



WHAT'S NEW IN KENTUCKY BOURBON

Bourbon Events, Distillers, Expansions Enhance Guests' Experiences

Distilleries

Whiskey Thief Distilling Co. Announces Plans for Louisville Location – Whiskey Thief Distilling, formerly Three Boys Distillery, has announced plans to open a new location in the NuLu section of Louisville. Set to open in 2028, the Frankfort based distillery plans to offer their signature straight from the barrel tastings as well as a cocktail bar, indoor and outdoor seating, private event space and a retail area. <https://www.lanereport.com/175997/2024/08/whiskey-thief-distilling-company-to-expand-signature-single-barrel-tasting-thieving-experience-into-louisville/>

Augusta Distillery nears completion on new distillery – Augusta Distillery in Bracken County has nearly completed the renovation of an existing 45,000-square-foot building, formerly home to the F.A. Neider Co. in Augusta. The company has spent more than \$45 million to build a state-of-the-art distillery, guest experience and event center in downtown Augusta. The facility is on track to be operational by late 2024. <https://commonwealth-of-ky.muckrack.com/link/gNxtSd/kentucky-distillery-in-final-final-stretch-of-achieving-full-production> <https://www.distillerytrail.com/blog/augusta-distillery-announces-new-23-million-distillery-and-event-center-in-kentucky/>

Garrard County Distilling Co. fills first barrels in new facility – For the first time since the 1800, Garrard County is producing bourbon. As of January 2024 Garrard County Distilling filled its first barrels in its new facility that is just beginning of a \$250 million project. GCD, which is owned by Atlanta based spirits producer Staghorn, sits on a 210-acre site that will be home to 50,000-square-foot distillery and two rickhouses, with plans for up to 24 aging warehouses by 2030. A visitor center with a tasting room and restaurant is scheduled to open by the end of 2024. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/01/17/garrard-county-distilling-company-opening> <https://www.lex18.com/spotlight-series/spotlight-on-lancaster-garrard-county-distilling-kentuckys-largest-all-new-independent-distillery>

J. Mattingly 1845 Distillery opens in Frankfort – A new bourbon distillery has opened up shop in Frankfort, just across the street from the Buffalo Trace campus. J. Mattingly is a 23,000 square feet facility that includes a gift shop, tasting bar, small pot still and a custom bourbon blending experience. Tours, tastings and experiences are offered Monday through Saturday. <https://www.thedrinksreport.com/news/2023/19199-j-mattingly-1845-distillery-opens-in-frankfort-ky.html>

New Distillery Coming to Cynthiana via Barrel House Distilling Co. – The Lexington based Barrel House Distilling Co. is planning to expand their production facility 30-miles north into Cynthiana. In addition to distilling bourbon and various other spirits, the \$1.8 million project will yield an event space capable of hosting up to 100 guests. The new location, which is set to open sometime in 2024, will be a stop on the Moonshine Trail and Kentucky Bourbon Trail respectively. <https://www.gobourbon.com/new-distillery-coming-to-cynthiana-ky-via-barrel-house-distilling-co/> <https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/bourbon/article282530568.html>

Brothers Wright Distilling to build \$38 million distillery – will age bourbon underground in Appalachian coal mine – Brothers Wright distilling unveiled plans to build a distillery and visitors center in Pike County. The facility will be located near the West Virginia border on the Tug Fork tributary of the Big Sandy River. The 12,000-square-foot project will feature a distillery, rick house, welcome center, museum and restaurant. The project is expected to be finished by late 2024. <https://www.distillerytrail.com/blog/brothers-wright-distilling-to-build-38-million-distillery-will-age-bourbon-underground-in-appalachian-coal-mine-renderings/>

Veteran-owned Lawrenceburg Bourbon Company opened its doors – A Navy Veteran opened a craft bourbon distillery in Lawrenceburg in October 2023. The Lawrenceburg Bourbon Company, located less than a mile from the Wild Turkey Distillery, features a gift shop on the premises and is open for tastings Tuesday through Saturday. <https://fox56news.com/news/bourbon/lawrenceburg-bourbon-company-opening-doors-on-thursday/>

Western Kentucky Distilling Co. holds grand opening – Western Kentucky Distilling Co. officially opened in October 2023. The \$30 million distillery in Ohio County will feature a 25,000 square-foot production facility includes 15 warehouses and it will produce more than 50,000 barrels annually. Distillery owners hope to open the distillery for public tours by fall 2024. <https://www.14news.com/2023/10/18/grand-opening-being-held-western-kentucky-distilling-co/>

