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On tap at the Samuel Adams brewery: a marriage proposal

Posted by Matt Rocheleau August 12, 2011 01:44 PM

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(Courtesy: The Boston Beer Co.)

Standing in "Hops Garden," groom-to-be Michael Pinto, 58, and bride-to-be Dawn Rebolledo, 54, shortly after becoming engaged this morning at the Samuel Adams Brewery in Jamaica Plain.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Mike Pinto got down on one knee this morning and began to tell Dawn Rebolledo how, since their first date eight months and four days ago, he knew she was the one.

That feeling was mutual. Overwhelmed, she collapsed to her knees, and the Pennsylvania couple sealed the first known engagement at an unlikely setting: [the Samuel Adams Brewery](#) in Jamaica Plain.

"This is the best day of my life," Rebolledo, 54, said shortly after saying "yes" at the conclusion of a group tour of the facility. "This engagement is like a fairy tale. I'll never forget this moment for the rest of my life."

Why Sam Adams? Beer figures prominently in the couple's narrative.

Pinto, 58, and his two brothers own a small beer distribution company and retail store, [Three Brothers Beverage Inc.](#), they started 24 years ago back in their own hometown of Bangor, Pa.

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That store was where the couple had met, then in other relationships, some 20 years before he asked her out on their first date this past January. A regular customer at his store, she'd see him there often and had always thought he was "cute."

On past journeys to Boston – a city they said they both love more than any other they've visited together – Pinto and Rebolledo had made the brewery tour the first sightseeing stop of each trip.

So, the iconic beer manufacturing facility seemed like an ideal choice for Pinto to pop the question.

Plus, he said, "she'd never expect it."

"Who'd propose at a brewery?" he asked aloud. "People probably wonder, 'Are we alcoholics or what.'"

But, the venue was perfect to the only person to whom it really mattered.

"I love everything about this place," said his new fiancée, adding of the proposal. "It was like a movie. I've never seen anything more romantic."

And, she never saw it coming. "I was totally clueless," she said. "Everyone here was in on it. I was the only one that didn't know."

As the couple strolled along the roughly 45-minute tour that began at 10 a.m., Pinto, who had notified brewery staff of his plans earlier this week, tried to keep his composure. He avoided making eye contact with everyone else around him who knew. In his head, he constantly recited what he'd planned to say since picking up the engagement ring on Tuesday.

Before embarking, the group was told cameras would be following them to shoot photos and videos for the company's website. At the tour's conclusion, just before the beer tasting was set to begin, the tour's guide asked the group, "Does anyone have any questions."

Pinto was the only one who had something to ask.

Still recalling the lines he'd been going over in his head for several days, he said by phone today that he had his girlfriend stand up while he got on one knee, looked up and told her, "It's been eight months and four days since our first date, and from the beginning I knew you were the one. I want to spend the rest of my life with you."

"I kind of figured what he would ask next," she recalled.

After she said yes, the crowd around them began cheering and applauding.

The engaged couple planned to enjoy the rest of their weekend in Boston, which may include a return trip to the brewery. They will talk more soon about setting a wedding date.

"We are really so happy for them," said Jessica Paar, of the [Boston Beer Company](#), which showered the couple with gifts, including a congratulations card signed by the Boston-based beer maker's founder and brewer Jim Koch,



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