01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Along the buffalo trace

At Frankfort, river trade, changing ownership and generations of whiskey makers share one campus. Leestown's 1775 roots describe a place. Daniel Swigert's 1858 distillery, Taylor's O.F.C. chapter and the Buffalo Trace name introduced in 1999 mark different beginnings. [1,2,3]



A site with several names

Taylor and Stagg shaped the nineteenth-century plant. Albert Blanton's career spanned its development through Prohibition and beyond. Elmer T. Lee's 1984 Blanton's launch turned individual barrel selection into a modern premium proposition. The producer attributes the first modern commercial single-barrel distinction to that release. [1,5,18]

The people making the next chapter

Official biographies list Harlen Wheatley as Master Distiller, Drew Mayville as Master Blender and Director of Quality, and Freddie Johnson as Global Whiskey Ambassador. Their roles connect production, consistency and the telling of the campus's history. [18]

Ownership and partnership

Sazerac acquired the facility in 1992. Van Winkle's 2002 joint venture governs present family production. Blanton's has a separate Age International and Takara commercial history. A shared production home does not mean identical brand ownership. [3,4,12,13]



02 / HISTORY & PLACES

Layers of the same place



1858 / 1869-1870

Swigert develops the distillery; official Taylor purchase dates differ. [1,10]



1881 / 1885 / 1886

Warehouses A and B, then C; steam heating follows construction. [1]



1920-1933 / 1935

Medicinal bottling and later production; Warehouse H follows repeal. [1,5]



1984 / 1992 / 1999

Blanton's launches; Sazerac acquires the site; Buffalo Trace name arrives. [3,5]



2002 / 2013 / 2016

Van Winkle partnership; landmark status; O.F.C. archaeology. [2,4,11]



2022 / 2025 / 2026

New stillhouse; flood recovery; research releases and cafe opening. [1,19]

Production, preservation and visitor life

The working home is 113 Great Buffalo Trace, Frankfort. Warehouse A now serves visitors; metal-clad H belongs to Blanton's story. The Old Taylor Tour interprets preserved O.F.C. remains. The John G. Carlisle Cafe occupies the historic Elmer T. Lee Clubhouse. [2,5,14,20]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Recipes, barrels, questions

Weller's wheated identity and Van Winkle's production partnership explain related recipe paths, without making releases interchangeable. Copper distillation, oak maturation and warehouse conditions provide the broader process. Undisclosed mash percentages are not invented. [2,4,6]



Single barrels and historical layers

Blanton's connects barrel selection with Warehouse H. The 2016 O.F.C. excavation revealed historic foundations and fermentation remains, conserved within a working campus. Selection and archaeology tell different stories of place. [5,11,14]

Read each edition on its own terms

E.H. Taylor joined the October 2025 Antique Collection. April 2026 announcements named Single Oak Rye Bourbon and Low Entry Proof Wheated. These dated releases do not establish a 2026 Antique lineup. [10,19]

Follow the questions

Experimentation explores grain, wood, treatment and aging. The modern Prohibition Collection revisits historic labels with new releases. Each edition retains its own identity. [9,19]

Read further / linked sources

[1] Official history
[2] Distillery overview
[3] Sazerac history
[4] Van Winkle partnership
[5] Blanton’s Single Barrel
[6] Weller family
[7] Current brands
[8] Traveller collaboration
[9] Experimental Collection
[10] 2025 Antique announcement
[11] National Trust archaeology
[12] Takara group
[13] Takara 2019 report
[14] Old Taylor Tour
[15] Eagle Rare family
[16] E.H. Taylor family
[17] Benchmark
[18] Official people
[19] Dated 2026 announcements
[20] John G. Carlisle Cafe