WILLETT

FAMILY ESTATE

‘Kentucky’s Crown Jewel, our last great truly independent distillery’

-Whisky Magazine

‘Recognized as one of the best names to turn to for American whiskey’

-Food&Wine 2019

‘For connoisseurs, Willett holds a hallowed position in the American whiskey pantheon.’

-VinePair



Year Founded: 1936

Region: Bardstown, Kentucky

Founder: Thompson Willett

Master Distiller: Drew Kulsveen

Known for: ‘There are certain brands within this wild whiskey world that garner a level of attention most distillers can only dream of. Willett happens to be one of those brands.’ -Whisky Mag

Fun Fact: Willett Distillery is also known as Kentucky Bourbon Distillers (KBD).

In 1936, Thompson Willett founded the Willett Distillery, which was erected on the family’s farm, three short years after the repeal of prohibition. Today, the tradition continues. Right outside of Bardstown, you’ll find the historic Willett Distillery—an independent, family-owned and quintessential Kentucky experience. From the underground, spring-fed lakes to the Kentucky split-face limestone exterior, to the old turn-of-the-century belt and pulley fan systems running throughout the distillery and visitor center, it truly makes for a memorable trip. John David Willett (born in 1841) had been the master distiller for the Moore, Willett & Frenke Distillery, which he had formed with his brother-in-law Thomas S. Moore of Bardstown, and a Mr. Frenke of Louisville. In 1876, Willett fell ill and sold his interest in the company. Starting at the age of 15 with a five-year stint at the Mattingly Moore Distillery, his son A. Lambert Willett (born in 1883) picked up his father's profession. Lambert Willett then worked for the Max Selliger & Co. Distillery for twenty years – eventually becoming one-third owner and superintendent of the plant. A. L. "Thompson" Willett, Lambert's son (born in 1909), also joined him at the plant as assistant superintendent. Lambert Willett later purchased a farm and, together with his sons and especially led by Thompson Willett, founded the Willett Distilling Company on the site. Thompson and Lambert Willett used John David Willett's bourbon recipes as the basis of the whiskey that they would distill there and brand as Old Bardstown. On September 19, 2019, Even Kulsveen was inducted into the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame and recognized with a Parker Beam Lifetime Achievement Award by the KDA, who described Kulsveen as "a beloved icon who patiently resurrected one of the state's most historic distilleries and returned the family-owned brand to global prominence.” To this day, descendants of Thompson Willett are still carrying on the family tradition of making fine Kentucky Bourbon and Kentucky Rye Whiskey at the same spot that Thompson and his family operated over 80 years ago.



Pot Still Reserve Bourbon

Willett Pot Still Reserve was originally introduced as a single barrel beginning in 2008. A very graceful bourbon. Without a doubt a must-try for any bourbon lover. The iconic Willett Pot Still bottle is an exact replica of the patented Willett pot still built by Vendome Copper and Brass. 65% corn, 20% wheat, 15% barley.

Nose is "vanilla lemon cake." The palate is a balance of caramel, vanilla, spices and citrus. Very subtle and complex and always shows a soft mintiness framed by some fresh vanilla and a round, rich body.



Pot Still Reserve Cask Strength Bourbon

Willett Pot Still Reserve Cask Strength is a limited, full-proof release of Willett's iconic wheated pot still bourbon, bottled uncut at cask strength. This semi-annual expression takes the classic Willett Pot Still Reserve and presents it at full barrel strength for a richer, fuller-bodied pour. Built on a wheated mash bill of 65% corn, 20% wheat, and 15% barley, it leads with soft sweetness and a rounded, creamy texture, while the cask strength presentation deepens the caramel, oak, spice, and vanilla. Entered into the barrel at 115 proof and bottled uncut, it is released around the Spring and Fall Equinox in Willett's unmistakable pot-still decanter with a purple cask-strength neck label — a seasonal collector's bottle.



4-Year Cask Strength Rye

3-Year Cask Strength Rye

‘50 Best Rye Whiskeys’ -UPROXX 2021

Willett’s flagship whiskey! A classic bottle design that’s filled with an unconventional spirit. A rye that quickly reminds you you’re drinking a rye. The spice is bold and the proof is powerful. Willett found a way to marry those forces in perfect harmony, without the need to source. The batches are tiny and have become extremely limited releases. Each batch is bottled at cask strength without chill filtration. A robust rye with dark cherry, burnt vanilla, and spices for days. It's a delicious rye with a weighty mouthfeel. It's insanely well balanced with the alcohol so perfectly integrated at 108 proof you'll forget it’s there, but you'll find yourself smiling more and happier with each dram. This is a comingling of two mash bills 90% (74% rye, 11% corn, 15% barley); 10% (51% rye, 34% corn, 13% barley).



