

# Island Honey

From bold coffee to rare flowers, these unique honeys taste like the islands BY BROOKE MORTON



**Corbezzolo**  
SARDINIA

Little grows on Sardinia's Mount Arci, where Luigi Manias, Italy's bee authority, oversees the honey harvest from the strawberry tree, a shrub-like plant with brightly colored, fuzzy fruits. The resulting corbezzolo honey is bittersweet with a grainy, almost crunchy texture. [gustiamo.com](http://gustiamo.com)

BEST WITH  
YOUNG  
CHEESES

**Ligurian**  
KANGAROO ISLAND

Named after bees, not blossoms, this honey comes only from the world's oldest bee sanctuary. Its flavor varies from the caramel of cup-gum flowers to the smokiness of stringy bark eucalyptus trees. [island-beehive.com.au](http://island-beehive.com.au)



BEST  
ATOP  
PASTRIES

**Ohi'a Lehua**  
BIG ISLAND

Ancient Hawaiians considered the endemic ohi'a tree sacred; it sprouted from lava flows. Its red, spiky Lehua blossoms produce a thick, creamy honey the color of sugar cookies, fragrant with a delicately sweet, floral flavor. [bigislandbees.com](http://bigislandbees.com)



BEST  
WITH  
SCONES



BEST WITH  
ROASTED  
ALMONDS

**Coffee Blossom**  
JAVA

After the first rainfall of September, the lush mountains of Indonesia buzz with Apis Cerana bees collecting coffee-blossom honey. It's a light amber honey, rich with the taste of starfruit and butter caramel and accented by notes of citrus. [bigtreefarms.com](http://bigtreefarms.com)



BEST WITH  
GREEK  
YOGURT

**Thyme**  
CRETE

Crete's White Mountains transform into a patchwork of green during the short summer growing season as hardy grasses and mountain flowers take root. Api Pharm's thyme honey recalls the earthy smells of mountain pines. It's also subtly sweet, with a piquant, slightly salty taste. [apipharm.gr](http://apipharm.gr)

**Eucalyptus**  
MAURITIUS

Mauritius has Pierre Poivre, an 18th-century island administrator, to thank for smuggling pepper into the Botanical Garden of Pamplemousses. Because honeys retain flavor from blossoms and their environs, Poivre d'Or's eucalyptus honey, collected from this garden, is spicy, complex and redolent of figs. [gourmetlibrary.com](http://gourmetlibrary.com)

BEST WITH  
ROSEMARY  
CHICKEN



**Leatherwood**  
TASMANIA

Open the tin to release the heady aura of this butterscotch-colored honey. From Tasmania's leatherwood tree, it's an ambrosia of floral and citrus flavors. To preserve this unique essence, the Tasmanian Honey Company has developed unique processes for collection and extraction, which they'd be happy to show you on a tour. [tasmanianhoney.com](http://tasmanianhoney.com)

BEST WITH  
LEMON  
TEA



**Manuka Active**  
NEW ZEALAND

This honey, produced from the tea-tree plant, is said to have antibacterial properties that alleviate everything from arthritis to stomach ulcers. Those with a UMF rating of 10 or higher pack the most benefit, as well as stronger, earthier aftertastes. [nzartisanhoney.com](http://nzartisanhoney.com)

BEST WITH  
DIJON  
DRESSING