

World of Beer Experiencing Renaissance Along With Downtown Tucson

Written by Karah Van Kammen

Wednesday, 30 July 2014 11:41 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 July 2014 16:39

Story by David A. Bowers

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression."

The Will Rogers quote is nearly 100 years old yet still rings true today. The old west actor, author, political pundit

and quote-smith was wise beyond his years and his words still resonate in this old west town looking to move into

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the next generation.

Downtown Tucson is in the midst of a renaissance. The modern streetcar is rumbling along Congress St. while I sit

in a coffee joint sipping on Blue Bottle coffee, the only place where it is available in Arizona. The world-renowned

Pizzeria Bianco just opened up across the street and the World of Beer has been offering up its 500 beers,

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including 50 on tap since Halloween of 2013.



Like any business,

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there is going to be hiccups, staff turnover and complaints. Unfortunately, for World of Beer in Tucson, it was tragic

when they took to social media to "call out" a bad review on Yelp. It was a meltdown on par with Amy & Samy

Bouzaglo of Amy's Baking Company in Scottsdale of how not to use social media for business. Without rehashing

, it is safe to say that World of Beer has learned its lesson, restaffed the place from the top down
[entire tirade](#)
the_

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and has gone back to focusing on what it does best—beer, and lots of it.

The burgeoning craft beer scene is evident in southern Arizona with so many new restaurants, bars, bottle shops

and breweries offering the best of the local and hard to find beers. The Tucson bar is the second of three locations

in Arizona and the 52nd nationwide, but is one of the first to venture into offering food and spirits.

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I have been to the Tempe location on several occasions and had no problem calling and ordering any of the nearby

restaurants to deliver food. The problem with a company so specialized in beer is that the kitchen and tavern fare

was and still remains to be sub-standard, save for the pretzels.

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The World of Beer is making strides to regain its legitimacy within the community to include giving away 10

stainless steel Arizona Craft Brewers Guild growlers (filled with Arizona beer) to celebrate the new growler

to present the inaugural Hog Roast & Beer

law. They have partnered with the [Tucson Police Officer's Association](#)

Toast 2014 in August with all proceeds going to Kids and Cops Christmas.

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There are great events happening weekly at World of Beer, the old staff is gone, the new management is top notch

with former managers, Johnny Ward and Will Phillips from Old Chicago taking charge and whipping the place back

into shape just in time for the return of college students.

"We are striving to make service a priority," General manager Ward told me. "We are looking to rise above the

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hubris and welcome everybody back to World of Beer to see how much we've changed and how un-corporate we

really are."

The new WOB welcomes not only college students but also those looking for some of the best and more obscure

beers in the state. They also offer an amazing weekday happy hour with \$1 off all draught beers from 11 a.m. to 7

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p.m. Weekly specials include 25 percent off select draught beer on Monday night for service industry employees

and 25 percent off all bottles on Tuesdays for loyalty card holders. Wednesday is WOB U night offering \$2 off

select draught beers for students with an ID card from any school and Thursday night is ladies' night with \$2 off

select draught and wine.

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Long gone are the days of catering to the "bro" audience, they have adapted and are reaching out to every

demographic. Recently, they hosted the G3 Gay Happy Hour with Gio Taco to rave reviews. Sarah Ritchie,

has organized a Beer Geek Trivia Night on Wednesday with some special

Co-Founder of [Tucson Girls' Pint Out](#)

beers from the cellar as well as beer-themed trivia.

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I like the new World of Beer, I brought an out-of-town friend there because we heard that they had his "White

Whale" beer, the Dogfish Head 120 minute IPA. We were greeted quickly, served immediately and even purchased

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some beer to-go. Great beer selection, quick and friendly service from knowledgeable servers and a fun

atmosphere.

But don't just take this humble writers' opinion, Tucson Elite Yelper, Chloe O. who has been around Tucson for a

last month:

[this to say about World of Beer](#)

while had_

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I liked pretty much everything

"I don't know why all my friends have been telling me this place is "sooooo horrible.

about this place: the atmosphere, selection of beer and food, the music that was playing, the friendly bartender,

I also liked that the crowd was so eclectic. There were college kids, young married couples (my and the location.

There was a good crowd, but still plenty of places to sit husband and me), older folks, and everyone in between!

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*Overall, this is a fun, casual, and
(my husband says that on weekends it can get so crowded, you can't find a seat).*

lively place to grab a beer or ten."

...posted last month:

Another Tucson Elite Yelper, Natasha C. also had [high praise for the new World of Beer](#)

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We had an amazing waitress,

"We had somewhat of an eclectic crowd and everyone in our party of 8 was happy!"

she was attentive, sweet, and had the funniest stories! Thursday is karaoke night and that is always fun with

Thank you WOB, we came to have a good time

They serve food late and their beer selection is amazing!
friends.

with friends and celebrate and we did exactly that with no complaints!"

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After a bumpy start, the new World of Beer has come into its' own and the great Will Rogers said it best, "Rumor

travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as the truth."