



WHAT'S NEW IN KENTUCKY BOURBON

Bourbon Events, Distillers, Expansions Enhance Guests' Experiences

Distilleries

Champion show jumper seeks to open distillery in Madison County – Karl Cook, an internationally ranked show jumper and ex-husband of actress Kaley Cuoco, wants to open a small-scale bourbon distillery in Madison County. In order to do this, Cook must get a conditional use permit for the property, which sits on the Kentucky River. The Madison County Board of Adjustment had considered the measure during a public meeting in February 2024 and have tabled it until an unspecified future meeting where the issue could be discussed further. <https://www.kentucky.com/news/business/article285782766.html>
https://www.kentucky.com/lexgoeat/bourbon/article285747256.html?fbclid=IwAR2uJ0LyA7sE3Jior5JRpp_iB6VwZkBim7CiNPDm8Pm1_glGhGrC0Y1-63A

Garrard County Distilling Co. fills first barrels in new facility – For the first time since the 1800, Garrard County is producing bourbon. In January 2024 Garrard County Distilling filled its first barrels in its new facility that is just the 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>

J. Mattingly 1845 Distillery opens in Frankfort – A new bourbon distillery has opened-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. Construction on the new location began in early 2024. When it is complete, the new facility 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 and age bourbon 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 opens its doors – A Navy Veteran opened a craft bourbon distillery in Lawrenceburg in October 2023. 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 Hills 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

Buzzard's Roost Whiskey Row Experience Opens in Downtown Louisville – Buzzard's Roost Sipping Whiskeys announces the opening of the Buzzard's Roost Whiskey Row Experience in downtown Louisville, at 624 W. Main Street. <https://www.bevnet.com/spirits/2023/buzzards-roost-whiskey-row-experience-opens-in-downtown-louisville/>

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 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

Heaven's Door Distillery to open in Pleasureville – Heaven's Door, a whiskey brand owned by Bob Dylan, is set to open a distillery in Pleasureville in Spring 2024. The facility itself has been producing bourbon for last several years under the name Six Mile Creek. <https://robbreport.com/food-drink/spirits/bob-dylan-heavens-door-whiskey-distillery-kentucky-1234824391/>

Buffalo Trace Distillery completed second still house, expanded– Buffalo Trace Distillery has unveiled a second still house. The still stands 40-feet tall and can produce 60,000 gallons a day. It's part of Buffalo Trace's \$1.2 billion expansion which included new cookers, fermenters and a new dry house. Buffalo Trace also unveiled expanded tours with new sites. On the Hard Hat Tour, guests will now be able to see the new still house and some of the other new additions part of the expansion. The Trace Tour has also been expanded and will include more insight into bourbon making. <https://www.whas11.com/article/news/local/buffalo-trace-distillery-frankfort-bourbon-tours/417-e0ed29e0-032f-44e7-b878-8ea24c1cbf67>

Bluegrass Distillery breaks ground in Midway – Bluegrass Distillery at Elkwood Farms in Midway broke ground in February 2024. 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.wkyt.com/2023/02/03/new-distillery-coming-woodford-county/>

Augusta Distillery announces new distillery, event center – Augusta Distillery in Bracken County has announced its first full-scale operation in Kentucky with the renovation of an existing 40,000-square-foot-

building, formerly home to the F.A. Neider Co. in Augusta. The company is investing \$23 million to build a state-of-the-art distillery, guest experience and event center. The facility is on track to be operational by summer 2024. <https://www.distillerytrail.com/blog/augusta-distillery-announces-new-23-million-distillery-and-event-center-in-kentucky/>

Experiences

Log Still Distillery to open a luxury restaurant and tasting room in downtown Louisville – The Gethsemane based distillery announced its plans to open a restaurant and tasting room called Monk’s Road Boiler House on Main Street in downtown Louisville. The menu is described as “luxury chophouse-style” and will be led by chef David Danielson. The restaurant is scheduled to open in early May 2024 and in addition to the tasting room, it will feature private dining and a less formal bar on the lower level of the establishment. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/dining/restaurant/2024/03/11/log-still-distillery-to-open-monks-road-boiler-house-in-louisville/72179158007/>

Log Still Distillery To Open 2024 Concert Season on May 10 – Log Still Distillery is thrilled to announce the return of live music to Nelson County with its 2024 concert season at The Amp. This season promises an exciting lineup of performances, opening with the acclaimed country music star Lee Brice on May 10th. 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, showcasing a diverse array of nationally known artists. <https://www.thebourbonflight.com/log-still-distillery-to-open-2024-concert-season-on-may-10/>

Bob Dylan’s Heaven’s Door brand center to open in former NuLu Church – Heaven’s Door, the whiskey brand owned by Bob Dylan has purchased a former church in the NuLu neighborhood of Louisville and will turn it into a whiskey bar and live music venue dubbed The Last Refuge. The venue, which does not have an opening date, will act as a tasting room for the Heaven’s Door Distillery in Pleasantville. The distillery is set to open its own visitors center in Spring 2024. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/food/spirits/bourbon/2023/05/10/bob-dylan-heavens-door-bourbon-spirits-center-louisville/70093743007/>

RD1 Spirits plans \$4.8 million 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 August 2024. 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/>

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 their 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/>

Lexington named Official Gateway to Kentucky Bourbon Trail - As an Official Gateway sponsor, Lexington receives prominent placement on the KBT website and marketing materials, including recommended itineraries, signage and more. Lexington joins Bardstown, Louisville and Northern Kentucky as Official Gateway-level sponsors. <https://www.thebourbonflight.com/lexington-kentucky-becomes-offical-gateway-to-the-kentucky-bourbon-trail-experience/>

