



UNIQUE ARTISANS

BY LUCIA SCHEPPS

You may want to leave some space in your suitcase next time you visit Colorado (or bring an extra — we don't judge!). From fashionistas to cheese connoisseurs and candle-making mavens, Colorado is teeming with crafty citizens who cook, sew, mix, carve, build, boil and bake goodies across the state. On your next trip, skip the standard souvenir stores and treat yourself to a truly local experience by visiting an artisan who's making their mark on the Centennial State.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Get your caffeine fix in **Fruita**, where **Bestslope Coffee Company** serves up sustainably sourced cups of joe. Order from their menu of drinks or bring some beans home to roast on your own. If you prefer something with a bit more bite, try **Salida**-based **DRAM Apothecary's** cocktail bitters and syrups to complement the drink menu at your next summer barbecue. And no party is complete without the perfect salsa: **Colorado Black Diamond Salsa** is sold at the company's headquarters in **Conifer** and in various retailers throughout the state. Are you brave enough to try the Ghost? The brand's spiciest offering is not for the faint of heart. More savory treats are available at **Minturn Saloon** in the form of signature pepper jellies or at **Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy** in **Buena Vista**, which sells an array of artisan cheeses, including Rocky Mountain Wine-Soaked Cheddar and Queso de Colorado. For gluten-free goodies, grab a snack from **Longmont's New Beat Foods**, whose quinoa crackers come in a variety of flavors and pair nicely with creamy dips. You'll want to score some local honey from northern Colorado counties at **Bee Squared Apiaries** in **Berthoud**, and stock up on perfect-for-a-summer-picnic preserves in yummy flavors like Colorado whiskey-peach at **RedCamper Picnic Supply's Denver** headquarters. When it's time for a sweet treat, try the exquisite bonbons and bars at **Miette et Chocolat** in **Aurora** or taste a spoonful of artisan nut butter from **Denver's PB Love Co.** — you're sure to fall in love after a sample of the Cinnamon Almond or Salty Peanut concoctions.

HOMEWARES

Pick your medium — Colorado home goods vendors sell everything from ceramics to wood products and more. Visit **David Rasmussen's** shop and showroom in **Carbondale** to get a head start on holiday shopping. Pair some of his unique designs — ranging from barware and tabletop accessories to plates and trays — with custom wooden home goods from **KNOTS Custom Wooden Creations** in **Lafayette**. The store features wooden kitchen tools, charcuterie boards and more. Finally, grab some locally made candles at **Candelaria** in **Denver's Santa Fe Arts District**. Offering an array of scents in store, they will also work with you to create customized scents and candle labels — perfect for event decor or party favors.



FROM TOP: DRAM APOTHECARY; MIETTE ET CHOCOLAT/BETH SCHNEIDER; PB LOVE CO.; CANDELARIA.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Find the perfect souvenir for your skin by visiting one of the many local shops producing homemade, natural soaps and body products. Start at **Osmia Organics** in **Carbondale** to pick up some body oils, soaps and mousses made from natural ingredients. Or, peruse the eclectic mix of items at **Fig & Yarrow** in **Denver**, which carries products like Cornmint Lavender Tooth Powder, Mustard Soak and a variety of tonics for your hair and scalp. More moisturizers and cleansers are available at **Grand Junction's Heaven Scent**, and **Lily Farm Fresh**

Skin Care in **Keenesburg** sells cleansers, toners and anti-aging products at their USDA-certified farm lab. In **Brighton**, head to **SonFlower Ranch** to pick up natural soaps. You can thank the creators personally on your visit to the store — these products are made from the milk of Nubian goats that live right on the ranch. Body scrubs and candles can be found at **Formulary 55** in **Pueblo** and visitors near **Longmont** will want to stop by **Mud & Madder** to check out the variety of face masks, soaps and lip balms available in store.



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Update your look with bohemian-style jewelry from **Bohemi** in **Boulder** and hand-beaded bracelets made by Navajo artisans from **Zapata Ranch's Ranchlands Mercantile** in **Colorado Springs**. The latter also offers handcrafted leather belts and cuffs. Or you can make your own beaded creation at **Curly's Bead Emporium** in **Trinidad**, which sells beads from around the world. For more accessories, **Boulder's By Elke Handbags** will help you find the perfect leather and vintage-fabric

handbag to complete your look. Can't find exactly what you're looking for? The store also offers classes so you can craft your own. In **Bennett**, take a trip to **Tall Grass Farms Alpacas**, where farm-raised alpacas provide the fiber for hats, scarves and other goods. And don't forget to treat your feet: in **Montrose**, **SOM Footwear** sells minimalist, barefoot-inspired sneakers you'll love.



MAKERSPACES & CLASSES

Inspired to create? Colorado is also home to a variety of makerspaces and studios offering classes to the public. At **Pikes Peak Makerspace** in **Colorado Springs**, you can learn anything from welding to 3D printing — even robot building! **Fort Collins Creator Hub** will teach you vinyl cutting and the art of stained-glass making, while the **MakerLab** in **Durango** — which is part of the **Powerhouse Science Center** — will guide you through making bottle stoppers or diving into more technical subjects in hardware and software.

Visitors can also learn to create jewelry, home goods and wall art at **Upstairs Circus** in **Denver**. For more traditional art classes (think watercolors, oils and mixed media), head to **Brighton's Art Academy of Colorado** to soak up offerings suitable for all ages.

For the kiddos, try **Carbondale's Rosybelles**, a mobile makerspace set in a converted school bus. Down in **Telluride**, **Ah Haa School for the Arts** also offers youth pottery classes — and plenty of options for adults as well.



SHARE THE COLORADO STATE OF MIND

Download the Official Colorado Stickers Keyboard at COLORADO.com/Stickers to share and add stickers of Centennial State icons to your photos.

Lucia Schepps has lived all over the U.S. and still can't find an appetizer as tasty as the pickled jalapeños at The Fort in Denver — reason enough to love Colorado. When she's not writing, she can be found hiking with her dog or stumbling her way through a new cookbook.

FROM TOP: OSMIA ORGANICS; FORMULARY 55; AH HAA CERAMICS STUDIO.