Central Kentucky dads look to open Black-owned distillery – Two fathers in Garrard County plan to open a Black-owned distillery on a plot of land once owned by a local Ku Klux Klan leader. The distillery owners aim to bring tourism to the county and to inspire others to be attentive and loving fathers. The distillery is slated to open in 2025. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2023/09/25/daad-distilling-company>

Heaven Hill makes progress on \$160 million distillery – Work crews installed a 60-foot copper still into place in Heaven Hill's new distillery in Bardstown. The Heaven Hill Springs Distillery is a \$160 million expansion that will help the company increase its production capacity up to 450,000 barrels a year. https://www.wdrb.com/news/business/copper-still-installed-at-new-heaven-hill-distillery-in-bardstown/article_f04e49a8-4832-11ee-ab35-27e717a21c7f.html

Blue Run Spirits purchased by Molson Coors, plan to build \$51M Distillery in Scott County – Blue Run Spirits revealed the first look at its planned whiskey distillery and headquarters in Georgetown, Kentucky, designed by international architecture firm Bjarke Ingels Group. In July 2023 the distillery was purchased by one of the world's largest alcoholic beverage distributors, Molson Coors Beverage Company. <https://www.wlky.com/article/blue-run-spirits-new-distillery-kentucky-georgetown/43426013#> https://www.news-graphic.com/news/coors-purchases-local-based-blue-run-spirits/article_42ab6684-36f1-11ee-ae3b-cf67f8b7.html <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/food/spirits/bourbon/2023/03/22/kentuckys-blue-run-spirits-bourbon-distillery-to-open-in-2025/70036978007/>

Bluegrass Distillery breaks ground in Midway – Bluegrass Distillery at Elkwood Farms in Midway broke ground in February 2023. It is the first distillery to be located in Midway since 1959. Production began in March 2024, but the farm is open for guided tastings daily. <https://www.wkvt.com/2023/02/03/new-distillery-coming-woodford-county/>

Experiences

Casey Jones Distillery Launches Mash Maker's Experience – As a way to start off Bourbon Heritage Month, Casey Jones Distillery in Hopkinsville launched a new experience that allows guests to learn about the characteristics of each of the ingredients in bourbon and how each of them impact the production process. Each tour runs approximately 45 minutes and can accommodate up to 20 guests per group. <https://www.fredminnick.com/2024/08/26/casey-jones-distillery-launches-mash-makers-experience/>

Hermitage Farm's Whiskey Series Returns This Year! – Hermitage Farm in Goshen, Kentucky announced the return of its Whiskey Files series in February 2024. The series includes three exclusive tastings with industry professionals who distill, blend, and produce Kentucky bourbon. The next session will be on October 3, featuring Jay Erisman of New Riff Distilling. Tickets are limited to create an intimate setting for attendees to learn about the craft and heritage of whiskey. <https://www.hermitagefarm.com/plan-your-visit/upcoming-events/>
<https://www.whas11.com/video/features/great-day-live/gdl-hermitage-farms-whiskey-series-returns-this-year/417-286419c3-c139-4390-ae1b-5b3afc0ce61e>

Log Still Distillery opens high-end restaurant in downtown Louisville - Log Still Distillery celebrated the grand opening of its restaurant and tasting room experience, Monks Road Boiler House, on Whiskey Row in downtown Louisville. Named after the distillery's flagship line of bourbons and gins, Monk's Road Boiler House embodies the rich history and craftsmanship of Log Still Distillery, providing guests with an immersive and nostalgic dining experience. <https://www.leoweekly.com/louisville/a-new-chophouse-from-well-known-distillery-is-now-open-on-louisvilles-whiskey-row/Slideshow/16592190>

James B. Beam Distilling Co. introduces new visitor experiences and event schedule – James B. Beam Distilling Co., located in Clermont, announced that it was adding new visitor experiences as well as expanding on the distillery's events calendar. New offerings include brand-specific experiences, tastings, and a limited series "Behind The Beam" events for an inside look into whiskey making. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-james-b-beam-distilling-co-announces-new-visitor-experiences-and-events-calendar-302166313.html>

Rabbit Hole Distillery moves forward with NuLu expansion plan – Rabbit Hole Distillery plans to expand its facilities in Louisville, Kentucky. The distillery will take over the entire block it occupies on East Jefferson Street. Most of the buildings on the block will be demolished. The expansion will allow for easier access for trucks and eliminate truck idling on the street. The company also plans to create tasting rooms and retail spaces. https://www.wdrb.com/news/business/rabbit-hole-distillery-moves-forward-with-nulu-expansion-plan/article_01fe9df0-193f-11ef-90f8-9753011372c6.html