Buffalo Trace Distillery to open whiskey experience in London - Buffalo Trace Distillery is set to open Buffalo Trace Distillery London in Spring 2024, marking its first overseas location. Situated in Covent Garden, the American whiskey experience will showcase the brand's renowned products, offer guided tastings, and provide 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.thebourbonflight.com/buffalo-trace-distillery-is-going-across-the-pond/>

Kentucky Hug designed to be a one stop shop for bourbon lovers – [Kentucky Hug](#) works with distilleries to centralize their various bourbon experiences and available tickets and allows users to plan and book those experiences, all in one place. Additionally, the website provides bourbon enthusiasts with detailed descriptions of distilleries, allowing them to tailor their experience to their own liking. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/food/spirits/bourbon/2023/04/04/the-airbnb-of-bourbon-the-kentucky-hug-wants-to-change-bourbon-tourism/70020942007/>

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>

New hotel The Manchester opens in Lexington's Distillery District – This new downtown Lexington hotel, located at 941 Manchester St., not only treats its guests to a restful stay, but also to beautiful architecture and decor. Interior designer Jenny Bukovec drew on all the best bits of Kentucky history and culture for Lexington's The Manchester – which hosts guests in rich wood- and brick-lined interiors. <https://thespaces.com/manchester-hotel-lexington-ky/>

Other

Hermitage Farms announces dates for 2024 Whiskey Files series – Hermitage Farms has announced dates for its popular lecture and tasting series, Whiskey Files. Whiskey Files present a rare opportunity to enjoy a bourbon tasting while hearing from those who distill, blend and produce Kentucky's most iconic

product. This year's series includes: Carson Taylor of Kentumicky Peerless Distilling Co on March 20, Woodford Reserve's Elizabeth McCall on July 17 and Nic Christiansen with Barrell Craft Spirits on Nov. 20. Tickets for all three events can be purchased at <https://www.exploretock.com/barn8-restaurant>

Jeptha Creed Distillery broke records for visitor volume in 2023 – Jeptha Creed, the woman and family-owned bourbon distillery in Shelbyville enjoyed record numbers of visitors throughout 2023. Overall, around 63,000 visitors came through the tasting room, which is a 20% increase from 2022. Additionally, Jeptha Creed was named Shelbyville's top destination by Trip Advisor. <https://www.gobourbon.com/jeptha-creed-distillery-reports-record-breaking-visitor-volume-in-2023/>

Visit Bardstown unveils inaugural National Bourbon Week – Bardstown, also known as the Bourbon Capital of the World, will celebrate the first ever National Bourbon Week from June 11-16, 2024. With the intention of making the weeklong celebration an annual occurrence, Bardstown welcomes enthusiasts, connoisseurs and curious newcomers to enjoy tastings and festivities that pay homage to the iconic amber elixir. Seven local distilleries, including Heaven Hill, Bardstown Bourbon Company, and James B. Beam Distilling, will participate in the festivities and the culminating event will be the unveiling of Bardstown Collection. <https://traveldreamsmagazine.com/visit-bardstown-unveils-first-annual-national-bourbon-week/>

Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour adds new distilleries – The Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour welcomed nine distilleries to the nation's premier adventure showcasing micro-distilling craftsmanship. The newest additions include Augusta Distillery, Fresh Bourbon, Pensive Distilling Co., RD1 Spirits, Bard Distillery, Castle & Key, Copper & Kings, Log Still Distillery, Whiskey Thief Distilling Co. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/food/spirits/2023/11/06/newest-distilleries-added-to-the-kentucky-bourbon-trail-craft-tour/71036422007/> <https://www.fredminnick.com/2022/10/20/whiskey-thief-distilling-joins-kentucky-craft-tour/>

KDA Welcomes Four new Distilleries to the Fold – During November and December 2023, Kentucky Distillers' Association added four new members to its rolls, bringing the total up to 80. The latest inductees include Lawrenceburg Bourbon Co., Buzzards Roost, General George Stillhouse and Heaven's Door Distillery. The KDA is a historic non-profit trade group that unites and leads Kentucky's signature Bourbon and distilled spirits industry. <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/kentucky-distillers-association-welcomes-lawrenceburg-bourbon-company-as-newest-member/> , <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/kentucky-distillers-association-welcomes-buzzards-roost-as-newest-member/> , <https://kybourbon.com/industry-news/kentucky-distillers-association-welcomes-general-george-stillhouse-as-newest-craft-member/>

Seven Kentucky Distilleries team up to form Moonshine Trail – [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>

Bourbon Industry adds \$9 billion to Kentucky economy – The Kentucky Distillers' Association announced that it had a very favorable impact on Kentucky's economy in 2023. Not only did the industry generate \$9 billion in revenue, but it also attracted 2.5 million visitors to the various distilleries and experiences around the state. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2024/02/06/kentucky-bourbon-industrys-economic-impact-hailed-in-report/72493191007/>

Kentucky, Brand USA announce partnership highlighting bourbon – The Kentucky Department of Tourism and Brand USA have teamed up for a two-year partnership to help promote Kentucky's unique bourbon heritage and increase international visitors. The partnership will include bourbon storytelling and education such as webinars, insider guides, familiarization tours, influencer and media content and

programming on Brand USA's GoUSA TV channel. <https://travelweekly.co.uk/news/tour-operators/kentucky-and-brand-usa-to-showcase-home-of-bourbon>

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

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