Claims

1. A beverage dispense apparatus, comprising:

a receiving structure for removably locating and holding a sealed beverage package over a delivery vessel;

a dispense nozzle for dispensing beverage therethrough;

a first piercing element configured for puncturing a vent opening into a headspace of the beverage package; and

a second piercing element configured for puncturing an outlet opening into the beverage package below a level of beverage contained therein;

the outlet opening being aligned with a dispense end of the dispense nozzle for enabling a direct flow path of beverage for minimising turbulence therethrough toward the delivery vessel; wherein

the apparatus is configured to puncture the vent opening prior to the outlet opening.

2. The beverage dispense apparatus of claim 1, including an ultrasound generation element for transmitting ultrasound to the beverage.

3. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein the first piercing element comprises a hollow channel that is in communication with a closeable valve.

4. The beverage dispense apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first piercing element is configured to control dispense speed out of the package by advancing and/or withdrawing relative to the vent opening.

5. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein the second piercing element comprises a hollow channel, in communication with the beverage through the outlet opening.

6. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, including a first seal element configured for location over and about the vent opening.

7. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, including a second seal element configured for location over and about the outlet opening.

8. The beverage dispense apparatus of claim 3, wherein the closeable valve is actuated via a biasing element with a resilient force greater than a force required to puncture both the vent opening and outlet opening.

9. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, including a controller configured:

for controlling a dispense sequence that forms the vent opening prior to the outlet opening; and/or

controlling a duration and/or speed of dispense by actuating the first piercing element and/or by operating a valve to close or restrict airflow through the vent opening.

10. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein the sealed beverage package defines a longitudinal axis and at least the second piercing element moves substantially along the longitudinal axis to puncture the outlet opening and in line with the dispense nozzle for dispensing beverage vertically therefrom.

11. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, comprising a cradle for supporting the vessel underneath the beverage package wherein the cradle is pivotally mounted and includes a bias element to bias the cradle, with a vessel in place, in a tilted position, being configured to move toward an upright position when beverage fills the vessel.

12. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, wherein the first piercing element is moveable toward the package to form the vent opening and translates compressive force through the package to the second piercing element to form the outlet opening.

13. The beverage dispense apparatus of any preceding claim, comprising at least one telescopic strut or leg spanning a gap between the first and second piercing elements configured for collapsing the beverage dispense apparatus for storage and/or to adjust to the size of the beverage package.

14. A method of dispensing beverage from a beverage package, including the sequential steps of:

locating and holding a sealed beverage package in a receiving device over and proximate a dispense nozzle;

puncturing a vent into a headspace of the beverage package;

puncturing an outlet into the beverage package below a level of beverage contained within the package; wherein

the outlet is aligned with a dispense end of the dispense nozzle to enable beverage to pour in a direct flow path under gravity through the dispense nozzle for minimising turbulence, into a drinking vessel.

15. The method of dispensing beverage of claim 14, including the step of applying ultrasonic excitation to the beverage.