

# Maple isn't just for pancake syrup

By Noelle Carter, Los Angeles Times

Growing up, I associated maple flavor with the pancake syrup found at the breakfast table. It was sweet but mostly flavorless. As if its only purpose was to baptize food in a sticky coating of liquid sugar. I wasn't the biggest fan.

Today it seems maple is everywhere. It flavors ice cream, candy, coffee, tea, barbecue sauce and more. Thirsty? Hydrate yourself with maple water, now hip enough to be touted as "the next coconut water."

And maple isn't just limited to retail products. Go out to eat and you'll find it added to any number of restaurant dishes. It's a chef's Eliza Doolittle.

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