01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

A. Smith Bowman Distillery

Virginia roots. An experimental state of mind.

A Virginia company with farm roots and a taste for experiment. Its core bourbon names coexist with limited releases that ask different questions about wood, proof and time. [19]

Established: 1934 at Sunset Hills. [2] **Home:** Fredericksburg area, Virginia. [17] **Owner:** Sazerac, since 2003. [3]



A farm grows into a whiskey story

The 1927 purchase of Sunset Hills precedes the modern distillery. Operations later move to the Fredericksburg area in 1988, continuing the company at another site. [2,18]

Namesakes and whiskey makers

The historical Bowman brothers supply the bottle names. [4] Today’s master distiller is David Bock; older Prewitt material belongs to a prior chapter. [1,8]

Watercolors are symbolic interpretations, not exact buildings or documentary portraits.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

One company. Several chapters.



1934–1988 A farm distillery becomes a continuing company at a new Virginia home. [2,18]

2003–2010 Sazerac acquires Bowman; the Abraham experimental collection later begins with rye. [3,10]

2015–2017 George arrives; port-finished Abraham and single-barrel John J. receive separate awards. [7,6,5]

2021–2023 Annual Cask Strength begins; Bock selects the third edition with different age and proof. [12,13]

2024–2026 Oak varieties become a focused study; Release 26 returns to rye. [14,15,9,10]

Read the place by its role

Sunset Hills is the founding landscape. **Fredericksburg / Spotsylvania** is the later working home. [18] **1 Bowman Drive** connects production and visitors. [17,23] **Hardywood** belongs to an earlier cask collaboration, not a second Bowman distillery. [16]

Selected milestones from the full illustrated website. Scenes and buildings are symbolic.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Read the barrel, then the edition

Small batch and single barrel. Bowman Brothers is 90 proof; John J. is 100 proof. These expressions offer different readings of the same producer. [4,5]

Finish and strength. Isaac uses port casks at 92 proof. Annual Cask Strength specifications vary by edition, so read the correct release. [6,12,13]



A long experiment in wood. French, American and Hungarian oak releases turn maturation into a question. Bock’s account credits an idea begun under Truman Cox, showing how whiskey work can cross generations of distillers. [14,15,9]

Research notes & linked sources

Research checked October 17, 2026. Dated announcements take precedence over conflicting generic proof and historical staff copy. Upstream sourcing is not established for every bottle. Full qualifications are preserved in the website.

[1] Current team & process
[2] Founding farm
[3] Sazerac acquisition
[4] Bowman Brothers
[5] John J. Bowman
[6] Isaac / port finish
[7] George / 2015 arrival
[8] Prewitt / history
[9] Hungarian Oak / 2025
[10] Rye Release 26 / 2026
[11] Gingerbread No. 2
[12] First Cask Strength
[13] Third Cask Strength
[14] French Oak / 2024
[15] American Oak / 2024
[16] Hardywood cask journey
[17] Working distillery tours
[18] 1988 relocation
[19] Abraham collection
[20] Apple brandy / 2019
[21] Wider portfolio / 2021
[22] Innovation / 2022
[23] Dated fact sheet / 2021
[24] Conflicting proof page