
NEVADA H&C DISTILLING CO.

SMOKE WAGON

Year Founded: 2012

Region: Las Vegas, Nevada

Founders: Aaron Chepenik & Jonathan Hensleigh

Fun Fact: Named after the 1873 Colt Single-Action Army revolver, AKA 'the gun that won the West'.

Established in 2012 by business partners Aaron Chepenik and Jonathan Hensleigh, the Nevada H&C Distilling Company is located in the heart of The City of Second Chances – Las Vegas, NV. With an initial plan to source aged bourbon stocks from MGP as well as distill their own whiskey from scratch, a sudden and unforeseen change in the Nevada state laws leading to the creation of a Craft Distiller's License meant the guys had a tough decision to make: either become Craft Distillers,

start distilling from scratch, and not be able to bring in or bottle the 2000 barrels of prime MGP bourbon they had sourced in Indiana; or become registered Rectifiers, abandon their dreams of being Craft Distillers of bourbon, and put those aged stocks to proper use. They chose the latter and 4 years later in 2016 they launched their pioneer product, Smoke Wagon Small Batch bourbon. Championed by founder, blender, and full-time Instagram badass Aaron Chepenik,

the brand has gone from strength to strength as knowledge of them and the quality of what they're bottling spread like wildfire through the global bourbon community. With the hunt for sources of quality and well-matured MGP bourbon always afoot, it wasn't long before Smoke Wagon fell into the crosshairs of the bourbon community. Combine this with eye-catching packaging and a social media controversy involving the proprietor of a San Diego-area liquor store, who had seemingly exploited a loophole in California's liquor laws to pilfer an entire single barrel pick chosen by the online whiskey club Bourbon Enthusiast, and the brand has gone from being obscure to becoming a household name.



Straight Bourbon Whiskey



Double Gold - San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2020

Just released in fall of 2019, the goal was to create an affordable everyday bourbon that had that unique and unmistakable Smoke Wagon flavor, consisting of delicate sweet notes with a rye spice finish. Barrels (4 and 5 year) with our same high rye mash bill were racked on the top two floors of the warehouse and never rotated. The higher the floor the hotter it gets in the summer causing more expansion and more movement into the wood. Because we don't chill filter, these combined aspects create a bourbon that is rich and creamy beyond its years. Never rotating the barrels ensures there are no harsh tannin flavors and the high rye mash bill adds a delightfully spicy and nutty finish.

Aromas of honey, toasted nuts with some oak and heat. Creamy mouthfeel with initial rich sweet notes of honey and caramel on the tip of the tongue followed by nuts, oak and pepper spice that starts on the sides of your tongue. The nuttiness and oak fade as pepper spice from the rye takes over the entirety of your pallet. Finishes with a creamy sweetness that coats followed by once again by oak and a pepper spice that lingers.

Small Batch Bourbon Whiskey



Gold - San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2016, 2017, 2019 & 2021

Our high rye content bourbon is aged in the heart of a century-old brick warehouse. To ensure a unique and consistent flavor, barrels are hand selected to create a perfect blend that is smooth and at the same time bold and intense.

Released in 2016, our goal was to create a unique great tasting high rye content bourbon. The problem is that rye ages much faster than corn. So, while our younger vintages had a big rye spice flavor (which we love) the mouth feel was too thin and it lacked the sweet, delicate complexity of a well-aged spirit. Our older vintages had the smoothness and sweet notes that can only be achieved by moving in and out of #4 char and caramelized oak for many, many years, but the nice rye spice had been aged out!

So, what to do? Find the perfect blend. We combined the two (consisting of 4,5,6,7 and 9 year). The younger vintages maintain the bold spiciness of the rye, cut down on the tannins and keep it fruit forward. The older vintage brings in a creamy mouth feel with sweet aromas and taste notes that only appear over time from aging in a barrel. We hope you enjoy drinking it as much as we enjoy making it.

Balanced oak nose with hints of fruit and dried apricots. Initial sweet notes on the front of the tongue. Well balanced mouth feel with spicy notes including white pepper on the middle and back of the tongue from the younger vintage and high rye mash bill. Good balance of sweet and oak flavors including hints of caramel (from the #4 charred barrels, caramelized wood sugar), fruit flavor and rye spice. Finishes smooth with no alcohol burn even at 100 proof.

