

CoolCola: Russia Launches Coca-Cola, Fanta and Sprite Alternatives After Soda Exodus

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Denis Voronin / Moskva News Agency

A Russian beverage maker has unveiled a new range of soft drinks to replace the iconic brands that have left the Russian market in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine.

In lieu of Coca-Cola, Fanta and Sprite, Russians will be able to choose from CoolCola, Fancy and Street, Russian drink producer Ochakovo announced Monday.

The three global soda brands have been largely absent from Russian shelves since the Coca-Cola Company <u>suspended</u> business in Russia in March. While Coca-Cola products can still be found in shops, prices have <u>skyrocketed</u> by roughly 200% since the suspension.

CoolCola has the "iconic taste of cola," Ochakovo <u>wrote</u> online. Meanwhile, the brand's bottles of orange-flavored Fancy and lemon-lime Street mimic the color schemes of Fanta and Sprite.

Established in the Soviet Union in 1978, Ochakovo largely produces traditional Russian beverages such as fermented grain-based kvass and low-alcohol honey drink medovukha.

The firm isn't the only company to try and capitalize on Coca-Cola's step back from the Russian market.

In April, a beverages company based in Russia's Far East, the Slavda Group, launched Grink Cola to try and capture the hearts of Russia's soda lovers. Meanwhile in May, in the northern Russian region of Komi, the Syktyvkarpivo factory launched its own brand of soda, <u>Komi Cola</u>.

However, both alternatives received a mixed response, with customers complaining that neither drink <u>was</u> "sweet and sparkling."

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