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Vista’s Prohibition Brewing Company Is for Sale for Nearly $3 Million

The founding owners plan to retire after nearly 15 years, leaving uncertain whether a buyer keeps the brewery.

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Prohibition Brewing Company, a brewery and restaurant that has operated in Vista for nearly 15 years, has been put up for sale for close to $3 million as its founding owners prepare to retire, according to local television reports.

The possible sale adds another point of uncertainty to San Diego County's craft beer market, although the reason given by the owners is succession and retirement rather than financial distress. The business remains open, and no final closing date has been announced. Its future now depends on whether a buyer chooses to continue the brewery, keep the restaurant, rebrand the property or move in a different direction.

ABC 10News reported that the asking price is nearly $3 million. In remarks carried by the station, general manager and owner Kyle Adams said his parents, who founded the business, decided to sell so they could retire after about a decade and a half in operation.

Adams said the brewery became closely tied to the Vista community over the years through local events and partnerships. He told 10News that the business has hosted high school reunions and worked with the Vista Unified School District, Operation Hope and a range of donation drives. He also cited car shows, clothing sales and support for animal-related causes as part of the company's local involvement.

That community role has become part of the reaction to the sale. The brewery has built a base of regular customers over the years, and some told local media they see it as more than a place to buy beer and food. For many patrons, it has functioned as a gathering place in North County and a familiar local business with long-standing ties to the area.

Even so, Adams indicated that the current ownership expects operations to wind down if the next buyer does not preserve the business. He told 10News that the owners do not yet know exactly how the transition will unfold, but that they expect to move toward ending operations and starting a new chapter.

That uncertainty leaves open several possibilities. A purchaser could keep the brewery running much as it is now, continue the restaurant under new management, change the brand while maintaining food and beverage service, or close the brewing operation

altogether. The reporting published so far does not include any separate valuation of the real estate and the operating business, and no public details have been provided on revenue, production volume, staffing or profits.

CBS 8 also reported on the development this week, reinforcing that the sale is tied to the owners' retirement plans. The local coverage presents the move as a major transition for a business that has been part of Vista's dining and brewing scene since the early 2010s.

Vista has long been one of the centers of craft brewing in San Diego County, a region nationally known for its concentration of independent breweries. Over the past two decades, breweries in cities such as Vista, San Marcos, Oceanside and San Diego have helped shape the county's reputation as one of the most active beer markets in the United States. In that context, the potential loss or transfer of a long-running local brewery carries weight beyond a single sale, especially when the business has a restaurant component and a neighborhood following.

Still, the current case differs from closures that follow weak sales, rising debt or landlord disputes. Based on the statements reported by local outlets, the immediate cause here is retirement by the founding owners. That distinction matters in an industry where some exits reflect economic pressure while others reflect the challenge of handing off a founder-led business after many years.

The reports do not say whether the owners are in active negotiations with a buyer or how widely the property has been marketed. They also do not indicate whether brewing equipment, recipes, brand rights or the full restaurant operation are included in the same transaction. Without those details, it remains unclear what exactly a buyer would be expected to preserve if the sale moves forward.

Customers interviewed by 10News described the brewery as a regular stop and expressed concern about the possibility that it could disappear. One longtime patron said he had been visiting for about 10 years and praised both the beer and the treatment he had received from staff. Another customer said the business had created a strong sense of community, something she suggested is not easy to replicate.

Those reactions reflect a broader pattern in local food and drink markets, where independent breweries often serve several roles at once: manufacturer, restaurant, event venue and neighborhood meeting place. When such a business comes up for sale, the impact can extend to employees, suppliers, nearby merchants and the regular social groups that gather there.

For now, Prohibition Brewing Company continues to operate in Vista while the owners seek a buyer. The timetable remains unsettled, and the business has not announced a firm final day. Until a transaction is completed and the intentions of a new owner become known, the brewery’s future as a continuing brand and production site remains uncertain.