01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Eastside Distilling

Portland spirit. Oregon oak.



A beginning in rum

Lenny Gotter founded Eastside in 2008. Licensed operations followed in 2009; Burnside arrived in 2011 and Mel Heim joined in 2012. [S01]

A regional accent

Burnside makes place tangible through Oregon white-oak finishing. The local step follows whiskey selection and blending, rather than proving that every component was distilled in Portland. [S25]

The blender’s contribution

The 2017 relaunch combined five components under Heim. Sandstrom’s presentation drew on music posters and Burnside Street, giving the whiskey a contemporary city identity. [S06]

Skills pass between makers

Jason Ericson joined production in 2014 and learned under Heim. His head-distiller appointment was announced in January 2021. These are documented historical roles, not a current staff roster. [S14]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

The changing family

2014 / 2017

A reverse acquisition opens the public-company chapter. Nasdaq trading begins August 10, 2017. [S02, S05]

2017 / 2018

MotherLode and Big Bottom expand capabilities. Buckman marks the tenth anniversary; Redneck Riviera launches separately. [S03, S04, S07, S08]

2019 / 2020

Craft Canning and Azuñia broaden the business. Tasting rooms close March 31, 2020. [S09-S12]

2021 / 2023

The Redneck Riviera license ends. Big Bottom later returns to Schoney and partners. [S13, S17]

October 2024

Spirits move into Bridgetown as the Beeline merger closes and Craft Canning leaves through a debt exchange. [S18]

March / July 2025

The former parent becomes Beeline Holdings, then divests its remaining Bridgetown stake to a Gwin-led group. [S19, S20]



Follow the role of each place

Portland is the historical brand home; Burnside Street is the namesake. The shop lists a northeast Portland contact address, not verified visitor hours. Hillsboro belongs to Big Bottom’s separate history. [S06, S14, S17, S24]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Selection, wood & time

The second barrel matters

Garryana gives selected whiskey an Oregon accent. Ericson described at least three years of stave seasoning in 2021. The related 5,000-tree partnership was an announced plan; completion is not verified. [S16]

Read the age carefully

Buckman uses ten-year bourbon with an Oregon-oak finish. That is not ten years in the finishing cask. A 2021 single malt used 70-year-old sherry casks, not 70-year-old whiskey. [S08, S15]



Compare different structures

Oregon Oaked Bourbon is listed at 92 proof. Rye combines straight rye and straight whiskey; West End is a broader American-whiskey blend. Shared oak does not mean a shared recipe. [S21, S22, S26]

SOURCES & FURTHER READING

S01 Early timeline & founder
S02 2014 corporate transaction
S03 MotherLode acquisition
S04 Big Bottom acquisition
S05 Nasdaq trading begins
S06 2017 Burnside relaunch
S07 Redneck Riviera launch
S08 Buckman anniversary bourbon
S09 Craft Canning transaction
S10 Craft acquisition date
S11 Azuñia transaction
S12 Tasting-room closure
S13 Riviera license termination
S14 Ericson appointment
S15 2021 cellar selections
S16 Oak & forests announcement
S17 Big Bottom buyback
S18 2024/25 corporate separation
S19 Beeline name change
S20 Private Bridgetown announcement
S21 Oregon Oaked Rye
S22 West End Blend
S23 Legacy company history
S24 Current listed contact
S25 Oregon Oaked Bourbon
S26 Bourbon proof & blend
S27 2025 production partnership

Checked October 19, 2026. Sources apply to dated roles and named releases. Corporate history does not identify every distilling source. Illustrations are symbolic.