

A Whiskey Tasting Guide

Bourbon

4-Roses Small Batch \$8
7-Years Aged 90 Proof

Rich with caramel and rye the combination of sweet and spicy is enchanting and delectable. Moderately well balanced with the spice weighing a bit heavier than the sweet. An amber color. Even aromas of floral honey, toasted grain, buttery caramel, and peppery spice. A silky, soft entry leads to a dryish medium body of cinnamon bark, caramel, and honeyed toasted rye and cornbread. Finishes with a long, vanilla, sweet corn, and sweet baking spice fades. Nice smoothness, balance and proportion.

4-Roses Single Barrel \$10
6-8 Years Aged 100 Proof

Caramel and brown sugar abound. Aromas of citrus custard, some oak, light vanilla and butterscotch with a slightly medicinal finish with toffee, cinnamon, vanilla, pepper, red licorice, cherry, toasted brown sugar and a thyme-herbaceousness following up the end notes. A mild buttery character with a slight bite but smooth as corn silk for the most part. A bright burst of cinnamon and pepper which quickly turns to oaky caramel corn on a medium long finish.

Angel's Envy \$9
3-6 Years Aged 86.6 proof

Pale amber color. Aromas of fruity caramel, raisin cake, vanilla custard, and lather with a supple, fruity-yet-dry medium-to-full body and a warming charcoal mineral, spiced plum, and peppery spice finish. Angel's Envy has one of the most sensual bouquets ever nosed on a bourbon. Soft, gentle and with aromas of warm caramels, maple candy, brown sugar and praline, the bouquet is a study in subtle complexities. Another MGP Lawrenceberg distillate that is further enhanced by aging in port casks.

Basil Hayden \$8
8Years Aged 80 Proof

Basil Hayden's is a light bodied, high-rye bourbon. The rye is evident on the nose, bringing crisp citrus notes along with a slight peppery hint. There are notes of mint and licorice as well. Not a strong bourbon by any stretch, there is almost no alcohol burn on the initial tasting. There are some mild butterscotch hints on the tip of the tongue, but the middle and the back of the tongue get mostly lemon zest, vanilla, and a very mild rye spice. The finish on Basil Hayden's is very short. This is a dry whiskey, exceptionally so for a bourbon. There is just a touch of rye spice on the tail end, but by-and-large, this bourbon does not linger. Aromas of peach chutney, pistachio nougat, and grainy raisin bread with a soft fruity-yet-dry medium body and a gentle nut butter, anise seed, and sweet mint tea accented finish. An attractive, feminine style.

Blanton's Single Barrel \$12
8-10 Years Aged 93 Proof

Sourced from the Buffalo Trace Distillery. Blanton's is made from the distillery's higher rye formula, commonly known as Buffalo Trace Mash Bill #2. The barrels selected for Blanton's are all taken from the center racks of Warehouse H, Colonel Blanton's favorite aging location. There are light butterscotch notes on the nose followed by ripe peaches and orange. A peppery spice overlays the whole experience, doubtless from the higher rye content. Right up front, sweetness from the mash bill hits the tip of the tongue. It develops into more fruitiness on the mid palate, and ends with a spicy cinnamon on the back end.

Knob Creek \$8
9 Years Aged 100 Proof

Deep amber color. Huge whiffs of aged, soaked oak hit the nose right off the bat. It's like being in an oak boathouse. But caramel and maple syrup are prominent as well. The front of the tongue gets a sweet maple syrup taste immediately upon sipping this bourbon. As the flavors move across the tongue, there are definite notes of roasted sunflower seeds and tannin from the oak barrels. Aromas of creamy nougat, sassafras, fruity caramel, and baking spices with a slightly tannic, fruity-yet-dry medium-to-full body. The finish is long, with the tannins remaining prominent. There is an alcohol burn that is probably stronger than the 100 proof suggests it should be. But there is also a lingering caramel sweetness along with oak on the tail end.

Maker's Mark \$8

6 Years Aged 90 Proof

On the nose it offer up warm aromas of rich soft caramels, a touch of Missouri oak and vanilla bundt cake. Hints of honey and just a touch of frutiness are detectable as well. A slight hint of cedar shingle hidden below. Creme brulee dominates, with huge caramel and vanilla notes on the forefront before giving way to soft notes of burnt sugar and molasses at the end. more warm notes of fresh baked molasses cookies, apple pie spice, vanilla and caramel. The finish is a bit of a tease, ending quicker than you'd like but tempting you with the smorgasbord of flavors that dance over the palate.

