

7 MILLION BARRELS OF BOURBON

MICHAEL SMALLWOOD



Employee packaging a bottle of Blanton Bourbon

Between rolling over 7 million barrels of bourbon into its warehouses and having many months of sold out tours, Buffalo Trace is woven deeply into Kentucky’s history.

Jon Neely is a tour guide for Buffalo Trace and is wanting to become a master distiller, and is majoring in bioengineering.

He is very knowledgeable about the history of Buffalo Trace and gave a lot of information throughout his tour.

Buffalo Trace was founded 1792 when Commodore Richard Taylor built “The Old Taylor House”; the one-story stone house is still on the site today.

Then in 1811 A three-story stone warehouse is built on the Kentucky River near Riverside to store goods. This included many barrels of whiskey, awaiting shipment to as far away as New Orleans; Benjamin Harrison Blanton is said to distill on site in upcoming years.

In 1870 Colonel Edmund Haynes Taylor, Jr. purchased the Distillery and christened it “O. F. C.” – in reference to the belief that the finest whiskey was produced in old-fashioned wood-fired copper stills.



Vistors of the tour getting ready to taste the multiple drinks they serve for the tasting on Friday Oct 7, 2022, at the Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, Kentucky.



Finished bottles of Blanton Bourbon

After that in 1872 E. H. Taylor, Jr. invests over \$70,000, a “small fortune,” as he builds a new distillery on the site. Then according to Jon in 1881, The O.F.C. Distillery is purchased by George T. Stagg along with the adjacent livestock farm; Taylor continues to oversee operations. Jon also mentions that in 1881 Warehouse A and Warehouse B were built; still standing today.

Skipping ahead a little to 1919 The 18th Amendment establishing Prohibition in January 1920 is ratified and the Volstead Act is passed to guide its enforcement. George T. Stagg Distillery is one of very few to receive a permit to bottle medicinal whiskey and even fewer permitted to produce new whiskey from 1930 to 1933.

After the prohibition of alcohol, in 1953 there were only 4 distillery’s producing whiskey in Kentucky. 20 years after the prohibition Warehouse “V,” the world’s only “single barrel” warehouse, is built in celebration of the two millionth barrel of bourbon produced since prohibition.



A resting Bourbon Barrel



Finished bottle of the many drinks they make.



One visitor tasting the Blanton during the bourbon tasting.



Jon Neely giving a tour to South Carolina fans the day before facing UK cklst



Buffalo Trace employee gives directions to a visitor



Visitors of buffalo trace listening to Jon Neely speak about the fermentation process