



STYLE GUIDE

The Australian Cider Awards promote and reward excellence in cider production and set the benchmark for cider judging in Australia.

The Awards are run by Cider Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that represents the interests of the craft cider industry in Australia. We aim to build a sustainable cider category by undertaking activities that improve the quality of ciders produced and marketed in Australia.

This Style Guide has been developed to help participants in cider shows – entrants, judges and stewards – work to a common goal. Defining styles acknowledges the diversity of products being made in Australia and aids judges by grouping comparable ciders for assessment.

We acknowledge that there are known styles not represented in the style guide classes. To suggest amendments, please email awards@cideraustralia.org.au

WHAT'S NEW IN 2025

(Refer to [2025 Conditions of Entry and Regulations](#))

- **Keg entries** will be accepted. Different formats of the one product may be entered in the show (ie. 330mL bottle and keg), in the same or different classes (clause 4).
- The **minimum amount of packaged product in stock** at the time of entry has been revised down to 200 litres for classes 1-36 (clause 6).
- A **new trophy for the Best Cider or Perry from a New Entrant** will be awarded to the highest scoring exhibit from an entrant that has not entered the Australian Cider Awards in the past 5 years (clause 32).
- As in 2024, a **small leeway on sweetness** of ± 2 g/L will be allowed for products at the intersection of classes. Any entry queried by judges as being too dry or too sweet for the class may be laboratory tested with the final score adjusted down or disqualified if the entry is determined to be out of class.
- To confirm eligibility for the **Best Single Varietal Cider trophy** (clause 34), entrants will be asked to indicate where an entry contains a minimum 85% of the named variety.
- There are **no new classes** this year.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This document outlines the class style descriptions for the 2025 Australian Cider Awards and should be read in conjunction with the [2025 Conditions of Entry and Regulations](#). Entrants must comply with the product and other eligibility requirements outlined in these documents.

There are 31 classes in this show, grouped into Standard Styles, Specialty Styles and Intensified and Distilled Styles. Bottle conditioned, cloudy and rosé ciders do not have separate classes – these should be entered in an appropriate Standard or Specialty class.

Sweetness is important as it helps us to ensure a like with like assessment of products. The residual sugar or specific gravity of a product can be used to measure sweetness. A small leeway on sweetness of up to ± 2 grams per litre (g/L) is allowed for products at the intersection of classes. Guidance on sweetness and carbonation levels can be found on page 11.

Entrants are able to specify if there is any characteristic of the cider they believe should be known by the Chief Steward, such as high tannins providing austerity or high acid balancing sweetness. Entrants are also able to specify if the product should be roused (i.e. rolled to mix the sediment), otherwise the stewards will carefully pour a clear cider.

Appendix A on page 12 provides a summary of product eligibility requirements and the information that must be specified when entering. In most cases, products entered must fall under the definitions set out in Standard 2.7.3 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (including that cider must contain no more than 25% pear and perry must contain no more than 25% apple) and be Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) eligible.

CLASSES

Standard Styles

Class 1 – Dry New World Cider (<9g/L RS)

Class 2 – Medium New World Cider (9-25g/L RS)

Class 3 – Medium Sweet New World Cider (25-40g/L RS)

Class 4 – Sweet New World Cider (>40g/L RS)

Class 5 – MT New World Cider (disgorged)

'New World' references the style, not a location, as ciders in this style are also made in England, the United States, Canada, Germany, etc. New World cider is made primarily from culinary/table apples. Typically, these ciders are generally lower in tannin and higher in acidity. New World ciders serve well as a 'session' drink, and suitably accompany a wide variety of foods.

Cider that is fermented in bottle and aged on yeast lees and then disgorged should be entered as an MT or 'Method Traditional' Cider. New World and Traditional MT examples (Classes 5 and 10) may be judged together in the same class.

Aroma/Flavour: Sweet or lower-alcohol ciders may have apple aroma and flavour. Dry ciders will be more wine-like with some esters. Sugar and acidity should combine to give a refreshing character. Acidity is medium to high, refreshing, but must not be harsh or biting.

