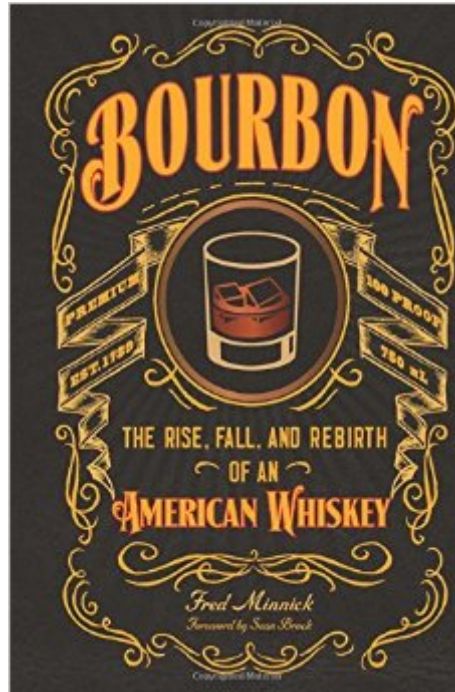


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Bourbon: The Rise, Fall, And Rebirth Of An American Whiskey



Synopsis

Once and for all, America learns the likely inventor of its beloved bourbon. Bourbon is not just alcohol -- this amber-colored drink is deeply ingrained in American culture and tangled in American history. From the early days of raw corn liquor to the myriad distilleries that have proliferated around the country today, bourbon has come to symbolize America. In *Bourbon: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of an American Whiskey*, award-winning whiskey author Fred Minnick traces bourbon's entire history, from the 1700s with Irish, Scottish, and French settlers setting up stills and making distilled spirits in the New World through today's booming resurgence. He also lays out in expert detail the critical role this spirit has played throughout the cultural and even political history of the nation -- from Congress passing whiskey-protection laws to consumers standing in long lines just for a glimpse of a rare bottle of Pappy Van Winkle -- complemented by more than 100 illustrations and photos. And most importantly, Minnick explores the mystery of who most likely created the sweet corn liquor we now know as bourbon. He studies the men who've been championed as its inventors over time -- from Daniel Boone's cousin to Baptist minister Elijah Craig -- and, based on new research and never-before-seen documentation, answers the question of who deserves the credit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Bourbon* the author connects the political history of America to bourbon, discussing the recent failed "Bourbon Summit" with Obama and McConnell and outlining why Thomas Jefferson's Whiskey Tax Repeal was not a popular move. Bourbon is every bit of an American history book as it

is a bourbon history book. There are no tasting notes, but the photography, illustrations, and sidebars break up the narrative into an easy-to-read book. You can as easily flip through it and read the captions and sidebars to get the gist of the book. It's extremely interesting. I pre-ordered the hardcover and was offered the Kindle edition for a few dollars more. For a couple of extra bucks you get both (bonus to have on hand for the beach and one for the coffee table).

TLDR: Meticulously researched and well written book on bourbon history by a person many consider an expert in the field. Highly recommended! In addition to this book, I've also enjoyed the last two books by Fred Minnick, *Whiskey Women* and *Bourbon Curious*. In my honest opinion, this one was the best by far. Bourbon's history has been repackaged in multiple ways over the years, usually as a marketing ploy to highlight a spirit company's longevity or continuity, but Minnick dug quite a bit deeper to bring a new chapter to light. Distillery tours discuss making industrial alcohol during World War II, but nobody has ever talked about how the distilleries didn't freely participate in this effort--they were forced to. It's a great book, definitely worth buying if you love bourbon and/or history in general.

Fred Minnick dug deep with his latest book. He's written some good ones, but I think this is his best. He gives credence to distillers I've never heard of before and sheds new light on the American whiskey medicinal scene during Prohibition. My favorite section is the final chapters, where he talks about how bourbon came back. It was not an overnight success and it took a few screw ups for bourbon to return. Minnick also shares how it can fall again. Let's hope that doesn't happen.

Very informative book. On a tastie subject.

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