

Bourbon: What is it?

To be a bourbon whiskey it must be: 1) made in the USA
2) be at least 51% corn but may also contain rye, barley, and wheat 3) be aged at least 3 years in a charred new white oak barrel. Corn imparts some of the sweetness, rye a pepper/spice, barley mellowness, and wheat smoothness and softness. The barrel provides the color to otherwise clear “white lightning”.

The proof, or amount of alcohol, is generally called uncut or barrel proof which is full strength and can be 120 proof or even higher. Water is added to reduce the proof. Pappy van Winkle thought all whiskeys should be 100 proof/ 50% alcohol. Most straight and small batch whiskeys are 90 proof. Jack Daniels is not a Bourbon because it is aged in “toasted” barrels, not “charred”. Jack is 80 proof because most consumers mix Jack with something.

Bourbons can be aged for longer periods, 20 years or more. However, many experts believe 8 to 12 years is the most desirable. Many bourbons are difficult to find due to small production and high demand. 10 year Pappys can go for \$900 up, Wellers 12 for \$300+ or Blanton’s \$200.

Enjoy bourbon neat (nothing added), a splash of water, a cube or 2 of ice or any way that you prefer.

Cheers.



JJ Madisons

21 great Bourbons & Ryes

IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND

Blanton's...\$15

If you ever see a bottle for less than \$200...buy it.
Collect the horses that spell out B-L-A-N-T-O-N-S

Weller's 12 year...\$14

The same recipe as, and frequently referred to
as Poor Man's Pappy's". \$1

Col. EH Taylor...\$11

Great balance, my favorite overall flavor.

Eagle Rare 10 year...\$9

The definition of smooth. Whiskey of the year 2019.

Rabbit Hole...\$9

Smooth, slightly sweet

Larceny full proof...\$9

Strong, BIG flavors. Whiskey of the year 2021.

1792 full proof...9

Strong, oaky. Whiskey of the year 2020.

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HARD TO FIND

Horse Soldier...\$9

4 former green berets study whiskey for 4 years.
The metal bottle label is from World Trade Center steel.

Angels Envy...\$9

If you like smooth and slightly softer.

4 Roses Single Barrel...\$8

Excellent balance, touches all bases.

Rare Breed...\$7

Wild Turkey's finest. Top 20 whiskey of 2021

Buffalo Trace...\$7

Our top seller. Smooth, flavorful.
Slightly lighter flavors

Whistle Pig Rye 10 year...\$10

Perhaps the best known 100% rye.
Made in Vermont

Smoke Wagon Small Batch...\$10

Delicious. Expensive.
Finished in Sauterne wine barrels.

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**HIGHLY RATED, GOOD STORIES,
VERY GOOD VALUES**

Uncle Nearest 100 proof...\$9

This enslaved man taught Jack Daniels how to make whiskey and became the First USA Master Distiller \$

Longbranch...\$8

Wild Turkey hired actor Matthew McConaughey to be a flavor consultant. Mesquite infused.

Elijah Craig Small Batch...\$7

The man who created "charred barrels" Was it an accident?
Nobody knows. My favorite everyday bourbon.

Woodford Reserve...\$7

The Kentucky Derby bourbon

Maker's Mark...\$7

Pappy gave him the starter/mother yeast to make his first batch

Piggyback Rye 6 year 100% rye...\$7

Whistle Pig's newest. Try it and you will know rye

Copper City...\$6

We had to do an Arizona bourbon.
A little rough around the edges but an AZ original