Wild Turkey Names New Visitor Center after its legendary master distiller – Wild Turkey has opened the Jimmy Russell Wild Turkey Experience, a newly remodeled visitor center, named for legendary master distiller Jimmy Russell. The 12,000-square-foot space features a new gift shop, tasting room, and bar, as well as an outdoor deck that offers views of the Kentucky River. A lounge called Generations, named for the three generations of the Russell family who work at Wild Turkey, is focused on mixology. <https://whiskyadvocate.com/Wild-Turkey-s-New-Visitor-Center#:~:text=Wild%20Turkey%20has%20opened%20the,views%20of%20the%20Kentucky%20River.>

Limestone Branch Distillery expands barrel program and opens new tasting lodge for barrel picks – Limestone Branch Distillery in Lebanon, Kentucky, has opened the Stephen B. Beam Tasting Lodge, a new 1,250 square-foot tasting space dedicated to its expanded barrel program. The lodge is named after Limestone Branch Distillery's founder and pays homage to his love of Yellowstone National Park. <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/limestone-branch-distillery-expands-barrel-program-and-opens-new-tasting-lodge-for-barrel-picks/>

Buffalo Trace Distillery opens whiskey experience in London - Buffalo Trace Distillery debuted the Buffalo Trace Distillery London in May 2024, marking its first overseas location. Situated in Covent Garden, the American whiskey experience showcases the brand's renowned products and offers guided tastings, and insight into the distillery's rich history. Guests can choose from two tasting experiences: "Taste of the Trace" or "Tradition & Change." The renovated 2,000-square-foot space will also feature a retail store with exclusive merchandise. Reservations are required for tastings, and walk-ins will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. This expansion aims to introduce American whiskey enthusiasts to Buffalo Trace's offerings in the heart of London.

<https://www.tastingtable.com/1589271/buffalo-trace-distillery-london-review/>

<https://www.thebourbonflight.com/buffalo-trace-distillery-is-going-across-the-pond/>

Log Still Distillery Opens 2024 Concert Season – Log Still Distillery has brought live music back to Nelson County with its 2024 concert season at The Amp. This season has an exciting lineup of performances by nationally touring musicians such as Nappy Roots, Travis Tritt and Geensky Bluegrass. Nestled in the heart of bourbon country, The venue seats 2,300 and is set to host a series of live concerts nearly every weekend from May through October. <https://www.thebourbonflight.com/log-still-distillery-to-open-2024-concert-season-on-may-10/> <https://www.logstilldistillery.com/theamp/>

RD1 Spirits plans \$4.8m Kentucky distillery – RD1 Distillery is building the new anchor facility in the Lexington entertainment district known as The Commons. The new facility is scheduled to open in early 2025. It will be more than double the size of RD1's current location and will allow them to produce their own bourbon. Spanning 10,215 square feet, the new site will more than double the size of RD1's current tasting room and gift shop on Manchester Road, Lexington. The site will include an 800-gallon pot still, a 175-gallon pot still, a 750-gallon fermenter and a 1,000-gallon mash cooker.

<https://www.thespiritsbusiness.com/2024/01/rd1-spirits-plans-4-8m-kentucky-distillery/>

<https://www.lanereport.com/175629/2024/08/rd1-spirits-creates-rd-master-distiller-role/>

New Riff Distillery completes \$3 million renovation, unveils new rooftop bar – New Riff Distilling in Newport unveiled its newly renovated Aquifer tasting room and rooftop cocktail bar that gives guests an unimpeded view of the Cincinnati skyline. The renovation also included an overhaul of the first floor gift shop, welcoming station, and pre-tour waiting area. <https://www.wcpo.com/money/local-business-news/new-riff-completes-3-million-distillery-renovation-unveils-new-rooftop-bar>

Pursuit Spirits launches immersive distillery tours in Clifton – Pursuit Spirits has begun giving tours of its Distillery located in Louisville's Clifton neighborhood, on the corner of Mellwood and Frankfort avenues. There are two types of tours available; one that consists of a tasting, barrel pick and fill your own bottle and one that goes in depth on pursuit's small-batch bourbon and its unique flavor profile. Additionally, the distillery will open a visitor experience on Main Street in downtown Louisville in September 2024. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/food/spirits/bourbon/2023/12/08/pursuit-spirits-opens-clifton-distillery-with-immersive-tours-tastings/71816576007/>

Bardstown Bourbon Co. comes to Downtown Louisville – Bardstown Bourbon Co. has opened a tasting room in downtown Louisville, 730 W. Main St. Located in the storied Whiskey Row section, the new BBC facility features a full-service bar with innovative craft cocktails and unique tasting experiences. The fresh, modern environment matches their expertise in blending, finishing and whiskey-making with immersive digital environments. <https://www.lanereport.com/168831/2023/10/bardstown-bourbon-co-comes-to-downtown-louisville/>

