01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Kentucky Owl

An old name. Many ways to build a bourbon.



Heritage, then revival

The brand traces its name to C.M. Dedman in 1879. A much later revival returned it to the market in 2014. The connection is family and inspiration, rather than uninterrupted operation or surviving historic whiskey. [S1, S3]

Three partners build a blend

Dixon Dedman worked with Mark and Sherri Carter on the modern return. Their small-batch approach depended on selecting mature whiskey and deciding how distinct barrels could work together. [S2]

Different blending perspectives

John Rhea joined in 2021. Maureen Robinson succeeded him in 2023 and collaborated on Maighstir. Her later biography describes a two-year tenure, so that appointment is a historical chapter here. [S8, S13, S15]

A brand and its business

Stoli’s 2017 acquisition expanded the commercial reach. Kentucky Owl LLC later entered Chapter 11, with a court-approved trustee in 2026. Corporate proceedings do not make every release share the same origin. [S2, S18, S20]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A changing identity

1879 / 1916

The brand’s early family account precedes a long interruption. Its vanished-stock narrative remains attributed lore. [S1]

2014 / 2017

The first modern bourbon batch is followed by wider distribution and an eleven-year straight rye. [S3, S4]

2017 / 2018

Kentucky Owl Park is announced and a design team selected. Plans are distinct from a completed facility. [S5, S6]

2019 / 2021

Confiscated expands nationally; Rhea then opens the Wiseman chapter. [S7, S8, S9]

2022

St. Patrick’s and Takumi apply Irish and Japanese blending perspectives to Kentucky bourbon. [S10, S11]

2023

Robinson and Rhea collaborate on Maighstir at the leadership transition. [S13]

November 2024

The U.S. entities file Chapter 11 petitions. This is not a worldwide Stoli shutdown. [S18, S19]

2026 / October review

The later record shows Chapter 11 trustee administration, rather than a completed January conversion. [S20, S21]



Read the place’s role

Harrodsburg belongs to the family revival story. Bardstown Bourbon Company is a disclosed Wiseman collaborator. The quarry-park illustration is a concept, not an open visitor destination or a portrait of a working distillery. [S2, S6, S9]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

The art of choosing

Recipes belong to releases

Batch 9’s announcement describes four mash bills and component ages from six to fifteen years. The Wiseman Rye instead specifies 95% rye. These are release-level facts, not one universal Kentucky Owl recipe. [S12, S16]

A legend becomes a label

Confiscated draws on the family’s vanished-barrel account. It commemorates a story; it is not whiskey recovered from those historic stocks. [S7]



International methods

Takumi joins Rhea and Nagahama’s Yusuke Yahisa around Kentucky bourbon. Maighstir adds Robinson’s Scotch perspective. The collaborators’ backgrounds do not turn these releases into imported Scotch or Japanese whisky. [S11, S13]

SOURCES & FURTHER READING

S1 Brand history / attributed lore
S2 2017 rights acquisition
S3 Batch 7 / national expansion
S4 2017 straight rye
S5 2017 park announcement
S6 2018 design proposal
S7 Confiscated launch
S8 John Rhea appointment
S9 Wiseman Bourbon launch
S10 St. Patrick’s collaboration
S11 Takumi collaboration
S12 Wiseman Rye launch
S13 Maighstir company release
S14 Robinson interview (partnered)
S15 Robinson / awards biography
S16 Batch 9 composition
S17 Batch 12 / Mardi Gras XO
S18 2024 court filing
S19 January 2026 company motion
S20 March 2026 trustee order
S21 October 2026 case index
S22 March 31 case order
S23 Trustee counsel / representation

Research checked October 18, 2026. Product details describe named editions; availability and future operations are not guaranteed. Complete qualifications are retained in the web profile.