California Apple Varieties

🍎 Gala

Anyone who remembers perfect apples from their childhood will love Galas. With 14 to 16 percent sugar they have a fine, sweet taste that is fresh, fruity, and full of apple flavor. Gala has Kidd's Orange Red and Golden Delicious as parents and Cox's Orange Pippin and Red Delicious as grandparents. Gala was raised in Wairarapa, New Zealand by J.H. Kidd and named in 1965. It was brought to the United States in 1972.

Gala apples have a light texture that is crisp and refined. They have a nicely rounded shape and can vary in color from cream to bright cherry-red. The typical Gala has a creamy hue with up to 50% red blush. Gala apples are the first apples of the season and are available from mid-July through December.

🍎 Granny Smith

Granny Smith apples offer a delicious combination of tart, sweet flavor and crisp texture that's like a perfect autumn day. Their 12 to 18 percent sugar content gives them a bold and spirited taste.

Granny Smith apples are medium to large in size and slightly larger at top than bottom. They can be easily recognized by their signature green color. Excellent for eating, Granny Smith apples are also great for cooking. They keep well and are available from mid-August through June.

Granny Smith apples were raised from a chance seed thrown out by Mrs. Thomas Smith in New South Wales, Australia in the mid-1860s. The seeds were thought to be from a French crabapple that had been open pollinated.

🍎 Fuji

This Ralls Janet/Red Delicious cross was bred in Japan where it is the number one seller. Fuji apples are remarkably tasty. Sweet and aromatic, they have 16 to 18 percent sugar content and a taste just bursting with sweet, juicy flavor. Their texture is crisp and rich, promising an explosion of flavor with every delicious bite.

Fuji apples have a round shape and are generally large to extra-large in size. They range in color from golden-hued to red and often show a red striping or blush. Fuji apples are excellent for overall eating quality and baking. They store and travel well due to their dense crisp interior. Look for California Fuji apples from mid-September through April.

🍎 Modi®

Originally developed in Italy's Po Valley north of Venice, the Modi® apple is a naturally sweet-tart, non-GMO variety born of the Liberty and Gala varieties. Its namesake is an homage to artist Amedeo Modigliani, known for his bold red tones and nicknamed “Modi” by his peers.

Today, Modi® apples are grown in the California Delta region with a combination of mountain-fed water, fertile soils, the area's warm summer days and cool evening breezes. This unique micro-climate closely resembles that of the Mediterranean where Modi® thrives; offering a crisp, flavorful experience for apple enthusiasts, currently September through February.

🍎 Cripps Pink (Pink Lady® Brand)

This variety boasts a bold hot pink color and is shaped like a Golden Delicious. Originally from Australia, it was developed by crossing a Golden Delicious and a Lady Williams. It has a unique sweet-tart flavor and is very crunchy. Some people say it is like a Gala with a zing! It is a very dense white apple internally and stores extremely well. This variety is grown in the San Joaquin Valley and the Cuyama Valley of California. This is a late season apple with availability from California from mid-October through April.