

# Ryes, Whisky Montreal, May 12, 2015

***Blues for X***  
***by George Elliott Clarke***

Pretty boy, towel your tears,  
And robe yourself in black.  
Pretty boy, dry your tears,  
You know I'm comin' back.  
I'm your lavish lover  
And I'm slavish in the sack.

Call me Sweet Potato,  
Sweet Pea, or Sweetie Pie,  
There's sugar on my lips  
And honey in my thighs.  
Jos'phine Baker bakes beans,  
But I stew pigtails in rye.

My bones are guitar strings  
And blues the chords you strum.  
My bones are slender flutes  
And blues the bars you hum.  
You wanna stay my man,  
Serve me whisky when I come.

# Tonight's Whiskeys

- Trybox New Make Rye** – unaged
- Rittenhouse Straight Rye** – aged / bonded  
(rī)<sup>1</sup> – ultra premium
- George Dickel Rye** – Tennessee / Indiana
- Alberta Premium** – Canadian
- John Jacob** – micro / craft distillery

# What is rye?

- Rye (*Secale cereale*) is a grass grown extensively as a grain, a cover crop and as a forage crop. It is a member of the wheat tribe (*Triticeae*) and is closely related to barley (*Hordeum*) and wheat (*Triticum*). Rye grain is used for flour, rye bread, rye beer, crisp bread, some whiskeys, some vodkas, and animal fodder. It can also be eaten whole, either as boiled rye berries, or by being rolled, similar to rolled oats.
- Rye is a cereal grain and should not be confused with ryegrass, which is used for lawns, pasture, and hay for livestock.
- Spring or Fall Planted
- Rye is unusual among grains for the high level of fiber in its endosperm – not just in its bran.
- Because of this, rye products generally have a lower glycemic index than products made from wheat and most other grains, making it especially healthy for diabetics.
- Rye Berries can be cooked as a whole grain, a hearty breakfast cereal or ground in your own mill for the freshest rye flour available.
- Rye can also be sprouted to use in salads and on sandwiches.
- Rye makes some of the most nutritional flour.
- It is higher in fiber than other types of common bread and is darker in color and stronger in flavor.
- Rye is perfect for a pumpernickel bread loaf or robust peasant breads.
- When planted in the fall, Winter Rye establishes quickly providing lush green cover through the winter offering producers erosion and weed control while building organic matter in the soil.
- Winter Rye can also be used when fall planting is needed for temporary pasture.
- When planted in the spring, Winter Rye can be used as a cover crop or for green manure.
- 1 Bushel approx. 50 pounds of Organic Winter Rye costs \$103.37 at retail

# What is rye?

Virginia Wild Rye *Elymus virginicus*



Canada Wild Rye  
*Elymus canadensis glaucifolius*



# What is rye whiskey?

## American rye whiskey

- Made from a mash of at least 51 percent rye.
- It is distilled to no more than 80% abv.
- Aged in charred, new oak barrels. The whiskey must be put into such barrels at not more than 62.5% abv.
- Rye whiskey that has been so aged for at least two years may be further designated as "straight", as in "straight rye whiskey."

## Canadian rye whisky

- Food and Drug Regulations B.02.020. [S]. (1) Canadian Whisky, Canadian Rye Whisky or Rye Whisky
- aged in small wood for not less than three years,
- possess the aroma, taste and character ***generally attributed*** to Canadian whisky,
- mashed, distilled and aged in Canada
- contain not less than 40 per cent alcohol by volume
- may contain caramel and flavouring.

# American rye whiskey

- Rum was the first spirit made and drunk in the Americas.
- Blockade / Taxation / War forced a switch to grain whiskey.
- George Washington (60% rye, 35% corn, and 5% barley).
- Nationally the advertising word "grocer" mean retail liquor on the premises.
- A. Overholt & Co. Pure Rye was the first whiskey brand name (1810).
- 1943 Auction sale of a 1911 bottle of Maryland rye (Sherwood) for \$50.
- Contemporary (51% rye, 39% corn, and 10% barley).

# American rye whiskey

Western Pennsylvania rye

aka Monongahela rye. In the 19<sup>th</sup> C expressly aged in barrels for about 2 years.

90 – 100% rye in the mashbill.

Combination of malted and unmalted rye.

Sweet mash.

Spicy and fruity

Maryland/Eastern PA rye

Not necessarily made in Maryland/Eastern PA.

