

New Home For Jewett's in Colorado

Jewett's Liquors, the single-unit retail business that's been operating for more than 50 years, moved to a new location in its hometown of Cañon City, Colorado in December. Owners Rick and Julie Wright have given the store an Old West theme, displaying local western-style art, a large painted mural, wooden décor, and swinging doors to a tasting room labeled "Saloon." Jewett's holds wine, spirits, and beer tastings every Friday.

The 11,700-square-foot store stocks 11,000 SKUs of wine, spirits, and beer, though its primary focus is on wine, which is displayed by varietal for domestic labels and by region for imports. The wines range from Beringer variations (\$8 a 750-ml.) to Caymus (\$95) and Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignons (\$135) to Dom Pérignon Champagne (\$203). Jewett's also carries such labels as 19 Crimes (\$12), The Walking Dead (\$16), and 90+ Cellars (\$11 for the red blend; \$20 for the Cabernet Sauvignon), among many others. The store also offers wines from Rioja, including Bodegas Olarra Otoñal Reserva (\$10), Bodegas Muriel Reserva (\$23), and Cune Crianza (\$17).

Jewett's carries a full range of spirits. Its whisk(e)y offerings vary, from Canadian Mist (\$15 a 1.75-liter) to WhistlePig Boss Hog (\$536 a 750-ml.). Jewett's stocks labels from such Colorado producers as Distillery 291, State 38 Distilling, and Mystic Mountain Distillery. Tequilas range from Margaritaville (\$12) to Patrón Gran Burdeos (\$500).

A vast selection of microbrews and craft beers are available, including many from Colorado breweries like Bristol Brewing, whose Laughing Lab, Beehive (both \$10 a 6-pack

of 12-ounce cans), and Shuffle (\$19 a 12-pack of 12-ounce cans) labels are on offer. Declaration Brewing Co.'s Mile Highlander, Hardtack, and Veiled Vixen (all \$10 a 6-pack of 12-ounce cans) and Denver Beer Co.'s Princess Yum Yum, Incredible Pedal (\$10), and Exploration (\$20 a 12-pack of 12-ounce cans) are also featured at the store.

In addition to beverage alcohol, Jewett's sells drinks accessories such as bottle holders and offers gift baskets year-round. The store also has a humidifier; the Wrights base some of their cigar selections on the recommendations of regular customers. It also offers party planning services, helping customers determine how much beverage alcohol to provide at an event and suggesting wine and meal pairings. Staff training is a priority, with all managers able to make informed recommendations. Jewett's also donates to local causes and charities, many of which support the area's youth.

Argentina Vintners Go Retail In U.S.

Juan Antonio and Cecilia Lora opened Refucilo Winery in Pittsburgh's Northside neighborhood at the end of last year. At the 832-square-foot store, the Loras showcase wines made at their own Argentina vineyard, which is part of Case de Uco Private Vineyards and Resort of Mendoza's Uco Valley region near the Andes.

Refucilo—the Spanish word for lightning—operates under a limited winery license, meaning that the Loras can sell the wine made at their vineyard at their own retail location, as well as to Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board licensees and to brewery, hotel, restaurant, club, and public service liquor licensees. Food is also permitted for sale and on-premise consumption. Though their license allows them to sell other Pennsylvania-made beverage alcohol, the Loras do not yet have plans to stock such products; they're instead concentrating on selling their own wines, which they say offer a genuine expression of the Uco Valley's unique terroir.

The store—which boasts exposed-brick walls, preserved wood décor, and a custom-made bar held up by repurposed California wine barrels—offers six wine varietals: 2017 Sauvignon Blanc (\$21 a 750-ml.), 2017 Chardonnay (\$22), 2017 Torrontés (\$21), 2017 Pinot Noir (\$22), 2014 Malbec (\$25), and 2015 Grand Reserve blend (\$24). Refucilo also has a small seating area where customers can enjoy glass pours (\$6-\$8) and wine flights (\$6-\$8). A variety of tapas, including Maryland crab cakes, empanadas, and a cheese platter (\$2-\$26), is also offered, and the Loras make wine pairing recommendations. 

Jessica Beebe



Family-owned business Jewett's Liquors in Cañon City, Colorado is an Old West-style store, with a "Saloon" sign and swinging doors leading into its tasting room (pictured). Jewett's holds wine, spirits, and beer tastings every Friday.