01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Blue corn. Mountain air.



SMOKEYE HILL / HAZELWOOD SPIRITS

Smokeye Hill connects an Arizona family story with whiskey matured in Colorado Springs. Founder Blake Johns presents the brand as an independent family venture; Hazelwood Spirits is the company behind it. Its public launch came in May 2024. That date describes the brand debut, not the beginning of a historic distillery. [1,7,12]

The company commissions spirit to its own recipe, then barrels, ages and bottles it in Colorado Springs. Its bourbon combines blue corn, yellow corn, rye and malted barley. Public sources do not disclose the percentages or every production partner. [1,2]

The ranch landscape and bell imagery make the family connection visible. The warning-bell story is producer lore: published versions differ about the animals and people involved. It is a story about the brand’s identity, not independent evidence of an uninterrupted Prohibition-era whiskey business. [3,7]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A young label. A longer wait.

Before launch
Custom recipe development and years of maturation precede the public brand. Exact development and facility-opening dates are not established. [1,2]

May 2024
Smokeye Hill launches publicly. [7]

2024
ASCOT names it Best Small Batch Bourbon and Bourbon of the Year. These are category awards. [8]

November 2024
The Manual reports distribution expanding across Western states. [9]

October 2025
Blended Rye arrives, adding a small bourbon component to a rye-led whiskey. [7]

2026
The rye appears in ASCOT’s championship taste-off; the producer reports Double Platinum. [6,10]



Arizona
Family history and ranch imagery shape the identity. They do not establish a fixed origin for every grain shipment. [1,2]

Colorado Springs
The company describes receiving unaged spirit here for barreling, maturation and bottling. [2]

Lawrenceburg, Indiana
The 2025 rye announcement identifies this distillation location without naming the supplier. That disclosure is not assigned to every bourbon release. [7]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Three expressions. One family.

Barrel Proof Bourbon
At least five years old, with batch-dependent strength. The producer describes dessert sweetness, oak and spice. [4]

93 Proof Straight Bourbon
The house whiskey is proofed with purified Rocky Mountain water. Producer notes include vanilla, brown sugar, fruit and cacao. [5]

Barrel Proof Blended Rye
A rye-led recipe with blue corn and a touch of bourbon. Current specifications describe at least five years of aging. [6]



Read the release
A proof number alone does not establish a batch. The first release lacked the later batch sticker. Preserve the details on the actual label. [2]

LINKED SOURCES & RESEARCH QUALIFICATIONS

1. Smokeye Hill: our story

2. Smokeye Hill: FAQ, September 23, 2025

3. Smokeye Hill: the bell legend

4. Barrel Proof Bourbon: current specifications

5. Straight Bourbon: current specifications

6. Blended Rye: current specifications

7. Company announcement: rye launch, October 6, 2025

8. ASCOT: 2024 Best in Show results

9. The Manual: expansion, November 5, 2024

10. ASCOT: 2026 championship playoffs

11. Smokeye Hill: cocktail recipes

12. Hazelwood Spirits: company terms

Qualifications: bell legends conflict. The rye launch specifies 30-gallon barrels; the current page adds 53-gallon barrels. The 2026 taste-off is not presented as an overall title. Tasting notes are producer descriptions. All illustrations are symbolic; no building is an exact facility depiction. Full research notes appear in the profile.