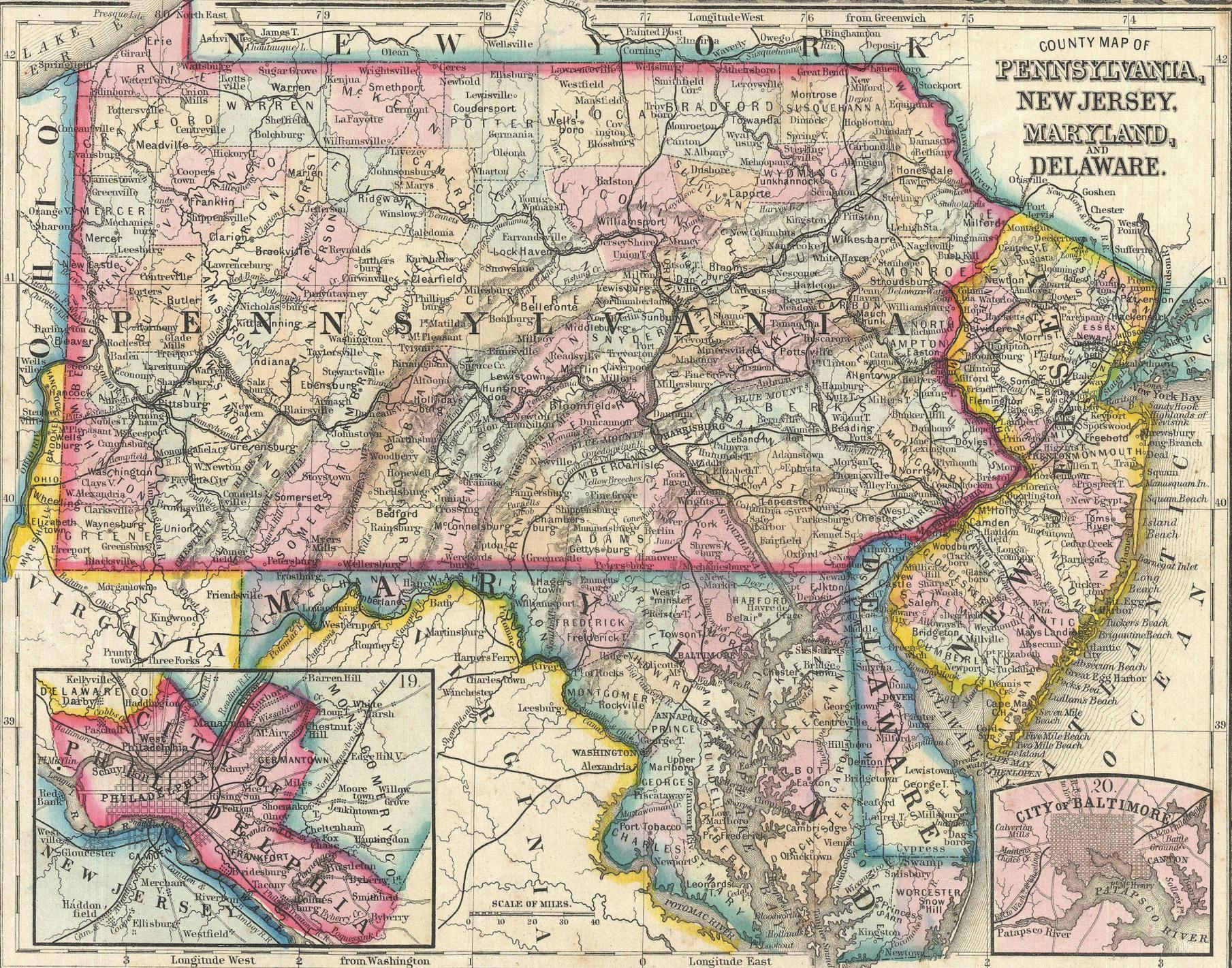
Roughly 65% Rye, 15% Corn & 20% malted barley.

Barreled at 49% abv.

Possibly blended with some sherry or prune wine.

Sour mash.

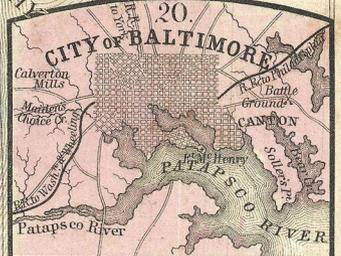
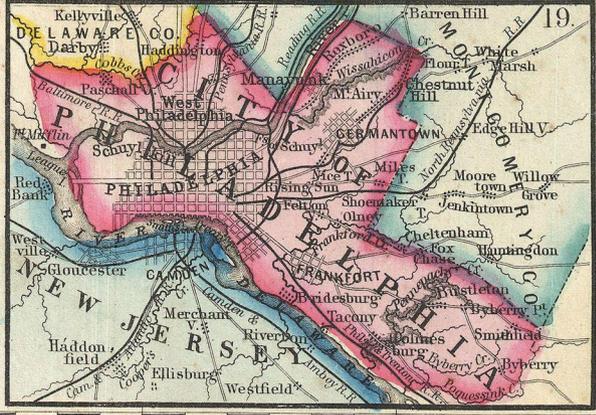
grassy and vegetal



