01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Stranahan’s

Colorado roots. Malted barley. A wider whiskey vocabulary.

Stranahan’s explores American whiskey through one grain: malted barley. Denver is its working home; Aspen supplies the origin story and a newer hospitality chapter. New oak, time and finishing casks give the whiskey its many directions.

Founded: 2004
First Original: 2006
Distillery: Denver, Colorado
Parent: Proximo Spirits



A friendship before a distillery

The brand traces its beginning to a 1998 barn fire near Woody Creek. Volunteer firefighter Jess Graber and brewery owner George Stranahan discovered a shared interest in whiskey. The commercial venture followed in 2004. Its malt-led identity grew from brewing materials rather than a corn-led bourbon recipe. [1,7,17]

Founder, namesake, blender

Graber and George Stranahan were co-founders. Justin Aden became the first Head Blender in October 2023, bringing distilling, fermentation and research experience. Current company material continues to identify him in that role. Founder, current owner and creative lead are different relationships. [13,22]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

From a Colorado idea to a category



1998 /2004 /2006 The company’s origin story, formal founding and first Original release mark three distinct beginnings. [1,17]

2010 /2017 Proximo ownership follows. Sherry Cask later adds an Oloroso-finished, 94-proof expression. [18,19]

2020 /2023 Blue Peak brings solera finishing; Justin Aden becomes Head Blender. [20,13]

2024 The Aspen Whiskey Lodge opens March 9 during the twentieth-anniversary year. Denver retains its production role. [14]

2025 Founder’s Release marks federal single malt recognition; Diamond Peak revisits beer-conditioned casks. [15,16,7]

2026 Colorado 150 recognizes local pioneers. An 11-year, 100-proof bottled-in-bond release adds a documented 2015 distilling season. [22,21]

Read the place by its role

Woody Creek: origin of the founders’ friendship. **Denver:** production, maturation and bottling, with visitors at 200 South Kalamath. **Aspen:** lodge and special pours at 307 South Mill. **Eldorado Springs:** the proofing-water connection. Each place has its own role. [1,11,12,15]

This is a curated companion. The full website preserves twelve individually illustrated milestones and all research qualifications.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Follow the malt. Read the cask.

Malted barley anchors the house style. New American oak often comes first; selected releases add sherry, Port, beer or other cask histories. Blue Peak uses a continuing solera marriage. One distillery does not mean one barrel. [2,4,7,16]



Current Sherry Cask is 90 proof, PX-finished and transitioning to a 7-year statement. The 2017 release was 94 proof and Oloroso-finished. Mountain Angel 12 and Founder’s Release 12 are distinct expressions. [3,6,15,19]

The volunteer bottling line turned a small-business necessity into participation. Snowflake builds a winter gathering around unusual cask blends. Those traditions make the whiskey social without changing its grain identity. Read current event and volunteer rules before planning a visit. [9,10]

Research notes & linked sources

Research checked October 20, 2026. Product details are edition-specific. Brand age-equivalence and sales superlatives are not independent findings. Current venue hours and future event dates are not guaranteed.

[1] Origin & founding
[2] Original
[3] Sherry Cask
[4] Blue Peak
[5] Mountain Angel 10
[6] Mountain Angel 12
[7] Diamond Peak
[8] Exclusives
[9] Snowflake
[10] Volunteer bottling
[11] Denver distillery
[12] Aspen lodge
[13] Aden appointment
[14] 2024 lodge opening
[15] Founder’s Release
[16] TTB recognition
[17] Proximo portfolio
[18] 2010 ownership report
[19] 2017 Sherry report
[20] 2020 Blue Peak report
[21] Bonded release
[22] Colorado 150