01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Kentucky Artisan Distillery

Crestwood, Kentucky. A workshop for whiskey ideas.

Kentucky Artisan is a contract distillery and bottler whose best-known relationship is its role as Jefferson’s official home. It can supply production expertise while the brand retains its own identity. [3,4,18]

Founded: 2012 [2]
Place: Crestwood, Oldham County [8]
Operator: Copperhead Distillery Company [5]



A cooperative beginning

Steve Thompson, Chris Miller and Mike Loring created KAD in a former ice cream distribution building. Its opening-era purpose included helping guest distillers with production, storage and bottling. A new whiskey business could get practical help before building its own plant. [1,2]

Experience becomes a working legacy

Thompson brought a career in distilling to the venture. Jade Peterson progressed from bottling work into production leadership. Jefferson’s founders Trey and Chet Zoeller supplied a separate brand story, dating to 1997. Shared work does not make all these roles the same. [7,10,11]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A workshop grows



2012–2014 Founded in 2012, KAD joins the KDA in 2013. Its first years establish a cooperative production model. [1,2]

2015–2017 Castle Brands invests in Copperhead, first buying 20%, then adding 5%. These are historical stakes, not a current ownership chart. [6]

2019–2022 Jefferson’s joins Pernod Ricard in 2019. Thompson dies in 2021; the KDA announces a lifetime achievement honor in 2022. [12,13]

2025 onward Avalon renews Whiskey Row in 2025. Today’s KAD uses a column still with a repurposed thumper. [1,14]

Read the place by its role

Crestwood is the working production and visitor home. Waldeck Farm supplies locally grown grain. Louisville’s Whiskey Row supplies historical brand inspiration. The separate Marion County Jefferson’s project announced in 2022 is not assumed to be completed or to replace Crestwood. [3,8,11,13]

The website retains all 12 milestones. Current equipment is an operating snapshot, not a dated installation claim.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Read the whiskey by its role

KAD can develop recipes, distill, blend sourced whiskey, store barrels and bottle finished products. Its services explain why the original distiller cannot be inferred from a brand-home address alone. [4]

Avalon identifies Whiskey Row Bottled in Bond as KAD-distilled: 67% corn, 12.5% rye, 12.5% wheat and 8% malted barley. Those specifications belong to that expression. [15]



Jefferson’s associates the Crestwood workshop with wine-cask, rum-cask and wood experiments. Its current Reserve is an eight-year, 96-proof expression. Older bottles retain their own label specifications. [8,16]

Research notes & linked sources

Researched October 16, 2026. All sources below are linked. Capacity figures are promotional snapshots. Historical ownership, current operation and planned projects are distinguished. Illustrations are symbolic, not documentary.

[1] KAD history
[2] KDA 2013
[3] KAD home
[4] Contract services
[5] KAD brands
[6] Castle 10-K
[7] Jefferson’s story
[8] Visit Crestwood
[9] Jefferson’s FAQ
[10] Peterson bio
[11] Whiskey Row story
[12] KDA 2022 honor
[13] 2022 investment
[14] Avalon 2025 launch
[15] Whiskey Row bond
[16] Reserve 8 Year
[17] Pernod portfolio
[18] KAD / Jefferson’s
[19] Cask Strength