01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

The promise in a barrel.



PINHOOK · A PRODUCER’S PERSPECTIVE

Founded in 2011 by Sean Josephs, Charles Fulford and Jay Peterson, Pinhook began with twenty Indiana barrels. Its first bourbon followed in fall 2014. The founding date describes a producer, not a new distillery opening. [1]

The name borrows from buying and developing young thoroughbreds. The whiskey equivalent is patient selection, followed by decisions about blending and proof. Annual vintages embrace the character of the available barrels. [2,3]

Josephs brings a sommelier’s perspective to blending. Pinhook’s core Kentucky recipes are made with Castle & Key, while the Vertical Series follows separate MGP bourbon and rye stocks. Collaborations open the door to other distillers and palates. [3,7,15,19]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A story told in vintages.

2017
Custom-recipe production begins at Castle & Key. [1]

2019–2020
The bourbon vertical starts at four years; the rye series follows in spring 2020. [7]

2021–2022
André Mack and Garrett Oliver bring wine and brewing perspectives to collaborations. [10,11]

2023–2024
Double blending and Australian red-wine-cask single malt widen the experiments. [12,13]

2025–2026
Bartender and chef collaborations follow. The bourbon vertical reaches its listed eleven-year edition. [14–18]



Separate roles, distinct places
Indiana supplies the MGP Vertical Series. Castle & Key in Kentucky produces the proprietary core recipes. Neither relationship makes the source distillery a Pinhook-owned site. [3,7,19]

Specific collaborations have used Wyoming Whiskey, Still Austin and Melbourne’s Starward. New Orleans contributes hospitality and collaborators, not an inferred distilling origin. [10,11,13,15,17]

A changing horizon
Older pages planned vertical releases through twelve years; current pages describe sixteen. The eleven-year Bourbon page still carries expected-shipping language. Future releases and delivery dates remain unconfirmed. [7,18,19]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Read the year. Taste the choice.

Blending and proof work together. Pinhook tests combinations, then dilution levels, seeking balance for that particular vintage. A vertical tasting therefore reflects age, barrel selection and proof, not age alone. [6,7]

Start with the 2026 Straight Bourbon at 100 proof. Compare the listed eleven-year Vertical Bourbon at 114.4 proof or ten-year Vertical Rye at 106. Collaboration No. 5 explores two successive three-year periods in new charred barrels, at 104 proof. [16,18–20]



The label has a language
Wax color identifies expression; geometry signals vintage; the horse connects a barrel lot. Horse birth dates do not date the whiskey. [4,5]

LINKED SOURCES & RESEARCH QUALIFICATIONS

1. Pinhook: origins and current team
2. Pinhook: the vintage approach
3. Pinhooking: the idea behind the name
4. Reading Pinhook bottle design
5. Pinhook: the horses
6. Pinhook: blending and proofing
7. 2019 Vertical Bourbon 4 Year
8. 2020 Bohemian Bourbon
9. 2020 True Single Barrel Bourbon
10. 2021 Collaboration No. 1: André Mack
11. 2022 Collaboration No. 2: Garrett Oliver
12. 2023 Artist Series No. 3
13. 2024 Collaboration No. 3: Jordan Salcito
14. 2025 Collaboration No. 4: Neal Bodenheimer
15. Pinhook: Collaboration Series overview
16. 2026 Collaboration No. 5: Link and Stryjewski
17. A bourbon shaped by chefs
18. 2026 Vertical Bourbon 11 Year
19. 2026 Vertical Rye 10 Year
20. 2026 Straight Bourbon
21. Pinhook’s Kentucky: the distillery relationship
22. 2023: Sean Josephs on the Vertical Series

Source conflicts: No. 1 purchase year and Artist No. 3 grain totals are unresolved; omitted specifications are not reconstructed. Interpretive illustrations. Research checked October 17, 2026.