01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Laws Whiskey House

A whiskey story rooted in Colorado grain.

Laws Whiskey House began distilling in Denver in 2011 and sold its first bottle in fall 2014. Four Grain Bourbon became a foundation for bonded releases, single-grain whiskeys and the exploratory ORIGINS series. [1,3]

Home: Denver, Colorado
First barrel: July 4, 2011
Founder: Al Laws
Visitor center: The Sanctuary [2,12]



The grain comes first

The Cody family grows wheat, rye and barley in the San Luis Valley; the Ohnmacht family grows corn on the eastern plains. Laws links these farm relationships to a distinctive regional style. [1,21]

A mentor and a Village

A 2009 Kentucky trip introduced Al and Marianne Laws to retired Barton distiller Bill Friel. His mentoring helped shape the new enterprise. Laws credits its wider community of farmers, makers and hospitality colleagues as the Village. [1,2]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

Time becomes part of the story



2011–2014 First distillation, then the first commercial bottle. Early barrels help fund the emerging brand. [2,3,5]

2016–2017 Bonded bourbon and rye establish a recurring emphasis on provenance and patience. [3]

2020–2023 ORIGINS moves from an early single barrel to anniversary whiskey and blends spanning barrel ages. [5–8]

2024 Headwaters adds a conservation story; the Whiskey Sanctuary opens in December. [9,11]

2025–2026 Henry Road returns; MOSAIC explores malt; hospitality and liquid awards recognize different parts of the house. [13–16]

Read the place by its role

Denver is the distilling home. The San Luis Valley and eastern plains are grain regions. The Sanctuary at 80 West Arkansas Avenue is the visitor gateway. Headwaters river names identify edition-specific water and conservation connections. [1,9,12]

Selected milestones. The full website preserves all 17 illustrated events and research qualifications.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Grain, spirit and the cask

Four Grain Bourbon uses 60% corn, 20% wheat, 10% rye and 10% malted barley. Al describes open-air fermentation and double pot distillation, with the first pass on-grain. [20,22]

Standard, bonded and cask-strength presentations differ. ORIGINS editions deliberately explore ages and grain styles. Preserve the age, recipe and proof of the named release. [7,8,17]



A barrel comes home. Great Divide first selected Laws barrels in winter 2014. A later bourbon finish used casks that had held the brewery’s Yeti Imperial Stout, carrying a collaboration through another turn of the barrel. [19]

Research notes & linked sources

Researched October 18, 2026. Current catalog ages are not retroactive. ORIGINS X’s original four-barrel account differs from a later retrospective. Company firsts and awards remain attributed. [3,4,6,15–17]

[1] Company story
[2] First barrel & mentor
[3] Bonded journey
[4] ORIGINS history
[5] ORIGINS 9
[6] ORIGINS X
[7] INTENTION
[8] CORNERSTONE
[9] Headwaters
[10] Rio Grande edition
[11] Sanctuary opening
[12] Visitor center
[13] Henry Road
[14] MOSAIC
[15] Hospitality awards
[16] 2026 spirit awards
[17] Whiskey specs
[18] CU Athletics
[19] Great Divide
[20] Maker interview
[21] Colorado maltsters
[22] Colorado grain