01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Penelope Bourbon

A family name. A blender’s imagination.

Penelope’s story begins with selection. A young brand can work with established distillers, then create its own identity through the barrels it chooses and the way it brings them together. The blending table is the thread through this growing whiskey family. [2, 7, 22]

At a glance
Brand founded: 2018
Founders: Michael Paladini and Danny Polise
Company: MGP / Luxco [7, 22]



A name with a personal beginning

Named for Paladini’s daughter, Penelope entered the market with an inviting idea: bourbon made for sharing. Early technical literature describes an 80-proof blend of three MGP recipes, combining corn, wheat, rye and malt. The brand’s contribution was the composition. [2, 7]

The people beyond the bottle

The founding team continued with the brand after its acquisition. Alongside the blending work, Matt Ward helped make tastings a form of conversation. Virtual gatherings during pandemic restrictions built connections; that approach later spread across Luxco’s wider portfolio. [7, 21]

Original watercolor scenes are symbolic interpretations, not documentary portraits or exact buildings.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A young brand, a widening vocabulary.



2018-2020 The brand launches as an MGP customer. Early competition recognition includes producer-reported 2020 San Francisco and SIP awards. [3, 22]

2021-2022 A Rosé Batch 03 sheet documents wine-cask exploration. The first Architect sheet records French oak staves selected with Radoux. [4, 5]

2023 The MGP acquisition brings Penelope into Luxco. Rio appears in the record with honey and Amburana finishing influences. [6-8]

2024-2025 Estate selections explore older stocks. Wheated joins the core range, and Peach Old Fashioned opens a prepared-cocktail category. [10, 12, 13]

2026 Beaufain connects whiskey with Charleston design. Seven-year Barrel Strength gives the blending approach a new formulation and age statement. [14, 15]

Follow the role of each place

Lawrenceburg is a documented distilling source. Current Classic bourbon explicitly comes from Kentucky, without an exact distillery named on its page. France and Sevilla contribute finishing-cask traditions. These are different relationships to place, not interchangeable production claims. [4, 9, 19, 20]

The full website preserves all fourteen illustrated milestones and source qualifications, including the acquisition’s May 31 / June 1 date discrepancy.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

The choices after the still.

Three ways to explore
Four Grain introduces the blended foundation. Architect uses French oak staves. Toasted adds another barrel after maturation. These are different creative decisions, so compare the process as well as the proof. [16-18]

Read the particular release
Core Barrel Strength is uncut and non-chill-filtered. Other editions change age, grain composition or finishing. A familiar series name does not guarantee that every batch follows one fixed recipe. [5, 16, 23]



The memorable detail: Havana’s maple casks complete a round trip: Penelope bourbon, then maple syrup, then whiskey finishing. A reused vessel carries the story from one product into the next. [11]

Research notes & linked sources

Researched October 14, 2026. Specifications belong to the cited editions. Founder stories and awards are attributed to the producer. Historical distribution and prices are not current availability advice. Full source qualifications appear on the website.

[1] Family origin & partners
[2] Early Four Grain sheet
[3] Early awards & Australia
[4] Rosé Batch 03
[5] First Architect build
[6] MGP acquisition filing
[7] Acquisition announcement
[8] Rio annual return
[9] Valencia, 2024
[10] Estate Collection, 2024
[11] Havana introduction
[12] Wheated introduction
[13] Peach Old Fashioned
[14] Beaufain collaboration
[15] Barrel Strength 7-Year
[16] Current Architect
[17] Current Toasted
[18] Current Four Grain
[19] Classic Series
[20] American Light, 2025
[21] Tastings & connections
[22] MGP customer history
[23] Core Barrel Strength
[24] Architects of Golf