

## seasonal feature

By **Steve Kaiser**, owner, Core Hero Hard Cider, local contributor  
All photos courtesy of **Core Hero Hard Cider**.

# Treat Your Sweetheart with Less-sweet HARD CIDER

Valentine's Day is the ideal time to win over your sweetheart with a special food pairing featuring extra dry hard cider with no added sugar. This style of hard cider is wine-like and pairs very well with sharp cheeses, pasta in heavy sauces, and pork, to name a few combinations.

An increasing number of savvy foodies are discovering the perfect match of extra dry hard ciders and complementary foods. It's a new trend you can try for yourself with a local hard cider.

"Traditional extra dry hard cider is being rediscovered," notes Steve Kaiser, trend watcher and owner of Edmonds-based Core Hero Hard Cider. "Of my three cider varieties, extra dry has become the most popular choice at the Edmonds farmers market. And, drinkers are pairing food with ciders the same way they do with wines."

Unlike sugary ciders and some wines, authentic English-style extra dry hard ciders have no added sugar and negligible residual sugar and are food-friendly thanks to their complex tannins, unique acid profile, and earthiness.

Yet, some ciders labeled dry are not what they claim. "If you want the traditional, real-deal English extra dry cider that pairs well with many foods, look for certain characteristics," recommends Kaiser. "For example, pay attention to what kind of apples are used and if they are fresh-pressed instead of concentrate purchased from China."

"Authentic English-style ciders use apple varieties that were originally developed in England during the 1700s. At Core Hero Apple Orchards in Edmonds and Lopez Island, I grow such apples as Golden Russet, Dabinett, Foxwhelp, Kingston Black, and Yarlington Mill. They are more difficult to grow and less productive, but the distinctive flavor makes it worthwhile."

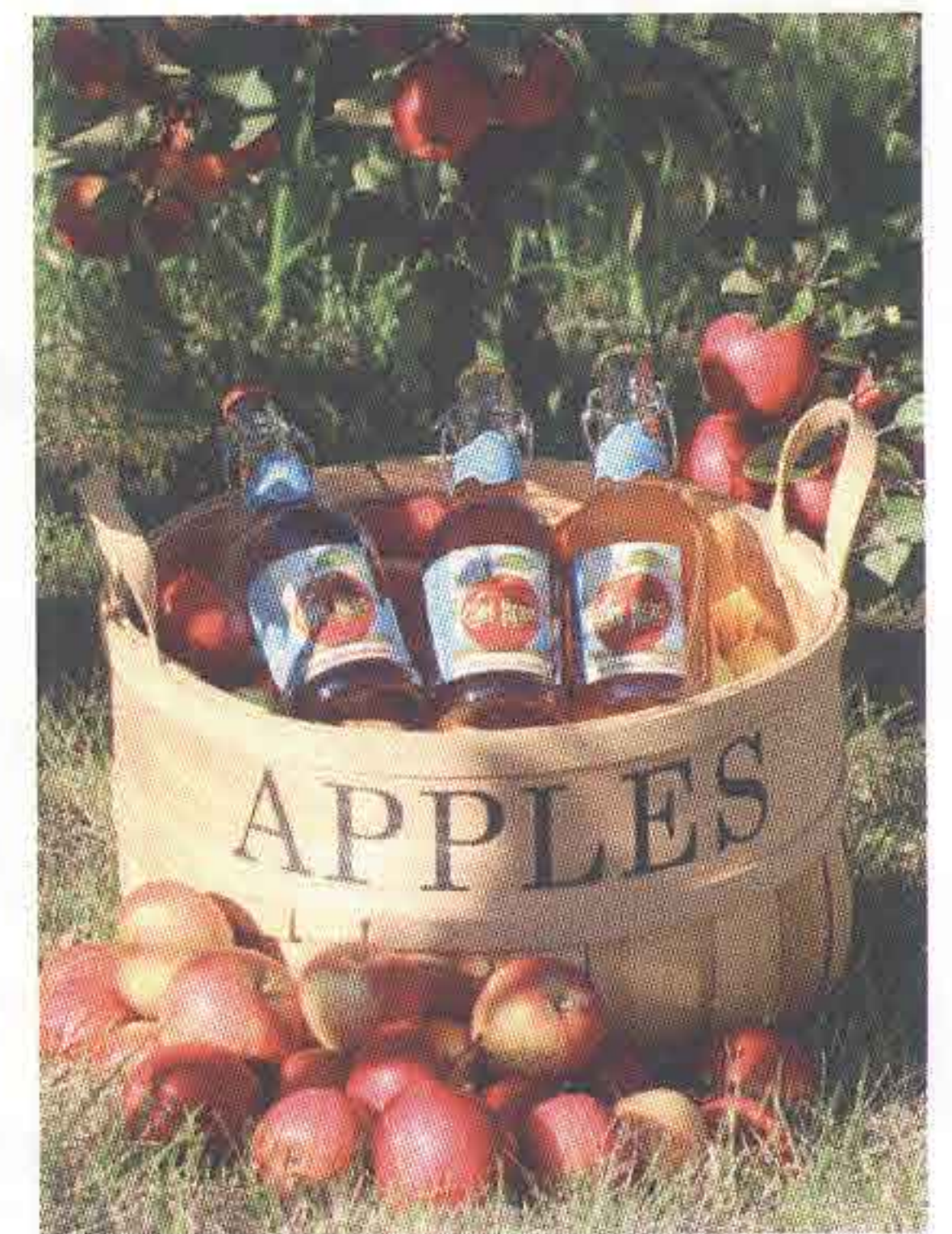
For more information about Core Hero and where to buy, including online sales, visit [CoreHeroHardCider.com](http://CoreHeroHardCider.com). The closest store to Woodway is the QFC at 22828 100th Ave. W., Edmonds.



Extra dry Core Hero hard cider



English apple varieties developed in the 1700s give Core Hero's extra dry cider a unique taste.



Heritage English apples. Grown locally. They give Core Hero hard ciders a unique flavor profile



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