

Local Asian Pears

This is the only time of the year when local Asian pears become available. The fertile LeHigh Valley in eastern Pennsylvania is home to the **Subarashi Kudamono** orchards. Years of development have led to the creation of five patented Asian pear varieties, grown only in their orchards. *AsajJu* was the first with lightly russeted, yellow skin. *JunoSan* showed up late September with a reddish-brown coloring. *SuSan* ripens early October and is exceptionally sweet with light brown skin.

EliSan is the newest variety with a very sweet, complex flavor and an autumnal orange-brown coloring. LilySan ripens mid-October and is noticeably milder than the others with a semi-sweet, clear flavor and deep brown, russeted skin. All are very crisp and very juicy and fully ripened when picked. They keep at least a month under refrigeration.

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The entire season for local Asian pears is a mere 10-12 weeks, so be sure to ask for local Asian pears while the season permits. Their crisp, crystalline texture is wonderful in all types of salads, or served thinly sliced on a dessert plate drizzled with sweet wine.

