



PAPERMILL CREEK SALOON
1 Castro Avenue, Forest Knolls



THE PAPERMILL OPENED in 1907 as a general store and was eventually named for the paper mill (the first on the West Coast) that was then operating at what is now Samuel P. Taylor State Park. During Prohibition, the building functioned as a soda fountain/ice cream shop, but in 1937, milk shakes were tossed out in favor of alcohol. “The whole back-bar wood construction is from 1937, but the actual bar and floors and most of the building are original from 1907,” says manager Jared Litwin. Thomasina Wilson purchased the bar, then known simply as “The Lodge,” in 1967; at the time, Janis Joplin and the Holding Company were Lagunitas residents and regular patrons. Wilson succeeded in transforming the once-rough bar into the cozy dive that it is today. “Thomasina turned 90 this November,” says Litwin. “And she is definitely still the boss.”

DIVE BAR CHECKLIST

- Games? Two pool tables.
- Celebrity photos? Yes.
- TV is always on? Usually, yes.
- PBR available? Yes.
- Muddled cocktails? No.
- Fake fireplace? We have a real fireplace.
- Food served in bags? No.
- Papermill T-shirts? Not yet, but I’m trying to make that happen.



WHAT THEY SAY

Jared Litwin, manager

Is Papermill a dive bar? I would consider the Papermill a dive bar. I don’t think that’s a bad thing like perhaps it once was – dive bars are endearing in a way, and sought out.

Your definition of a dive bar? Unpretentious, funky and definitely old. Independently owned and operated. No Wi-Fi, only one kind of wine.

Describe the Papermill. A rustic spot for friends to gather; everyone really does know your name. We’re like a family, but don’t worry – we are welcoming to outsiders.