01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Four Roses

Kentucky history. Ten recipes. The long road home.

Four Roses builds a range of bourbons from two mash bills and five yeasts. Selection and mingling turn those components into distinctive expressions. [18]

Brand landmark: 1888 trademark [2]
Distilling: Lawrenceburg [31]
Aging & bottling: Cox’s Creek [32]
Owner: Gallo, since April 2026 [18]



A name with more than one beginning

Paul Jones Jr.’s Louisville trading business and 1888 trademark belong to the brand’s origin. The proposal answered with a corsage of roses is brand lore. The later Spanish Mission distillery has a separate early-1910s facility history. [2,19,3]

The people carry the character forward

Jim Rutledge helped restore Four Roses straight bourbon at home; Al Young preserved its history in archives and a 2010 book. Brent Elliott brought chemistry experience to the team in 2005 and succeeded Rutledge in 2015. [8,33,11,34]

Watercolors are symbolic interpretations, not exact buildings or documentary portraits.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

The long road home



1922–1943 · A surviving name Medicinal sales help the brand through Prohibition; Seagram then acquires Frankfort Distilling and Four Roses. The current distillery site follows a different timeline. [4,5]

1960–2002 · Warehouses and revival Cox’s Creek’s low warehouses begin in 1960. A limited Kentucky bourbon return in the 1990s precedes Kirin’s broader 2002 relaunch. [7,8,9]

2004–2025 · A wider recipe palette Single Barrel and Small Batch are followed by 2019’s Small Batch Select, expanded hospitality and a rotating Single Barrel Collection. [9,13,14,16]

2026 · Continuity and exploration Gallo completes the acquisition. Anthology, experimental finishes and the annual limited blend offer distinct new ways into the stock. [18,19,20,23]

Read the place by its role

Lawrenceburg’s Bonds Mill Road campus distills and welcomes visitors. Cox’s Creek’s Lotus Road site matures and bottles the whiskey. The Salt River supports operations and an employee cleanup partnership. [31,32,27,22]

Brand, facility and release dates are distinct. Scenes are symbolic watercolor interpretations.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

The recipe is only the beginning

Mash bill B uses 60% corn, 35% rye and 5% malted barley; E uses 75%, 20% and 5%. The yeasts V, K, O, Q and F give ten combinations. O begins each code for Four Roses distillation; S denotes straight whiskey. [24]

Small Batch mingles four recipes at 90 proof. Small Batch Select uses six at 104 proof. Single Barrel highlights one barrel, while the annual limited blend combines selected mature batches. [29,30,17,23]



Elliott recalls tasting Single Barrel in a hotel before his 2005 job interview, helping convince him to follow a career in bourbon. A precise recipe library still depends on people choosing what tastes right. [11]

Research notes & linked sources

Research: October 16, 2026. Proposal story is lore. Early building dates/architect credits and historical appointment dates differ between sources. Gallo’s completed acquisition supersedes old Kirin listings. Launch announcements do not guarantee stock. [3,18]

[1] Heritage
[2] Whiskey Row origins
[3] National Register
[4] Medicinal whiskey
[5] Seagram / advertising
[6] Yeast ancestry
[7] Cox’s Creek 1960
[8] Rutledge / early return
[9] 2002–2018 history
[10] Small Batch story
[11] Elliott interview
[12] 2020 America award
[13] 2019 expansion
[14] 2021 visitor plans
[15] 2023 brand refresh
[16] Collection announced
[17] Current single barrels
[18] Gallo completes deal
[19] Anthology debut
[20] Mizunara experiment
[21] Honey cask finish
[22] Salt River cleanup
[23] 2026 annual blend
[24] Ten-recipe system
[25] Virtual distillery tour
[26] Small Batch vs Select
[27] Water reuse
[28] Four Roses Bourbon
[29] Small Batch
[30] Small Batch Select
[31] Visit Lawrenceburg
[32] Visit Cox’s Creek
[33] Al Young’s Archives
[34] Elliott’s five years
[35] 2023 anniversary blend