01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Thirteenth Colony

A family venture. A South Georgia point of view.



Friends become founders

Alton Darby and Kent Cost established the Americus business in 2009. The company connects its origins to spirits made as gifts for friends and family. Its modern founding remains separate from the historic identity suggested by the name. [S1, S16]

A chef chooses the barrels

Master distiller Graham Arthur brings restaurant experience from Atlanta and Charleston and a Coast Guard background. Flavor selection is a central part of his role, with distinct recipes, proofs and wood treatments across the range. [S1, S3, S4, S23]

A living family story

After Alton’s death in 2025, the Darby family continued leading the distillery. President Max Darby helps connect the founders’ idea with a wider whiskey audience. The first Founders’ Day in 2026 honors that continuity. [S16]

Distilled, sourced, matured

The company acknowledges both its own distillation and sourced whiskey. Its FAQ says all its barrels age in its warehouse. That distinction matters: the location of maturation does not, by itself, identify the original distiller of every bottle. [S2]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

The barrel years

2009 / around 2020

The business begins in Americus. In a later interview, Maxwell Darby recalls taking a fuller role around 2020. [S1, S22]

2022 / 2023

Double Oaked becomes an annual story: 135.3 proof in 2022, then 136.8 proof in 2023. [S5, S6]

2024

A 15th Anniversary bourbon is followed by a cask-strength bourbon and another Double Oaked edition. [S7-S9]

2025

The range adds its first Double Oaked single barrel and first cask-strength rye. [S11, S12]



April / May 2026

Cask-strength bourbon returns at 120.82 proof; a separate Double Oaked single barrel is 141.6 proof. [S13, S14]

June / August 2026

Barrel Symphony blends bourbon and rye. Founders' Day honors the family; cask rye reaches Batch 2. [S15-S17]

October 2026 / announced

Batch 4 Double Oaked is scheduled for late-October retail at 131.5 proof, not already released at this review. [S18, S19]

Americus / the visitor connection

Tours, warehouse sampling and bottle-your-own experiences connect place with process. Check current availability directly. [S20]

Place is part of the method

South Georgia warmth and temperature changes shape the company's maturation story. Barrel selection still decides what is ready. A warehouse setting is distinct from a whiskey's original distillation source. The illustration interprets second-barrel maturation. [S1, S2, S21]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Wood, grain & choice

Recipes and proportions

Southern Bourbon lists 70% corn, 21% rye and 9% malted barley. Southern Rye lists 95% rye and 5% malted barley. Barrel Symphony's 87/13 figure instead describes a bourbon-and-rye blend. [S3, S4, S15]

Read the edition

The 15th Anniversary whiskey is eight years nine months old, not fifteen. Double Oaked annual batches and single barrels also retain their own ages and proofs. [S7, S11, S14, S18]



More than one kind of wood

Southern Rye uses French oak spirals. The 113 Bourbon names maple spirals. Double Oaked uses separate charred-oak maturation; the 2022-2024 archive also names toasted maple. Those details belong to specific expressions. [S4-S6, S9, S23]

SOURCES & FURTHER READING

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S4 Southern Rye / French oak
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Research checked October 18, 2026. Ages, proofs and finishes describe named editions. Batch 4 retail is announced for late October; the separate lottery is a specific distillery-purchase exception.