Hotels

Hotel in the heart of bourbon country lets guests sleep in a bourbon barrel – A unique hotel has opened for business in Lawrenceburg. Bourbon Barrel Retreats offers a one-of-a-kind barrel accommodation. With everything you'd need. A king bed, Private bathroom, kitchenette, and heat/air. Access to the common space with firepits, grills, hammocks, and more. <https://www.lex18.com/news/how-would-you-like-to-spend-the-night-in-a-bourbon-barrel>

Other

LGBTQ+ advocacy group announces first Kentucky Queer Bourbon Week – Queer Kentucky announced that the first ever “Bourbon & Belonging” bourbon week will take place from October 2-6, 2024. The goal is to show the inclusivity of the bourbon world through tastings, tours, pool parties drag brunches and more. The week will be celebrated in eight markets across the state including Louisville, Lexington, Paducah, Northern Kentucky.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jaredranahan/2024/08/28/immerse-yourself-in-kentuckys-vibrant-lgbtq-scene-at-this-years-bourbon--belonging/> <https://queerkentucky.com/bourbon-and-belonging-kentuckys-queer-bourbon-week/>

Kentucky Bourbon Trail Celebrates 25th Anniversary with a new look – The Kentucky Bourbon Trail celebrated its 25th year of educating visitors on the art and science behind the United States' only native spirit in June 2024. Going forward the KBT will combine the 28 smaller distilleries from the Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour with the 18 members on the KBT in order to help trail visitors better plan their trips. <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/kentucky-bourbon-trail-celebrates-25th-anniversary-and-ushers-in-adventurous-new-era-of-bourbon-tourism/> <https://apnews.com/article/kentucky-bourbon-trail-whiskey-tour-distilleries-c1fd5ec625d0fadf33acae565adfac41>

Kentucky Distillers Association Welcomes Two New Distilleries – Two new distilleries have been added to the Kentucky Distillers Association's rolls. Extended Stave in Lawrenceburg and LF Heritage Distillery Company in Scott County both joined the non-profit trade group during summer 2024. <https://craftspiritsmag.com/2024/08/27/kda-welcomes-lf-heritage-distillery-co-as-newest-member/> <https://www.fredminnick.com/2024/07/18/extended-stave-named-as-latest-kda-member/> <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/kentucky-distillers-association-welcomes-lf-heritage-distillery-co-as-newest-member/>

New recycling program at Bulleit Distillery aims to improve sustainability – Bulleit Frontier Whiskey launched "Don't Trash Glass" program in Kentucky to boost glass recycling rates. This initiative collaborates with businesses and residents to collect used glass bottles. Kentucky has a low glass recycling rate (15%) compared to the national average (31.3%). Bulleit hopes this program will improve environmental sustainability. <https://www.thebourbonflight.com/bulleit-announces-first-glass-recycling-program-at-its-distillery/>

Kentucky Distillers' Association Welcomes Bargo 459 As Newest Member – Knox County based bourbon distillery Bargo 459 joined the KDA in April 2024. Located near the Cumberland Run harness racing track in Corbin, Bargo 459 is a small craft facility that only produces a very limited number of barrels at a time. <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/kentucky-distillers-association-welcomes-bargo-459-as-newest-craft-member/>

Bourbon Industry breaks records for economic impact, tourism in Kentucky – The bourbon industry’s contributions to Kentucky’s economic impact and tourism numbers in 2023 continued once again broke records. Bourbon distilleries in the Bluegrass State reported 2.55 million visitors over the year with 76% of those coming from out of state. The economic impact for 2023 totaled \$9 billion.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2024/02/06/kentucky-bourbon-industrys-economic-impact-hailed-in-report/72493191007/> <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/a-decade-of-policy-advancements-propel-bourbon-industrys-impact-to-local-state-and-global-economies/>
<https://www.thespiritsbusiness.com/2024/02/kentucky-bourbon-generated-9bn-in-2023/>

Moonshine Trail looks to get tourists’ eyes on eastern Kentucky through local history, culture –

[The Moonshine Trail](#) celebrates the cultural and historical value of moonshine in Kentucky. The Trail involves seven distilleries and four other landmarks across eastern Kentucky. They’re organizing the trail to try and get the eyes of tourists exploring the hills and hollers of the region.

<https://www.wkms.org/business-economy/2023-11-16/moonshine-trail-looks-to-get-tourists-eyes-on-eastern-kentucky-through-local-history-culture>

Click [HERE](#) for a full list of experiences, tours, classes and events to experience Bourbon in Kentucky.

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