

Cider Central



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

FOX TAIL cidemaker Justin Cardwell, left, and owner Bob Fox bottle and box Sir Isaac, which shows off its amber tones in the afternoon light of the Odell-area café.

Sir Isaac is Fox Tail's first bottling

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

The newest local bottled cider is Sir Isaac, made with local apples and wine yeast, from Fox Tail Ciders in Odell.

Owner Bob Fox and cidemaker Justin Cardwell worked with Mobile Bottling Solutions from Bend last week to bottle and box up cases of 22-ounce bottles, set to retail at about \$6. Look for Sir Isaac at local stores and bottle shops.

Fox Tail began its cidery and café operation two years ago on Highway 35 at Ehrck Hill Road. Fox and Cardwell decided to go with Sir Isaac (6.2 ABV) for their first bottling, given its balance of sweet and tart, appealing to a variety of palates.

Sir Isaac debuted about two months ago. "When we first brought it out we had score cards, and this one was getting fives out of five. We said, 'this is the one we bottle,'" Fox said.

The name was one Fox and friends came up with, over cider, but it has no particular historical or agricultural meaning. "We just thought the words went together well and had a good sound," Fox said.

Next likely brew for bot-



tlings: either of two standbys, the peach-based Fuzzy Haven or Docklands, a double-fermented Irish-style cider.

Fox has juggled a changing tap list of ciders employing apples, pears, raspberries, peaches, apricots and other fruits; the current list includes "Strawberry Rheum" with rhubarb, and blackberry-infused Briarberry.

Cider Central will alternate, like a rotating tap, with The Ale List as Hood River News chronicles the expanding array of locally-made libations and locations. Fox Tail and the two taphouses listed below, bring to eight the number of cideries and taphouses in Hood River County and Mosier that are solely or largely dedicated to the creation and sampling of cider.

CIDER HOUSES SET TO OPEN

Two new cideries are due to open this summer and fall in Hood River. They are Crush Cidery on Wasco Street and '12 Ciders' on the Heights.

First to open will be Crush, owned by Sam Bailey and cidemaker Guntram Jordan, a native of Germany, in mid-July at 1020 Wasco, next to New York City Sub Shop.

"We will start out with as many local ciders from the Hood River area as we can get for the taproom," Bailey said. "We will be working on the cider production contiguously to the opening. It will take a bit longer for the production area. We will be in

production for this harvest season."

In the works on the Heights, poised as "The 12 Ciders Taproom," is a collaborative by cidemaker John Metta, Jeff Nicol, Chip Dickenson and Stefan Gumperlein, located on 12th Street next to Pine Street Bakery. They plan to open their doors in the fall, and make and serve cider. (Gumperlein has Ovino deli, and will continue that business.)

"Expect 'lots of small barrels and special one offs,'" Metta said. "Our volume is low, everything will be different and a little bit special," Metta said.

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