Woodford Reserve \$9

8 Years Aged 90.4 proof

Distilled mainly in pot stills rather than column stills and aged in stone warehouses to help maintain an even environment Woodford attempts to stabilize many external factors to its nectar. On the nose distinctive aromas of freshly baked banana bread that instantly identifies this bourbon as being Woodford. Notes of oak, dark chocolate, cinnamon and orange also appear, creating a bouquet that is both appetizing and rich. long, spicy and satisfying finish. Hints of tobacco leaf, rye spice, and mint appear before giving way to oak notes and a subtle and elegant florality before leaving the palate.

Rye

Breukelen 77 Rye \$9

242 days Aged 90 Proof

Light and copper-colored, it features a bright nose with sugared dates and cherries. The palate has tropical fruit, oak, and pepper with a gritty mouthfeel and quite a bit of alcoholic heat. The medium-length finish has oak and dried fruit. Essentially a rye whiskey, the youth of the 77 Whiskey leaves quite a bit of grittiness, but it still has plenty of interesting flavors. 85% rye & 15% corn.

Templeton Rye \$8

4 Years Aged 80 Proof

Another MGP, Lawrenceberg distillate of 90% Rye and 10% barley. Deep amber copper hue. Rye spiciness, leather, toffee, allspice, malt, dried dark fruits. Clean spicy finish. Thick rye malt body, almost chewy in texture and mouth feel. There is a spicy sourness with an underlying sweetness that make for a outstandingly mellow rye of breadth and complexity. The rye is well tempered with other grains to make a excellent stand-up rye that combines the fire and strength of grain balanced with sweetness and careful aging.

Outliers

Breuckelen 77 Wheat Whiskey \$9

513 days Aged 90 Proof

100% wheat aged in new American oak barrels from this one room operation in Brooklyn, New York where everything from milling the grains to bottling take place. All the ingredients are locally produced from Organic farms where possible. Copper-honey color. Bright, sweet and fruity on the nose. Robust and full of flavor. Although the spice is heavy, there is also a gentle sweetness resembling honey, caramel and fruit. Medium finish with upfront spice and oak fading into the sweetness. The finish and palate are very similar in their order of appearance.

New Holland Beer Barrel Bourbon \$9

3 Years Aged 80 Proof

Amber color. Mild pistachio gelato, cherry tart, and lemon waxed wood aromas and flavors with a soft, dry-ish medium body and a vanilla soy milk, nutshell, and chalk accented finish.

Pinckney Bend Rested American Whiskey \$8

6 Months Aged 100 Proof

Light amber color. 80% corn, 15% barley, & 5% rye comprise this double distilled Whiskey at New Haven, Missouri on the banks of the Missouri River and aged in 15 gallon #3 Char Missouri oak barrels made in Cuba, Missouri. Spending its time in both new and re-used charred oak barrels it is neither a bourbon nor a corn whiskey. Flavors of toasted vanilla and caramel exude on the palate and the finish is mixed with tones of toffee and malt. A great local offering that is sure to win fans over.

Old Scout's Smooth Ambler "Ten" Straight Bourbon Whiskey \$9

Ten Years Aged 99 Proof

A robust 99 proof which offers sweetness right off the bat, surprisingly so given the mash bill; there are plenty of hints of vanilla and caramel on the front and middle of the tongue. It is rich and full with a ton of creaminess. The sweetness doesn't abate, but some slight peppery rye notes develop. There are some oak hints and some tannins, but by and large, the experience is sweet and creamy bourbon, not really heavy vanilla. Sourced by Smooth Ambler from MGP Indiana in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Tennessee Whiskey

Collier & McKeel \$8

1 Year Aged 90 Proof

Caramel-mahogany color. Sweet bourbon woody aromas followed by the sour mash and heavy vanilla tones. A hint of corn and a sweetness the reminds you of chocolate. A mild whiskey taste with a hint of smokiness and a bit of peat. A bite of metallic notes and a spicy finish that is smooth and sweet and brings it back to a honeyed sweetness that lingers.

Gentleman Jack \$8

4 Year Aged 80 Proof

Double-distilled in copper column stills then aged in new charred oak barrels. In their charcoal mellowing they drip the whiskey through about 10 ft of sugar maple charcoal over a 4 to 6 day period. In the case of Gentleman Jack this is done twice. This whisky also uses a higher proportion of corn than most bourbon, proprietary yeast strains and large multistory warehouses. This is a straight (unblended) sour mash bourbon with 10 hours of charcoal filtering for finishing. Lighter body, sweet with slightly astringent follow on, oak then pepper developing and causing the tongue to tingle. Fruity, like Cassis almost berry-like notes to it and pears. Nice mixture of fruits and a little spice and a little char, medium dry finish.