THE BIG BEAR CIDER MILL

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Cider is like life, Chill for best results

Mission

Making quality cider that's sustainable, modern and vibrant we are challenging the perceptions of both Essex and cider!

Drinking apples, sourced locally, packaged in cans makes our cider one of the most sustainable alcoholic drinks you can consume.

Big Bear Cider to be synonymous with the craft cider revolution.

How it began

- We loved craft cider, but it was only seasonally available and traditional in packaging and concept.
- Large cider producers are trying to emulate the authenticity of smaller brands to tap into the craft sector of the market, but it lacks depth and quality.
- So we decided to make our own; craft cider with all year round availability - our mission was launched.

Our Story

- Essex orchards were ripped up in the 1960's and 1970's to make way for gravel pits, the gravel was colloquially known as Essex Gold.
- We've transformed a disused gravel pit into a flourishing orchard, actively regenerating the land and creating a pocket of biodiversity.
- We are pesticide free and encourage birds, insects and wildlife to naturally propagate and protect our trees and apples. We have our own bees who pollinate our trees.
- Our apple-to-can cider production facility is sustainable and run by a team with a passion for cider.

Our Products
Essex Gold Rush, 5.4%, 330ml Can

- Nothing but the bear essentials; apples and yeast.

- Clear, golden, sparkling cider with a clean apple taste.

"Very pleasant indeed. It seems to have the frustrating trait of disappearing rather quickly. I cannot quite bring myself to give it a 5, but by golly it is close. Tumblers Green, here I come."

Alexander P.

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Our Products
Essex Gold Bullion, 5.6%, 330ml Can

- Nothing but the bear essentials; apples and yeast.
- Clear, deep golden, sparkling heritage cider with a complex apple taste.

"Tastes a lot stronger than it is! Really tasty!"

Sammie I.

Our Products
Essex Gold 9k, 18k, 24k

- Nothing but the bear essentials; apples and yeast.
- Still heritage cider available in pouch (3L, 5L) and BiB (10L & 20L).
- 9k, sweet; 18k medium, 24k dry

Our Products
Essex Gold Rush, 4.8%, Sankey Keg

- Nothing but the bear essentials; apples and yeast.
- Clear, golden, sparkling cider with a clean apple taste.

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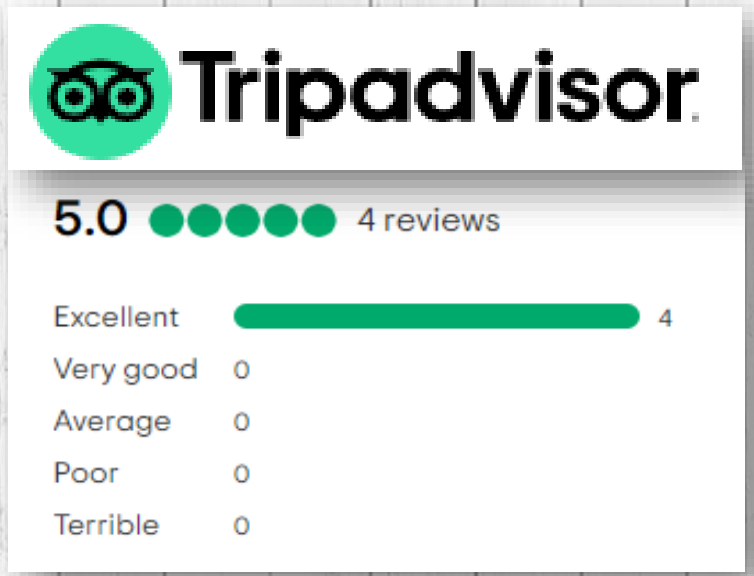
Our Reviews



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Cider name
The Big Bear; named after our founder
Each cider features a different distinctive bear
Essex Gold; in recognition of our orchards and our home
THE BIG BEAR CIDER MIL
ESSEX GOLD RUSH
330ml Sparkling

Growing, Harvest & Production

- Our trees are given extra space to grow and flourish, we are pesticide free.
- We are very much part of the community, villagers helped with the planting of the orchard in 2010 and still help with apple picking at harvest time.
- Once picked and pressed the pomace is used for pig feed or as natural fertiliser for the trees.
- Following fermentation, we blend, carbonate the juice.
- The canning is also completed by our small passionate team in Tumblers Green, Stisted.

The Big Bear Consumer

- 61% of our consumers are aged 18-34
- 46% Female
- Passionate about the environment
- Value authenticity
- Support local
- Want to buy sustainably and ethically

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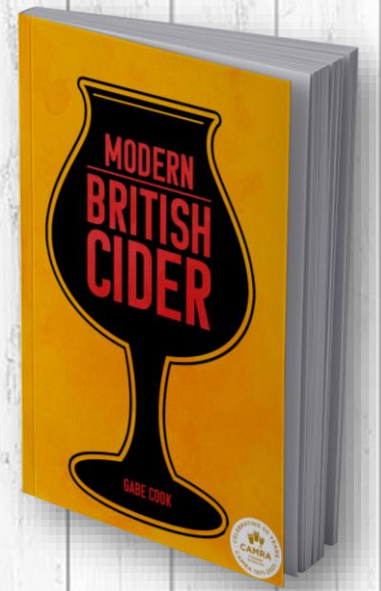
We offer tours and tastings and can host social events.

Our bees pollinate the apple trees.

Young people matter, we are part of the Kickstart Scheme.



We feature as one of the UKs best modern cider makers.

We regularly feature in the best of local publications.

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Why stock Big Bear Cider?

- We deliver on what your customers are seeking;
  1. Sourced locally
  2. Sustainable
  3. Ethical
  4. Authentic
- The Craft Cider category continues to grow. Crafted cider now makes up 14% of cider category value in the off-trade*.
- Premium ciders, like our Essex Gold Rush and Bullion with provenance and heritage attract a higher £/L than the cider average which is great news for the category*.
- Be part of the Big Bear success story, supporting local small businesses grow and flourish.

*Westons Cider Report 2021

The Big Bear Cider ...

... is handcrafted and simply delicious,

... has a depth and quality resultant from the care and passion we put into making every drop.

... brimming with provenance and authenticity; we know who planted our trees, who picked and pressed our apples, who made our cider.

... is LOCAL

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