01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

The work after the barrel.



DOC SWINSON’S · FERNDALE, WASHINGTON

In Ferndale, Washington, the defining work happens after whiskey has already become whiskey. Doc Swinson’s selects mature spirit, explores finishing casks and assembles blends. Its parent, Distillers Way, also develops spirits for other brands. The distinction makes this a story about authorship at the blending bench: what to combine, what to change and when to leave a barrel alone. [1,16]

The official team includes co-founders Jesse Parker, Chris Cearns, Keith Seidel and Steve Main. The company combines a master blender’s decisions with the practical work of operations, finance and sales. [2]

Distillers Way is the operating spirits house. Doc Swinson’s is its whiskey brand. MGP is a disclosed source for several current expressions; older releases also document other origins. A Washington blending address does not establish where a whiskey was distilled. [1,13-15,17]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A local experiment travels.

2017
Doc Swinson’s launches. [4]

By 2019
The archive records fifteen-year Kentucky bourbon. [5]

2020-2021
A rum-cask solera develops; a base-blend adjustment follows. [6,7]

Fall 2021
Blender’s Cut exposes the unfinished foundation. [8]

2022-2023
Exploratory releases expand; distribution reaches 26 states and Canada in the 2023 report. [4,9]

2024
Golden Hour, Garryana finishing and new label art broaden the vocabulary. [10,11]

2025
The Barrel Lab brings visitors into the working space. [12]



Ferndale
Blending, finishing and the visitor experience at 1370 Commerce Place. Check the producer for current hours and bookings. [12,20]

Beyond Washington
MGP appears on current product pages. The archive separately identifies Kentucky bourbon and a Tennessee Dickel release. Follow each expression’s disclosed provenance. [5,13-15,17]

A place, not a shortcut
The Northwest setting is part of the producer’s identity. Its climate analogy with Scotland remains an attributed explanation, not a guarantee of flavor. [2,9]

The full profile preserves twelve illustrated milestones and the qualifications behind their dates.

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Choices that shape the glass.

Four decisions
Select the whiskey. Assemble the blend. Choose whether and how to finish it. Decide when the components belong together. The house’s method makes those decisions visible. [14,16]



A useful comparison
Blender’s Cut shows a bourbon foundation at 115 proof. Triple Cask layers sherry and cognac influences and marries the components in ex-cognac foeders. The two releases give a concrete way to explore finishing. [8,14]

Keep the batch in view
Tres Amigos has several published proofs and finishing details. Elsewhere, the archive says releases 10 and 11 of its fifteen-year bourbon shared the same whiskey after a printing issue. Labels need context. [5,6]

Linked research · Full notes accompany the profile. Dates and specifications describe the cited releases. Watercolors are symbolic interpretations.

1. Distillers Way: company and house brands
2. Doc Swinson’s: people and place
3. The origin of Doc Swinson’s
4. Bellingham Herald: Ferndale whiskey, May 2023
5. The archive: 15 Year Bourbon
6. The archive: Tres Amigos batch specifications
7. June 2021: a base-blend adjustment
8. Blender’s Cut: the unfinished base
9. Summer 2022: Exploratory expansion
10. Golden Hour: interview with Jesse Parker
11. Spring 2024: new releases and label art
12. 2025: inside the Barrel Lab
13. Session Blend Bourbon
14. Triple Cask Bourbon
15. Bottled in Bond Rye
16. The curiosity of blending whiskey
17. The archive: Madeira-finished bourbon
18. Whiskey archive: expressions through time
19. Doc’s 2024 year in review
20. Visit Doc’s: current Ferndale address