

**In this guide you'll find an introduction to a selection of some of our favourite whiskeys hand picked from a selection of over 100 on our back bar. With this guide we hope to introduce you to something new and give you the confidence to find your palate when it comes to American whiskies. All of the whiskies we stock are great and really it comes down to personal preference, so you can rest assured that you don't need to be spending big bucks on Pappy Van Winkle to experience the best that American whiskies have to offer**

## **THE WHISKEY THIEF**

**Whiskey Thief is not just our house pour and the drink you'll most commonly find mixed with coke, ginger and lemonade but it's also the Whiskey we made ourselves.**

Conceived way back in 2011, like all good things, over a late night bourbon session at The Lexington. What started life as a 4am whiskey-fuelled idea quickly snowballed into multiple trips to Kentucky to work on different mash bills and before we knew where we were we'd settled on two mash bills for our distillate, 100% corn and 21% rye, and had laid down our first 100 barrels.

After a four year journey, hundreds of thousands of air miles and hundreds of hours of experimentation the Whiskey Thief launched to the world in 2016. A mature and truly well-rounded bourbon, with a pleasant sweetness, an undercurrent of fruit spice, delicate vanilla and mocha notes and a hint of liquorish, see if you can spot it.



# **BOURBON**

**Bourbon is America's whiskey. By definition, bourbon is at least 51% corn, produced in the United States, and aged in new, charred oak barrels for at least two years. It doesn't, contrary to popular belief, have to be made in Kentucky.**

## **BUFFALO TRACE - £5**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon – 40%*

The easy drinking classic, a blend of corn, rye and malted barley aged in new American oak barrels from the legendary distillery.

**Tasting Notes:** Brown sugar, toffee apple, toasted sweet oak and a touch of chocolate finishing with sweet spices, a hint of cinnamon and toffee.

## **EVAN WILLIAMS - £5**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon – 43%*

Bottled by the Heaven Hill distillery in Bardstown Kentucky since 1783, the largest, family-owned and operated whiskey producer in the USA.

**Tasting Notes:** Caramel apples and a slightly spicy kick of clove on the nose with a palate of raisins, walnuts, zesty orange and a creamy vanilla core before a spicy finish, with drying notes of cinnamon bark and pine nuts.

## **WILD TURKEY 101 - £5.20**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon – 50.5%*

An American icon from the distillery most commonly associated with counter-cultural icon Hunter S. Thompson.

**Tasting Notes:** Creamy cherry Bakewell and rich oak on the nose with an underlying hint of sweet caramel. A smooth mouthfeel for this stronger bourbon with peppery rye notes accentuating the sweetness which leaves you with melted butter, caramel and an oaky finish.

## **YELLOWSTONE BOURBON - £5.30**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon – 46.5%*

**Tasting Notes:** The bourbon opens with a rich nose of vanilla and aged leather, followed by underlying notes of oak and baked apple. The palate is sweet and soft with notes of caramel, apple and brown sugar, nicely balanced with oak. A sweet, short finish makes this an easy drinker.

## **BAKERS 7 YEAR £5.70**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon 53.5%*

Named after the grandnephew of the iconic Jim Beam, Baker Beam worked his way up from labourer to distiller at the Jim Beam plant. This eponymous seven year offering, first released in 1992, represents Baker's personal bourbon preference, "a robust, medium-bodied bourbon, with a silky smooth finish".

**Tasting Notes:** Rich vanilla bursts from the nose with fruity notes of cherry, apple and orange, supported by burned oak. The palate is smooth, sweet and rich with hints of dark maple and a long finish of tobacco, leather and dried fruit.

# RYE WHISKEY

American rye whiskey, as well as needing to be made from over 51% rye, is also made with corn, malted barley and wheat. It has to be distilled to no more than 80% ABV and can only be filled into barrels at no higher than 62.5% ABV. It must be aged for a minimum of two years and not blended with any other spirits in able to to be called straight 'rye whiskey'.