Appearance: Clear to brilliant, pale to yellow in colour.

Mouthfeel: Medium body.

Overall Impression: A refreshing drink – not bland or watery. Sweet ciders must not be cloying. Dry ciders must not be too austere.

Varieties: Commonly grown varieties such as Pink Lady, Royal Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji and Red Delicious.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.045 – 1.065 FG: 0.995 – 1.020 ABV: 5 – 8%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Bilpin Archibald High N Dry [G, G], Hills Cider Apple [S, G, G, S], Hillbilly Cider Apple [S, G], Incy Wincy Cyder Huntsman 2020 [B, G, B, G] and Huntsman 2019 [G, B, B], Sidro del Bosco [-, B, B, G, G], Sydney Brewery Sydney Cider [B, S, S, G, S], The Barossa Valley Cider Co. Squashed Apple Cider [B, S, S, G, G].

Class 6 – Dry Traditional Cider (<9g/L RS)

Class 7 – Medium Traditional Cider (9-25g/L RS)

Class 8 – Medium Sweet Traditional Cider (25-40g/L RS)

Class 9 – Sweet Traditional Cider (>40g/L RS)

Class 10 – MT Traditional Cider (disgorged)

Encompasses the traditional cider of England and France, can include German and Spanish styles although these remain scarce in Australia. Competitors should give some thought to whether their ciders are seeking to be 'traditional' in style – or in fact are seeking to be more modern. Typically, these ciders will show some tannin derived from the apples used. While cider-specific bittersweet and bittersharp apples will contribute to this, other varieties may also be used. Malolactic secondary fermentation may be a feature, but is not essential. Wood aging should not contribute overt characters.

Cider that is fermented in bottle and aged on yeast lees and then disgorged should be entered as an MT or 'Method Traditional' Cider. There is an expectation that MT (disgorged) ciders should have a higher degree of clarity than non-disgorged ciders. New World and Traditional MT examples (Classes 5 and 10) may be judged together in the same class.

Aroma/Flavour: Can range from subtle or perhaps no overt apple character, but with various flavours and esters that suggest apples or transformation of apples, through to fruitier apple character/aromas from slow or arrested fermentation. There may be some malolactic fermentation which contributes to desirable spicy/smoky, phenolic, and farmyard/old-horse characters. These flavour notes may be positive but do not have to be present. If present, they must not dominate; in particular, the phenolic and farmyard notes should not be heavy. A strong farmyard character without spicy/smoky or phenolic suggests a *Brettanomyces* contamination, which is a fault. Mousiness is considered a serious fault.

Appearance: Cloudy to brilliant. Medium yellow to amber colour.

Mouthfeel: Medium to Full. Tannin/Acid/Sweetness perception and balance is important. Tannin astringency and some bitterness are acceptable. Moderate to high tannin, perceived as astringency and some bitterness. Carbonation still to moderate. Bottle-fermented or -conditioned ciders may have high carbonation, up to sparkling wine levels, but not gushing or foaming.

Overall Impression: Complex flavour profile, balanced components, long finish. A refreshing drink of some substance – not bland or watery. Sweet ciders must not be cloying. Dry ciders must not be too austere.

Varieties: Kingston Black, Dabinett, Yarlington Mill, Bulmers Norman, other cider specific bittersweet/bittersharp, often blended with more widely available commercial varieties.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.050 – 1.075 FG: 0.995 – 1.015 ABV: 4 – 9%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: [Aus] Carmel Cider Company Heritage 20 [B, S, G], Flying Brick Cider Co MC Cider [S, B, G, G, G], Kangaroo Island Ciders Colony Cove Draught [S, S, B, S, G], LOBO Lenswulf [G, B, G, S], Plenty Cornucopia - vintage [G, G, G], St Ronan's Method Traditional Apple Cider [S, G, S, B, G].

