



BUFFALO TRACE DISTILLERY EXPLORES THE FLORAL AND BITTER FLAVORS OF HOPS IN THE 26TH RELEASE OF ITS EXPERIMENTAL COLLECTION

Aged for eleven years and bottled at 90 proof, the newest addition of the Experimental Collection offers a balanced bitterness crafted to please whiskey and beer aficionados alike



FRANKFORT, KY (January 29, 2025) – Buffalo Trace Distillery is proud to announce the 26th release from its innovative Experimental Collection: *Spirits Distilled from Grain and Hops*. As the Distillery’s latest example of its commitment to “Honor Tradition, Embrace Change,” this new addition examines how an ingredient commonly used in beer production impacts a spirit’s final flavor profile. The result is a uniquely hoppy spirit that exemplifies the Distillery’s dedication to innovation and will excite whiskey and beer aficionados alike.

Ideated over ten years ago, while bitter beers with floral aromas were growing in popularity, Master Distiller Harlen Wheatley questioned how the presence of hops would impact a spirit. Therefore, he infused two distinct hops—Saaz noble hops, a Czechoslovakian variety commonly found in Bohemian pilsners, and Zythos®, an American hop with tropical and subtle herbal notes – into a raw distillate for thirty minutes. The new make distillate, infused with European and American hops, was redistilled and aged in charred white oak casks for eleven years and seven months.

“Hoppy beers are a playground for brewers; there are many techniques used to capture different flavors. It inspired us to play around with this essential beer ingredient as well,” Buffalo Trace Distillery Master Distiller Harlen Wheatley remarks. “Thanks to the eleven-plus years of aging, the hop aroma and hop flavors are evident while providing a balanced bitterness that blends well with the spirit’s oaky whiskey character.”

Bottled at 90-proof, the nose of Spirits Distilled from Grain and Hops is uniquely hoppy, reminiscent of citrus and herbal notes found in beer, intertwined with creamy vanilla and seasoned oak undertones. Vibrant citrus flavors with pronounced lemon and orange zest play with fresh herbal flavors and robust oak notes on the palate. The finish is clean and refreshing.

“Enjoying Spirits Distilled from Grain and Hops neat is the best way to learn about it, but I encourage fans to experiment with the spirit at home,” Wheatley states. “A hopped spirit creates a unique cocktail experience. Test it out as a Manhattan and move from there. Curiosity is key.”

The World’s Most Award-Winning Distillery began experimenting with various recipes and barrel treatments over two decades ago. As the 26th release from Trace Distillery’s Experimental Collection, Spirits Distilled from Grain and Hops exemplifies the Distillery’s commitment to crafting fine products.

"At the core of our Experimental Collection is a passion for pushing boundaries and creating unforgettable drinking experiences for our fans," says Buffalo Trace Distillery Global Director Andrew Duncan." After tasting it with our distillers, we agreed Release #26 embodies our relentless drive for innovation. Merging the worlds of beer and whiskey is especially exciting—we believe beer lovers will appreciate its bold hoppiness while discovering the depth of its whiskey-like qualities. A spirit like this, crafted at this scale, is truly rare."

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Currently, more than 30,000 experimental barrels of whiskey are aging in Buffalo Trace Distillery’s warehouses. Each of the barrels has unique characteristics and experimental changes in the mash bill,

types of wood, barrel toasts, and more. Since not every experiment is deemed worthy of bottling, these whiskeys are released periodically and sold on a limited basis.

Buffalo Trace Experimental Spirits Distilled from Grain and Hops will be available in limited quantities on select dates, at the Buffalo Trace Distillery gift shop, beginning late January 2025 at a suggested retail price of \$46.99. Due to the limited nature of these releases, all expressions from the Experimental Collection are offered in 375ml bottles. Learn more about the Buffalo Trace Experimental Collection series [here](#).

About Buffalo Trace Distillery

Buffalo Trace Distillery is an American family-owned company based in Frankfort, Kentucky. The Distillery's rich tradition dates back to 1775 and includes such legends as E.H. Taylor, Jr., George T. Stagg, Albert B. Blanton, Orville Schupp, and Elmer T. Lee. Buffalo Trace Distillery is a fully operational Distillery producing bourbon, rye and vodka on site and is a National Historic Landmark as well as listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Distillery has won 40 distillery titles since 2000 from such notable publications as Whisky Magazine, Whisky Advocate Magazine and Wine Enthusiast Magazine. Its George T. Stagg was named World Whiskey of the Year for 2022 and its Thomas H. Handy Sazerac Rye was named *2nd* Finest Whiskey in the World for 2022. Buffalo Trace Distillery has also garnered more than 1,000 awards for its wide range of premium whiskies. Buffalo Trace Distillery also has a deep commitment to supporting charitable initiatives. Nonprofit organizations interested in learning more about the Distillery's efforts are encouraged to register their charity [here](#). To learn more about Buffalo Trace Distillery, visit www.buffalotracedistillery.com. To download images from Buffalo Trace Distillery visit <http://www.buffalotracedistillery.com/media>.

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