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## Cheeky Rascal team get creative with artisan batches

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**Rebello, the team behind Cheeky Rascal Cider, are experimenting with one off artisan blends that are designed to feel like wine vintages to consumers.**

The first Cheeky Little Batches blend, which will be on tap in premium liquor outlets across Victoria in May, is a combination of three experimental batches including Kingston Black and Dabinett apples, which come from a small batch of heritage variety trees from Red Hill in Victoria and were hand-pressed, as well as a combination of Pink Lady and Granny Smith apples fermented in oak barrels, and a fermentation using wild yeast.

Rebello CEO Ruth Gallace said the artisan blends allow the cider maker to be experimental and creative with different yeasts and blends. It also means they can bring these smaller artisan batches to market very quickly and as an ongoing range.

"This gives us the opportunity to source small parcels of the traditional heritage varieties and cider apples, similar to those used in the UK, and blend them with the culinary apples usually used in Australian cider creating a marriage of traditional earthy and complex characteristics with the crisp clean contemporary taste we currently see in Australian ciders," she said.

"The palates of Australian cider lovers are becoming increasingly sophisticated – so the Cheeky Little Batches will bring together the best of the old and new worlds in cider."

The artisan batches follow the phenomenal popularity of the Cheeky Rascal range launched just 20 months ago, which has consistently outperformed the cider category growth.

Ruth said she finds it exciting to be involved in the evolution of such a rapidly growing industry and is especially looking forward to the impact of this new range of artisan cider batches.

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0418 743 018  
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