Origins & people

Proof and Wood

The craft between the still and the glass.

Founded in 2015 by Dave Schmier, Proof and Wood is a Connecticut-based independent bottler. Its work centers on selecting spirits, managing maturation, blending and choosing bottling strength. American whiskey is central, but the range reaches beyond bourbon and beyond the United States. [1,2,4]



From a Manhattan to a whiskey company

Schmier recalls a formative rye Manhattan at a Gary Regan bartender retreat. His career in hospitality and drinks marketing eventually led to Redemption, built with Mike Kanbar around Indiana whiskey. They sold Redemption to Deutsch in 2015; Proof and Wood followed the same year. The earlier brand is part of the founder’s history, not a current member of this portfolio. [3,4]

What the name tells you

Proof and wood describe choices the company makes after distillation: the strength at bottling and the barrel environment. The original distiller still matters. This producer’s story adds the decisions that shape a spirit between its creation and its final presentation. [1]

Read it as a producer profile

A company address, a distilling location and a later maturation site describe different roles. The sources reviewed do not establish a Proof and Wood-owned operating distillery. Bottle-specific claims should follow the label and the evidence for that release. [1,2,4]

History & places

A timeline of choices

2015 Proof and Wood begins after the Redemption sale. [4]

2021 Tumblin’ Dice receives World’s Best Single Barrel Bourbon. [5]

2021 editions Vertigo and Seasons document two different approaches to blending light whiskey, bourbon, rye and corn whiskey. [6,7]

2022 The Senator receives Best American Rye. [5]

2023 The Representative and Tumblin’ Dice earn separate world bourbon honors. The Globe brings Polish rye and layered cask maturation into focus. [5,9,10]

2024 editions Presidential Drams mark an election cycle; Seasons 2024 combines Canadian and American components. [7,8]

By December 2025 Schmier describes rye with seven years in Kentucky followed by a year in Laird’s apple-brandy barrels. [4,11]



A geography of roles

Connecticut is the company base. Indiana is a documented source for important whiskeys. Kentucky appears in specific maturation and finishing accounts. Polish rye and Canadian blend components broaden the map. These are supply and process relationships, not a single distillery campus. [2,4,7,9,12,13]

Whiskey & stories

Four useful entry points

Tumblin’ Dice High-rye bourbon and rye, including individual barrel selections. Read each edition’s age, strength and recipe. [11]

The Representative The DC Collection’s small-batch bourbon, recognized as World’s Best Bourbon in 2023. [5,8]

The Globe Polish rye matured through French oak and bourbon barrels, then finished in Jamaican rum barrels. [9,10]

Roulette Rye Indiana rye bottled at 100 proof for cocktail use; the producer notes changing three- and four-year age statements. [13]

The edition is part of the identity

Vertigo and Seasons preserve the composition of a blend; a single barrel preserves a particular cask selection. Award results identify submitted bottlings. Neither a shared brand name nor a shared distilling origin makes different releases interchangeable. [6,7,11,15,16]

Linked research sources

[1] Company & name

[2] Company home

[3] Founder interview · 2023

[4] Founder interview · 2025

[5] Producer awards record

[6] Vertigo 2021

[7] Seasons editions

[8] DC Collection

[9] The Globe

[10] Globe announcement · 2023

[11] Tumblin’ Dice

[12] Company location

[13] Roulette Rye

[14] Curated Collection

[15] 2026 Presidential Dram

[16] 2026 Seasons entry

