

Stapleton Tap House Closure Q&A

When will the Stapleton Tap House close?

Our last day of operation will be Friday, July 21, 2017.

That's pretty quick. Why so soon?

Our liquor license expires on July 21, and our lease ends on July 31.

Why not extend your lease?

When we opened the Tap House in 2013, we had a 3 year lease with an option to vacate at the end of the second year. We had our eye on another location in the area that wasn't ready yet, and hoped to use our current location to prove that we had a good business model. We knew that our location had some challenges (like a lack of outdoor space and convenient parking) but it was a great place to start. At the end of the second year the other location wasn't yet available so we continued on for the third year. At the end of our original lease we saw some additional locations "on the horizon" and decided to extend for an additional year so that we would be ready. Unfortunately none of the locations that we've looked at have panned out, and we've made the decision to not extend our lease again.

We still believe in our business model, and we thank our customers for supporting us and giving us such great reviews. We've been proud to be your "Guardians of the Craft."

So, is this the end of the Stapleton Tap House forever?

We hope not. We've had discussions with a brewery and a developer about opportunities to modify our business model, address some of the shortcomings of our current location, and re-open. Unfortunately nothing came together as quickly as we had hoped and rather than rush a decision we are working through planning. Hopefully we will have big things to announce in the future, but it may take a while.

What's going to happen to all of the "stuff" in the Tap House? I've always had my eye on one of the Stapleton photos or one of the brewery signs. Can I buy it?

We are putting together a full list of items that may be available. The stuff we own... tables, chairs, tap system, Stapleton photos, glassware, TVs, etc. are available to purchase. Items that don't sell will probably be sold through a restaurant auction. We're hopeful that some of our brewery partners will be interested in our equipment and furniture.

We expect that some breweries might want their tap handles or signage back to re-use. We are contacting the breweries to let them know we are closing, and will give them the opportunity to pick up these items if they want. If they don't take them back, then we will make them available to staff and customers or we will donate them to Pints for Prostates for them to include in their charity auction at the Denver Rare Beer Tasting.

Email TapHouse@StapletonBrewing.com and give us your contact info along with the item(s) you're interested in. If they are available we will let you know ASAP. Nothing can be removed until after July 21.

Craft Beer is so hot in Colorado. What are your thoughts on the industry?

When we began planning the Stapleton Tap House, there were 80 breweries in Colorado. When we opened the number had climbed to about 110. Today there are over 350. We take great pride in having introduced a lot of beer drinkers to great Colorado breweries over the past four years, and we're excited about the future of the industry. There are big challenges out there that have gotten a lot of press and discussion. Breweries are dealing with competition from "big beer" with deep pockets and questionable competitive practices. Liquor stores face competition from increased beer sales in grocery stores.

There's been a lot less discussion of the fact that retail bars such as ours are looking at massive growth in competition from additional brewery "tasting rooms" (which are often just bars owned by the brewery) and the potential for even more competition as breweries open multiple locations — legislation may allow them to open non-brewing "satellite" tap rooms with limited local regulation. Competition is a good thing, but we need to have a level playing field. Breweries face a very different regulatory system than bars do, and they are able to sell growlers and bottles to go. These advantages over retailers (bars) puts us at a real competitive disadvantage.

Other questions? Comments? Please email TapHouse@StapletonBrewing.com