



“I just wanted to make beer.”

Jim



Twisted X uses > Garrison Brothers Distillery bourbon aged barrels. They are hand made with wine wood to give even more flavor.

< Jim Sampson, Head Brewer

Bobcat Lee Andrew



Down the twists and turns of Ranch Road 12, in the dead center of tradition and innovation, lies Twisted X Brewery.

Under a powder blue sky, Jim Sampson, founder and owner of this Dripping Springs-based brewery, sat on one of the site's wooden patio tables and surveyed his surroundings – prior to last October Sampson would have, instead, been sitting inside an office.

He left his job with a tech company in Austin once Twisted X Brewery opened at its current location.

“I just wanted to make beer,” Sampson said.

When Sampson initially tested the amber-colored waters in 2009, after a business deal to open a Tex-Mex restaurant/brew pub fell through, his life became grainy.

He continued to brew the Mexican-style lagers he had started for the restaurant, teetering between the light and dark side of the beer world. A dark lager, Twisted X, and Cattle Creek, a light lager, were Sampson's initial creations.

To turn things up a notch, he added the jalapeno pilsner Fuego. This beer helped light the way to the opening of Twisted X Brewery.

“Recipes are easy. If you want to make a beer, you can go out on the Internet and there's a million recipes for a style of beer,” Sampson said.

In 2010 Sampson began selling his beer on the market from a 900 foot warehouse-turned-brewhouse

in Cedar Park. He made beer there from a three barrel system on nights and weekend while still working days in the tech industry.

This continued for two years until Sampson said he could build a “desired client base.” It got to the point where about 50 bars requested his beer. The brew-house could only service about 10 of them, he said, so, once permits were acquired, he went and raised funds for the current Twisted X Brewery manufacturing facility.

“The Cedar Park place was built on purpose to prove to people that this Tex-Mex thing would work,” he said.

Anticipation brewed for the grand opening party of Twisted X Brewery last November.

From making beer in his house in his home state of Iowa for the past 20 years to celebrating the brewery's one-year anniversary, Sampson said he wanted to create a place where people feel comfortable to hang out, a place where people want to go.

And he has created a “destination-style brewery.” People walked around the site taking photos and wooden planks line its ceiling to commemorate their visit.

The aimless wanderer, the adventurer, the explorer and those visiting the Texas Hill Country were Sampson's reasons for building Twisted X Brewery in Dripping Springs.

“Let's drop ourselves in the middle of that and people will accidentally find us,” said Sampson.

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