

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 Port Wood \$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

8 Years 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.

George T. Stagg \$18

15 Years Aged 124.9 Proof

Always a big bruiser, this bourbon is also perennially the most popular, which makes it the hardest to find in the wild. This year's release is from barrels filled in the spring of 2002, stored in various floors of warehouses C, K, M and Q. Drinking this whiskey is a bit like having a Hell's Angel deliver a fruit pie on a warm day – the nose is all musty, sweaty leather (in a good way), but the palate is all stewed plums, buttery pie crust and caramel richness. The finish manages to be long but also bursting with juiciness.

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 fruitiness are detectable as well. A slight hint of cedar shingle hidden below. Crème brûlée 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.

Pappy Van Winkle \$175

23 Years Aged 95.6 Proof

The #1 rated Bourbon whiskey in the world with a 99 out of 100 rating by the World Spirits Championship from the beverage institute. This bourbon offers a wonderfully smooth and rich profile. A velvety texture and finish are what really make this offering stand out from the pack. Pappy Van Winkle was a true character and like its namesake, this bourbon whiskey is full of character – quite a remarkable whiskey. Intense and tantalizing. Smooth with a citrus zest note. The mouthfeel is like a fine Cognac. The nose is very sweet with the essence of raisins & chocolate. The taste offers a rich silky smooth vanilla pudding flavor. Some sherry notes, dried fruits and vanilla. The finish is long and elegant with honey and darker fruits finishing things off. Last bottle of 2017 in our portfolio.

William Larue Weller \$30

12.5 Years Aged 128.2 proof

This is the collection's celebrated uncut and unfiltered wheated bourbon recipe, distilled in the winter of 2005 and aged in warehouses D, I and P. There's always a fascinating complexity to this whiskey and this outing does not disappoint! It's perhaps more herbal and spicy than usual, with loads of cedar on the nose. It's quite rich, rounded and concentrated with intriguing flavors of black tea and a balance of sweet, fruity and tart that reminds me of dark chocolate-covered figs. A bit of salinity rounds out the long finish.

Woodford Reserve \$9

No age statement 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. Comprised of 72% corn, 18% rye, & 10% malted barley in its mash bill. On the nose distinctive aromas of freshly baked banana bread and vanilla that lends one to identify this bourbon as being Woodford. Notes of oak, dark chocolate, cinnamon, caramel, dark fruits, and orange also appear, creating a bouquet that is both appetizing and rich. 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.

Woodford Reserve Double Oaked \$10

No age statement 90.4 proof

Woodford Double Oaked is produced by re-barreling Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select in a second virgin charred oak barrel for a little under a year. The second barrel used is deeply toasted before being lightly charred. On the nose smell a mixture of sweetness and oak. Toasted marshmallows, sweet vanilla, lightly toasted oak, and corn are topped with a drizzle of syrup. The additional aging in a second new barrel seems to have imparted less wood on the nose than would have been expected, while also pulling forward the sweeter flavors you'd find in standard Woodford Reserve it's surprising to see how well the sweetness of the vanilla plays nicely with the woody oak flavors. The finish delivers a great flavorful experience that is straightforward and easy. The use of a second "NEW" charred oak barrel is what sets this bourbon apart. This simple, yet effective barrel finish imparts a large dose of much needed flavor to the just-average standard Woodford Reserve.

Rye**Breukelen 77 Rye \$9**

706 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.

Sazerac Rye \$10

6 years Aged 90 Proof

The one and only New Orleans original. Sazerac rye whiskey symbolizes the tradition and history of New Orleans rye whiskey that dates back to the 1800's, around the time when saloons, veiled as Coffee Houses, began lining the streets of New Orleans. It was at the Sazerac Coffee House on Royal Street where local patrons were served toddies made with rye whiskey and Peychaud's Bitters. The libation became known as the "Sazerac" and America's first branded cocktail was born. This is the whiskey that started it all. Taste hints of pepper, a touch of cinnamon, and a very pronounced rye bread flavor come right up front. There is a very bourbon like flavor profile that runs through it with a hint of vanilla and a very sweet dulce de leche like caramel that gets rounded out with some paprika, licorice, and Bing cherries. While the rye flavor is pronounced the spice is muted and hangs out in the background making this a very accessible rye. Initially it's a bit savory with paprika, rye, and nutmeg that quickly dissolves to sweet orchard fruit before fading to a soft oaky finish. Sazerac Rye is missing that spicy leathery quality that's common in many other ryes and it's also a bit sweeter than most ryes; bringing a lot more sweet bourbon like qualities to the table. This is one of the quintessential whiskeys you have to try if you consider yourself a rye fan and it's a great baseline flavor profile to have locked away in your palate.

Thomas H. Handy**Sazerac Rye \$20**

6 Years Aged 127.2 Proof

From Buffalo Trace's Antique collection. Uncut and un-filtered. It's a rich and comforting expression of rye that is more herbal than it is spicy. Amber in its appearance; on the nose it's a little muted at first. Then mellow, dusky notes of sandalwood, curry spices, and dates, but it's not very expressive. A little water releases some vegetal notes as well as a bit more oak. On the palate it starts out earthy and mild, without much amplitude - a haunting line of sweetness starts to wind through, conjuring up melon, honey, cucumber, cinnamon, and black pepper. Soon after a bazaar-like spice quality emerges, with cumin, garam masala, ginger, and unsweetened baking chocolate. Water reveals some brighter flashes of cherry and builds out the body, but it remains nuanced. A nice long, lingering finish leaves you with the warming sensation of chili, cumin, and clove.

Outliers

Breuckelen 77 Wheat Whiskey \$9

710 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 Lawerenceburg, Indiana.

Tennessee Whiskey

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.