

BUSINESS SUCCESS STORY: LES CAVES CORVALLIS, OREGON

The idea for Les Caves was hatched during a trip to Belgium. The owners of Block 15 in downtown Corvallis, Nick and Kristen Arzner, were enamored and inspired by the pubs, great local food, and really good beer. They found the atmosphere was classic, yet comfortable. They set a goal to recreate the warm European feel as a complement to Block 15 where they create hand-crafted ales and lagers locally.

To create “the Caves” as it is affectionately known, Nick & Kristen gutted and did a complete remodel of a vacant downtown space. A focal point of the new location is the bar created from old beer barrels. The walls are adorned with photos the couple took of beer and breweries while in Belgium, and customers of Block 15 have shared their beer steins and family heirlooms to display at the Caves.

The Caves features a wide variety of well-crafted beer that can't be found in a 55-mile radius of Corvallis along with locally-sourced, seasonal food. The Arzner's beer curator helps educate customers about beers from around the world which ties in nicely with the fermentation science program at Oregon State University, one of only 2 in the nation.

Nick & Kristen planned about 2 years for their restaurants prior to creating them and are very passionate about what they do. They are proud that their 2 restaurants have created 92 jobs combined in downtown, as well as supporting local farms and artisans.