## **SAZERAC RYE - £5**

*Kentucky Straight Rye Whiskey – 45%*

The Lexington was once, for a very short period of time, known as the Sazerac. We took our name from the infamous New Orleans pre-prohibition cocktail as did the second largest drinks brand in the USA who took exception to our use of the term, but that never got in our way of enjoying a sip of their outstanding wallet-friendly rye.

**Tasting Notes:** Fresh, bright and attractive - fields of grain, rye bread, cherries, lemons in a plastic bucket. Sweet and peppery with maple candy and root beer, then a woody dryness in the finish.

## **MICHTERS #1 RYE - £5.70**

*Single Barrel Kentucky Straight Rye – 42.4%*

The US #1 single barrel expressions are named to honor Michter's heritage harking back to America's first whiskey company, The Bomberger's Distillery opened in 1753.

**Tasting Notes:** Clear, spicy rye notes develop into caramel apple, more intense wood, and some bitter chocolate notes. A good body with an assertive taste.

## **WOODFORD RESERVE RYE - £5.10**

*Kentucky Straight Rye Whiskey – 45.2%*

First released in 2015, Woodford Reserve Rye uses a pre-prohibition style ratio of 53% rye in its mash bill to pay homage to history's original rye whiskeys, making spice and tobacco the dominant note among a sea of fruit, floral, and sweet aromatics, which yields a nice sweetness and overall balance.

## **SAGAMORE RYE - £5.50**

*American Rye Whiskey – 41.5%*

Traditional Maryland-Style Rye produced at the MGP distillery in Indiana to Sagamore's own recipe and using naturally filtered spring water, fed from a Maryland limestone aquifer. Keep your eyes peeled for their first in-house distillation of true Maryland Rye coming in 2021.

**Tasting Notes:** Candied dried orange peel with notes of clove and nutmeg. Lingering hints of walnut and brown sugar to finish.

## **WHISTLEPIG 10yr RYE - £8.70**

*Straight Rye Whiskey – 50%*

A hard-to-find, award-winning, 100% rye whiskey created by Maker's Mark's former master distiller, Dave Pickerell. Distilled and initially aged in Canada, before years of further ageing at WhistlePig farm in Vermont. One of the highest rated rye's of all time.

**Tasting Notes:** Allspice, orange peel, anise, oak, char and caramel on the nose with sweet hints of caramel and vanilla, followed by rye spice and mint on the palate and a long finish of warm butterscotch and caramel.

## **SMALL BATCH**

### **WILLETT POT STILL - £6.50**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 47%*

A big still-shaped decanter of Kentucky Bourbon Distiller's excellent Willett Pot Still reserve. A small batch bourbon named for the founders of this excellent Bardstown distillery.

**Tasting notes:** Delicate nose with notes of jasmine, vanilla, sweet corn, cinnamon and ginger. Woody palate and medium body with hints of nut, oak, black tea, butterscotch, lemon, dried corn and hints of rye. Finish is medium-long, spicy, herbal with notes of rye.

### **1792 SMALL BATCH - £6.20**

*Kentucky Straight Small Batch Bourbon Whiskey – 46.9%*

From the Old Barton Distillery, 1792 Small Batch bourbon is named after the year that America's bourbon state was born.

**Tasting notes:** This expression features mashbill with a generous helping of rye, resulting in a flavour profile packed with herbal spice alongside the classic caramelised sugar, buttered corn and toasted oak notes you find in top-notch bourbons.

### **MAKER'S 46 - £5.25**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 47%*

The first line extension to the Maker's Mark range since the '50s, Maker's 46 is essentially the standard expression with added spice as seared French oak staves are added to the barrel during the maturation process to increase the interaction between the juice and the wood which delivers all the flavour.

**Tasting Notes:** A bolder and more complex version of Maker's Mark. Pronounced notes of caramel, oak, vanilla and spice with a long, silky caramel finish.

### **SONOMA COUNTY #2 - £6.40**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 47.5%*

This is the Sonoma County Distilling Co.'s second West of Kentucky Bourbon, made in California and representing some of the great bourbons now coming from other parts of the States.

