01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Heaven’s Door

American whiskey, through an artist’s gate.

The collection connects Bob Dylan’s visual imagination with the work of whiskey makers and blenders. Its identity is broader than one recipe: a Kentucky production home sits alongside selected and finished stocks from other places. The edition on the label remains the best starting point. [15, 21, 23-25]



At a glance
Public launch: April 2018
Production home: Pleasureville, Kentucky
Creative partner: Bob Dylan
Distiller: Ken Pierce [1-3, 14]

An idea becomes a collection

The company dates the partnership’s beginnings to 2015, before the 2018 market debut. Dylan’s found-object iron gates became the main visual signature. The Bootleg editions instead place paintings on ceramic bottles, turning the packaging into a separate artistic chapter. [1, 2, 15]

Different people, different roles

Marc Bushala helped develop the business platform. Ryan Perry shaped early blending and the Redbreast collaboration; later announcements credit Alex Moore. Pierce joined the Six Mile Creek project in 2016 and helped bring its facility into operation. Those credits belong to their documented periods. [3, 10, 14, 17]

Original watercolor interpretations are symbolic. They are not historical photographs or exact architectural reconstructions.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

One name. Several beginnings.



2015 / 2016 / 2018 The partnership takes shape, Pierce joins the facility project, and the public range launches. Kentucky distilling is separately dated to 2018. [1, 3, 14]

2019 to 2020 Nashville’s church project is announced. Bootleg begins with 26-year Mizunara-finished whisky, followed by a rum-cask edition; European expansion adds new markets. [4, 5, 7, 9]

2021 to 2022 Redbreast casks, Spanish wine casks and an Islay finish broaden the experiments. Decade I emphasizes ten-year Tennessee bourbon without charcoal mellowing. [10-13]

2023 to 2024 The Pleasureville home and Louisville experience are announced. Bootleg V uses vermouth casks; Exploration I adds Calvados and staves; Bootleg VI turns to Limousin oak. [14, 16-18]

Fall 2025 Before the Gate preview tours welcome visitors. The current page then reports a seasonal closure while the full guest experience is completed. [19]

Production and hospitality

Pleasureville is the Kentucky distillery home. Louisville’s Last Refuge at 600 East Market is a hospitality and cultural setting. Nashville belongs to the earlier plan; the company redirected that property toward its foundation. Proposed opening dates are not proof of completed visitor access. [4, 14, 19, 20]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Read the edition, then the finish.

Tennessee maple mellowing belongs to specific releases, not every bottle from the state. Core recipes also evolve: the original rye’s cigar barrels differ from current Refuge’s sherry finish. Current Revelation pages disagree on minimum component age, so no universal age is assigned here. [6, 12, 21, 22, 25]



Bootleg IV is documented as an 11-year wheated bourbon, Islay-finished at 111 proof. Its source distillery is not identified here. Homesick Blues adds a Minnesota chapter. The portfolio’s variety survives the creation of a Kentucky home. [13, 23]

Linked research sources

Checked October 20, 2026. Full qualifications accompany the website.

1. 2018 launch announcement
2. The ironwork behind the identity
3. Ken Pierce, dated maker profile
4. 2019 Nashville project announcement
5. 2019 Bootleg debut
6. 2019 advance release preview
7. 2020 European expansion
8. 2020 radio and relief program
9. 2020 Bootleg Volume II
10. 2021 Redbreast collaboration
11. 2021 Bootleg Volume III
12. 2022 Decade Series launch
13. Bootleg Volume IV release record
14. 2023 Pleasureville announcement
15. Bootleg archive
16. 2023 Bootleg Volume V
17. 2024 Exploration Series introduction
18. Bootleg V and VI producer shop history
19. Current visitor page
20. The Last Refuge official site
21. Current whiskey collection
22. Current Trilogy descriptions
23. Homesick Blues producer product page
24. Single Barrel producer page
25. Limited-release archive
26. Current Exploration Series page