

10 New Whiskeys to Try at the 4th annual American Whiskey Convention

On April 5th, the American Whiskey Convention returns to Philadelphia for its fourth annual grand tasting event. The event draws all-American distilleries from across the country and focuses on the creativity of America's whiskey makers. Guests are invited to taste from over 250 whiskeys and whiskey barrel aged products. Here are 10 options available to all guests (VIP ticket holders have access to more limited bottles) that are just a bit different and speak to the variety of experimentation being done in our nation's distilleries and aging warehouses.

1. Smooth Ambler's Old Scout Single Barrel Select 13 Year Old

Here's a whiskey you don't see every day! Not easy to find in the wild, but well worth a trip over to Smooth Ambler's table at the American Whiskey Convention. With a mashbill of 84% corn, 8% rye, 8% malt, it's a low-rye bourbon mash bill from Tennessee. The vatting is of varying ages, 13 year minimum. Look for notes of creamy butterscotch, and tree nut flavors. Old Scout is delicious and smooth given it's cask strength proof! Do not miss this one!

2. Lock, Stock and Barrel 18 Year old Rye Whiskey

Talk about your special occasion ryes...This is one of the oldest ryes available on the market today. This whiskey will show you what 18 years of aging a 100% rye grain whiskey in a cold warehouse can do. It is bottled at cask strength, so it packs a lot of flavor. The palate and the finish is huge with all the spice, creaminess and caramel you can imagine! This bottle won't let you down...if you can get to the Cooper Spirit's table before it's gone!

3. Middle West Spirits Straight Wheated Bourbon

Middle West Spirits is proud to practice the time-honored craft of producing their spirits from grain to bottle, and honored to support the farms, craftsmen, trade partners, and retail customers who desire an authentic expression of world-class, American-made craft spirits. Middle West Michelone Reserve Wheated Bourbon is a spirit crafted with care that proudly bears the name of the grandfather who inspired it all. The Michelone Reserve blends sweet yellow corn, soft red winter wheat, dark pumpernickel rye, and two-row barley for a flavor that's smooth, smoky, and softly sweet. Give this one a try!

4. EH Taylor Straight Rye Whiskey

Straight Rye Whiskey has experienced a strong resurgence in the American whiskey landscape. This small batch, Bottled-in-Bond 100 proof straight rye whiskey pays tribute to the former Distillery owner with a unique rye whiskey reminiscent of days long past. It's of particular interest to us here in Pennsylvania because its mashbill is without corn! That makes it a Monongahela style (or Pennsylvania style) rye whiskey reminiscent of those pre-Prohibition style whiskeys that made rye whiskey America's early favorite!

5. Red Brick Craft Distillery's Malt Whiskey

This American single malt whiskey, made in Philadelphia, won the favor of both the judges and the attendees of 2017's American Whiskey Convention by winning both the AWC People's Choice Award and the Whiskey Aged Under 2 years Award of Excellence. Their locally sourced grain and unique aging process creates a malt reminiscent of chocolate-covered cherries! Don't

miss the chance to see what all the fuss was about! Meet their head distiller, Brian Forrest, as well.

6. Westland Single Malt Peated

Westland Distillery says “We don’t simply seek to replicate the whiskies of the old world. Instead, we work to contribute something new, worthwhile and DISTINCTLY AMERICAN.” Now there’s something we can get behind! Their peated bottling is a blend of two aged whiskeys distilled at Westland, one was from a peated malt mash and one was from a Washington pale malt mash. The whiskeys were aged a minimum of 2 years in a variety of casks which include heavily charred, new American oak; ex-bourbon barrels, and ex-sherry casks.

7. Stoll & Wolfe Cask Strength Rye

New to Stoll & Wolfe Distillery in Lititz, Pa is their Single Barrel Cask Strength Rye Whiskey selected by Legendary Pennsylvania Master Distiller Dick Stoll. Dick Stoll was the last master distiller at Pennsylvania’s Michter’s Distillery and was the distiller behind the very prized (and very collectible) AH Hirsch 16 year old bourbon whiskey. That same skill and craftsmanship is now going into his choices for these new releases from Stoll & Wolfe. Featuring whiskey taken directly from barrel to bottle with no water added, each unfiltered and undiluted bottling showcases the full flavor and uncompromising character of each individually selected barrel.

8. Widow Jane Whiskey Distilled From a Rye Mash- Oak & Applewood Aged

Widow Jane, a distillery located in Red Hook, Brooklyn, is known for its sourcing of limestone water from the Widow Jane mine in Rosendale, NY. This interesting rye whiskey is made from Widow Jane’s own new-make rye mash and is aged in barrels that previously held their 7 year old bourbon with additional oak and applewood staves inside. This is just one of the whiskeys you can taste at Widow Jane’s table. Vince Olsen, their head distiller, will be present to discuss their products and answer any questions you may have.

9. Corsair Triple Smoke

This is unique whiskey from Corsair Distillery, located in Nashville, TN. They take “three fractions of malted barley, each smoked by a different fuel– cherry wood, beechwood and peat – to craft this deeply complex whiskey. Pot distilled, then barreled in new, charred oak, Triple Smoke has the sweetness and barrel notes of an American Whiskey and a single malt’s rich smoke, broadened by tones of cherry and beech.” You gotta like your smoky whiskey for this one, and it is very worth a try!

10. Copper & Kings Floodwall Apple Brandy

I know, this is not a whiskey! However, it is a part of our event because it is a barrel aged spirit with a very American context. Apple brandy is as historically relevant to American distilling tradition as rye whiskey! This apply brandy was aged for four years in sherry casks (similar to the Scottish tradition) and the result is a spicy, mulled cider-like brandy. It is a lovely addition to our whiskey line-up!

11. Quinta do Portal Tawny Port 20 Year

The American Whiskey Convention is introducing some products this year that are barrel influenced products, like whiskey barrel-aged beers from Weyerbacher and Free Will Breweries and wines that have aged in ex-bourbon barrels. This tawny port from Quinta do Portal in northern Portugal, rested for 20 years in used casks. For those of us that prefer our spirits barrel aged, it is important to see what barrels can do for wines and beers as well.