

Stone Brewing toasts new additions to future brewery

By Heather Chambers

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ESCONDIDO — Stone Brewing, maker of Arrogant Bastard Ale and other specialty beers, announced it will supplement its future brewing site with a restaurant, gift shop, visitor's center and an acre of beer gardens slated to open as early as October.

"It's a natural progression for us," said Stone Brewin chief executive Greg Koch. "The site is so perfect. It enabled us to have the brewing facility and restaurant at the same facility."

Stone Brewing will relocate its San Marcos headquarters at 155 Mata Way, Suite 104, to its new \$12 million, 58,000-square-

foot facility in the Escondido Research and Technology Center, 999 S. Citracado Parkway, to accommodate a rising demand for its beer.

"You can't do grandiose in a shopping mall parking lot," Koch said.

Stone Brewing's World Bistro & Gardens will brew all the favorites, from Stone India Pale Ale to Stone Smoked Porter, along with an inaugural brew to celebrate its grand opening.

Its restaurant will offer unusual menu items, from ostrich to free-range buffalo, and sauces like Indian curry and Argentinian chimichurri.

Koch, a self-described "foodie," disputed the uniqueness of

the dishes.

"It's funny. Things that might look on casual glance as exotic are menu items in many, many other parts of the world," he said. "We're able to grow such an amazing variety of produce here in Southern California."

Although designs for the new location are still pending, Koch said edibles like olive, avocado and citrus trees will supplement the beer garden's organic look.

"We're in the middle of a high-end industrial park but the gardens and restaurant will be the furthest from industrial park you can imagine," Koch said.

David Robinson from La Jolla-based David Robinson Design said the company plans to transport a couple boulders for

its outdoor look and include a unique fountain and expanses of glass windows to bring the outside in.

"The concept is what we call kind of warehouse industrial decomposing into organic," said Robinson.

Robinson designed La Jolla's George's at the Cove and its Web site boasts other high-profile projects.

JRMC Real Estate and Hamann Construction will also help bring the 9,500-square-foot restaurant, gift shop, visitor's center and gardens to life.

"As part of a charitable donation, Stone Brewing has encouraged the public to contribute to its 14-foot, indoor-outdoor stone wall by adding stones from

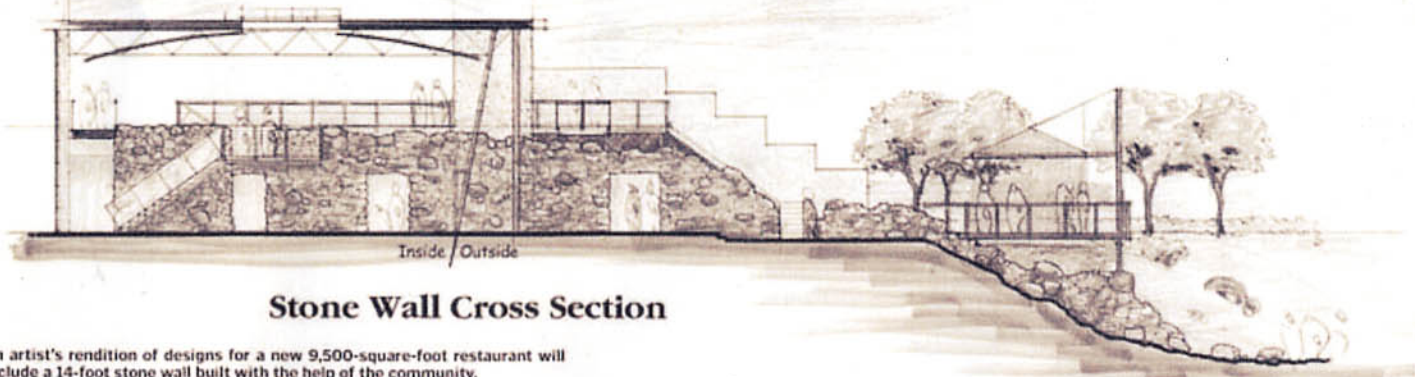
construction site or from their own backyards.

Proceeds will benefit the Palomar Family YMCA, the Boys & Girls Club of San Marcos, the CSUSM Foundation and the Escondido Sunrise Rotary.

Steve Wagner, Stone Brewing president and brewmaster, said the company expects to brew as many as 40,000 barrels this year and possibly 10,000 more next year.

"Now we're going to have some capacity to have some fun and get creative again," he said. "Now we're so strapped we're making the same beers we've always made."

Reach reporter Heather Chambers at 760.752.6745.



Stone Wall Cross Section

An artist's rendition of designs for a new 9,500-square-foot restaurant will include a 14-foot stone wall built with the help of the community.

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