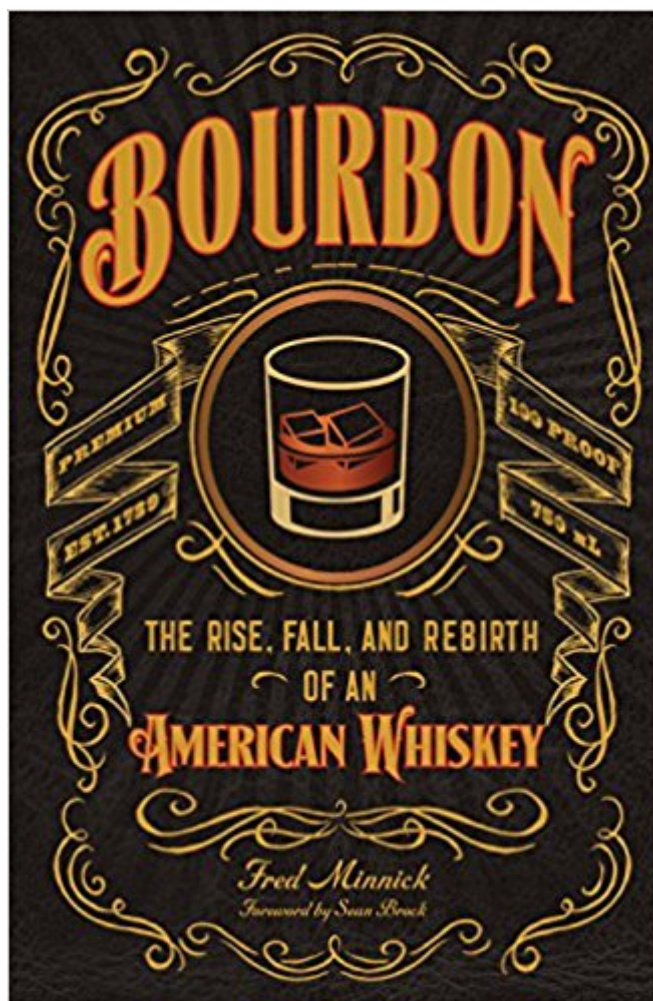


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Bourbon: The Rise, Fall, And Rebirth Of An American Whiskey



Synopsis

Best New Spirits Book, 2017 Tales of the Cocktail's Spirited Awards – Smithsonian Magazine: One of the "Best Books About Food of 2016" 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

No matter how it is served--in mint juleps, manhattans, neat, or on the rocks--bourbon has long

been enjoyed across the American and global landscapes. A unique descendant from early Irish and Scotch whiskeys, bourbon became a distinctly American whiskey with the use of a high-corn mash bill and charred oak barrels. Here, Minnick details the rich history of bourbon by illustrating its intricately complex impact on American social and political realms from rebellions to laws to the myriad ad campaigns promoting this seductive liquor. Minnick's engaging text is even further illuminated by the introductions to the people and distilleries that played a part in what bourbon is today. Numerous images and informative sidebars throughout along with a bibliography and index are included to further the reader's education and enjoyment of all things bourbon. -- Becca Smith, Booklist "Drinking bourbon is great, but when you know how much history is in that glass of brown liquid, it raises the level of appreciation. This book is a must read for any bourbon fan and history buff." --AdventuresInWhiskey.com "Minnick traces the entire tumultuous history of bourbon from the dawn of our nation to the present-day boom....fascinating." -- BourbonAndBanter.com "Minnick takes the reader on a freewheeling, informative and, at times, scholarly and chronological trip through the history of this intoxicating liquor, which is most associated with the beautiful Bluegrass State, since more than 90 percent of bourbon produced comes from Kentucky." -- Red Dirt Report "Kentuckian Fred Minnick is a little bit obsessed with whiskey -- this makes his third book on the topic. It's a comprehensive history of America's homegrown spirit, beginning with a list of the 18th-century distillers who might have invented bourbon and continuing through the spirit's commercial success in the 1800s, the horror of Prohibition and efforts to rebuild the category afterward, and finally today's bourbon renaissance. It's an entertaining and fast-moving read, full of vintage photos and archival ads that make the story come to life." -- Playboy.com "Fred Minnick's *Bourbon: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of an American Whiskey* dispels historical fiction while taking the reader on a timeline journey of American whiskey's highs and lows. You're ultimately left with the feeling of pride that you drink bourbon - Bill Thomas, owner of the world's top bourbon bar, Jack Rose Dining Saloon in Washington, D.C." "For anyone who thinks they know it all about bourbon, delve into this fascinating new look at everyone's favorite brown water. With his sharp eye for detail, historical accuracy and modern relevancy, Mr. Minnick's take on the history of bourbon will become an indispensable volume for bourbon fans worldwide - Edward Lee, chef, author, of *Smoke and Pickles*, and host of PBS's *The Mind of a Chef*, Season 3 "It's been clear for some time now that Fred Minnick is America's finest authority on spirits, and his new book on bourbon seals the deal. It's impeccably researched, beautifully illustrated, and written with such informed individuality that reading the book is like listening to the engaging teacher whose lectures enthralled

