



Fusion Meets Familiar at Common Theory Public House

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Diners Delight With Eclectic Menu and Tap Offerings

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With more than 30 beers on tap, it shouldn't be hard to find some common ground at Kearny Mesa's **Common Theory Public House**. The establishment primarily offers beers from around the San Diego and California coastal regions, but other notable breweries from around the US often make the tap list. The venue, which has been open almost two years, is one of the largest restaurants in the Convoy area. The wide selection of drinkables makes it the most thirst-quenching location around and the eclectic food menu promises fulfilling options for everyone. The beer philosophy at Common Theory Public House boasts that, "there is always something available for everyone, but if there isn't we will try our best to find you a beer that suits your palate."



Co-owners Christian Liang and Joon Lee have managed to craft an atmosphere that celebrates suds, socializing and snacks, keeping customers happy and coming back for more. Drinkers can let their lips pucker after downing the 10 Barrel's Lemon Crush sour or savor something sweeter, sampling Seattle's Schilling's cider offerings. Adventurous beer drinkers can order one of the dozens of beers on draft, or find something uncommon on the pub's bottle list.

"Simply put, we order beers that are good, and it so happens that 80 to 90 percent of our taps end up coming from breweries here in San Diego!" Liang said.

Common Theory also hosts tap take overs and specialty events, with a unique four-tap bar that can also help alleviate the buzz at the main bar during hopping hours. Frugal drinkers can score a deal during their weekly happy hours, from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Draft beers are marked down by the hour, with a \$3 discount starting at 3 p.m., which decreases to \$2 off at 4 p.m. and rounding out with a dollar off at 6 p.m. Menu items are also marked down during the nightly happy hours, making hungry hoppers satisfied as well.

"Our draft beer program offers a broad range of beer styles, which are carefully ordered on a weekly basis to keep the beer list interesting and eclectic. The selection of beers has to be balanced, and beers are chosen to perform well with our eclectic food menu," Liang said.

Much like the bar offerings, the menu at Common Theory takes basic bar food to another level. Co-owners Lang and Lee sampled inspiration from their own diverse backgrounds, creating dishes that fuse Chinese, Korean, Mexican and American flavors.

"I am a Chinese kid born in Mexico, and Joon is Korean. And we both have been in San Diego Since middle school days, so that makes us San Diegans!" Liang said.

Asian flavors pop up in the way of kimchi additions and shiitake mushrooms in many dishes. Ceviche, tacos and Mexican-inspired burgers provide some Latin flavors, along with sprinklings of cotija cheese and fiery spices in other dishes. And nothing is more American than apple pie, and Common Theory's take on the dish in cobbler form, with a decadent caramel sauce, is right at home on the dessert menu.



“The salt & pepper chicken wings come from a family recipe and rival some of the amazing wings coming from National City restaurants; the kalbi skewers with kimchi is are 100 percent Korean-based; and tacos de adobada mimic the street tacos of Tijuana, where I grew up. Items like these add cultural accents to our food menu and helps us define it as American pub-style food with an upscale twist,” Liang said.

While parking for the establishment can be a challenge, finding a seat inside is rarely a problem. The venue boasts a bar, which runs almost the entire length of the restaurant and offers ample seating to casual drinkers. Diners can choose from cozy wooden booths, communal-style picnic tables or traditional double and quad-top tables. Whatever your derriere desires, Common Theory can find you a seat! Because of the size and variety of seating, your guests can comfortably come together and to grab a bite and throw back a beer with you. The environment is laidback and welcoming and the whole establishment buzzes with casual conversation, laughter, and the clink of toasting glasses.

According to Liang, Common Theory stands out in the San Diego food and bar scene. The “great atmosphere and nice staff make our customers feel at home, and a balanced beer list makes it easy for our eclectic food menu to pair! Great craft beer, delicious food, overall good time, that’s everyone’s Common Theory!” Liang said.

Common Theory Public House

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