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Punters support Alex Volkanovski defend UFC title at Wollongong's The Volkanovski hotel



By Ashleigh Tullis

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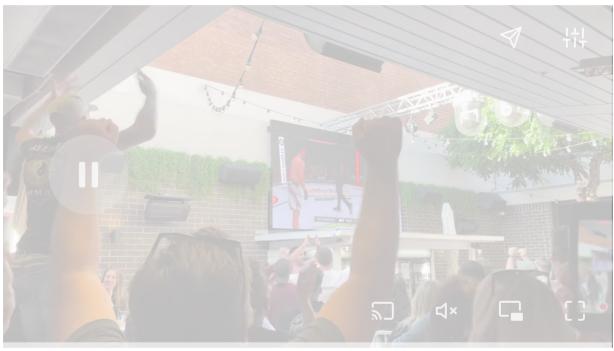












Alex Volkanovski defends title at The Volkanovski Hotel

The energy was high, the crowd abuzz and the beers were flowing when Alex 'The Great' Volkanovski stepped into the UFC octagon on Sunday afternoon.

The Volkanovski - the pub not the man - was pumping with patrons eager to support the Shellharbour fighter defend his UFC Featherweight Championship title against the Korean Zombie in Florida.

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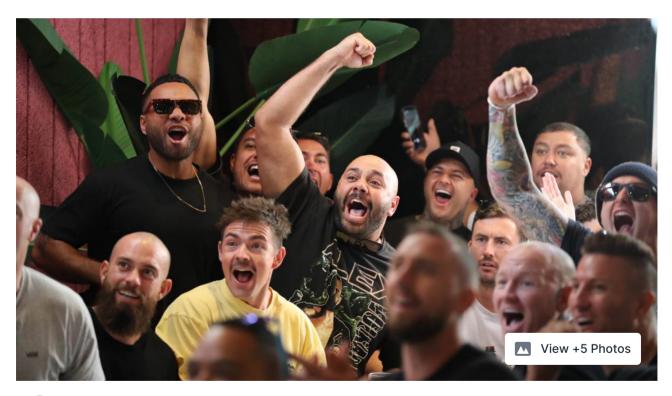


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The publicans and staff prompted the fight and hosted an event for Wollongong punters to watch and get behind the champion.



Hundreds of punters gathered at The Volkanovski, the temporarily renamed Illawarra Hotel, to watch Shellharbour UFC fighter Alex Volkanovski defend his title. Pictures: Robert Peet

Read more: The Illawarra Hotel renamed The Volkanovski in honour of local hero

Notean Zoniole, veteran Chan Sung Jung, in a 10ur-10unu 50ut.

As soon as the referee called off the fight amid a flurry from Volkanovski, the crowd became electric with elation.

More cheers, applause and singing filled the hotel when he was named the victor.

Jayden said he went to the pub to support his uncle fight and since Volkanovski began his career, his nephew had grown to love the sport.



Alex Volkanovski has defended his UFC Featherweight Championship. Picture: Getty **Images**

"The atmosphere is great," he said. "Seeing everyone here to support Alex and have a great time, have a couple of beers with mates is just great."

Jayden said it was "awesome" the hotel had been renamed after his uncle.

partifer with the mawaria moter, it is great to see Alex's manie plastered across the hotel."



Alex Volkanovski with publican Ryan Aitchison when the Illawarra Hotel was named The Volkanovski last month. Picture: Wesley Lonergan

Tyson said Alex was "one my best mates" and he and his other friends wanted to support Volkanovski.

Minutes before the fight kicked off, Tyson said Volkanovski's chances of taking out the championship were "very high" and he had enjoyed the afternoon at the hotel.

Post-fight, Volkanovski gave a shout out to his home country, causing the crowd to erupt.

"I told you before this fight, I said it call week, I'm on another level and I can't be stopped," Volkanovski said in the octagon.

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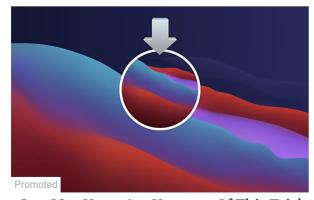
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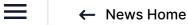
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