COUNTY MAP OF  
**PENNSYLVANIA,**  
**NEW JERSEY,**  
**MARYLAND,**  
AND  
**DELAWARE.**

Longitude West 79 78 77 76 75 74

Map showing county names and major cities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. Pennsylvania counties include Erie, Warren, Bradford, Susquehanna, Potter, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks, Lancaster, York, Adams, Chester, Delaware, Kent, Cecil, Talbot, Dorchester, Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, Stafford, Prince Georges, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore. Major cities shown include Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Baltimore, and New York City.



SCALE OF MILES.  
0 10 20 30 40

Longitude West 3 2 1 0 Longitude East 2 3

Generalizing old-timers describe Maryland Rye as having a heavy body, robust rather than subtle, yet complex and with a decided after-taste. One sufficiently interested newcomer put her pre-1920 glass down again saying "A bit like varnish remover. Or a liquid form of sandpaper." Her spouse drinking from the same ancient bottle remarked "When properly made and aged as this seems to have been, a warm mellow care-lightening experience."

- Maryland Historical Magazine, Winter 1990

# Canadian Rye

- Historically would use wheat middlings as initial distillate. Added Rye distillate to flavor.
- Separate distillation of grains.
- Ex-Seagram's (and other) brands were aged separately as well.
- Canadian Club is the only one blended before aging.
- A combination of Grain Neutral Spirit and flavoring whiskies (Corn, Rye, Barley).
- Light and Smooth

# Heaven Hill Distilleries



# Heaven Hill Distilleries

Bardstown, Kentucky

1935

Joseph L. Beam (1<sup>st</sup> Distiller)

Five Shapira Brothers

Third Generation (Kate S. Latts & Allan Latts).

Craig Beam (Current Distiller)

November 7, 1996 Fire

Seven warehouses containing 90,000 barrels of whiskey burned. 14% of their stock.

44 warehouses in total

7 stories, 30.5m x 61m

Kentucky requires that whiskey warehouses built after 1994 be constructed of concrete, include sprinklers and have drainage systems.

Purchased the Bernheim Distillery in Louisville

1 Mashbill (78% corn, 10% rye 12% malt)

Age and proof are the only differences between bourbons. (Except Old Fitzgerald)

Baudoinia

- Bernheim
- Christian Brothers
  - Elijah Craig
- Evan Williams (2nd)
  - Fighting Cock
    - Hpnotiq
  - Old Fitzgerald
  - Rittenhouse
    - Others

# Trybox New Make Rye

- Made by Heaven Hill Distilleries
- If aged would become Rittenhouse Straight Rye
- 62.5% (Barrel Proof / Cask Strength)
- Mashbill: 51% Rye, 37% Corn, 12 % Barley
- Named after the copper and glass “tasting station” at a distillery where the new make whiskey flows off the still in its most pristine form and where the spirit is sampled, or “tried” by the Master Distiller.

# Trybox New Make Rye Tasting Notes

## Dave Broom

- Nose: Not lifted much but clean with a hint of spice and of sweetness.
- Palate: Dry and quite intense. More citrus and dusty spices.
- Finish: Clean and crisp.
- Comment: Well made and clean and interesting to know where a spirit start, but it's only as a reference point.

## Martine Nouet

- Nose: Strong note of Indian corn. Popcorn. Hint of banana. On the hand, wet dog. Touch of peanut butter.
- Palate: Sweet and fruity. Juicy pear. Aniseed. Aromatic. Dry at mid palate.
- Finish: Dry, with character. Almost peppery with water.
- Comment: Interesting to taste as a different from a single malt new make. But can't be considered as a possible drink.

