



Kelowna Scotch & Fine Spirits Society

presents the

March 2021 Tasting: North American Whisk[e]y

Featured distilleries:

Bull Run (Portland, OR)

Jim Beam (Clermont, KY)

Wild Turkey (Lawrenceburg, KY)

Great Plains Craft Spirits (Calgary, AB)

Gooderham & Worts (Toronto, ON)

Shelter Point (Campbell River, BC)



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1. Great Plains Craft Spirits Jerez Brandy Cask Finish (54.5% ABV)

IB: Great Plains is a new Canadian IB, of which there aren't many to begin with. Founded in Calgary in 2016, their ethos seems to be finishing small batches of Canadian whiskies purchased from Highwood Distillers (out of High River, AB). Almost all of their whiskies are blends of corn whisky from the now-defunct Potters Distillery blended with small amounts of rye whiskey from Highwood. This is currently their only entry in the market, with future releases being aged up to 30 years finished in Cognac and Armagnac casks

Production Details: Potters Distillery was based out of Kelowna up until the late 90s, early 00s. They initially distilled fruit brandies and later branched out into corn whiskey before finally being bought out, shut down and their stocks being purchased by and moved to Highwood Distillers. This is our third bottle of Potter stock to be featured in tastings and consists of 22 casks of 91.5% corn/8.5% rye blend aged for 17 years in ex-bourbon, with an additional year in Brandy de Jerez casks. The Potters name lives on as Potters Special Old Canadian whisky (along with a line of rums and vodkas), now a young, inexpensive corn/rye blend. Highwood also produces the White Owl, Century Reserve, Centennial and Ninety lines of whiskies.

The finishing cask(s) itself is from Bodegas Osborne, a very old sherry Bodega from Cadiz, Spain. They distribute a wide variety of brandies. While they are well known for their solera products such as Brandy 1866 and Carlos I, this cask most likely comes from one of their non-solera products such as Veterano or Magno.



2. Gooderham & Worts 49 Wellington (49% ABV)

Distillery: Gooderham & Worts is a one of Canada's storied old distilleries, founded as a mill on the Toronto waterfront by brothers-in-law James Worts and William Gooderham in 1831. The distillery itself was founded in 1837 and co-managed by Gooderham and Worts' eldest son James Gooderham Worts. Within a decade they were distilling half the spirit alcohol in Canada. In the 20th century, it was merged with Hiram Walker by Harry Hatch and sold to Allied Lyons and by the 90s production had moved to Hiram Walker & Sons Distillery in Windsor (the principal distillery for all HW brands). The site is now artist galleries but was featured in many films including the X-Men (2000), The Recruit (2003) and Chicago (2002) before being converted.

Production Details: This is another product produced by Hiram Walker master blender Don Livermore. The Gooderham and Worts line primarily serves as a way to showcase small batch grain blends in contrast to the Pike Creek finishing line and the Lot 40 pure rye whiskies. 49 Wellington is a blend of malted and unmalted rye, malted barley, corn, and red winter wheat whiskies finished in barrels fitted with red oak inserts to impart spicy, cedar tones. The wheat whiskey is most likely aged in new oak barrels. The name, labelling and ABV is meant to pay tribute to the peculiar triangular, red-brick building built in 1892 by the Gooderham family at 49 Wellington St. E in Toronto, also now colloquially known as the "Flatiron Building." This was originally the head office of the GW business. The whisky itself is also an homage to J.P. Wiser's recently semi-discontinued Red Letter whisky, and a fantastic example of innovative Canadian blending.



3. Bull Run American Whiskey Oregon Pinot Finish Batch 6 (50% ABV)

Distillery: Bull Run is an American craft distillery based out of Portland, Oregon doing some fascinating finishing work using sourced whiskey. In fact, most of their products are sourced from Midwest Grain Products, a massive industrial distillery in Indiana, but they do distill their own malt whiskies. Their current lineup showcases ryes, whiskies and bourbons, including a unique Chinato cask finished product, as well as aquavit and vodka. The finishing doesn't stop there, as they release a yearly truffle infused vodka as well as Starka, vodka aged for a year in Pinot casks.

