



Sage ERP MAS 200 is the perfect brew for Goose Island Beer

Goose Island Beer Co got its start in 1988 as a popular Chicago brew pub. The company, named one of “America’s 20 Best Breweries” in Food and Wine Magazine, has grown into a successful brewing operation, producing and distributing 62,000 barrels of beer a year to 15 states and the United Kingdom. The company currently relies on Sage ERP MAS 200 for accurate financial management and reporting, and has relied on other Sage solutions for nearly its entire history.

“We started out using Sage BusinessWorks Accounting to manage the brew pub’s operations. When we opened our brewery and warehouse operations, we moved to Sage ERP MAS 90,” recalls Tony Flores, controller for Goose Island Beer. “As we continued to grow, our Sage Business Partner recommended we upgrade to Sage ERP MAS 200 with its client server platform. We’ve used it for several years now—I believe in the product.”

Software Holds Recipe for Success

The Sage ERP MAS 200 Bill of Materials module holds the recipes for the company’s brews. The software’s ability to handle multiple units of measure, such as barrel, keg, and case, facilitates the company’s ability to manufacture, stock, and sell in the appropriate container.

The ability to calculate out to six decimal places of precision leads to a high degree of accuracy in cost calculations. Various ingredients that might be used in small amounts to produce a large batch are reduced into minute quantities when the cost per case is calculated. “That fine precision ensures our costs stay highly accurate during production,” explains Flores. “While rounding might result in a variance of only a few pennies, when you multiply that by tens of thousands of bottles, it becomes significant.”

Production Planning Perfected

Recently, the company added the Material Requirements Planning (MRP) module to boost purchasing efficiency and perfect its production planning process. Chris Anderson, supply chain manager at Goose Island Beer, is impressed with its capabilities. “We run the MRP report once a week and make our purchasing, production, and scheduling decisions based on the information it provides. Before MRP, I used a series of spreadsheets to get similar information. By eliminating the maintenance of the spreadsheets, I’ve cut the time I spend on the process in half. It’s a very powerful tool.”

Challenge

Goose Island Beer began outgrowing the capabilities of its accounting software. It required sophisticated bill of materials functionality and multiple company features.

Solution

Throughout the company’s history, Sage products have provided a seamless upgrade path to more powerful, feature-rich solutions that meet Goose Island Beer’s changing requirements.

Customer

Goose Island Beer Co

Industry

Beverage Manufacturing

Location

Chicago, Illinois

Number of Locations

Three

Number of Employees

60+

System

Sage ERP MAS 200

Modules in Operation

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Bank Reconciliation
- Inventory Management
- Sales Order
- Purchase Order
- Bill of Materials
- Material Requirements Planning (MRP)

Results

The MRP module cuts the material requirements planning process by 50 percent. Generous precision in formula cost calculations ensures highly accurate costing. Lot tracking saves hours over manual system and supports good manufacturing practices.