# Trybox New Make Rye Pricing

Gary's Wine & Marketplace,  
New Jersey

Potomac Wines & Spirits,  
DC

Total Wine, Florida

LCBO

# Trybox New Make Rye Pricing

Gary's Wine & Marketplace,  
New Jersey

**\$27.83**

Potomac Wines & Spirits,  
DC

**\$35.10**

Total Wine, Florida

\$33.87

LCBO

\$29.95

# Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whisky

- Not “Monongahela style”
- 51% Rye, 37% Corn, 12% Barley
- One day of distilling per year
- Bottled in Bond
- Four Years
- One Distilling Season
- 50% abv
- Also available at 40% abv (not bonded)
- Over the past 20 years distilled at three different distilleries (Pre-Fire Heaven Hill, Old Forester & Bernheim)
- Prior to that it was distilled at Medley (Diageo) and Barton (Sazerac). Prior to 1960 Continental Distilling Corporation in Philadelphia.
- Named for Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia

# Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whisky

## Tasting Notes

### *Sour Mash Manifesto / Jason Pyle*

- Color: Dark Amber/Copper
- Nose: Dusty cocoa, rye, flint, and wood spices mix beautifully with vanilla infused caramel and toffee.
- Flavor: Wow what a sipper – rich and intense. Dark Chocolate, Rye, Clove, with sticky caramel and well integrated oak. Marvelous stuff.
- Finish: Long with cocoa, licorice, and lingering spices.
- Overall: This might be the best whiskey in the world around \$20.00. It's just that good. Spice, sweetness, and a deep, dark rich quality that blew my mind. It's always great when you find a whiskey that brings this much flavor at such a great price. I'm not sure how Heaven Hill does it but this one gets "Cabinet Staple" status from me.

### *redwhiteandbourbon.com / Josh*

- Nose: Big vanilla, molasses, clove, dark chocolate, menthol, and a light honey and floral note.
- Sip: Much sweeter than the nose leads on. Molasses, vanilla wafers, and caramelized pecans, with a short black tea note in the middle. The back is loaded with baker's chocolate, tobacco, clove, and a deep spice box. The oak is mild and delicate, far short of bitter, which allows the spiciness to do the heavy lifting.
- Finish: Slightly bitter, but longer than the medium texture leads on. Cocoa, vanilla, clove and a light bouquet of spices linger with a modest vapor of mint.

### K&L Wines

- Nose: Intensely woody aromas and succulent marshmallow, bakery and lanolin scents spring forth.
- Flavor: The fat palate entry oozes butter cream, dark caramel, and brown sugar tastes; the midpalate focuses more on the grain aspect as the flavor becomes toasty, fruity and honeyed.
- Finish: Honey sweet, decadent and maple-like. An unbelievable bargain.

# Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whisky Pricing

MSRP

Bevmo, CA

Master of Malt, UK

LCBO

# Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whisky Pricing

MSRP

**\$30.23**

Bevmo, CA

\$36.28

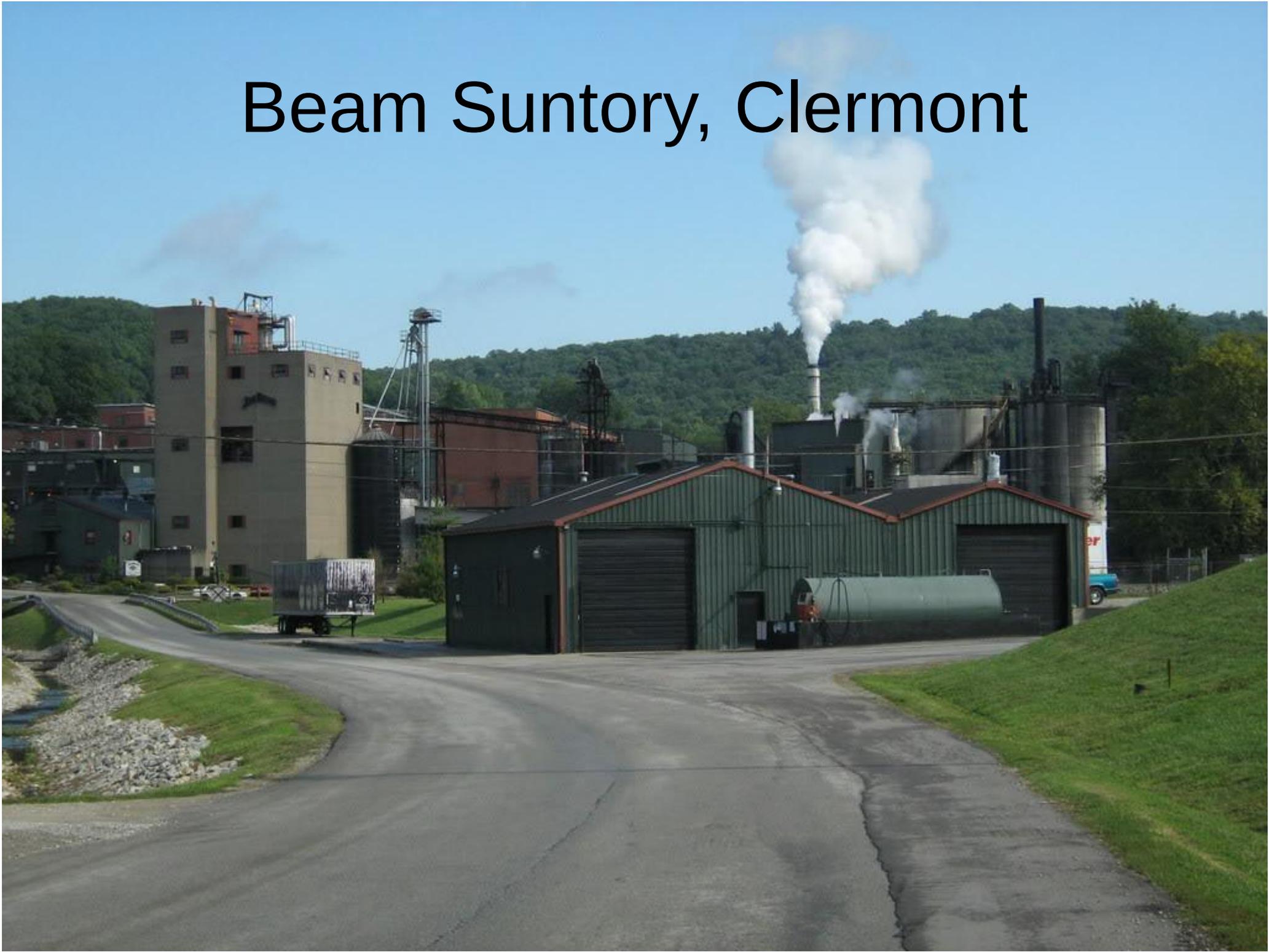
Master of Malt, UK

**\$70.39**

LCBO

\$44.95

# Beam Suntory, Clermont



# Beam Suntory

Founded 1795

7 Generations of Beam/Noe Family

Cousins of the Beams at Heaven Hill

Part of American/Fortune Brands

1987 Jim Beam Co purchased National Brands

2003 Fire destroyed 19,000 barrels of bourbon

2005 Split 25 spirits & wine brands with Pernod Ricard purchased from Allied Domecq

2011 Jim Beam IPO

2014 Bought by Suntory for \$16 billion

- Jim Beam
- Maker's Mark
- Old Grand-Dad
- Old Crow
- Baker's
- Basil Hayden's
- Booker's
- Knob Creek
- Jim Beam Rye
- Knob Creek Rye
- Old Overholt
- Laphroaig
- Bowmore
- Ardmore
- The Tyrconnell
- Connemara
- Greenore
- Kilbeggan
- Yamazaki
- Hakushu
- Hibiki
- Sauza
- Hornitos de Sauza
- Courvoisier
- Wolfschmidt
- Gilbey's
- Effen
- Cruzan
- Gilbey's
- Calvert
- Starbucks Liqueurs
- Many Others

**(rī)<sup>1</sup>**

- Clermont, Kentucky
- 4.5 years+
- 46% abv
- October, 2008
- Lighter
- Same mashbill as Old Overholt / Jim Beam Rye / Knob Creek Rye
- Probably 51% rye, 39% corn, and 10% barley

# (rī)<sup>1</sup> Tasting Notes

## Kona Wine Market

- Color: Deep, rich honey color tinged with gold
- Nose (Straight): A peppery nose that pleases and surprises; a gentle wake-up call for your senses
- Nose (Diluted): Dried fruit and cinnamon push the pepper to the background; a distinct, exciting preview that suggests a distinct, exciting whiskey
- Taste (Straight): Warm; fire on the edges of your tongue; honey flecked with pepper on the way down
- Taste (Diluted): Sweet and a bit fruity; mellow sophistication
- Finish: Glowing and reassuring; medium-long, it lingers before quietly slipping away

