CLAIMS

1. A beverage dispensing machine comprising:

a plurality of dispensing modules each comprising:

a cleaning valve;

a beverage valve;

a conduit arrangement to couple the cleaning valve to the beverage valve, the beverage valve to a beverage reservoir, and the cleaning valve to a venting port, and having an outlet for the dispensing module;

a pump to establish fluid flow within the conduit arrangement; and

a controller configured to operate the cleaning valve, the beverage valve and the pump to direct a flow path between the beverage valve and the cleaning valve, the flow path direction being reversible to purge content within the conduit arrangement through either the dispensing module outlet or the venting port.

2. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 1, wherein the conduit arrangement further couples the cleaning valve to a cleaning fluid inlet; and wherein the controller is further configured to operate the cleaning valve, the beverage valve and the pump to establish a flow path between the cleaning fluid inlet and the dispensing module outlet.

3. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 2, wherein the controller is further configured, to operate the cleaning valve, the beverage valve and the pump to keep the conduit arrangement empty or filled with cleaning fluid from the cleaning fluid inlet during an idle mode.

4. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 3, wherein the content purge is performed on the cleaning fluid within the conduit arrangement before the beverage valve is operated to draw beverage from the beverage reservoir.

5. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the controller is further configured, to operate the cleaning valve, the beverage valve and the pump to retain beverage from the beverage reservoir within a portion of the conduit arrangement between the beverage valve and the dispensing module outlet during a standby mode.

6. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 5, wherein the content purge is performed on the beverage within the conduit arrangement after a timeout from commencement of the standby mode.

7. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the preceding claims, wherein gas is drawn from the venting port to drive the content purge through the dispensing module outlet.

8. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein gas is drawn from the dispensing module outlet to drive the content purge through the venting port.

9. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the claims 2 to 8, wherein cleaning fluid is drawn from the cleaning fluid inlet to drive the content purge through the dispensing module outlet.

10. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a temperature controlled environment to house the beverage reservoir and the beverage valve.

11. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the claims 2 to 10, wherein the pump is disposed between the beverage valve and the dispensing module outlet; and wherein the beverage valve is disposed downstream of the cleaning valve towards the dispensing module outlet.

12. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 11, wherein the conduit arrangement comprises
a conduit to couple the pump to the beverage valve;
a conduit to couple the beverage valve to the beverage reservoir;
a conduit to couple the beverage valve to the cleaning valve;
a conduit to couple the cleaning valve to the venting port; and
a conduit to couple the cleaning valve to the cleaning fluid inlet.

13. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a diversion mechanism to collect the purged content from the dispensing module outlet.

14. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 13, further comprising
a base to which the dispensing module outlets for the plurality of the dispensing modules are rotatably coupled, wherein the diversion mechanism comprises
a drainage pipe coupled to the base; and
a motor configured to rotate the plurality of the dispensing modules for alignment with the drainage pipe to collect the purged content from the dispensing module outlet.

15. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 14, wherein the drainage pipe is coupled to the venting port.

16. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 13, further comprising

a column to which the dispensing module outlets for the plurality of the dispensing modules are coupled, wherein the diversion mechanism comprises

a receptacle slidably coupled to the column, the receptacle extending for alignment with the dispensing module outlet during the content purge through the dispensing module outlet; and retracting otherwise.

17. The beverage dispensing machine of claim 13, further comprising

a drainage area coupled to the venting port, wherein the redirection mechanism comprises

a rail along which the dispensing module outlets for the plurality of the dispensing modules slide to the drainage area during the content purge through the dispensing module outlet.

18. The beverage dispensing machine of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a protective sheath for housing the dispensing module outlets for the plurality of the dispensing modules.