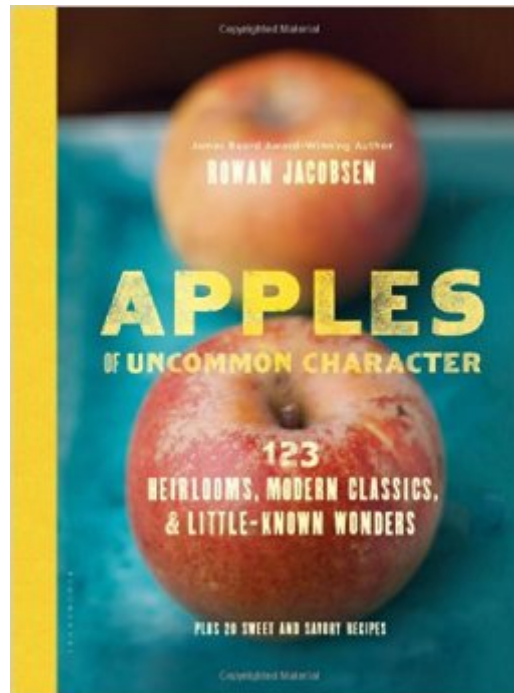


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# Apples Of Uncommon Character: Heirlooms, Modern Classics, And Little-Known Wonders



## Synopsis

In his classic *A Geography of Oysters*, Rowan Jacobsen forever changed the way America talks about its best bivalve. Now he does the same for our favorite fruit, showing us that there is indeed life beyond Red Delicious-and even Honeycrisp. While supermarkets limit their offerings to a few waxy options, apple trees with lives spanning human generations are producing characterful varieties-and now they are in the midst of a rediscovery. From heirlooms to new designer breeds, a delicious diversity of apples is out there for the eating. Apples have strong personalities, ranging from crabby to wholesome. The Black Oxford apple is actually purple, and looks like a plum. The Knobbed Russet looks like the love child of a toad and a potato. (But don't be fooled by its looks.) The D'Arcy Spice leaves a hint of allspice on the tongue. Cut Hidden Rose open and its inner secret is revealed. With more than 150 art-quality color photographs, *Apples of Uncommon Character* shows us the fruit in all its glory. Jacobsen collected specimens both common and rare from all over North America, selecting 120 to feature, including the best varieties for eating, baking, and hard-cider making. Each is accompanied by a photograph, history, lore, and a list of characteristics. The book also includes 20 recipes, savory and sweet, resources for buying and growing, and a guide to the best apple festivals. It's a must-have for every foodie.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Seeing how we're getting into fall I decided to bone up on my apple knowledge and learn about lesser-know apple varieties that I could try while in season. I happened upon this title and decided to give it a go. The book arrived yesterday and I must admit that I'm impressed. First of all the

photography is excellent. It's like a fashion show for over 120 different varieties of apples. The author also offers a sincere introduction that sets the stage for what he was attempting to do in writing this book - educate people that there is more to apples than the 5-6 varieties every grocery store in America stocks and that many heirloom varieties are still being rediscovered and enjoyed by new generations of apple lovers. The introduction definitely drew me into the material. The author also does a great job classifying all the varieties in logical sections - summer apples, dessert apples, bakers & saucers, apples that keep well, juicers, and oddballs. I particularly enjoyed reading the story behind the names and in many cases, the farmer who developed the variety. My only criticism would be that many of the varieties of apples where I currently live (Minnesota) aren't covered. It appears that there is a heavy bias toward New England varieties. That shouldn't discourage you from buying this book, however. If you're thinking about discovering some new apple varieties I encourage you to pick up this book. You'll love the history and the photography.

I own a handful of books on apples, and this is by far the best. There is more information here on the flavor, history, and uses of each apple variety than in any of the other books (second place would be *Apples for the 21st century*, but this is also written more exclusively for the apple grower and does not cover so many varieties). Jacobsen's style is also much more entertaining and literary than any of the others. The photos are unequalled by any of the other books - the apples appear in each photo as a work of art. This is a book that truly can win converts for heirloom apples. It is very useful for either a consumer or an orchardist. Its only fault would be for the grower, who would want more information on growing characteristics, climate and soil limitations and influences, etc, for each variety. For such information, *Apples for the 21st century* would be better, and complementary (on the limited varieties it covers), though all this is also found in nursery catalogs. A must-buy for anyone interested in apples.

The most delightful and thorough walk through apple history, lore and pragmatics for home (and other) growers. I have purchased 3 - 2 for gifts and one for my own complete perusal. Highly recommended. Also contains variety-specific recommendations for different uses (baking, sauce, juice/cider, fresh eating) - which change over storage life. Very comprehensive volume, this. HIGHLY recommended for anyone who grows, or eats, apples. You will not look at the humble fruit in the same way again.

As an apple lover with a few trees out back, this is very enlightening. Well written and makes me

want to dog ear the pages (for the most interesting ones) and then order some more trees (if the varieties can be found).

I would give this book ten stars if I could it is that good! I heard the author on the radio and had to get the book. This book is so well written you will read it more than once. I didn't think a book about apples would make me laugh! The one downside is that I now have ordered about 100 apples to plant in the spring! This book made me want to have the apples described in the book. I live in growing zone 3 so there isn't a chance to grow most of them. I am making an attempt because of this book. If you buy this book beware of the temptation to grow apples. I gave into it and will have about a hundred holes to dig this coming spring!

A nearly comprehensive look at apples in the United States. We are missing our biodiversity, and this book brings us back to the apple. Because of this book I found that the apple tree in my grandparents yard had an ancient apple that I assumed was diseased - but still delicious (the knobby russet). We are losing biodiversity - and most apples sold are tasteless with thick skins, this book brings back a wide variety that you can find - and enjoy

Having read numerous apple books the particularly good thing about this one is the author really tries to tease out descriptions of flavor and texture from the apples. He catches many subtle dimensions of flavor that were "on the tip of my tongue" but I couldn't quite put into words. Apples are many worlds of flavor and texture, the spectrum is quite stunning and this book begins to make a step in getting a deeper understanding. Another distinguishing feature is the writer can actually write and "old saw" apple stories I have read dozens of times before become fresh again. It would be a great book for any foodie-type that likes apples. The book is not perfect however. While it has some very good descriptions about what part of the country the various apples do well in, it is not a book for the grower in that disease propensity etc is not discussed. While it tries to be an American Apple Book, it is more focused on New England than other parts of the country. It's probably for the better though as the descriptions show the varying degrees of familiarity the author has with the different apples - the ones he knows best just sing from the page while some I get the feeling are only vague acquaintances. I also really don't know why mediocre apples are intentionally covered, there are fantastic apples that were left out (including two of my favorites, Hoople's Antique Gold and Freyburg) so we could learn how bad 20-Ounce Pippin is.

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