01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

ASW Distillery

Atlanta whiskey, with room to experiment.



A brand before a distillery

Jim Chasteen and Charlie Thompson met at the University of Georgia. Their first American Spirit Whiskey bottling arrived in November 2011, made with a Charleston partner. Atlanta production followed in June 2016; visitors arrived that July. These are separate beginnings. [S3-S6]

A brewer’s point of view

Master distiller Justin Manglitz brought a background in brewing and running an Athens homebrew supply store. His approach combines copper pot stills with grain solids retained through production. [S1, S5]

A team builds the business

The UGA interviews describe Manglitz and marketer Chad Ralston joining during the 2015 expansion. Kelly Chasteen helped develop hospitality. Production, brand design and welcoming visitors all shaped the company. [S2, S3]

Follow the particular whiskey

ASW distills malted rye, mixed-malt whiskey, single malts and bourbon. Its Fiddler family also includes sourced stocks, blending and finishing. A shared label does not establish one distillation origin for every release. [S16, S25]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

From still to city

2011 / 2015

American Spirit Whiskey launches; the team later expands and custom Vendome stills arrive. [S3-S5]

June / July 2016

Production begins, then the Armour Drive distillery opens to visitors. A September bottling previews unaged malted rye. [S5-S7]

2017 / 2018

Duality arrives as an experiment in two malts. ASW records its Double Gold medal the following year. [S8, S9]

2019 / 2020

The West End Whiskey Exchange opens. Maris Otter wins Craft Whiskey of the Year in ASW’s award record. [S4, S9]

2021 / 2025

The Battery opens for clear spirits and hospitality. Later, a Fiddler Encore expression earns small-batch bourbon recognition. [S10, S11]

2026

Big Green Egg and John Deere collaborations extend the finishing story into cooking and agriculture. [S12-S14]



Three city sites, distinct roles

Armour Drive is the whiskey-making home. The West End provides maturation and rickhouse visits. The Battery makes gin and vodka. ASW’s 2026 announcements also include an airport hospitality outlet; that is not a fourth whiskey distillery. [S14, S21-S23, S26]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Grain, wood & choice

Malt changes the starting point

Resurgens centers malted rye. Duality brings rye malt and smoked barley malt into one batch. ASW tells Duality’s origin as a shortage solved by experimentation. The account remains attributed to the producer. [S17, S18, S20, S27]

Different kinds of Fiddler

Soloist is ASW’s own pot-still bourbon. Heartwood uses sourced wheated bourbon and Georgia oak staves. Blending, a second barrel and stave finishing describe different operations. Read each expression and edition. [S16, S19, S25]



Wood before whiskey

ASW’s Big Green Egg collaboration prepares finishing staves on the cooker. Its 2026 John Deere pair, Combine Bourbon and Steel Plow Rye, is described as eight years old and bottled at 112 proof. [S12-S14, S30]

SOURCES & FURTHER READING

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S2 Current team
S3 UGA: Spirits Squad
S4 Terry: That’s the Spirit
S5 Stills & first production
S6 2016 opening announcement
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S8 2017 Duality release
S9 Producer award record
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Checked October 19, 2026. Specs apply to named releases. Big Green Egg proof varies by source; see full website notes. Illustrations are symbolic.