## Rum Howler Blog / Chip Dykstra

- Nose: Full of wood and rye spice. The woody notes are manifesting themselves as banana peel which has a certain astringent. Dry rye grain notes are evident, which adds to that spicy flair, although I also sense some honeycomb in the breezes as well. Fresh sap filled pine planks are being cut somewhere in the background and green grassy tobacco smells well up as well. Very complex with woody oak, spicy rye, and sweet honeycomb and toffee. If you wait for it light baking spices finally arrive giving me an indication that allowing this whiskey to breathe will be a good thing.
- Taste: Fresh cut oak planks have imparted a some sharp sap flavours into the rye. There is a nice dose of vanilla, and some sweet honeycomb and punky toffee, but they seem to sit beside these sappy notes and do not serve to temper them. The rye spice seems a little lost in the sharp oak tannins, and my feeling is that this rye will be better served in a cocktail than neat or on the rocks. Spicy and sharp, and the whiskey certainly would have benefited from a longer period of aging to smooth and temper the bite. It is a pity that the complexity I noticed on the nose was to a degree lost in the woody sap flavours of the whiskey.
- Finish: Sharp and uncomfortable. There is a lot of hot spice, and a disconcerting burn in the throat. The sappy flavour of the fresh oak continues to heat the mouth well after the whiskey is consumed, and although some welcome flavours of caramel and honeycomb accompany the exit, the astringency of the whiskey dominates the finish.

# $(r\bar{I})^1$ Pricing

The Party Source, KY

Riverside Wine  
Merchants, NJ

Buster's, TN

SAQ (2012)

# $(r\bar{I})^1$ Pricing

The Party Source, KY

***\$58.01***

Riverside Wine  
Merchants, NJ

\$44.76

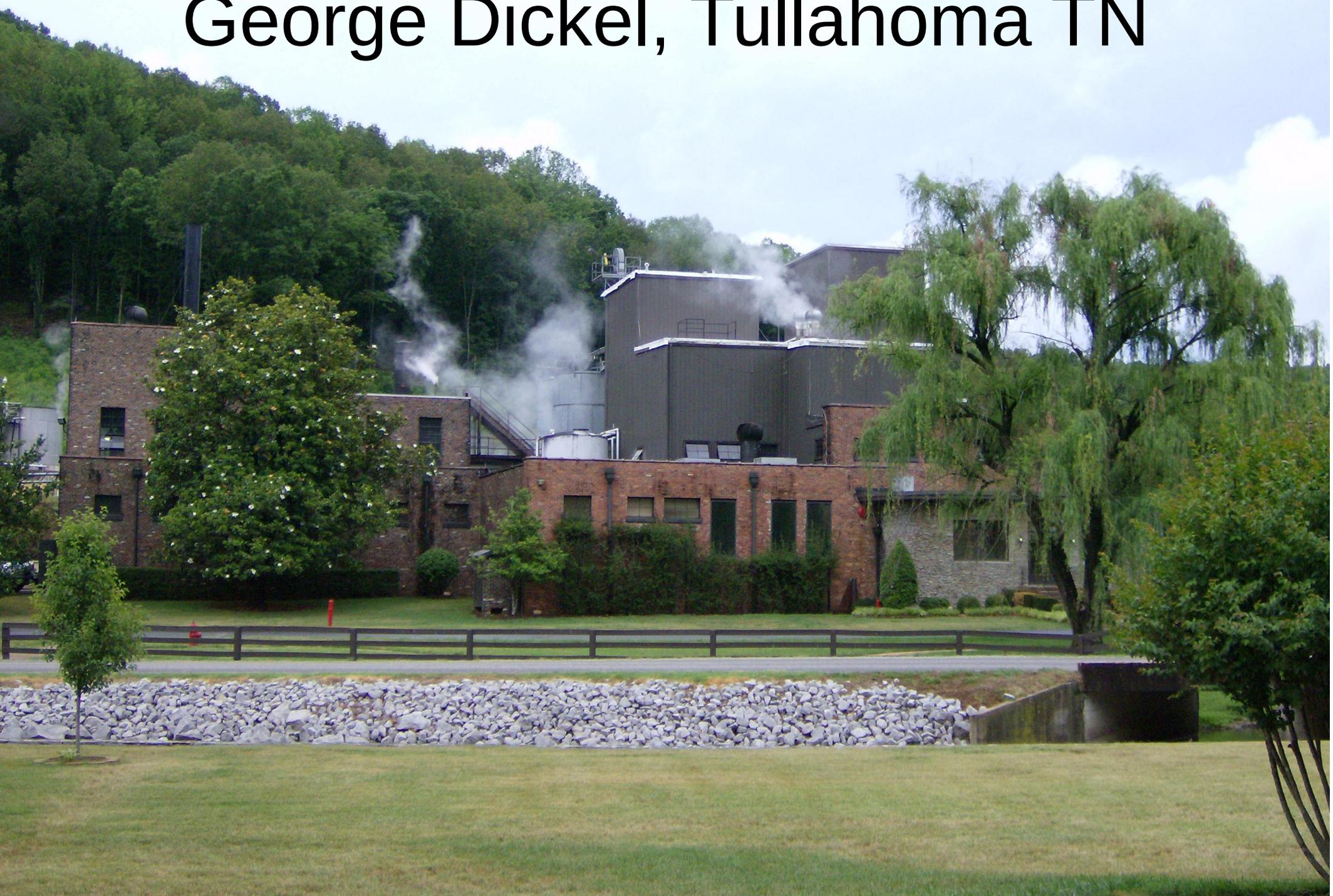
Buster's, TN

***\$42.34***

SAQ (2012)

