01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Oregon Spirit Distillers

High-desert grain. A whiskey made from the ground up.

Bend’s Oregon Spirit Distillers explores several American whiskey traditions through regional grain. Bourbon, rye, wheat and malt share a producer while retaining distinct identities. [11]

Home: Bend, Oregon. [13] **Founded:** 2009 by Brad and Kathy Irwin; family-owned. [1]



A partnership with patience

Planning preceded licensing in 2009. Early spirits reached drinkers while the whiskey remained in oak. [16]

From the still to the blend

Brad Irwin is owner and master distiller; Steve Denfeld is master blender. Their roles connect spirit-making with the judgment required to marry mature barrels and select individual expressions. [2]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A distillery grows into its place



2009 Brad and Kathy establish the Bend distillery. [1]

2012–2014 Early bourbon reaches drinkers; a larger site follows. Release and build-out dates differ across accounts. [17,18]

2016–2017 Rye joins the range and national distribution is planned. [16]

2020–2021 A community sanitizer response precedes the inaugural whiskey festival. [19,20]

2024–2025 Wheat recognition and Brad’s production-floor return add new chapters. [15,2]

2026 The distillery schedules another Oregon Whiskey Festival in Bend. [14]

Read the place by its role

740 NE First Street houses the visitor experience, with tours by appointment. [13] **Regional farms** supply grain; the 2024 kit reports predominantly Oregon sourcing. [15] **Madras** contributes Mecca Grade malt to the malt whiskey. [8]

Selected moments from the full website chronology. Buildings and scenes are symbolic watercolors.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Let the grain lead the reading

Compare the recipes. The standard rye uses Oregon-grown rye alone. Its four years in new American white oak and 90-proof bottling distinguish it from the four-grain bourbon. [6,4]

Follow the barrel. Bonded bourbon is selected and marked by individual barrel code at 100 proof. Barrel identity remains useful even when the product name is familiar. [5]



Look beyond the core range. The Hawthorne Series links limited spirits to the distillery's neighborhood and regional collaborations. Used casks, winemakers and coffee roasters become part of particular projects, rather than one universal whiskey recipe. [12]

Research notes & linked sources

Research checked October 17, 2026. Current product specifications describe named expressions, not every older bottle. Historical conflicts and scheduled-event qualifications remain in the complete website source notes.

[1] Founders & ownership
[2] Current whiskey makers
[3] Production account
[4] Four-grain bourbon
[5] Bonded bourbon
[6] All-rye whiskey
[7] Winter-wheat whiskey
[8] Oregon malt whiskey
[9] Bonded rye
[10] Bonded wheat
[11] Whiskey portfolio
[12] Hawthorne exclusives
[13] Visit / Bend address
[14] 2026 festival schedule
[15] 2024 media kit
[16] Founder interview / 2017
[17] Early reporting / 2013
[18] Ten-year story / 2019
[19] Community effort / 2020
[20] First festival / 2021
[21] OLCC agenda / 2026
[22] Regional whiskey identity