Class 11 – Apple and Pear Blends

This class includes products made from a mixture of apple and pear that do not fit under the definition of Cider or Perry in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, in particular 'that Cider may contain no more than 25% pear juice and Perry no more than 25% apple juice'. It is expected that this class will be mostly blends containing more than 25% of the minor component, but blends with less than 25% of the minor component can be entered in this class if preferred.

The percentage of each component – for example, apple 45% and pear 55% – must be specified when entering.

Aroma/Flavour: The cider character must show the dominant fruit to the fore, with the secondary fruit present.

Appearance: Cloudy to brilliant, colour expected to reflect the dominant fruit but could range from pale to medium amber.

Mouthfeel: Will depend on composition, drier styles may show some apparent sweetness from the pear component.

Overall Impression: The blend should be harmonious and have both apple and pear characters. Some astringency and tannin particularly in drier styles. Sweeter styles need balance.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.050 – 1.0850 FG: 0.995 – 1.020 ABV: 4 – 12%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: DV Cider Pulp Friction [-, S, -, S], Lenswood Cider Co Apple/Pear Cider [B, S, -, G], LOBO Cider Apple and Pear [B, B, S, B, S], The Barossa Cider Co Cloudy Cider [S, B, B, G, B].

Class 21 – Dry New World Perry (<9g/L RS)

Class 22 – Medium New World Perry (9-25g/L RS)

Class 23 – Medium Sweet New World Perry (25-40g/L RS)

Class 24 – Sweet New World Perry (>40g/L RS)

Class 25 – MT New World Perry (disgorged)

New World perry is primarily made from culinary/table pears. The word 'perry' is interchangeable with 'pear cider'. Some table pears contain substantial amounts of sorbitol, a non-fermentable sweet-tasting natural component. Hence a 'dry' perry may give an impression of sweetness due to sorbitol in the pears. Perception of sorbitol as 'sweet' is highly variable from one person to the next. Entrants should specify sweetness per actual residual sugar amount. Judges must be aware that they might perceive more sweetness than is indicated by the reported sugar levels.

Perry that is fermented in bottle and aged on yeast lees and then disgorged should be entered as an MT or 'Method Traditional' Perry. New World and Traditional MT examples (Classes 25 and 30) may be judged together in the same class.

Aroma/Flavour: There is a pear character, but it does not need to be the primary feature, some transformation and fermentation characters are also often present. It tends toward that of a young white wine. No bitterness.

Appearance: Slightly cloudy to clear. Generally, quite pale.

Mouthfeel: Relatively full, low to moderate tannin apparent as astringency.

Overall Impression: Mild. Medium to medium-sweet. Drier styles less common. Still, to lightly sparkling. Only very slight acetification is acceptable. Mousiness, ropy/oily characters are considered serious faults.

Varieties: Packham, Beurre Bosc, Josephine, Corella.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.050 – 1.060 FG: 1.000 – 1.020 ABV: 4 – 7%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Eddie's Cider Smooth Pear [G, B, B], The Hills Cider Company Pear Cider [G, S, S, G, S], Hillbilly Pear Cider [B, -, S, S], Napoleone Pear Cider [-, G, -, S], Small Acres Cyder Poire [S, S, B], St Ronan's Cider Methode Traditionelle Pear Cider [B, S, S].

Class 26 – Dry Traditional Perry (<9g/L RS)

Class 27 – Medium Traditional Perry (9-25g/L RS)

Class 28 – Medium Sweet Traditional Perry (25-40g/L RS)

Class 29 – Sweet Traditional Perry (>40g/L RS)

Class 30 – MT Traditional Perry (disgorged)

Traditional perry made in Europe is from pears grown specifically for that purpose rather than for eating or cooking. There are very few perry pears available in Australia, but several producers are using culinary/table pears to produce perry that is obviously inspired by traditional perries. Entrants may wish to specify in their entry if traditional perry pears are being used.