\$55.00

# George Dickel, Tullahoma TN



# George Dickel

- Tennessee Whisky
  - Company Founded in 1850s
  - Started Distilling in 1883 (Cascade Whisky)
  - Moved Production to Kentucky in 1910
  - Shut down in 1920
  - Heirs sold the brand to Schenley
  - 1940s Geo. A. Dickel's Cascade Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whisky made in Kentucky
  - 1958 Built a recreation of the 1883 distillery about 1 mile from the original location
  - First mash July 4, 1959
  - First bottled 1964
  - One story tall rickhouses
  - Various mergers, now owned by Diageo
  - George Dickel Rye introduced in 2012
  - George Dickel Rye made in Indiana
  - George Dickel Rye filtered & bottled in Illinois
- Old No. 8 Brand
  - Superior No. 12
  - Barrel Select
  - George Dickel Rye
  - No. 1 Foundation Recipe

# George Dickel Rye

- 45% abv
- 95% rye, 5% malted barley
- #4 char barrel, #2 char head
- Chilled then filtered, like Tennessee Whisky
- 5+ years

# George Dickel Tasting Notes

## *André Gayot*

- Nose: Thai lemongrass, pineapple, cedar, oak, caramel, a touch of menthol and cherry.
- Palate: more complex, a cereal graininess coupled with rye spice, vanilla, fennel and a little citrus.
- Finish: roasted nuts, hot cinnamon stick and chocolate mint.

## *DrinkSpirits.com / Geoff Kleinman*

- Nose: spicy with oak, cinnamon, rye, caramel, and an undertone of dark cherry. The oak is pretty dominant in the nose, but not unpleasantly so.
- Palate: softer than the nose, with vanilla, caramel, and cinnamon leading the charge. The oak spice from the nose emerges in the midplate and while it's joined by a rye spice, the oak really dominates. .
- Finish: Oak spice, along with a lingering caramel, quite dry and fairly singular.

# George Dickel Rye Pricing

Bevmo, California

Park Avenue Liquors,  
NYC

Buster's, Tennessee

LCBO

# George Dickel Rye Pricing

Bevmo, California

**\$36.14**

Park Avenue Liquors,  
NYC

***\$42.17***

Buster's, Tennessee

***\$30.08***

LCBO

**\$32.95**

# Alberta Distillers Ltd.



# Alberta Distillers Ltd.



# Alberta Distillers Ltd.

- 1521 - 34 Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 1V9
- 1946 Established by Frank McMahon and Max Bell (along with George C & Harry Reifel)
- 1963 Bought by National Distillers which eventually becomes Beam Suntory.
- 66% of production is shipped to and bottled in the US
- Exports in bulk to over 30 countries
- 10 Warehouses, both pallet and rack. 450,000 barrels on site.
- Produces 20 million litres
- Bottles 5.75 million litres.
- Alberta Springs Canadian Whisky
- Tangle Ridge Canadian Whisky
- Windsor Canadian Whisky
- Alberta Pure Vodka
- Banff Ice Vodka.
- *Masterson's Rye*
- *Whistle Pig*
- *Fremont Mischief Whiskey*
- Others

# Alberta Premium

- Aged 5 years
- Base Whisky 100% Rye.
- Flavoring Whisky 100% Rye.
- Flavoring Whisky aged in used Bourbon barrels.
- Distillate is diluted to 78% abv before barreling.
- Due to evaporation it becomes 81% abv when dumped.
- Can (and probably does) have caramel coloring
- Blended and then aged some more.
- 40% abv
- Jim Murray's "Canadian Whisky of the Year" 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010

# Alberta Premium Tasting Notes

## *Jason Hambrey / Connosr*

- Nose: the grain is very present, but not overpowering with hints of orange peel, nuttiness, cedar, and vanilla.
- Palate: slightly sweet and slightly creamy with some orange, malty notes, tasted oak, and cloves.
- Finish: tart and slightly sour, leaving some oak, orange, and a bit of grain.