Production Details: American whiskey serves as a catch-all classification in American alcohol law. The main distinctions from Bourbon are varied and include the optional use of reused casks, non-traditional mash-bills, and the dropping of distilling and barrel entry proof requirements. The end result is a much lighter whiskey originally meant to compete with Canadian products, useful as a mixer and in this case readily accepting of a finishing process. This whiskey in particular is most likely a predominantly corn mashbill (92% corn/8% barley) aged in reused bourbon casks for 11 years and then finished in toasted Willamette Valley Pinot Noir casks for an additional 3 years. This product tends to vary by batch in terms of age, finishing length and cask origin.



4. Wild Turkey Master's Keep Cornerstone Rye (54.5% ABV)

Distillery: Wild Turkey is one of Kentucky's foremost bourbon distillers located east of Lawrenceburg, KY. Originally the Old Hickory Distillery built in 1891, Wild Turkey began as a brand of whiskey



sold by a wholesaler named Austin Nichols in the 1940s which was often but not-exclusively OHD whiskey. In 1971, Austin Nichols purchased the facility, re-naming it the Wild Turkey Distillery. The master distiller position has been passed down the Russell family for 3 generations. Austin Nichols/Wild Turkey has been producing rye whiskies, and specifically their 101 Rye since 1950, with in-house production starting in 1974. With a wide variety of releases and price-points and a high standard of quality, it's a great brand to branch into rye, especially if you like bourbon whiskey.

Production Details: Cornerstone is the oldest rye whiskey Wild Turkey have released to date, consisting of a blend of ryes aged between 9 and 11 years in new, charred oak barrels with the nine year old barrels coming from a specific group of warehouses called Camp Nelson. Wild Turkey produces a "Kentucky-style" rye, with a mash bill of 52% rye, 36% corn and 12% barley. According to Eddie Russell, the initial inspiration for this release was his son Bruce's love for rye whiskey. Interestingly, the United States comparatively does not produce much rye, and so several large distilleries including Wild Turkey actually source this grain from northeast Germany.



5. Little Book Chapter 3: The Road Home (61.3% ABV)

Distillery: The Jim Beam Distillery and the Beam-Suntory empire could merit several tastings all by themselves. Founded around 1795 by Johannes “Jacob” Boehm, producing barrels of Old Jake Beam Sour Mash and then “Old Tub”, the brand eventually settled in Clermont, KY after prohibition as the James B. Beam Distilling Company in 1935. Frederick Booker Noe III, the current co-master distiller, is the eighth generation of Beam family distillers and bears the childhood nickname his grandfather Booker gave him: “Little Book”

Production Details: This is a profile blend of barrels of four of the original small batch brands that Booker Noe created and generally contains older bourbon from each profile. Typically, profiles are:

Booker’s: 6+ year old honey barrels, bottled at batch strength

Baker’s: 7+ years old, single barrel, proofed down to 53.4% ABV

Basil Hayden’s: available NAS and as a 10 year old expression. Higher rye, but usually proofed down to 40% ABV.

Knob Creek: around 9 years. Heavily charred barrels. Available at multiple proofs, and the only line Beam opens for private cask picks and produces variants of.

As usual, Little Book III is a testament to blending. This is recipe 51 of 57 that Freddie Noe tried before settling on a release.



6. Shelter Point Smoke Point Batch 1 (55% ABV)

Distillery: This is our second bottle from this fantastic distillery in the Oyster River community north of Campbell River. Founded in 2011 with the goal of producing fine malt whiskies using Scottish methods. The distillery is situated on a 380 acre oceanfront farm which produces the wheat and barley necessary for the whiskey using sustainable techniques. They also source rye whiskies from Alberta Distillers to bottle themselves or blend into some of their products such as their triple grain whisky. They also produce vodka, gin, tincturing alcohol (ie 150 proof grain alcohol) and a maple orange liqueur called Sunshine.

Production details: This is a 100% barley whisky, using both malted and unmalted barley. It is double distilled and aged for five years in ex-bourbon casks and finished for 8 months in Laphroaig casks. This batch consisted of 1044 bottles. Since this was released in 2019, Shelter Point have released a second batch which extends the finishing time to 18 months and drops the proof to 50%.

From the Kelowna Scotch and Fine Spirits Society, we hope you've enjoyed a somewhat modified Season 6, and hope to see you back in person in September!