Pears may contain substantial amounts of sorbitol, a non-fermentable sweet-tasting natural component. Hence a perry can be completely dry (no residual sugar) yet taste sweet. Entrants should specify sweetness per actual residual sugar amount. Judges must be aware that they might perceive more sweetness than is indicated by the reported sugar levels.

Perry that is fermented in bottle and aged on yeast lees and then disgorged should be entered as an MT or 'Method Traditional' Perry. There is an expectation that MT (disgorged) ciders should have a

higher degree of clarity than non-disgorged ciders. New World and Traditional MT examples (Classes 25 and 30) may be judged together in the same class.

Aroma/Flavour: There is a pear character, but not obviously fruity. It tends toward that of a young white wine. Some slight bitterness and modest astringency.

Appearance: Slightly cloudy to clear. Generally, quite pale.

Mouthfeel: Relatively full, moderate tannin apparent as astringency.

Overall Impression: Medium to medium-sweet. Still, to lightly sparkling. Some tannin present. Only very slight acetification is acceptable. Mousiness and ropy/oily characters are serious faults.

Varieties: Beurre Bosc, Packham, Josephine, Corella and other commercially available pears.

Traditional perry pear varieties: Gin, Green Horse, Moorcroft (also known as Stinking Bishop), Red Longdon, Yellow Huffcap etc.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.050 – 1.070 FG: 1.000 – 1.020 ABV: 4 – 9%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Core Cider Perilous [-, -, G, G], Daylesford Cider Traditional Perry Pear [S].

Speciality Styles

Class 31 – Experimental Cider or Perry

This is an open-ended category for cider or perry with other ingredients such that it does not fit any other class. It is deliberately open to allow novel ciders to be entered. Products must be commercially available.

Entrants must specify all ingredients that flavour the product, the intention of the product, the tax treatment of the product (WET, Excise or not taxed as an alcoholic beverage) and whether the product has been fermented. Some of this information will be provided to the judges to assist in understanding the products before them. Artificial flavours and flavouring agents are not permitted.

Medals will be awarded, but entries in this class are not eligible for trophies in 2025.

Should there be significant entries or interest in particular novel styles within this class, Cider Australia reserves the right to create sub-classes.

Aroma/Flavour: The cider character must always be present and must fit with added ingredients.

Appearance: Slightly cloudy to brilliant. Colour should be that of a standard cider unless other ingredients are expected to contribute colour.

Mouthfeel: Average body, may show tannic (astringent) or heavy body as determined by other ingredients.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.045 – 1.100 FG: 0.995 – 1.020 ABV: 4 – 12% (however, a higher ABV product that does not fit in the Intensified and Distilled Styles such as a flavoured apple or pear based liqueur also belongs in this class)

Class 32 – No/Low Alcohol Cider or Perry (<0.5% ABV)

This is for non-fermented, lightly fermented or de-alcoholised apple and pear products containing less than 0.5% ABV.

Entrants must specify any ingredients added to flavour the product. Artificial flavours and flavouring agents are not permitted.

Aroma/Flavour: The apple or pear character must be present and fit with any added ingredients, and the flavour should not be like an alco-pop (RTD).

Appearance: Slightly cloudy to brilliant. Colour should be that of a standard cider unless other ingredients are expected to contribute colour.

Mouthfeel: Average body, may show tannic (astringent) or fuller body as determined by other ingredients.

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Bilpin Non Alc Apple Ginger [B, S, S], Peckham's Cidery and Orchard Apple Zero [G].

Class 33 – Cider or Perry with Fruit

This is a cider or perry with other fruits or fruit juices added – for example, raspberry. Entrants must specify all fruit(s) and/or fruit juice(s) added. This information will be provided to the judges to assist in understanding the products before them. Artificial flavours and flavouring agents are not permitted. Products may be either WET or Excise taxed (this must be specified when entering), however products with added ethyl alcohol from any other source are not permitted.

Aroma/Flavour: The cider character must be present and must fit with the other fruits. It is a fault if the added fruit(s) completely dominate; a judge might ask, “Would this be different if neutral spirits replaced the cider?” A fruit cider should not be like an alco-pop (RTD).

