



Object of the Newsletter

To promote the appreciation of fine Whisky, the area from which it comes, the people that inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I am merely expressing my opinion on the whiskies I am tasting, as you know, everybody has one.

I now give my thoughts on Four Roses Bourbon, as you can see on the bottle to the right Four Roses was established in 1888, so they must be doing something right. This particular bottling has been aimed at the European and Japanese markets so should be readily available to many of you who follow this newsletter. If you go to the Four Roses website (page 3) you will find they do many different expressions of this whiskey.

All you Scotch drinkers out there may deride the fact that many Bourbons are not aged as long as Scotch and this is the case with this one, having been aged for around 5 years. However the hotter summers in Kentucky tend to mature the whiskey faster than whiskies in Scotland especially in the upper levels of the Rickhouses.

This Bourbon has been winning medals and garnering accolades for decades and the price is ridiculously low, so what's not to love. If you haven't yet, go on and give it a try.

So, would I buy it? Yes I would, it's not only inexpensive, but a very nice Whiskey.

[You can buy Four Roses Bourbon for around \\$20.00 a bottle.](#)

Tasting Notes

Nose - Caramel & Orange marmalade.

Palate - Cinnamon, honey & marmalade.

Finish - Spicy oak.

"Slainte Mhath"

Paul Bissett





Some Bourbon facts and stories

According to the Kentucky Distillers Association 95 per cent of all bourbon whiskey is produced in Kentucky.

But Bourbon can be made anywhere in the United States, not just Kentucky, in fact, Bourbon is currently being produced in all 50 states.

60% of the cost of a bottle of Bourbon is tax.

All Bourbons are whiskey. Always, 100% made in America, 51% corn (Minimum), new charred oak barrels.

How did Bourbon come about?

In 1776, Kentucky County was carved from the massive western part of Virginia previously known as Fincastle County, and a law known colloquially as "Corn patch and cabin rights," was issued by the Virginia General Assembly. The law allowed settlers to lay claim to 400 acres of land provided that they build a cabin and planted a patch of corn prior to 1778.

1792 Kentucky becomes a state.

Meanwhile in nearby Pennsylvania, most of America's favorite drink was being produced and that was Rye whisky, which was being taxed by the federal government, this caused the whisky rebellion. With 5,000 Pennsylvanians rising in revolt against the tax.

Until George Washington led 13,000 troops into Pennsylvania and quashed the rebellion.

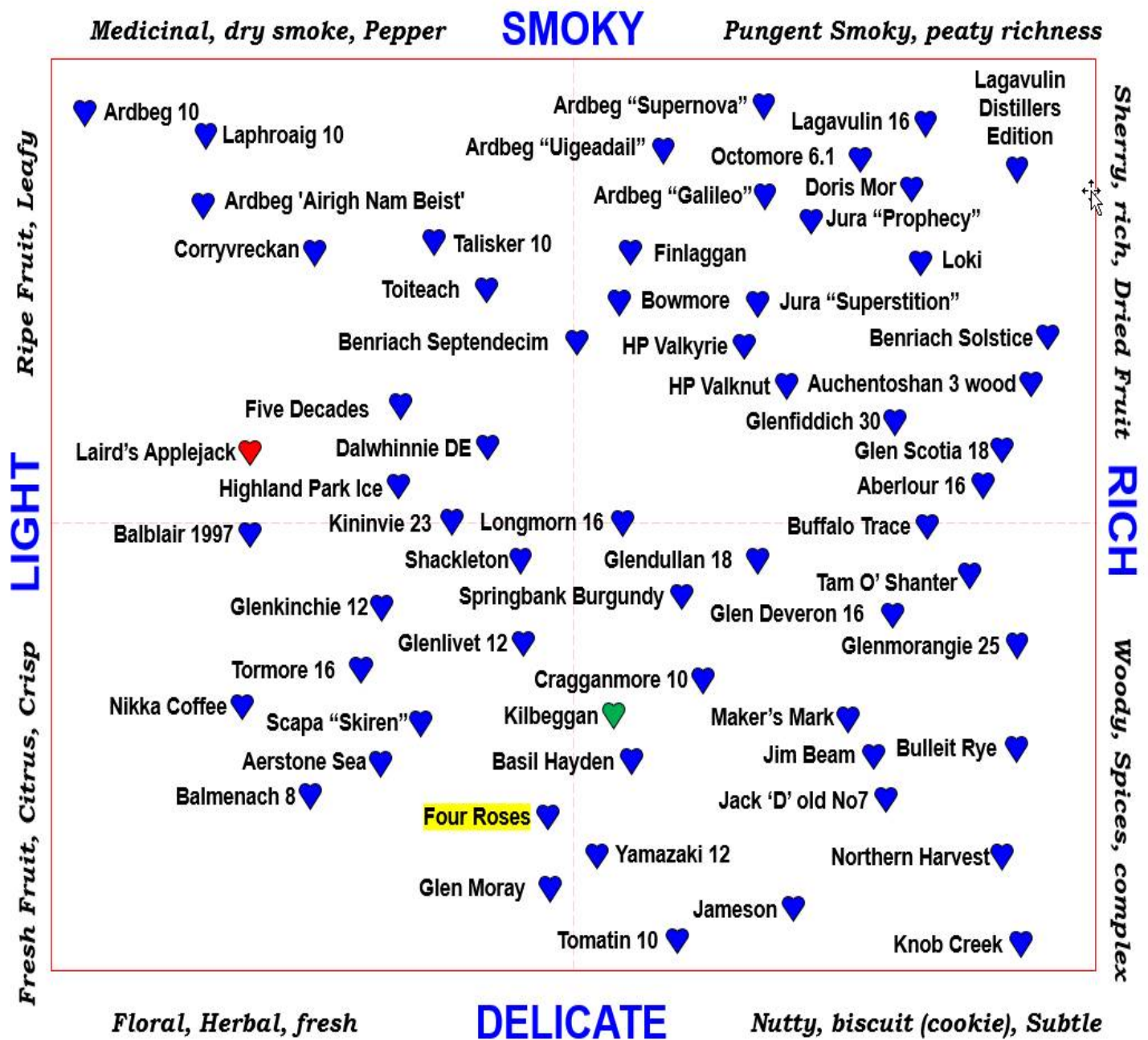
This caused many whisky makers to move from Pennsylvania to the new state of Kentucky.