you as much as enlightened you. There's never a last word on any subject, but Minnick's new book is unlikely to be exceeded by anything better for a long time to come - John Mariani, author of *The Encyclopedia of American Food and Drink*"Minnick's *Bourbon* is an instant classic - Mike Veatch, author of *Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey: An American Heritage*"*Bourbon: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of an American Whiskey* - is an important addition to American whiskey literature, and it's worth a read for anyone interested in bourbon's complex regulatory history." -

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"The book is a visual delight, sprinkled with hundreds of photos, side stories and Fast Facts ("In a 1921 American Medical Association survey, 51 percent of US physicians were in favor of prescribing whiskey."). You can ingest the book cover-to-cover or skip around, reading one day about the World War II "War on Slop" - distiller slang for grains left over from distillation - and the next day learning how terms like "bourbon" and "distiller" evolved." -- Wine Buzz

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).

Fred Minnick has compiled in one volume an erudite approach to the history of bourbon. Impeccably researched, he is not afraid to blaze new trails of discovery in things like "who is the father of Bourbon". The book is dense, rich, and demands to be read and reread. It is a must for anyone interested in getting the advanced course in bourbon whiskey and the people who have shaped it into what it is today. I recommend the hard cover book as it is beautifully put together. Something gets lost in translation to the kindle version. It's not as pretty to look at. Keep up the great work Fred!

Always interested in Bourbon, since discovering J.R. Dant some years ago. This book took a well covered look at the Bourbon story, history and future prospects, and left me very thirsty. It inspired me to search out data on particular brands, and sources for same. I am happy to have discovered it,

and have gifted it to a friend whom I thought would enjoy it as well. Bar.

This book was well researched and written, overall I thought it enjoyable of a little too similar to text books in some regards. I think a slightly less academic presentation would have made it more readable. Also I don't care for the mini reads that take up 2-3 pages in the middle of a chapter, put that stuff out of the way so they don't break into the flow of the reading. I enjoyed it and have already recommended it to friends.

As I said it is slow in spots. The latter part of the book moved along and was interesting. The who invented bourbon chapters were tedious. You can skip over that stuff and the rest is very enjoyable.

Bourbon is fascinating and so much fun to read. Fred Minnick clearly put an extraordinary effort into his research, and due to his effort Bourbon has the best traits of a non-fiction book. Not only will you learn things you did not know, Minnick tells a real story about America, bourbon and the personalities in the industry. He tells his story exceedingly well. Fred Minnick is a true talent. You will not be disappointed.

Everything you thought you knew about bourbon may not be quite right. I consider myself a bourbon snob and this book taught me plenty.

Wonderful book with delightful details about U S HISTORY/ BOURBON. Really makes you appreciate what you can buy today!

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