WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A drinking vessel, comprising: a container having an open mouth and an internal cavity; a removable lid attachable to the mouth, the lid having at least one opening; at least one flexible ventilation member that sealingly engages the at least one opening in the lid and has an air passage extending therethrough, wherein the ventilation member is configured to allow an inflow of air when pressure within the container enters a negative pressure state in relation to pressure outside the container, and configured to prevent a liquid contained in the internal cavity from leaking therethrough and wherein the ventilation member comprises one or more venting portions disposed within the air passage; a vent actuator operably coupled to the at least one ventilation member and configured to change a state of the ventilation member between a ventilation state and a closed state, wherein the vent actuator is integral with the ventilation member and configured to bring the ventilation member into the ventilation state upon contact with a cam portion; and a cover member disposed on the lid and moveable between open and closed positions, the cover member having the cam portion configured to contact the vent actuator during movement of the cover member to change the state of the ventilation member.

2. The drinking vessel of claim 1, wherein the vent actuator extends at least partly above a level of a vent opening of the air passage.

3. The drinking vessel of claim 1, further comprising a flexible tubular straw or spout or teat having a fluid passageway extending therethrough.

4. The drinking vessel of claim 3, wherein the tubular straw or spout or teat and the ventilation member form part of an elastic straw-vent or spout-vent or teat-vent assembly having an elastic body that sealingly engages the at least one opening in the lid.

5. The drinking vessel of claim 3, wherein the cover pinches the flexible tubular straw or spout or teat against the lid thereby closing the fluid passageway when in a closed position.

6. The drinking vessel of claim 1, wherein the cam portion is configured to contact the vent actuator when the cover member is at a position intermediate the open and closed positions.

7. The drinking vessel of claim 1, wherein the ventilation member comprises opposed flexible first and second venting portions angularly and downwardly disposed within the air passage.

8. The drinking vessel of claim 7, wherein the vent actuator comprises a wedge portion disposed on and integral with an upper surface of one or both of the first and second venting portions and projecting upwardly therefrom.

9. The drinking vessel of claim 8, wherein the wedge portion is integral with a portion of a side wall of the ventilation member.

10. The drinking vessel of claim 7, wherein the wedge portion extends upwardly from the first and/or second venting portions to define a free end configured to contact the cam portion.

11. The drinking vessel of claim 1, wherein the vent actuator comprises an elongate member supported within the air passageway by a support portion extending across the opening.

12. The drinking vessel of claim 11, wherein the elongate member has an annular flange at an end portion thereof for contacting the support portion.

13. A vent assembly for use with a drinking vessel, comprising: at least one flexible ventilation member configured to sealingly engage at least one opening in the drinking vessel and having an air passage extending therethrough, wherein the ventilation member is configured to allow an inflow of air when pressure within the drinking vessel enters a negative pressure state in relation to pressure outside the drinking vessel, and configured to prevent a liquid contained in the drinking vessel from leaking therethrough and wherein the ventilation member comprises one or more venting portions disposed within the air passage; a vent actuator operably coupled to at least one ventilation member and configured to change a state of the ventilation member between a ventilation state and a closed state, wherein the vent actuator is integral with the ventilation member and configured to bring the ventilation member into the ventilation state upon contact with a cam portion disposed on a cover member; and a flexible tubular straw or spout or teat having a fluid passageway extending therethrough.

14. The vent assembly of claim 13, wherein the vent actuator extends at least partly above a level of a vent opening of the air passage.

15. The vent assembly of claim 13, wherein the vent actuator comprises an elongate member supported within the air passageway by a support portion extending across the opening, and the elongate member has an annular flange at an end portion thereof for contacting the support portion.

16. A vent assembly for use with a drinking vessel, comprising: at least one flexible ventilation member configured to sealingly engage at least one opening in the drinking vessel and having an air passage extending therethrough, wherein the ventilation member is configured to allow an inflow of air when pressure within the drinking vessel enters a negative pressure state in relation to pressure outside the drinking vessel, and configured to prevent a liquid contained in the drinking vessel from leaking therethrough and wherein the ventilation member comprises one or more venting portions disposed within the air passage; and a vent actuator operably coupled to at least one ventilation member and configured to change a state of the ventilation member between a ventilation state and a closed state, wherein the vent actuator is integral with the ventilation member and configured to bring the ventilation member into the ventilation state upon contact with a cam portion disposed on a cover member, wherein the ventilation member comprises opposed flexible first and second venting portions angularly and downwardly disposed within the air passage.

17. The vent assembly of claim 16, further comprising a flexible tubular straw or spout or teat having a fluid passageway extending therethrough.

18. The vent assembly of claim 16, wherein the vent actuator comprises a wedge portion disposed on and integral with an upper surface of one or both of the first and second venting portions and projecting upwardly therefrom.

19. The vent assembly of claim 18, wherein the wedge portion is integral with a portion of a side wall of the ventilation member.

20. The vent assembly of claim 18, wherein the wedge portion extends upwardly from the first and/or second venting portions to define a free end.