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FOOD STUFF

## A French Chili Sauce With a Mind of Its Own

By FLORENCE FABRICANT  
Published: March 16, 2010

The pungent piment d'Espelette chili defines French Basque cooking as much as anything. It's the main flavoring in the vibrant Bixi Bixia sauce. White wine vinegar, olive oil, garlic and herbes de Provence round out the ingredients. Use it for the grill, as a dip for bread or as a lively finish for cooked seafood, poultry, omelets, meat or white bean soup.

But you have to outsmart it because it doesn't remain emulsified even after vigorous shaking. Decant it into a bowl, and spoon it up so you get all the tasty bits.

*Bixi Bixia from La Maison du Piment is \$10.99 for 350 milliliters (11.8 ounces) at Fairway. It is also sold at [boutique.cotebasque.net](http://boutique.cotebasque.net), for 6.40 euros (about \$8.80), plus shipping.*



Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

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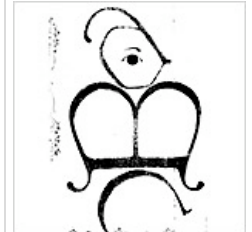
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