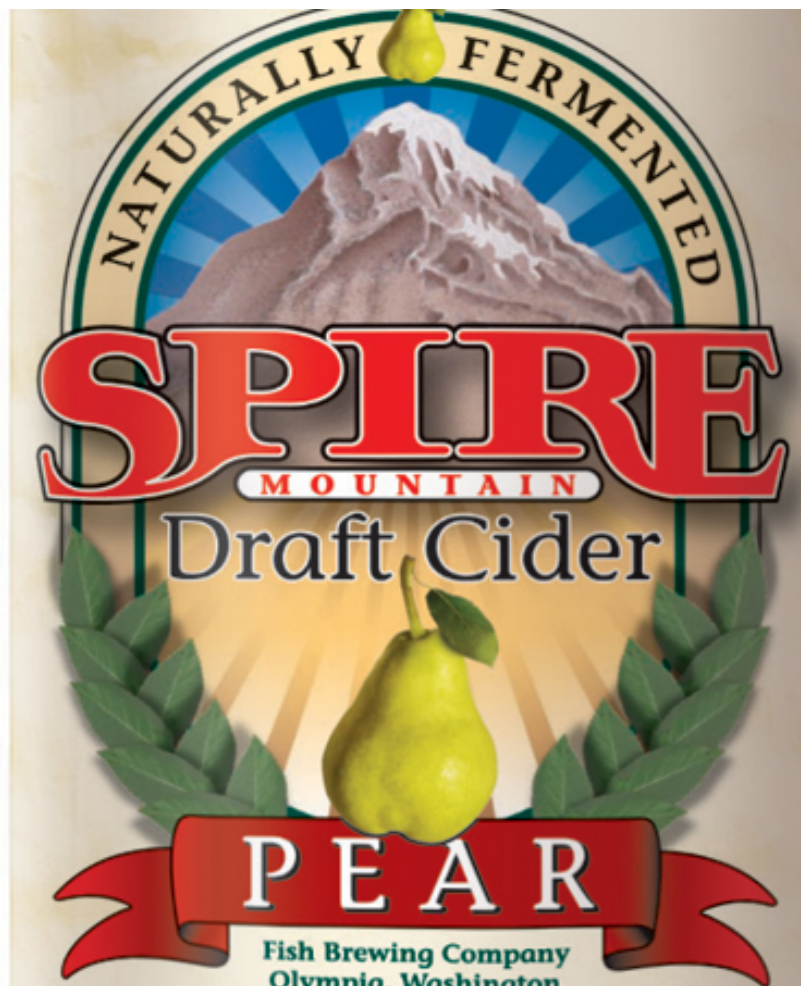
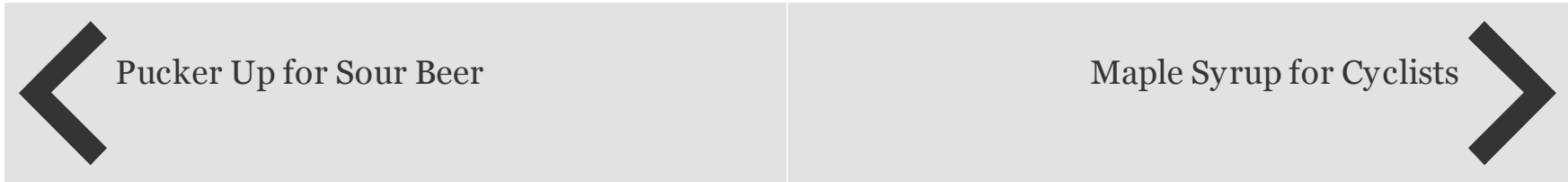


