

Editors' CHOICE

Maker's 46



OWNED BY BEAM GLOBAL Spirits & Wine, Maker's Mark (www.makersmark.com) is the oldest operating bourbon distillery in the world and dedicated to preserving its time-honored traditions and heritage.

Last summer, Maker's Mark introduced Maker's 46, their very first new bourbon in 52 years. A close cousin to original Maker's Mark, this handcrafted, full-bodied bourbon whisky is created by affixing 10 seared French oak staves inside the barrels of fully matured Maker's Mark, which is made with red winter wheat for a smooth taste. The additional aging process adds the natural caramel, vanilla, and spice flavors released by the staves, giving it a bold and complex taste.

The creation of Maker's 46 has been a collaborative effort. Barrel Maker and "Wood Chef" Brad Boswell of Independent Stave Company decided to try a searing technique on French oak staves that had never been

used before to make bourbon. He seared the staves just enough so that the caramel and vanilla flavors from it were released and only a small amount of tannin, which adds bitterness, came out of the wood. The name Maker's 46 comes from the profile number Boswell assigned to this winning "wood recipe."

Maker's 46 boasts a pleasant, sweet, toasty oak nose with caramel overtones. The taste provides rich, creamy seared-oak flavors with caramel and vanilla notes that linger on the front of the palate and it offers a mouth-watering oaky finish with a little spice without the bitter bite found in older whiskies.

The new Kentucky straight bourbon whisky is sold in 750ml bottles and retails for approximately \$10 more than Maker's Mark. ●

Whisky Creek runs through the Maker's Mark distillery (left); Maker's 46 Kentucky Bourbon Whisky (center); interior of the Maker's Mark warehouse (right)