Appearance: Slightly cloudy to brilliant. Colour appropriate to added fruit, but should not show out of balance oxidation characteristics.

Mouthfeel: Full to Substantial. May be significantly tannic, depending on fruit added.

Overall Impression: Like a white wine with complex flavours. The apple character must marry with the added fruit so that neither one dominates the other.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.055 – 1.0850 FG: 0.995 – 1.010 ABV: 4 – 12%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Frank’s Cider Cherry Pear [S, -, S, G] and Raspberry Pear [G, B], Plenty Cider Apple + Blueberry [B, G, S] and Apple + Quince [G, B, B], Roleystone Brewing Co. Rosé Cheeks [-, -, G, B], Spreyton Cider Co Sour Cherry Cider [- B, S, G].

Class 34 – Lighter Strength Cider or Perry

Entries in this class must be prepared from the complete or partial fermentation of apples and/or pears, be subject to WET and contain 0.5% to 3.5% ABV. Reflects market trends of lower alcohol predominantly New World ciders. Existing styles of traditional lighter strength ciders, for example in the style of French Cidre Doux, may choose to enter in New World or Traditional Sweet classes, or in this class if preferred.

Aroma/Flavour: Should have evident apple or transformed apple cider characters, lower intensity is typical.

Appearance: Clear to brilliant, pale to yellow in colour.

Mouthfeel: Lighter to medium bodied.

Overall Impression: A refreshing drink, balanced to suit the alcoholic strength.

Typical Vital Statistics: ABV: 0.5% – 3.5%

Commercial Examples: Barossa Cider Co Mid Strength Apple Cider [S], Darkes Cider Darkes Perry [B, B, G], St Ronan’s Mid Apple/Pear Cider [-, B,-, S]

Class 35 – Cider or Perry with Botanicals

This is a cider with any combination of “botanicals” added. Hopped ciders are included in this category. Other examples are ciders with “apple pie” spices (cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice), ginger, lemon grass, herbal tea blends, flowers, vegetables etc.

Flavourful fermentable sugars and syrups (agave nectar, maple syrup, molasses, sorghum, treacle, honey, etc.) can be included only in combination with other allowable ingredients, and should not have a dominant character.

Entrants must specify all “botanicals” added (if uncertain about botanicals, ask the organisers before entering). If hops are used, entrant should specify variety/varieties used. This information will be provided to the judges to assist in understanding the products before them. Products may be either WET or Excise taxed (this must be specified when entering), however products with added ethyl alcohol from any other source are not permitted. Artificial flavours and flavouring agents are not permitted.

Aroma/Flavour: The cider character must be present and must fit with the botanicals. As with a fruit cider, it is a fault if the botanicals dominate; a judge might ask, “Would this be different if neutral spirits replaced the cider?” Oxidation of either the base cider or the additions is a fault.

Appearance: Clear to brilliant. Colour appropriate to added botanicals.

Mouthfeel: Average or more. Cider may be tannic from effect of botanicals but must not be bitter from over-extraction.

Overall Impression: Like a white wine with complex flavours. The apple character must marry with the botanicals and give a balanced result.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.045 – 1.070 FG: 0.995 – 1.010 ABV: 4 – 9%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: DV Cider Roadknight [-, G], Lenswood Apple/Ginger Cider [G, B]

Class 36 – Wood Aged Cider or Perry

This is a barrel-fermented or barrel-aged cider in which the wood and/or barrel character is a notable part of the overall flavour profile.

Use of newer wood that has not reached a flavour-neutral condition is now generally considered to be a stylistic option for adding to the complexity of the flavour of a cider or perry and an added element to mouthfeel. There is a wide continuum of intensity of flavour based on proportion of wood used to the cider and previous use of the wood. There may also be significant subtlety in flavours in a base cider. Consequently, subtlety of wood and/or beer/wine/spirit notes will not be regarded as a fault provided they are detectable, recognisable, and balanced well with the base cider.