## **Rum Howler Blog / Chip Dykstra**

- Nose: Fruit-filled rye with very obvious notes of vanilla. There is a presence of oak and a touch of citrus zest in the background.
- Palate: Full of fruit and spice, a light bitterness similar to citrus pith appears. Then some orange peel and light almond flavours begin to appear. Finally a light sweetness starts to separate from the fruity rye.
- Finish: Full of spicy rye and citrus fruit with light trails of corn.

# Alberta Premium Pricing

LCBO

BC Liquors

NB Liquor

Kensington Wine  
Market, AB

# Alberta Premium Pricing

LCBO

***\$25.35***

BC Liquors

***\$20.69***

NB Liquor

\$24.48

Kensington Wine  
Market, AB

\$24.49

# Fremont Mischief Distillery



# Fremont Mischief Distillery

- 132 N Canal St, Seattle, WA
- March 20, 2008 Law SHB 2959, relating to Craft Distilleries.
- Defines 'Craft Distilleries' as producing less than 20,000 gallons and at least half the raw materials are grown in Washington State.
- For Distilleries Producing less than 20,000 gallons, the annual state license fee is reduced from \$2,000 to \$100.
- Allows Craft Distilleries to sell up to 2 liters of spirits for off premise consumption per customer.
- Allows Craft Distilleries to provide 1/2 ounce samples of spirits of it's own production, maximum of 2 ounces per customer.
- Mike & Patti Sherlock
- Patti is John Jacob's granddaughter.
- Mike is an ex-Commercial Fisherman w/ a history of distilling
- “full-circle distillery”
- Stills made by Arnold Holstein Co.
- organic, heirloom and small-farm conventional grains & botanicals.
- Hunton Farms (Food Alliance Certification, Organic Certification by Oregon Tilth) grows the rye
- Camas Country Mill whole grain, stone ground flour which produces a more irregular grind
- 25% of the profits from every bottle of Mischief Whiskey is donated to Freedom Is Not Free
- a portion from the sale of Fremont Mischief Vodka goes to local and national domestic violence hotlines

# Fremont Mischief Distillery

- Worker's No.9 Vodka
- Fremont Mischief Whiskey
- Commemorative Soldier Whiskey
- Fremont Mischief Vodka
- Fremont Mischief Gin
- John Jacob Rye

# John Jacob Rye Whiskey

- 42% abv
- Mashbill: 90% Northern Dark Rye Berries, 10% malted Barley (used to be 85% Rye and 15% malted 6-row barley)
- Aged in 25 gallon, new American White Oak barrel, #3 char
- After a year, transferred to used bourbon oak barrels
- Artesian water from Mt Rainier
- Not “straight”

# John Jacob Rye Whiskey Tasting Notes

## *Seattle Whiskey Collective*

- Nose: Fruity esters abound on the nose of this whiskey with scents reminiscent of ripe peach. Some notes of green apple and lemon are also present, along with a mild oakiness. Finally, earthy straw and grass notes take one's mind to the field of rye from which this whiskey is created.
- Palate: While not aged for a particularly long time, this whiskey is incredibly smooth with little heat. The body is a bit thin, with a short to medium linger on the palate. Oak is present as is some caramel. Mild citrus notes compliment some notes of cherry. Somewhere in the complex mix of subtly sweet flavors, I found hints of cocoa and honey appearing in the middle of the flavor profile.
- Finish: There is a youth to this whiskey that brings with it some of the earthy, herbal flavors of rye and field grass, along with some coriander, and only mild spiciness for a rye.

## *The Whiskey Wash*

- Nose: Segues from turpentine, through oak, and on to cinnamon, with a hint of burnt sugar.
- Palate: The cinnamon stick hallmark of the grain is strong, mellowed with ample vanilla, forest honey and – just at the tail – a trace of chamomile.
- Finish: Orange peel, fruitwood and ginger, and evaporates rather quickly.

## *Whisky Advocate*

- The flinty-minty rye spice blows right out at you, with a ripple of oaky vanilla.
- Beautiful youthful rye spirit, with crackling rye spiciness, sweet floral notes, and hints of horehound candy.
- The finish is a bit disappointing — fading somewhat quickly — but mainly because the rest of it's so good.

# John Jacob Rye Whiskey Pricing

Hi-Time Wine Cellars,  
CA

LCBO

Mission Wine & Spirits,  
CA

Wine World and Spirits,  
WA

# John Jacob Rye Whiskey Pricing

Hi-Time Wine Cellars,  
CA  
\$35.96

LCBO  
\$39.75

Mission Wine & Spirits,  
CA  
**\$35.95**

Wine World and Spirits,  
WA  
**\$47.93**