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Home and craft brewing across the nation

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Pub Republic

BY MARIO, ON DECEMBER 5TH, 2013

Living in Sonoma County, craft beer is just a part of our lives. More and more, restaurants and pubs are opening with a distinct craft beer vibe, embracing multiple taps, rotating selections and daring beer menus. Pub Republic in Petaluma is one of these locations. Located in a business park in the Lakeville area of Petaluma, Pub Republic is selling the craft beer experience to the 9-5 crowd and doing it with success.



Pub Republic features 15 taps of craft beer with a focus on the hoppy India Pale Ale style. This isn't surprising as IPA is easily the most popular style today among craft beer lovers. The location is open and bright with a modern style to it. Outside is a beer garden set against a creek. On my visit the winds were howling but a few brave customers still made their way given the beautiful backdrop.

The menu is very pub-centric and familiar but provides more than a few options for those looking to be adventurous. Top on

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that adventurous list, and an in-house favorite, is the Brussels Sprouts tacos. Created initially as a late night snack in the kitchen, these vegetarian tacos have proven to be a hit with the regulars. I was instructed by a group of HR professionals that I could not leave without trying them. The advice was heeding and appreciated, they were delicious.

For those looking for something lighter, the selections of salads were impressive. The Grilled Romaine Salad was a perfect pair for a Stone Smoked Porter with bursts of char and smoked sausage contrasting the crisp lettuce. The blue cheese and polenta croutons provide a hearty quality that makes the dish even more satisfying.

Beer drinkers looking for something lighter might like the warm pretzel or beer cheese soup, a regular "special" on the Pub Republic menu. Both items are made with the addition of beer and beer ingredients (dry malt extract, ground hops) to bring a unique twist on the same old pretzel and soup. The Sweet Hot Mustard is made in house and provided a hop-infused kick. Speakeasy's The Witness acted as a match for this, washing away the burn and refreshing the palate.

Speaking of twists on a classic, I was wowed by the Trappist Monk Burger. More than just a cheeseburger with crispy onions, the patty is rubbed with a malt and hop mixture that adds a caramelized sweetness and a very faint herbal bitterness to the meat that makes for a great pairing with your favorite pint. On this day I had it with a 101 North Naughty Aud Stout but deep down I was hoping for a rich Belgian ale along the lines of Chimay Blue or St Bernardus 12.



Despite not finding the beer I had wanted with the burger, the beer selection at Pub Republic is quite impressive. Draft selections are decided hop-driven but don't be dismayed if you're not an IPA lover. There is something for everyone on draft and if not, the bottle list is well stocked.

Leaving Pub Republic I felt like I would be coming back. The staff was kind and friendly and the setting was welcoming and comforting. The business park location makes the environment veer more towards the mainstream and not just to beer geeks. This is a good thing when I usually have a wife and two little girls in tow.



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I look forward to visiting Pub Republic again and would love to hear your impressions of the place.

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