

CUMARU: FUNNY-SOUNDING NAME, SUPER-SERIOUS WOOD

It's pronounced *COO-muh-roo*.



- Rap your knuckles against it, and it feels like rock.
- Introduce it to termites, and the termites will leave.
- Hold a lit match against it, and the match will burn out – nothing will catch fire
- Try to hammer a nail into it, and you'll need a new nail.
- Wait for it to mold or mildew, and you'll just keep on waiting.

Sometimes called Brazilian teak, cumaru is among the densest, least-absorbent woods on Earth. It's not just hard, but harder than hard – five times more so than pine, cedar or redwood.

When Atlantic City, N.J., started replacing the rotting yellow-pine slats on its famous boardwalk some years back, cumaru was among three exotic hardwoods chosen for the job. The heavily trafficked boardwalk has experienced two “fairly sizable” fires since then, said Bill Rafferty, Atlantic City engineer during that time. In both cases, the cumaru slats came through it all unharmed. The wood seems, Rafferty added, “to be almost indestructible.”



But if all cumaru had going for it was super-serious toughness, you wouldn't be reading this right now. However, this exotic hardwood is also exceptionally beautiful. Cumaru's rich hue, with the faintest hint of cherry-red, on closer inspection reveals a prominent grain that varies appealingly in shade, shape and intensity, from a deep amber to a rich chocolate-brown. With no coat of finish, cumaru naturally ages to a lovely silver-gray.



The wood's uncanny blend of durability and beauty seems ready-made for high-end outdoor furniture, but until recently, no one was pursuing that idea.

Recognizing this untapped potential, Hatteras Hammocks® put its more than three decades of hammock- and furniture-making expertise and innovation in service to crafting a line of cumaru chairs, rockers, swings, swing stands and tables. Seats and chair backs for the rockers, chairs and swings are tightly hand-woven from a remarkable synthetic rope, DuraCord®, that's not only mold-, mildew-, stain- and fade-resistant, but is also as soft as cotton. Rockers, chairs and swings have extra-wide armrests, a further boost in comfort. The resulting Hatteras Outdoors® line of cumaru furniture has reset the standard for Refined Casual.



Hatteras Outdoors uses only cumaru harvested from managed forests in Peru, where locals call the wood *shihuahuaco* – but you'll have to figure out how to pronounce that one for yourself!



For more on the Hatteras Outdoors line of cumaru furniture, contact Frank Rabey at (800) 334-1078, Ext. 241, or frabey@thehammocksource.com, or visit www.hatterashammocks.com, click View Products, then HATTERAS OUTDOORS. High-resolution images gladly furnished upon request.