Uncut Unfiltered Bourbon Whiskey



'The 100 Best American Whiskeys, according to Fred Minnick' – Forbes 2022 & 2023

Double Gold - San Francisco World Spirits Competition 2017, 2020, 2021 & 2022

No water added because none is needed.

We took the same vintage blending philosophy that we used to create Small Batch, except this time the goal was to create high proof bourbon that tasted its best neat. Uncut is so rich and sweet with an unbelievably thick mouth feel, the heat and rye spice finish are a welcome addition. It's like milk with cookies!

Water will bury tannins, eliminate youth and cut down on alcohol heat. Without it, barrels of different vintages and warehouse locations have to be blended together to bury the tannins of the older vintages and eliminate the thinness of the younger ones. Dialing in the finish is where the work comes in. It's very easy to add flavors, but to figure out how to blend out the unpleasant ones is incredibly difficult. The result is a beautifully complex and unquestionably unique flavor profile that drinks way below its proof and is best neat.

Blending vintages of our high rye mash bill to achieve this flavor profile at 115-116 plus proof was a very rewarding challenge for us. There is a delicate balance between creamy mouthfeel, tannins and sugars that comes into play that makes the end result magical. Older vintages have more evaporation which means a higher concentration of fats and sugars per ounce which gives them a nice creamy mouthfeel as well as caramel and honey goodness. They also have more tannins because alcohol has been in contact with the wood for longer. A lot of what some perceive as alcohol burn is actually a harshness due to tannins. This can counterbalance the benefit gained by the high concentration of lipid esters insulating your pallet from alcohol heat. There needs to be enough of the older bourbon for the oak flavors and mouthfeel, but also some younger ones to cut back on the tannins and bring in some delicate fruit and caramel flavors.



Desert Colt Straight Bourbon Whiskey

Formerly known as Uncut the Younger.

Created to be a remarkably approachable and easy sipping cask strength bourbon. Desert Colt comes straight from the barrel with no water added, non chill filtered. Select barrels are expertly blended to create flavor notes that are fruit forward with lots of candy, cinnamon spice, and the perfect amount of heat.

Bottled in Bond Rye Whiskey

'The 100 Best American Whiskeys, according to Fred Minnick' – Forbes 2022



Distilled from a traditional rye mash bill consisting of 51% rye and 49% corn. A high percentage of corn adds a nice rich sweetness that balances out the flavor notes of Rye's big black pepper and cinnamon spice. Creating a flavor profile that starts off creamy, rich with fruit and candy flavor notes that has a big, bold, complex spicy finish that lingers for an eternity.

Malted Straight Rye Whiskey



'The 100 Best American Whiskeys, according to Fred Minnick' – Forbes 2022

Distilled from a mash bill of 51% Rye and 49% Malted Barley. Big, bold and unapologetically intense! The Malted Barley really shines through upfront, starting the flavor journey off sweet and creamy with flavor notes of caramel, cereal and what can only be describes as...well...malt. The Rye kicks off the finish with tons of cinnamon spice, big black pepper, combined with smoky flavor notes courtesy of the Malted Barley. Being cask strength only adds to the beautiful intensity of the finish.

Blenders Select Rye Whiskey



51% Rye · 49% Barley

We selected barrels of the sweet, delicate 51% rye /45% corn/4% barley traditional straight rye and blended it with barrels of the big and bold 51% rye/ 49% malted barley straight rye. The end result is an upfront flavor profile that's beautifully sweet and rich with a luxurious mouthfeel. The finish has just enough cinnamon and rye spice to get your tongue tingling while the flavors from the malted barley, such as smoke and malt are still present, but softer and more subtle

Silver Dollar American Vodka



Copper Pot Distilled in Las Vegas from only the purest ingredients then silver filtered for an incredibly smooth taste.

100% corn mash bill makes this vodka gluten free.

Smooth creamy mouth feel with a water like taste. Just a hint of copper and corn sweetness, finishing smooth.