

## INDULGENCE

Still #5 at Jack Daniel's



# AMERICAN MADE

WRITTEN BY: MIKE RAVEN **CAUTION  
HOT AREA**

Whiskey... it has had an extraordinary effect on these United States.

There are plenty of types of American whiskeys to discover. Bourbon, white whiskey, rye whiskey, and Tennessee whiskey are all a part of the family. With their own styles and distillation methods, some of which have been handed down through generations, these spirits have a heritage that predates the formation of our government. Moonshining, bootlegging, prohibition, and taxes are all important in this heritage as well. Whiskey was such a large part of everyday life in colonial days that it was often used as payment for goods and services and became the first domestic product to have a tax levied on it by the new national government. Over time, traditions have been formed along with laws, to protect the integrity of whiskey products. Historically, the spirit was rationed to soldiers and sailors, who preferred it to the water, which more often than not was unhealthy. Today, whiskey production has become one of the biggest industries in the country with the taxes collected on sales making up a huge portion of state and federal coffers.

So I invite you take a look at some of these American whiskeys and a little history on their distilleries.

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## Death's Door Spirits

MADISON, WISCONSIN

WWW.DEATHSDOORSPIRITS.COM

SUPPLIER: DOMAINE SELECT WINE ESTATES



The distillery is named after Death's Door Passage, the treacherous straight between Green Bay and Lake Michigan where deep currents and counter-currents has caused havoc on sailors for years. Their White Whisky is made with 80% organically grown hard red winter wheat from Washington Island and 20% Wisconsin malted barley. Getting this particular wheat isn't easy - it's grown in only one place, Washington Island. Ships must safely charter the precious grain to the mainland through Death's Door Passage. The whisky is double distilled, rested, and then aged in new oak barrels for less than 72 hours, not long enough to get the color from the barrel. It is made in small batches, the bottles hand filled, sealed and labeled.

**COLOR:** Clear

**NOSE:** Unique, I think it has the aroma of a wheaty tequila, call me crazy...for a white dog, it's very soft.

**TASTE:** Soft and mellow, almost sweet and thick with an expected slight medicinal warming. Finish is a bit short, but that is typical of a whiskey that is un-aged and uninfluenced by wood. All in all, an interesting product. Not for everyday, but fun.



## Alltech Brewing and Distilling Company

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

WWW.LYONSSPIRITS.COM

Dr. T. Pearse Lyons, President and Founder of Alltech Brewing and Distilling Company, in the heart of downtown Lexington, unveiled a decades-old dream. Pearse Lyons Reserve, Kentucky's first malt whiskey since 1919.

Pearse Lyons Reserve is noticeably smooth, due in part to its double-distillation in copper pot stills from Forsyth's in Scotland. Produced in the old-world tradition of whiskey creation, Pearse Lyons Reserve also utilizes a robust, proprietary yeast strain designed by Alltech specifically for distillation.

## Pearse Lyons Reserve, 80 Proof

**COLOR:** Golden

**NOSE:** I get single malt scotch, a little iodine, smoke and peat. I shared it with a friend, Brittany Chardin, who has a fantastic nose and palette; she guessed (blind) a fine Irish whiskey. You get the point - a fine old world aroma not often found in an American whiskey.

**TASTE:** Starts off soft and luxurious with a mid-palette burst of flavors including mint and sweet smoke. The finish is long and clean. A fine whiskey and an unusual find.



## Buffalo Trace Distillery

FRANKLIN COUNTY

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

WWW.BUFFALOTRACE.COM

SUPPLIER: SAZERAC COMPANY



As the mighty buffalo thundered across the land, they carved paths in the wilderness and a destiny for our ancestors. These paths were known as traces. One such trace, called the Great Buffalo Trace, led to the rugged banks of what is now called the Kentucky River.

The first modern distillery was built on this site in 1857 and was the first to incorporate the use of steam power—a major advance in producing high-quality bourbon. The distillery was later purchased by E.H. Taylor Jr., one of Kentucky's original bourbon aristocrats. Astute and innovative, Taylor brought advancements to the facility as well as to the entire whiskey industry. By 1886, the distillery had introduced the nation's first climate-controlled warehousing for aging whiskey and had earned a worldwide reputation for producing America's finest bourbons.

During the Prohibition era, the distillery's existence was spared by the allowance of a permit—one of only four issued in the country—to continue distillation for medicinal purposes. After repeal, Albert Blanton took over the operation of the distillery and added many quality control enhancements. An innovator in his own right, Blanton enjoyed producing single-barrel bourbon for himself and his friends. This tradition was honored in 1984 when the distillery became the first to commercially market a single-barrel bourbon. Today the Buffalo Trace Distillery site encompasses 119 acres and 114 buildings. The George T. Stagg distillery was renamed Buffalo Trace in June 1999 and introduced its flagship bourbon, Buffalo Trace Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, in August 1999.

## Buffalo Trace Bourbon, 90 proof

**COLOR:** Golden

**NOSE:** A nice richness of caramel, oak and vanilla.

**FLAVOR:** Medium bodied with vanilla and a slight toffee finish.

The finish is smooth and satisfying. The rye in the blend gives it a nice spiciness; I found it complex, smooth and creamy.