

Stainless-steel tanks now sit on new concrete floors behind glass doors that allow customers to watch beer being made (often boring, the tanks just sitting there). The taproom has rough-hewn walls and floors, and customers sit at tables made from timbers salvaged from the renovation. There's also a glassed section of the floor where you can observe sea lions hauled out on a platform built for our multitudinous pinnipeds.

In short, the dream of Colvin and his friends is now reality, but a brewpub is only as good as its brew. And Astoria has a reputation for excellent beer.

Fortunately, the six-man brewing team produces first-class beer; evidence of that is the beer drinkers who flock to the place. Another refreshing thing about Buoy, in addition to their beer, is that they remain free of the industrywide compulsion to give brews cute names. At Buoy you find German Lager (either dark Dunkel or the lighter Helles, in the style of Munich). You'll also find Czech Pils, Pale Ale (sweet floral and citrus flavors), Cream Ale (American style pale ale), Oatmeal Stout, Red Ale (with a blend of five malts), IPA and IPL. That last, a cross between IPA and light lager, is becoming increasingly popular.

Buoy Beer typically has a dozen beers on tap, along with a few "guest" beers, so there's something for every beer enthusiast. Add to that a reasonably priced restaurant, a bar that features craft cocktails made from regionally distilled spirits and an up-close and personal view of every ship that passes by, and you have the perfect Astoria experience.

Hours and more info at www.buoybeer.com



Buoy Beer Company building then & now

Top photo: From 1939 to 1955, the building was home to New England Fish Company of Oregon and used for fish processing.

Bottom photo: Bornstein Seafoods processed fish in the building from 1982 to 2006. Buoy Beer Co. opened in the location in 2013.

BUOY BEERS

NOW POURING

Czech Pils 6.2% ABV – 35 IBU

Cream Ale 5.7% ABV – 19 IBU

NW Red Ale 6.7% ABV – 65 IBU

IPA 7.5% ABV – 70 IBU

Oatmeal Stout 6.0% ABV – 36 IBU

India Pale Lager 6.3% ABV – 69 IBU

Ludo the Gose 4.9% ABV – 10 IBU

Columbia Crossing SMASH 5.1% ABV – 41 IBU



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