**Tasting notes:** this is big and rich with notes of toasted vanilla, almond, toffee and coffee.

### **WILDERNESS TRAIL SMALL BATCH - £6.50**

*Small Batch Kentucky Straight Bourbon – 50%*

Wilderness Trail Distillery was founded in 2013 and is located in Danville, Kentucky. This small batch bourbon whiskey is bottled in bond, so we know that it's at least 4 years old and bottled at 100 proof. According to Wilderness Trail, their Small Batch Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey is the result of one fermenter and a blend of up to 12 barrels.

**Tasting notes:** Peppery freshly baked bread, accompanied by wood smoke and just a hint of honey on the nose. Sweet palate of orange peel, rich oak, berry jam, with cigar box and a tropical fruit tang. Cinnamon buns and cooked apple on the finish.

# SINGLE BARREL

Single barrel whiskey is exactly what it says on the tin... Whiskey that has come from one single barrel. These tend to come in extremely small batches (a barrel's worth or less due to evaporation) and are a reflection of the taste of the master distiller, the whiskey is ready when they say it's ready which could be anything from a few years to over a decade.

## **BLANTON'S ORIGINAL - £6.20**

*Single Barrel Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 46.5%*

THE original single barrel bourbon and still very much the benchmark. Dangerously smooth, with literally the full range of flavours associated with bourbon and then a long spice finish, this is the whiskey you dedicate a big glass to and really enjoy. It is one of the finest liquids you may ever behold, I would pour this on my cereal if I woke up early enough for breakfast.

## **FOUR ROSES SINGLE BARREL - £5.80**

*Single Barrel Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 50%*

Four Roses have survived Prohibition, The Great Depression, Two World Wars, and 40 years of exile from the US (despite being the best selling bourbon in the USA until as late as the 1960s) and have consistently be named American Whisky Distiller of the Year through the 2010s with extremely highly rated single barrel and small batch offerings.

**Tasting Notes:** A balanced, rich, fruity nose with notes of spices, cherries, toffee and vanilla with oak, chocolate, butterscotch finish.

## **NEW RIFF SINGLE BARREL - £7.50**

*Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 52.6%*

New Riff Distilling's core Bourbon expression is a genuinely high-rye, full bodied whiskey offering savory, spicy character, bottled at Barrel Proof without Chill Filtration.

**Tasting Notes:** Butterscotch rounding into fresh oak, with hints of vanilla and rye spice on the nose, into a fulsome mouthfeel, leading to a sweeter vanilla accent, before a gathering of rye spices into the long rye-led finish, with brambly red-black fruits amid white pepper and clove.

## **WATHEN'S SINGLE BARREL - £5.90**

*Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey – 47%*

Eight generations and 250 years of bourbon knowledge distilled into this family owned business.

**Tasting Notes:** This whiskey has a light medicinal nose with even lighter traces of tropical flavors like lemon and black fruit. Its malty and fruity flavors are punctuated by hints of honey and pecan before fading to an exceptionally short yet oaky finish. Drinkers of this single barrel are left with just a bit of sweet cinnamon spice.

## **REBEL YELL 10 - £6.20**

*Single Barrel Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey – 50%*

“Honest Whiskey at an Honest Price” that was the slogan for Rebel Yell when it was created by the Stitzel-Weller distillery in 1849 and it's great to see them stay true to that commitment 150 years later with this ten year aged single barrel offering.

**Tasting Notes:** Hints of caramel and citrus on your first sips. But continue drinking and it morphs into a velvety oak flavor with unabashed spice.

**RARE WHISKEY**

BTAC Sazerac 18 Year Old (2018)  
BTAC William "LaRue" Weller (2019 & 2020)  
BTAC George T. Stagg (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020)  
BTAC Thomas H. Handy (2019 & 2020)  
Michters 10 Year Old Bourbon  
Pappy Van Winkle 12 Year "Lot B"  
Pappy Van Winkle 15 Year Old  
Uncle Nearest "Nathan Green BBS Edition"  
Whistle Pig "Old World BBS Edition" 12 Year Rye  
Whistle Pig "15 year" Rye