Products may be either WET or Excise taxed (this must be specified when entering), however products with added ethyl alcohol from any other source are not permitted. Artificial flavours and flavouring agents are not permitted.

Aroma/Flavour: The cider character must always be present, and fit with the wood/barrel character.

Appearance: Clear to brilliant. Colour appropriate to wood/barrel character or other added ingredients.

Mouthfeel: Average or more. Cider may show tannic (astringent) or heavy body as determined by wood/barrel character.

Overall Impression: The fruit must marry with the wood/barrel character and give a balanced result.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.045 – 1.070 FG: 0.995 – 1.010 ABV: 4 – 12%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Hillbilly Vintage Apple [S, B], Willie Smith's Brandy Barrel Aged Cider [-, S]

Intensified and Distilled Styles

Class 41 – Ice Cider or Perry

This is a cider style in which the juice is concentrated before fermentation either by freezing fruit before pressing or freezing juice and removing water. Fermentation stops or is arrested before reaching dryness. Sweeteners may not be used to increase gravity. The ice cider process increases not only sugar (hence alcohol) but acidity and all fruit flavour components proportionately. This dessert style cider is believed to have originated in Quebec in the 1990s.

Aroma/Flavour: Fruity, smooth, sweet-tart. Acidity must be enough to prevent it being cloying.

Appearance: Brilliant. Colour is deeper than a standard cider, gold to amber.

Mouthfeel: Full body. May be tannic (astringent and/or bitter) but this should be slight, to moderate at most.

Varieties: Usually North American classic table fruit such as McIntosh or Cortland. In Australia typically culinary fruit, but cider apple varieties may also play a part.

Typical Vital Statistics: OG: 1.130 – 1.180 FG: 1.060 – 1.085 ABV: 7 – 13%

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: [Aus] Crafty Cider Ice Cider, Small Acres Cyder Pomona Ice, [Canada] Domaine Pinnacle, Les Vergers de la Colline, and Cidrerie St-Nicolas (Quebec).

Class 42 – Pommeau

Pommeau is ‘fortified cider’ that has been strengthened in alcohol (and aroma and flavour) after fermentation by the addition of apple, grape or neutral spirits (as port is wine fortified with grape spirits). Entrants should supply background information when entering, e.g. spirit used, ageing method etc. This information will be provided to the judges to assist in understanding the products before them.

A range of sweetness is possible by choosing how far into primary fermentation to add the spirits. At the sweeter end of the range with high residual sugar lies Pommeau. Originally from Normandy, Pommeau is essentially a blend of apple brandy with apple juice. The juice is typically fermented as little as local jurisdiction will allow. The pear equivalent may be made but has no recognised traditional name. A cider that has been allowed to ferment mostly or completely to dryness before the spirit addition will be much less fruity. Such a cider is known to some as ‘royal cider’.

Traditionally, fortified ciders and perries are made with white spirit or oak aged spirit of the same kind of fruit, and the spirits should not be neutral. Other spirits may be permitted. Spirits used for fortification do not have to be distilled by the entrant. Whether sweet or dry, the object of a fortified cider/perry is to create a very full-flavoured, heavy-bodied, ‘bigger than life’ profile – but not as intense as an ice cider. They are well suited to after dinner, aperitifs and use in cocktails.

Fruit should be forward. Acidity is well balanced – juice like. Fermentation/yeast character reserved. Spirits evident and warming, not harsh. Spirit ‘headiness’ would be a fault. Tannins may run the spectrum but should not be distracting. Oak ageing of spirits and/or final product is allowable. As such, some oxidation character is allowable if balanced with the oak and barrel profile.

Typical Vital Statistics: ABV: Typically, less than 30% ABV, includes ‘liqueur’ styles.

