


# Business booms for Iowa's Distilleries

*New state law has been a game changer for distilleries*

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Business is booming for distilleries across Iowa.

Distilleries have been able to sell drinks at their locations since July. Distilleries across the state were limited to tours and samples on-site until then. Now one local distillery owner says the new law has been a game changer.

For nearly 5 years Ryan and Garrett Burchett fought for the change. Now they say the customers and opportunities have been pouring in. What once started as an idea for the Bruchett brothers, has become a popular hang out in the heart of Downtown LeClaire.

The Bruchetts opened the Mississippi River Distillery Co. in December of 2010.

"We thought it was an interesting opportunity to get on the ground level of something cool," said Ryan. "Now we have a cocktail bar and people are just raving about the different cocktails and different flavors that we come up with."

On Friday afternoon, guests were kicking off their weekend with custom cocktails.

"If you have any questions about anything, it really helps to have somebody who literally works where it's made and knows the process through and through," said visitor Alexa Parkin.

But at this time just nine months ago, that wasn't the case.

"It used to be you came, you took a tour, go 'Oh that was nice', whatever, but once you'd seen it there was no reason to come back," said Ryan.

Before the new law took affect, the brothers were competing with not just businesses in the area, but across the river on the Illinois side.