Noah's Mill Small Batch Bourbon

One of the lushest and richest whiskeys on the market. Noah's Mill is a handmade, small-batch Kentucky bourbon with unique character and a smoothness rarely found in young whiskies. 72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley.

'Aromas of ginger, plums, cinnamon, fresh-baked cornbread, and fresh-squeezed cherries. The warm palate packs caramel, nutmeg, and vanilla with lovely cinnamon on the finish.' -Whisky Advocate

'Stunning small grain, the rye in particular starring. This is one of Kentucky's most complex whiskies by far. Small grains, big heart.' -Jim Murray's Whisky Bible



Rowan's Creek Small Batch Bourbon

'The Best Bourbons of 2024 to Drink Neat, as a Highball, or in an Old Fashioned.' – Men's Journal 2024

'A great example of the kind of American whiskey you want to give to a Scotch drinker to make them see the light.' -Drink Insider

Named after the creek that runs through the distillery. 72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley. Bringing your nose to the glass and your olfactory is treated to caramel and vanilla layered on herbal and floral notes. The mouthfeel starts oily but finishes dry. On the palate you are treated to sweet caramel, vanilla, dusted in floral notes finishing notes of oak and a lingering spiciness.



Old Bardstown Estate Bottled Straight Bourbon Whiskey

Old Bardstown is the inaugural Willett family Bourbon, containing the original family recipe. 72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley. Nose is sweet, herbal, citrus. The palate is herbaceous, sweet fruit, vanilla, on a layer of oak and earthiness that goes on like a champion marathon runner.



Old Bardstown Straight Bourbon Whiskey

This whiskey serves as the foundation for many of the cocktails featured at Kulsveen Modern and is a favorite among bartenders. 72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley. A classic Bourbon. On the nose, caramel, oak, vanilla, and just a hint of floral notes. The palate follows with more of the same. A softer style Bourbon, this is a great gateway dram to converting someone to becoming a Bourbon drinker.



8-Year Straight Bourbon Whiskey

Distilled from a mixture of corn, wheat and malted barley. The first release of Willett Wheated Bourbon was distilled in the early Spring of 2013 and bottled in the Summer of 2022. The proprietary mash bill is barreled at 115 proof in Char# 4 American oak. We bottle without chill-filtration to preserve the most flavor possible.



Johnny Drum Private Stock Straight Bourbon

According to the bottle's label, Johnny Drum served as a drummer boy in the year 1861 during the Confederate (Civil) War. At the end of the war, legend has it Johnny returned home to his native Kentucky, where he staked claim among a beautiful spring. Johnny learned the importance of finding a way to convert his excess corn crop into a profitable item, rather than allowing it to go to waste. As the story goes, it wasn't long before Johnny's determination produced an exceptional bourbon whiskey.

This is a comingling of two mash bills:
65% (72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley)
35% (52% corn, 38% rye, 10% barley

The nose is sour apple, vanilla, and oak. The palate is a snowball rolling over fruits, vanilla, and spices, mixing them all together into a well-balanced and complex Whiskey.



Kentucky Vintage Straight Bourbon

Kentucky Vintage is a label bottled by Kentucky Bourbon Distillers, the parent company of Willett, as part of their Small Batch Boutique Bourbon collection.

The commingling of mash bills generates a mellow balance of flavor:
85% (72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley)
15% (79% corn, 7% rye, 14% barley)

Amber, with a golden cast. Medium-bodied. Buttery, smooth texture. Attractive in its viscosity and warmth of the palate. Nicely balanced by whiffs of campfire scents, soft fruit notes, and a light streak of fragrance.



Pure Kentucky Straight Bourbon

Kentucky, USA- Pure Kentucky is an all-natural product. Made with all natural ingredients and pure limestone water, it is a true masterpiece among Kentucky's finest Bourbons. This bourbon is hand-bottled, extra old, in very limited quantities, one small batch at a time. Aptly named, because when you think of Kentucky, you think Bourbon.

This is a comingling of two mash bills:
85% (72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley)
15% (52% corn, 38% rye, 10% barley)

The nose is toffee, fruit, eucalyptus and oak. The palate is cinnamon, toffee, caramel, pepper, oak, and spices.



4-Year Cask Strength Bourbon

The Willett Family Estate Small Batch Bourbon is a commingling of two classic Willett family mash bills. A new addition to the Willett family of brands with legendary roots and fresh elegance. Both mash bills enter the barrel at 125 proof with a final bottling proof to vary among batches based on the discretion of Master Distiller and fifth generation whiskey maker, Drew Kulsveen.

This is a comingling of two mash bills:
70% (52% corn, 38% rye, 10% barley)
30% (72% corn, 13% rye, 15% barley)