Where the main crop being grown was corn ("corn patch and cabin rights,"), so they stopped making whiskey with Rye and started using Corn.

So, a lot more Bourbonesque whisky began to be produced, although it wasn't yet called Bourbon.



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. This Issue; [Four Roses Bourbon](#). For more information on [Four Roses](#) whiskies go to <https://fourrosesbourbon.com>





Some Bourbon facts and stories

So, when was Bourbon as we know it, first made?

Estimates say, sometime between 1823 and 1845

Who was the first to make Bourbon, as we would recognize it today?

A likely candidate was Dr. James Crow, a born and bred Scotsman, was working at a distillery in Kentucky around 1823.

Crow was a man of medicine and a man of science, and it was he who experimented scientifically with using setback (sour mash) to control certain aspects of his whiskey-making methods.

His whiskeys, Old Crow and Old Pepper, were very popular during the Civil War, and he has always been hailed as the man who not only made good bourbon, but also knew exactly why his bourbon was good.

He had the scientific knowledge to be able to tinker intelligently with various aspects of his processes in order to make a better whiskey.

He made whiskey using corn as the predominant grain, he insisted on aging it in charred oak casks, and he used a sour-mash starter.

For those who insist on having a name, Dr. James Crow is the "inventor" of bourbon as it is known today, sometime between 1823 and, say, 1845.

George Washington is the only sitting President to lead troops into battle, when he led 13,000 troops into Pennsylvania to crush the "Whiskey Rebellion."

If bourbon is aged for more than two years but less than four, it must bear an age statement on the label.

In 1929 six Kentucky distilleries were licensed to produce whiskey for medicinal purposes.

Operating as the American Medicinal Liquor Company they proceeded to keep doctors busy by producing 1.4 million gallons of medicinal bourbon per year.



Famous Bourbon drinkers you may know:

US President Martin Van Buren (was known as "Whiskey Blue").

US President Zachary Taylor. During the Mexican War, a political aide visited to inform Taylor that the Whig party wished to nominate him for president. Taylor allegedly replied:

"Stop your nonsense and drink your whiskey!"

US President and General Ulysses S. Grant. Abraham Lincoln when told that Grant drinks too much whiskey said, "Find out what whiskey Grant drinks and send a barrel of it to my other generals and maybe they will fight."

US President Harry S Truman. Truman loved bourbon and quite often knocked down a shot of it in the morning.

Frank Sinatra was buried with a bottle of Jack Daniel's (not Bourbon, but Tennessee Whiskey).



Some Bourbon facts and stories

In 1930 during prohibition, no fewer than 282,122 stills were discovered in the USA.

Kentucky Colonel is the highest title of honour bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, given in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, state or the nation.

Not surprisingly, many bourbon industry figures have been honored with it.

Kentucky is home to more barrels of maturing bourbon than people.

Legendary frontiersman Davy Crockett is reputed to have drunk a large draught of moonshine in a single gulp on one occasion.

When the power of speech returned to him, he is said to have commented that it had been so hot he wouldn't need to have his food cooked for a month.

One of the first written accounts of American whisky was in 1620, when Virginia farmer George Sloan wrote in a letter, "We have found a waie to make soe good drink of Indian corne I have divers times refused to drink good stronge English beare and chose to drinke that."

Some people believe bourbon was named after Bourbon County in Kentucky. Others believe it was named after Bourbon Street in New Orleans, a major port for trading Kentucky whisky.

The famous red-wax sealed Maker's Mark bottle was designed by the distillery owner's wife, Margie Samuels. Samuels wanted something that would stand out in the liquor store and reassure drinkers that this bourbon was quality made. She also came up with the name, which comes from the "mark of the maker," a signature that indicates a product is handmade.

And finally;

The only guarantee when talking about whisk(e)y, is there will always be someone who disagrees with your opinion of what tastes best and how it should be drunk.



Prohibition (Temperance) timeline in America:

1907 - Georgia and Oklahoma became the first states to adopt statewide prohibition in the USA during the 20th century.

1908 - Mississippi and North Carolina adopted statewide prohibition.

1909 - Tennessee adopted statewide prohibition.

1912 - West Virginia adopted statewide prohibition.

1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

It legalized the federal income tax. Previously, the tax on alcoholic beverages had provided approximately one-half to two-thirds of the entire federal revenue. By reducing federal dependence on taxes from alcohol, it eliminated a major objection to prohibition.

1914 - Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Virginia, Washington State and West Virginia adopted statewide prohibition.

1916 - Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Washington adopted statewide prohibition.

1917 - It became a federal crime to sell alcohol to members of the U.S. military forces. Indiana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Utah adopted statewide prohibition.

1918 - Florida, Nevada, Ohio, Texas, and Wyoming adopted statewide prohibition. Also, this same year the following states ratified the 18th Amendment; Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia.

1919 to 1933 Prohibition across all of America, during which the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol were banned.