01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Redemption

Bardstown Barrel Selections / Redemption

Dave Schmier and Michael Kanbar built Redemption around discovering expressive rye barrels. Selection, rather than a newly built stillhouse, was the starting idea. [S01] A barrel already has a past; a selector decides which part of that past will become the next public story.



Beginnings: The commercial story was underway by 2010; the exact company formation date remains unresolved. [S02] Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits now owns the brand. [S14]

The producer behind the name

Bardstown Barrel Selections sold the Redemption portfolio to Deutsch in June 2015. It is the historical producer name, distinct from Bardstown Bourbon Company; it does not establish an owned physical distillery. [S26]

A blender with a broad palate

Alan Kennedy became master blender in June 2023 after a career spanning pastry, hospitality, wine and distilling. His assignment included established expressions and new projects. [S09] The current biography emphasizes translating sensory memories into whiskey through collaboration with farmers, distillers and barrel-house managers. [S15] Read that biography as a creative perspective, then turn to each release for the concrete choices in the glass.

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

Different chapters, different tools



2017 / Wheat joins the conversation The newly released Wheated Bourbon used 45 percent winter wheat and was bottled at 96 proof. [S03]

2021 / A second cask High Rye Bourbon spent another twelve months in former Cognac casks for a release with Ferrand. [S07]

2022 / Contact during maturation Sur Lee introduced producer-described backset contact and barrel rotation, inspired by French sur lie winemaking. [S08]

2025 / Time in the barrel An eighteen-year bourbon from Lawrenceburg joined the Ancients collection, showing selection at a much older age. [S11]

2026 / A changed presentation April brought an eagle motif formed from rye and Straight Bourbon raised to 92 proof. [S12]

Read each place by its role

Places carry different responsibilities. Deutsch lists a Stamford corporate address. [S30] The 2026 bonded release names Ross & Squibb in Indiana as distiller and Redemption Barrel Selections in Frankfort, Kentucky, as bottler. Those disclosures belong to that release. [S13]

The illustrated website chronology carries the fuller sequence and qualifications.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Grain, oak and a selector’s judgment

The current straight rye combines 95 percent rye with new charred oak, non-chill filtration and 92 proof. [S16] High Rye Bourbon uses 36 percent rye: the same grain takes a supporting role in a corn-led whiskey. [S17]

The bonded single barrel combines individual barrel identity with at least six years of aging and 100 proof. Selection embraces variation within those fixed specifications. [S31]



A small object gives the older whiskey a human scale: the thirty-six-year bourbon’s stopper holds a 1978 penny, marking its distillation year. [S23] The bottle makes an abstract age tangible without turning age into a promise of quality.

Research notes & linked sources

Researched October 19, 2026. Specifications retain their release context. Symbolic illustrations are not documentary buildings. Complete chronology, source qualifications and edition differences accompany the website profile.

[S01] 2015 acquisition
[S02] 2017 brand interview
[S03] Wheated launch
[S04] Barrel-proof debut
[S05] Ancients debut
[S06] Rum cask account
[S07] Cognac launch
[S08] Sur Lee launch
[S09] Kennedy appointment
[S10] Sur Lee expansion
[S11] 2025 aged bourbon
[S12] 2026 redesign
[S13] 2026 bonded launch
[S14] Deutsch portfolio
[S15] Blender biography
[S16] Straight Rye
[S17] High Rye Bourbon
[S18] Wheated Bourbon
[S20] Cognac Cask Finish
[S21] Nine-year bourbon
[S22] Eighteen-year bourbon
[S23] Thirty-six-year bourbon
[S24] Current catalog
[S25] Proof & Wood
[S26] Acquisition counsel
[S27] Brand homepage
[S28] Official FAQ
[S29] 2019 owner interview
[S30] Deutsch brand page
[S31] Bonded bourbon
[S32] Rum-finish survey
[S33] Eighteen-year rye