Commercial Examples [prior medals]: Carmel Cider Mistelle [S, S], Small Acres Cyder Pommeau Apple Mistelle 2021 [B, S], Willie Smith’s Tasmanian Pommeau [B, S]

Class 43 – Eau de Vie (Apple or Pear Spirit)

Class 44 – Aged Apple or Pear Spirit

Apple or Pear Spirit is obtained from the distillation of cider or perry and/or the fermented preparations of apples/pears or apple/pear products. The spirit must be derived entirely from apples and/or pears. Entrants should supply background information when entering, e.g. ageing method, length of ageing, etc. The age should be determined by the age of the youngest component of any blend. This information will be provided to the judges to assist in understanding the products before them.

A non-oak-aged fruit spirit, colourless, is referred to as Eau de vie (EDV). Oak aged apple/pear spirits have more colour. In general, oak aged spirits follow the same guidelines as Eau de vie.

These spirits are often drunk as a digestive, like grappa. For either apple or pear, the spirit should be round in the mouth and free of head (acetates and aldehydes – nail polish remover) and tail (fusel oils, often stemmy or fuel-like, bead in an empty glass and are most evident as smell in an emptied glass) characteristics.

Apple spirits are usually subtle on the fruit and may carry a hint of spice. Varietal character may be difficult to discern, and could be a feature. Overt apple character should raise concerns. Pear spirits, on the other hand, can be overt and may be heavily aromatic to the point of perfume. Pear spirits often bear a subtle spicy aftertaste which should linger a long time. Bartlett pear – also known as William – is readily identifiable. Barrel character may range from toasted wine barrel (toast and coconut, light yellow colour) to charred whisky barrel (smoke, spice, dark amber colour) – but you should be able to taste the barrel.

Entries must comply with the Excise Act 1901. Consistent with Standard 2.7.5 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, apple or pear spirit may have any of the following added during production: water, sugars, honey and spices. In addition, apple/pear brandy may also have any of the following added during production: apple or pear juice, apple or pear juice concentrate, cider and perry. Apple/pear brandy must be matured by storage in wood for at least 2 years.

Typical Vital Statistics: ABV: Typically 30 – 50%

Commercial Examples: Carmel Cider Apple Brandy [G, G, S, B], LOBO Apple Brandy – Lobodos [G, B, B], St Andrews Beach Brewery Home Track Apple Vodka [S, S].

UNITS AND MEASURES

Sweetness: Refers to the apparent amount of sugar present in the finished cider (after fermentation).

The Standard Cider and Perry classes (excluding Method Traditional) are delineated by **Specific Gravity (SG)** and **Residual Sugar (RS)** because these measures of sweetness are considered the best way to group products for assessment at the present time. SG and RS measuring Glucose + Fructose + Sucrose (G+F+S) are correlated as shown in the table below. Note that this relationship is impacted by alcohol content, and that perceptions of sweetness are also impacted by components such as acid, tannins and sorbitol.

Sweetness	Specific Gravity	Baume	Residual Sugar G+F+S (g/L)
Dry	Less than 1.004	Less than 0.6	Less than 9g/L
Medium	1.004 to 1.010	0.6 to 1.4	~ 9 to 25g/L
Medium Sweet	1.010 to 1.019	1.4 to 2.7	~ 25 to 40g/L
Sweet	More than 1.019	More than 2.7	More than 40g/L

To ensure accuracy in the reported sweetness, Cider Australia recommends lab testing products for Enzymatic G+F+S expressed in grams per litre (g/L). There can be a substantial difference between G+F+S and G+F test results due to the presence of sucrose in some ciders.

A small leeway on sweetness of ± 2 g/L is allowed for products at the intersection of classes.

Carbonation: Describes the level of dissolved gas in the cider, and does not refer to the process used to put the gas into the cider.

