BARTON 1792

Bardstown roots. A whiskey family with range.



Origins & people

Barton’s official account dates its Bardstown distillery to 1879. A 2020 Thomas S. Moore announcement instead gives 1889 for Moore’s construction of the site. These primary accounts conflict; both dates remain visible rather than being silently reconciled. The same historical account describes a Prohibition interruption in 1920. [1,3]

Sazerac acquired Barton and Glenmore from Constellation in 2009. In 2026, Barton identifies Ross Cornelissen as master distiller in its announcement of straight rye and XV bourbon. The site’s history continues through people, equipment and new expressions. [2,14]

One place, several whiskey directions

The 1792 name commemorates Kentucky statehood; it is not the distillery founding year. The range explores grain, barrel selection, age and bottling proof. Thomas S. Moore adds extended maturation in wine and spirits casks. [3,4,9]

History & places

A changing Bardstown campus



1879 / 1889 / 1920 Official establishment, the conflicting Moore account, and Prohibition interruption. [1,3]

2009 / 2011 Sazerac acquires Barton; a visitor center opens in the former Oscar Getz Museum building. [2,5]

2020 Thomas S. Moore launches with Port, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon finishes. [3]

2021 Warehouse 33 begins filling on February 25, the first new warehouse since 1963. An April announcement plans Early Times distilling, aging and bottling at Barton that summer. [6,7]

2022 Four more Thomas S. Moore finishes arrive. Separately, a Barton statement ends general public tours and the gift shop after June 30. [4,8]

2026 July brings straight rye and XV. In August, Sazerac reports roughly $50 million invested at Barton over five years. [14,16]

Place and purpose

The official 196-acre campus description includes the stillhouse, aging warehouses and Tom Moore Spring. Warehouse 33’s hillside design combines wooden floors and ricks with metal siding. The 2026 investment report includes fermenters, a boiler house, bottling and three aging warehouses. Dated totals should not be added into a false current census. [1,6,16]

The visitor-center account is historical. No reopening or current tour reservation is asserted. Watercolor scenes are symbolic interpretations. [5,8]

Whiskey & stories

Read grain, age and proof separately



Small Batch is described as high rye; Sweet Wheat replaces rye with wheat. Full Proof bottles at the original 125 barrel-entry proof, while the inaugural 15-year XV is uncut and unfiltered at 124.2 proof. Similar numbers do not mean the same method. [9,10,13,14]

Thomas S. Moore explores extended finishing. Its racehorse recalls Moore’s Belle of Nelson whiskey and the horse that won the 1878 Kentucky Oaks. The illustration is symbolic. [3,4]

Early Times also shows why brand ownership and distilling origin need separate dates: the announced move to Barton does not establish the source of every older bottle. [7]

Linked research sources

1. Official distillery history
2. Sazerac ownership timeline
3. Thomas S. Moore launch, 2020
4. Four Moore finishes, 2022
5. Visitor center release, 2011
6. Warehouse 33 release, 2021
7. Early Times plans, 2021
8. Public-tour statement, 2022
9. Small Batch and range
10. Full Proof specifications
11. Bottled in Bond
12. Single Barrel
13. Sweet Wheat
14. Rye and XV launch, 2026
15. Aged Twelve Years
16. Sazerac investment, 2026
17. 1792 Port Finish