Blue Cheese Pairing Guide



There are many uses for Blue cheeses in the kitchen and on menus, from appetizers, salads, and snacks, to cooked dishes and desserts. Generally, the strong flavor of Blue cheeses pairs well with strong-flavored foods and beverages; milder-flavored cheeses are compatible with milder-flavored wines, beers, and foods. As we outlined in our Food Pairings Job Guides, pairings can be based on complementary or contrasting flavors. Most cheeses can be considered savory. Items in red italics are sweet, or contrasting. The others are complementary pairing suggestions.

Variety	Wines	Beverages	Fruits/ Vegetables	Breads/ Crackers	Condiments/ Nuts	Meats/ Fish
Blue	• Dessert • Red • Sparkling dessert sparkling	 Apple juice Coffee Gin Lambic Pear nectar Stout Gin Lambic stout 	Apples Carrots Celery Dried cranberries Cucumbers Pears	 Crusty bread Nut bread Whole grain crackers 	Black olives Honey Pecans	Beef Fish Ham Poultry Shellfish
Creamy Blue	• Dessert • Red • Sparkling dessert red sparkling	• Apple juice • Coffee • Gin • Lambic • Pear nectar • Stout	Apricots (fresh or dried) Celery Cucumbers Figs Pears	Fruit bread Whole grain crackers Water crackers	Almonds Black olives Dates	• Beef • Fish • Ham • Poultry • Shellfish
Gorgonzola	• Dessert • Red • Sparkling dessert red sparkling	Apple juice Coffee Gin Lambic Pear nectar Stout Gin Lambic stout	Apples Bell peppers Carrots Citrus fruits Dried cranberries Tomatoes	Crusty bread Nut bread Pumpernickel	Black olives Raisins Walnuts	Beef Fish Ham Poultry Shellfish
Roquefort	• Dessert • Red • Sparkling dessert red sparkling	 Apple juice Coffee Gin Lambic Pear nectar Stout Gin Lambic stout 	Apricots (fresh or dried) Apples Avocados Celery Cucumbers Grapes	Crusty bread Whole grain crackers Water crackers	Black olives Dates Roasted red peppers	Beef Fish Ham Poultry Shellfish
Stilton	• Dessert • Red • Sparkling dessert red sparkling	 Apple juice Coffee Gin Lambic Pear nectar Stout Gin Lambic stout 	Bell peppers Carrots Celery Dried cranberries Figs Pears	Nut bread Pumpernickel Wheat crackers	Honey Pecans Roasted red peppers	Beef Fish Ham Poultry Shellfish

Sources

The Cheese Companion, Judy Ridgeway, Running Press, 2004.

"Food & Wine Pairings," American Dairy Association, www.ilovecheese.com.

"Pair Food and Wine," Wined In, www.winedin.com.

"SuperSkills: Successful Food Demonstrations & Sampling," International Dairy•Deli•Bakery Association, www.iddba.org.

Wisconsin Cheese Pairing Tool and "Wisconsin Cheese Pairings That Please," Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, www.eatwisconsincheese.com.