

Ruse Brewing expands to Vancouver Waterfront with pub offering Detroit-style pizza

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By Andre Meunier | The Oregonian/OregonLive



Ruse Brewing opens Crust Collective

Ruse Brewing of Southeast Portland is opening a location called Crust Collective that features Detroit-style pizza. The Vancouver Waterfront space opens Saturday, April, 23, 2022. The space has room for 40 people inside and 40 at the tables outside.

Ruse Brewing, the [Southeast Portland brewery](#) that was the buzz of the city's beer scene after opening its brewery and taproom in 2018, on Saturday heads north across the Columbia River to open its first satellite location, the pizza-focused Crust Collective on the Vancouver Waterfront.

Ruse will serve 12 of its beers rotating on tap alongside Detroit-style pizza at the family-friendly Crust Collective, which will also offer seltzers, wine and nonalcoholic beverages,

eventually including mocktails, co-founders Shaun Kalis and Devin Benware said. The modern space, adjacent to a riverside park amid Vancouver's fresh and bustling development of restaurants, bars, condominiums and businesses, will seat about 40 inside plus 40 more on sidewalk tables outside.

"We picked the waterfront because of its beauty," Kalis said. "My wife and mother went there last year and loved it. When Devin and I finally made a chance to check it out, it was love at first sight."

Similar to the original taproom, Crust Collective will "encompass art and friendly service to our guests to provide a memorable experience," Kalis and Benware said.

The Detroit pizza idea developed from Kalis' upbringing – he grew up in Detroit, Michigan, and still has family there. Chef Dino Mangini will oversee kitchen activities.

"We have been studying Detroit pizza for a while now, traveling there in the fall of 2021 – we learned so much about the style," said Kalis, who credits a pizza education from Detroit purveyors Michigan and Trumbull, their "mentors and best damn pizza maker in Detroit."

With a square or rectangular shape in a deep dish, Detroit-style pizza has a thick crust that's light, airy and moist with cheese laid edge-to-edge that crisps and caramelizes on the pan rim. The pizza's layering is the key: crust, meat, cheese then sauce on top.

Other Portland area pizzerias offering the style include Assembly Brewing, East Glisan Pizza Lounge, Ex Novo Brewing and Pop Pizza.

Ruse's roots date back to 2015, when Kalis and Benware were brewing at Northeast Portland's Culmination Brewing. They initially began making small batches of farmhouse, sour and wild ales, then eventually moved into IPAs. Since then Ruse has become respected for a range of styles, including lagers, fruited beers, pub styles and its barrel-aging program.

In 2018, Ruse drew immediate crowds when it opened its first retail space, a taproom and brewery in the Iron Fireman Collective building in Southeast Portland's Brooklyn neighborhood. The first glimpse of success was a gold medal in 2018 at the Oregon Beer Awards for Papyrus Iris, which won the hazy hoppy IPA category.

Then in 2019, Ruse was named [The Oregonian/OregonLive's Brewery of the Year](#) as well as Oregon's Best New Brewery and Small Brewery of the Year at the Oregon Beer Awards.

The co-founders said they could eventually expand further, but they're not sure when. For now, they have big hopes for Vancouver.

"Our team members come from years of experience, and we are so excited and extremely lucky to be a part of this new chapter of Ruse with them," Kalis said. "We hope our guests can have an experience that is memorable with hopes they come back."

If You Go

- What: Ruse Brewing Crust Collective, serving Ruse beers and Detroit-style pizza on the premises or to go.
- Where: 650 Waterfront Way, Vancouver, on the Vancouver Waterfront next to [Yard Milkshake Bar](#).
- When: 11:30 a.m.- 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
- Contact: 360-953-8394; rusebrewing.com



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Ruse Brewing owners Shaun Kalis (left) and Devin Benware this week discuss final preparations for Saturday's opening of Crust Collective, Ruse's new location in Vancouver.



