

Rudy's Pub and Grill

Foothill Ranch, California

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Local hot spot and popular sports bar Rudy's Pub and Grill got its start in Newport Beach, CA over 10 years ago. In 2004, founder Rudy Kaminski partnered with Todd Carson, a friend and local real estate developer. What began as a hub for sports fans in Newport Beach became a thriving enterprise.

The next Rudy's opened in Foothill Ranch, CA in 2008, and has five public spaces: entrance, main bar and dining area, private function room, atrium (a glass-enclosed dining room separated from the bar) and patio.



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Sophisticated technology has always been part of the theme at Rudy's. Thirty-two 50-inch plasmas surround the main area of the Foothill Ranch restaurant, entertaining patrons with sporting events or satellite radio, depending on the day's events. A Crestron 17" widescreen touchpanel media center is used to switch sources on the displays based on a carefully charted DirecTV schedule, which Rudy posts near the touchpanel for on-duty managers to follow on game days.

Dedicated Crestron dealer Newport Audio & Video installed a Crestron PRO2 control system to manage all of the AV gear, including a Blu-ray player and satellite receivers. For signal routing and processing, there are four RGBHV16x16 wideband

matrix switchers and two 16x60 amplifiers. Eleven zones of audio can be independently fed by satellite radio or an iPod® (via a Crestron CEN-IDOC). For the private room, a computer is routed to one of the RGBHV switchers, which sends the signal to the appropriate TV for corporate and other PC-based presentations.

The equipment rack resides in a closet-like area with glass doors, located right by the front entrance. “The owners love the way it looks,” said Steve Vickers, General Manager of Newport Audio & Video. “All of the Crestron components match and look great in a black rack, unlike the competition's gear. Patrons check it out all the time.”

Another feature the owners appreciate is the “startup” button on the touchpanel, created by Newport Audio & Video Programmer and GUI Designer Richard Mangahas. In the morning, when Rudy or one of his managers comes in, multiple events occur with the push of that single button. The lights, amplifiers and displays are turned on. A preset configuration (eight specific channels repeated four times across the 32 plasmas) tunes the DirecTV boxes, and the classic rock satellite radio station is fed to the background speakers at 50% volume. As a precaution, the startup button must be held down for at least one second before it takes effect, to ensure channels aren't changed accidentally.

A PAC2 control system handles six CHV-TSTATS thermostats, and is programmed to turn the HVAC off at 2am every day to conserve electricity. Eight CLX-2DIM8 dimmer modules (each with eight



channels of dimming) are also tied into the PAC2, in support of 28 lighting zones. Restaurant-wide lighting presets create just the right ambiance for startup, afternoon, evening, and special events. Dimming is controlled in the main bar and extended dining area, with lights gradually lowered about once an hour until after the dinner service, when the lights are switched off and the room is illuminated by the plasmas alone.

The private function room is generally treated as its own separate system. Two six-button Cameos control local volume up/down; toggle microphone on/off; toggle music on/off and room on/off. "Room on" triggers preprogrammed functions such as setting the audio to a default level, turning on the displays and routing specified sources to them, as well as turning on the lights. Two Cameo™ keypads in the kitchen are configured for lights on and off, with the "off" button locked out during business hours.

"I'm not a computer person," Rudy Kaminski said. "I use my computer to check my email and espn.com, period. The Crestron system is great because it's so easy to use."

"When Crestron makes a product, we sell it, install it, program it and service it to make the customer experience a 10," said Vickers.

It certainly has worked for Steve and his team, which also includes Robert Rushton, Technical Manager and Kevin Mitchell, Lead Technician. With plans to open 13 more Rudy's Pub and Grill establishments throughout Orange County, CA, the owners were so happy with the results in the first two, they chose Newport Audio & Video to be the sole provider of integration and support services for all 15 restaurants.

