



A&W @ 100: Fun Facts and a Little History

Starting with a tiny Root Beer stand in California, A&W grew into the nation's first franchise restaurant chain. Along the way it popularized drive-in restaurants and made Root Beer Floats a nationwide – and international – treat. Even Marriott hotels traces its roots to A&W. One hundred years of history is, well, a lot of history. But here's a good start.

- 1) A&W was founded on June 20, 1919 in Lodi, California, with the first mug of Root Beer served at a homecoming parade for World War I veterans; it was the first U.S. chain restaurant to expand to Southeast Asia (1963).
- 2) A&W Restaurants is older than sliced bread (1919 vs. 1928).
- 3) A&W invented the Original Bacon Cheeseburger in 1963 (invented by Dale Murder who became president and is now chairman of the board).
- 4) A&W introduced Rooty the Great Root Bear as its mascot in 1973.
- 5) A&W Restaurants manufactured 150,000 glass mugs for 2019, saving approximately 180 paper cups per mug.
- 6) A&W Restaurants has raised over \$800,000 for veterans-related charities since 2014.
- 7) California is home to the most A&W Restaurants with approximately 70 locations.
 - a. 2nd most: Wisconsin (approximately 50 locations)
 - b. 3rd most: Michigan (approximately 40 locations)
- 8) Gallons of A&W Root Beer consumed in 2018 (domestic and international): 1,109,934
- 9) Pounds of Cheese Curds sold in 2018 (U.S. only): 2,060,988
- 10) There are nearly 1,000 A&W restaurants worldwide, with approximately 600 in the U.S.