



Henry Oliver

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[Peter B's Brewpub](#) is a friendly brewery where you can watch your favorite sports games on one of its 18 televisions and enjoy a moment with friends and family. This place has built a serious reputation in [Monterey](#) since 1996, presenting a variety of award-winning locally brewed beer. The creativity and passion of the brewers can be felt in the pub, and all of those elements create a very particular atmosphere, making this place unique. We spoke to Head Brewer Justin Rivard, who told us more about the soul of this brewpub.

Did you always want to get into brewing beer?

No, I always saw myself as a professor or teacher, which I still get to do as a brewer.

Which is your personal favorite craft beer, and what meal would you describe as its perfect accompaniment?

Man, that's like asking a cobbler if he's made enough shoes. But, if I had to choose a single beer, I'd say the Euchre Pilsner, by Arbor Brewing Co. (coincidentally, the last brewery I worked at). It pairs well with virtually everything. Close seconds are Stones Delicious IPA and Boulevard Tank 7.



Peter B's Beer | Courtesy of Peter B's Brewpub

What national brewing influences do you attempt to infuse in your brews?

I'm familiar with [English](#) and [Belgian](#)-style beers and open fermentation – how it used to be done. I really love [German](#) beers... expect a Kellerbier soon. Honestly, it really depends on what I'm trying to brew. I try to know the history of any style I brew.

What's your most unusual brew so far?

I brewed a tequila barrel Saison that I thought was surprising in flavor. I've brewed a dark high gravity spiced autumn ale as well that defies categorization. I also brewed a beer on a ski road trip one time that I kept refermenting. It was a high gravity triple with apricots and agave nectar that ended up being perfectly carbonated by the time I hit the slopes.

Where did the name come from? Is Peter B a real person?

Mr. Peter Bidstrup, one of the original owners of the Portola Hotel & Spa and founder of Doubletree Hotels, named the brewpub after his son.

Does the pub identify more as a craft brewery or a sports bar?

Both. We are Monterey's original craft brewery serving award-winning craft beers, AND we are the best place to catch sports with 18 HDTVs.

What do you believe are the reasons behind the recent surge in popularity of craft beers?

Certainly a combination of things: laws making it easier to open brewpubs and breweries and the allowance of self-distribution in some states. Everyone and their uncle wants to open a brewery right now. There are a lot of hardworking craft advocates at the Brewers Association and other groups that are influencing Congress and passing laws making it easier for us to do our thing.

Raw ingredients are improving every day. We have so many excellent hops and new types of fermentables at our disposal. It's so much easier to brew quality beer these days.

However, I think the main surge is attributed to the development of the consumer. Craft beer drinkers are more sophisticated than ever and able to spot flaws and subtle nuances in beers. Brewers love that and keep pushing the envelope. Beer fans are knowledgeable about where to go thanks to social media



Peter B's Beer | Courtesy of Peter B's Brewpub

How would you describe Peter B's atmosphere?

Just a great down-to-earth place for a pint. Great food and knowledgeable staff. Family friendly.

What does the future hold for Peter B's?

One of the main reasons I joined Peter B's was so I could push the creative envelope and develop specialties. I look forward to creating new and exciting brews and furthering the barrel program. I hope to get the home brewing community more involved as well.



The Peter B's Brewpub is one of the winners of The Culture Trip's Monterey Local Favorite 2016 Award. The Local Favorite badge is awarded to our favorite local towns, restaurants, artists, galleries, and everything in between. We are passionate about showcasing popular local talents on a global scale, so we have cultivated a carefully selected, but growing community.