01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Garrison Brothers

Texas grain. Hill Country heat. A family’s idea, made one barrel at a time.

On a ranch in Hye, Dan and Nancy Garrison built a business around making bourbon themselves. Copper pot stills and barrel selection anchor the work; honey, French oak and wine casks widen its vocabulary. The constant is a Texas home and a willingness to experiment. [18, 19, 26, 27]



At a glance
Established: 2006
Home: Hye, Texas Hill Country
Co-founders: Dan & Nancy Garrison
Master distiller: Donnis Todd
Ownership: Family owned & operated
[1, 4, 18-20]

A founding partnership

Dan learned through visits to Kentucky and trial and error back at the ranch. Nancy brought retail, marketing and sales experience, including leadership at Austin’s Scarbroughs. Her influence reaches into HoneyDew, Lady Bird and Sonora. Named co-CEO in August 2026, she shares leadership with Dan; the announcement followed in September. [2, 3, 18]

Different talents, one enterprise

Donnis Todd met Dan in December 2007 after a decade in the U.S. Air Force. He became the central figure in production and barrel selection. Dan’s brother Charlie joined full time in 2013, bringing sales and national-account work. The family name connects them; their contributions remain distinct. [4, 5]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

The ranch learns its own language.



2006-2010 Establishment in 2006, permits in 2007 and legal distilling in 2008 precede the first 2010 bottles. These are separate beginnings. [1, 7]

2013-2018 Single Barrel and Cowboy arrive in 2013; Balmorhea follows in 2017. The first experimental HoneyDew release is August 2018. [1, 9, 11]

2020-2023 Laguna Madre supports pandemic relief in 2020. Guadalupe launches in 2021; honey-infused, Cognac-finished Lady Bird in 2023. [12-14]

2025-2026 Sonora introduces a rye-cask finish in 2025. The first Bottled-in-Bond and the PX/Oloroso Ranch Reserve pair arrive in 2026. [15-17, 29]

September 2026 Nancy’s co-CEO announcement recognizes a continuing contribution. Current company statements retain family ownership. [18, 19]

A place to make, mature and gather

The ranch at 1827 Hye-Albert Road combines production, barrel barns and visitor experiences. The Whiskey Shack adds food, cocktails and guided tastings. Austin is a corporate mailing address, not another distillery. Texas names such as Guadalupe and Sonora evoke landscapes; they do not establish additional production sites. [13, 15, 18, 20, 21]

The full website preserves sixteen illustrated milestones and the fuller account of people, place, production and changing releases.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

The recipe is only the beginning.

Grain, copper and oak
The house recipe is 74% white corn, 15% red winter wheat and 11% malted barley. Pot stills and barrel selection shape what follows. Climate claims are not a conversion between Texas and Kentucky ages. [6, 8]



Follow the expression
Small Batch is 94 proof; Cowboy marries selected barrels at varying cask strength. HoneyDew adds real honey. Hye Rye uses a separate high-rye bourbon recipe. [23, 25, 26, 31]

A star applied by hand: volunteer bottlers fit leather pull-tabs, dip corked bottles in wax and press a Texas star into the seal. The finishing touch becomes a shared task, connecting supporters with the work behind the bourbon. [22]

Research notes & linked sources

Researched October 14, 2026. Dated sources resolve timeline conflicts: 2006 establishment is preferred over a biography's 2004; first HoneyDew is 2018, not 2020. Specifications vary by edition. Hye Rye's October 2028 return is a future plan. All 32 primary sources are linked below.

[1] Producer chronology
[2] Dan Garrison biography
[3] Nancy Garrison biography
[4] Donnis Todd biography
[5] Charlie Garrison biography
[6] Grain-to-glass process
[7] First flagship retail, 2010
[8] Historical production, 2011
[9] Balmorhea: history and recipe
[10] Charity mission
[11] First HoneyDew, 2018
[12] Laguna Madre, 2024
[13] Guadalupe launch, 2021
[14] Lady Bird launch, 2023
[15] Sonora creation, 2025
[16] Bottled-in-Bond launch, 2026
[17] Ranch Reserve launch, 2026
[18] Nancy co-CEO announcement
[19] Family ownership, June 2026
[20] The working ranch
[21] Whiskey Shack
[22] Volunteer bottling
[23] Small Batch specification
[24] Single Barrel formats
[25] Cowboy Bourbon
[26] HoneyDew infusion
[27] Guadalupe specification
[28] Sonora specification
[29] Bottled-in-Bond specification
[30] Ranch Reserve specifications
[31] Hye Rye presale and recipe
[32] Hye Rye maker account