Photo: WaWineCo/Google

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

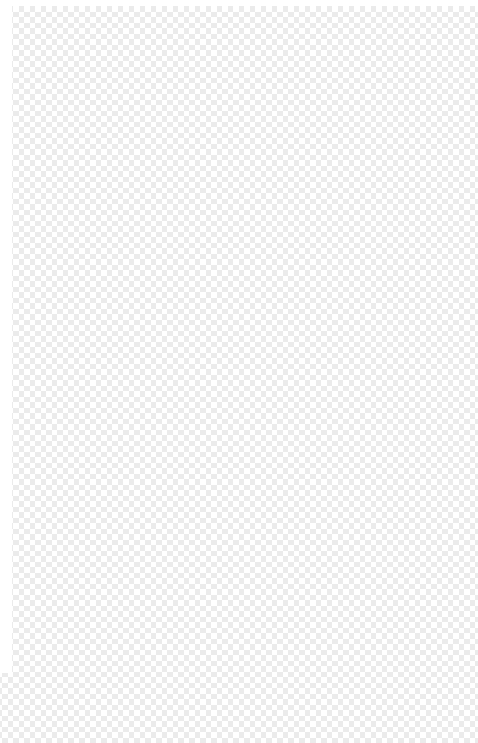
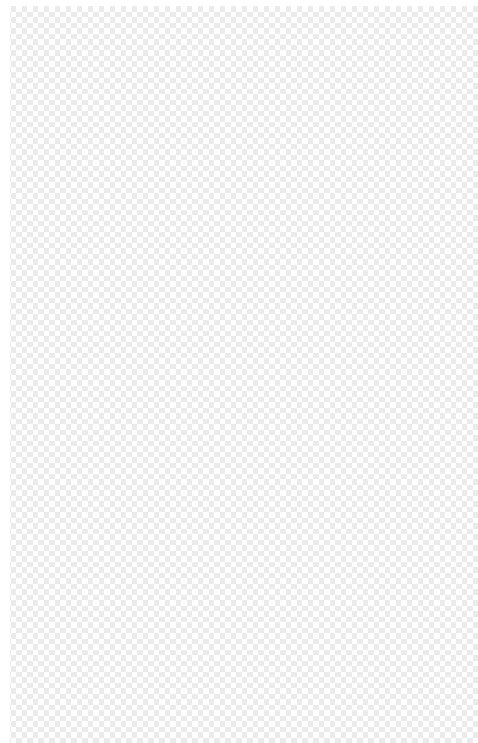


Want to get Outside more?

Sign up for our newsletter and get the latest fitness tips, expert gear reviews, the best travel advice, and more.

By submitting above, you agree to the [Outside privacy policy](#)

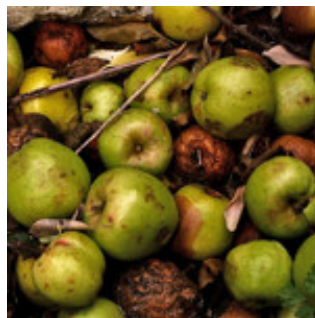




More at Outside



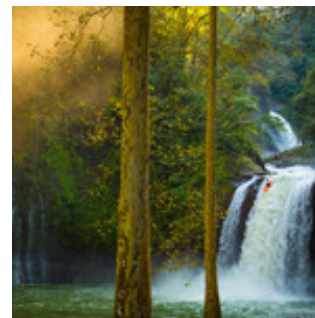
Hey, Apple, We Love You, Too



Are Apples A Health Risk?



Healthbook and Android Wear

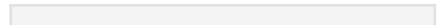


Kayaking Trucha Falls, Mexico



SBG 2014

Comments



The Current

THE STREAM

JUL 30

BASE Jumpers Aren't (All) Crazy

EAT & DRINK

JUL 30

You Should Be Eating G.O.R.C.

THE STREAM

JUL 28

The Best Beer to Ever Air on Reality TV

Subscribe

Get our award-winning magazine, available in both **print and digital**



Connect & Share

FOLLOW US



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR FREE NEWSLETTERS

LEARN MORE

The Footer

Contact Us

Terms of Use

Privacy Policy

About Our Ads

Media Kit

Subscriber Services

SHARE

