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## Lucky You Orchards: Hard cider on California apple farm menu

By **JULIA HOLLISTER**  
For the Capital Press

RIPON, Calif. — Andrea Chinchio says spelling her name is hard, but so is her farm's apple cider, and that's a good thing.

"I grew up in the orchards with my wonderful parents and two brothers," she said. "Our house was surrounded by ripe cherries in the spring and crunchy sweet apples late summer and fall."

The family comes from a history of agriculture and land management. The 200-acre farm, Lucky You Orchards, is over 100 years old and on its fourth generation.

Apples became the main crop in the 1980s when the Chinchios became one of first California orchards to commercially plant Fujis. Apples are one of the most



Julia Hollister/For the Capital Press  
**Andrea Chinchio sells apples and Far West hard cider from her San Joaquin County farm at the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market in San Francisco.**

expensive and labor reliant crops.

In addition to heirloom apples, the farm produces cherries, pluots and nectarines with 90% of them cer-

tified organic.

Sustainable farming and the concept of connecting people with their food source is woven into the family's new venture.

"Far West Cider was started 5 years ago as a way to utilize fruit that was perfectly delicious but too small or not fully 'perfect' for grocery store shelves," Chinchio said.

The juice is fermented, celled and bottled at the cidery in Richmond, north of Oakland.

Distribution is expansive: from Bay Area bars, restaurants and retailers to Southern California and Oregon markets.

Using the catch phrase, "Cider But Different," Far West Cider strives to connect consumers with beverages, using real ingredients that come from a real farm.



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