01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Redwood Empire Whiskey

Coastal patience. Grain character. A wider view of whiskey.

A California whiskey story built through distillation, selection and blending. Estate releases preserve the original Graton work, while sourced components remain a purposeful part of the range. [24,22]

Whiskey styles: Bourbon, rye, single malt [31,33]
Current home: Mare Island [16]
Bonded strength: 100 proof [7]
Founder: Derek Benham [1]



Different dates, different beginnings

The first label arrived in 2017; Pipe Dream, Emerald Giant and Lost Monarch followed in 2019. Production, label and range launches remain separate. [2,3]

The maker and the blender

Jeff Duckhorn leads distillation; Lauren Patz leads blending. Her Whiskey University program also gives visitors a guided way to explore grain, wood and assembly. [20,18]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

From Graton to the bay



2015–2017 · A working beginning The Sonoma distillery starts production, then launches its first Redwood Empire whiskey label. [2]

2021–2022 · Estate and cask expressions Bonded bourbon and rye reveal the spring 2016 distilling season. Cask-strength editions of the core range follow in October 2022. [8,10]

2024–2025 · A larger home The Savage & Cooke acquisition is announced in December 2024. Operations move in 2025; the formal opening celebration follows September 13. [14,15]

2026 · New blending directions Colonel Armstrong combines California spirit and selected wheated bourbons. The Hyperion introduces an annual four-category whiskey exploration. [21,23]

Read the place by its role

Graton is the original production chapter. Mare Island is the larger current destination. Mature estate whiskey filled before the relocation still belongs to its earlier place and season. Check official reservations for current tours and tastings. [40,16]

Production, label launch, operational move and opening celebration are distinct. Art is symbolic.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Read the release, not just the tree

Grain and recipe choices keep the range varied. Foggy Burl is single malt; Devils Tower is high-rye bourbon. Their current batches differ from the inaugural Small Lot editions. [31,33]

Screaming Titan explores wheat, while Van Duzen gives malted barley an unusually large role in rye whiskey. Triple Toasted marries separately finished bourbon portions treated with French, Hungarian and Garryana oak. [30,32,27]



Trees for the Future credits the brand with funding more than 1.8 million trees. Save the Redwoods League is a separate conservation partner. These relationships do not establish carbon neutrality or promise that every funded tree is a California redwood. [36,38]

Research notes & linked sources

Research: October 17, 2026. Recipes, proofs and sources are edition-specific. Current page copy can lag batch or visitor changes. Historic Graton process and environmental descriptions are not automatically current Mare Island specifications. [25,39]

[1] Current brand history
[2] 2017 label debut
[3] 2019 core-family record
[4] 2021 team appointments
[5] Current team
[6] Rocket Top batch one
[7] Grizzly Beast batch one
[8] 2021 bonded launch
[9] 2022 bonded release
[10] Cask-strength history
[11] Million-tree milestone
[12] Small Lot debut
[13] Estate barrel program
[14] 2024 acquisition
[15] Formal opening event
[16] Official FAQ
[17] Current production
[18] Tours and classes
[19] Whiskey University
[20] Armstrong launch
[21] Armstrong product
[22] Hyperion launch
[23] Hyperion product
[24] Pipe Dream bourbon
[25] Emerald Giant rye
[26] Lost Monarch blend
[27] Triple Toasted
[28] Pipe Dream 101
[29] Haystack estate range
[30] Screaming Titan
[31] Foggy Burl
[32] Van Duzen rye
[33] Devils Tower
[34] Rocket Top batch five
[35] Grizzly Beast batch 5
[36] TREES funded count
[37] Current partnerships
[38] Forest partner listing
[39] Earlier sustainability
[40] Lost Lantern selection