	Carbonation
Still	Still means little or no carbonation, if any bubble should be barely perceptible.
Low	Some prickle contributed by the carbon dioxide, definitely contributing to mouthfeel but not necessarily 'fizzy'.
Moderate	Moderate carbonation, petillant, approaching that of typical beer, less than would be expected in a sparkling wine (1.5g/L (~0.75 vol) to 4g/L (~2 vol)).
High	Highly carbonated, significant presence of carbon dioxide – sparkling, may retain some head or mousse (more than 4g/L (~2vol)). Gushing, foaming and excessive head formation, however, are considered as faults.
Method Traditional (MT)	Fermented in bottle and then disgorged. May have high carbonation.

Alcohol: Refers to the ethanol component present in the cider or perry.

ABV: Alcohol by volume (abbreviated as ABV) is a standard measure of how much alcohol (ethanol) is contained in a given volume of an alcoholic beverage, expressed as a volume percent. A legal requirement on the labels of alcoholic beverages.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to the Great Lakes International Cider and Perry Competition (GLINTCAP) for allowing Cider Australia to base our Style Guidelines with a high degree of similarity to their own, which serves very well in aligning our evolving marketplace with that of other significant global markets.

APPENDIX A: ENTRY INFORMATION AND PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

Class	Category	Class	Sub Classes	Specify RS (g/L)	Specify carb level?	Entries in this class must meet these requirements*	Additional information
All							May specify any characteristic of the cider that should be known by the Chief Steward, such as high tannins providing austerity or high acid balancing sweetness
1-5	Standard	New World Cider	Dry, M, MS, Sweet, MT	yes	yes	Defined as cider and subject to WET	
6-10	Standard	Traditional Cider	Dry, M, MS, Sweet, MT	yes	yes	Defined as cider and subject to WET	May specify apple variety for single varietal cider
11	Standard	Apple and Pear Blends		yes	yes	Blend of cider and perry and subject to WET	Must specify % apple vs pear
21-25	Standard	New World Perry	Dry, M, MS, Sweet, MT	yes	yes	Defined as perry and subject to WET	
26-30	Standard	Traditional Perry	Dry, M, MS, Sweet, MT	yes	yes	Defined as perry and subject to WET	May specify if traditional perry pears are used
31	Speciality	Experimental Cider or Perry		yes	yes		Must specify: added flavouring ingredients; if ethyl alcohol from non-apple/pear source has been added; and if WET or Excise taxed. May explain 'intention' of the product.
32	Speciality	No/Low Alcohol (<0.5% ABV)		yes	yes		Must specify added flavouring ingredients.
33	Speciality	Ciders with Fruit		yes	yes	Defined as cider, perry or fruit wine. Can be subject to WET or Excise. Added ethyl alcohol not permitted	Must specify all fruits and fruit juices added Must specify if WET or Excise taxed
34	Speciality	Lighter strength (0.5%-3.5% ABV)		yes	yes	Defined as cider and/or perry and subject to WET	
35	Specialty	Cider or Perry with Botanicals		yes	yes	Defined as cider, perry or fruit wine. Can be subject to WET or Excise. Added ethyl alcohol not permitted.	Must specify all botanicals added Must specify if WET or Excise taxed
36	Specialty	Wood Aged Cider or Perry		yes	yes	Defined as cider, perry or fruit wine. Can be subject to WET or Excise. Added ethyl alcohol not permitted.	Must specify if WET or Excise taxed
41	Intensified	Ice Cider or Perry		yes	no	Defined as fruit wine and subject to WET	
42	Intensified	Pommeau (Fortified Cider)		yes	no	Defined as fruit wine and subject to WET	May specify spirit used, ageing method and any other relevant information
43	Intensified	Distilled	Spirit	no	no	Defined as a spirit in the <i>Excise Act 1901</i> and subject to Excise	May specify ageing method, length of ageing** and any other relevant information
44	Intensified	Distilled	Aged Spirit	no	no	Defined as a spirit in the <i>Excise Act 1901</i> and subject to Excise. Apple/pear brandy must be matured by storage in wood for at least 2 years.	May specify ageing method, length of ageing** in wood and any other relevant information

* Definitions set out in Standard 2.7.3 of Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and the *Excise Act 1901*. ** The age should be determined by the age of the youngest component of any blend.