01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Tuthilltown Spirits

Hudson Whiskey’s Gardiner home. New York grain and a new beginning.

An old gristmill became the setting for a new New York whiskey story. Ralph Erenzo and Brian Lee began the Tuthilltown venture in 2003; Hudson Baby Bourbon followed in 2006. Local grain, a working distillery and collaboration anchor the story. [2,3]



Venture: 2003
Baby Bourbon: 2006
Home: Gardiner, New York
Parent: William Grant & Sons [1]

A different route through the valley

Erenzo’s early campground idea grew from his climbing background. Distilling became another route for the property. Apple vodka came before the whiskey. The mill dates to 1788, but the whiskey venture belongs to the modern craft revival. Those dates describe different beginnings. [2,3,4]

Founders, makers and community

Gable Erenzo is remembered by ACSA as a co-founder and generous colleague. Dated releases later credit Chief Distiller Brendan O’Rourke, Brian Kinsman and David Stewart with the whiskey’s development. Founding, ownership and creative roles remain distinct. [9,16,17,18]

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

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

From a mill to modern New York



1788 / 2003 / 2006 The mill’s construction, the venture and Baby Bourbon’s introduction mark separate chapters. [2,3]

2007 / 2010 Farm-distilling reform and Manhattan Rye follow. William Grant & Sons later buys the Hudson brand. [3,4,6]

2015 / 2017 Tuthilltown helps found Empire Rye. The working distillery joins William Grant & Sons in 2017. [7,5]

2020 / 2021 A mature-liquid relaunch changes names and packaging. Four Part Harmony adds seven-year bourbon; ACSA honors Gable’s legacy. [9,15,16]

2023 / 2024 Five-year bourbon and seven-year Calvados-finished rye extend the aged range. [17,18]

2025 A Mets edition, local Port-cask rye and returning Sherry Cask bourbon add distinct release stories. [19,20,21,24]

Read the place by its role

Gardiner: distilling, rickhouses and visitors at Grist Mill Lane. **Hudson Valley farms:** grain for named releases. **The Shawangunks:** the founders’ climbing context. **Vermont, Scotland and Normandy:** finishing-cask connections, separate from New York distillation. [2,4,12,13,18]

The full website preserves sixteen individually illustrated milestones and all research qualifications.

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Grain, oak and a sense of place

Bright Lights uses 95% corn and 5% malted barley; the core rye uses 95% rye and 5% malted barley. Pot distillation, new oak and selected finishing casks shape different releases. Empire Rye is an association certification, not a federal category. [10,11,17,8]



Four Part Harmony combines four grains at seven years. Five-year bourbon, Calvados rye, Port rye and Sherry Cask bourbon have their own ages and cask histories. An expression name cannot supply a missing bottle-level specification. [14,17,18,20,21]

A cask can carry a local conversation: the Port rye announcement traces barrels through neighboring Whitecliff Vineyard & Winery before returning to hold rye. Gable’s community award preserves another relationship, the willingness of early craft makers to help one another. [20,16]

Research notes & linked sources

Checked October 21, 2026. The 2010 brand sale and 2017 distillery purchase are separate. Early recipes differ from current releases. First-producer claims are attributed historical positioning. Current hours and stock vary. Sources 4–6 are historical secondary accounts; issuer releases and official records provide primary support.

[1] Hudson story / owner
[2] Distillery home
[3] 2016 state report
[4] Oxford history
[5] 2017 acquisition
[6] 2010 / 2017 deals
[7] Empire Rye history
[8] Empire Rye standards
[9] 2020 relaunch
[10] Bright Lights
[11] Do The Rye Thing
[12] Short Stack
[13] Back Room Deal
[14] Four Part Harmony
[15] 2021 tasting sheets
[16] Gable / ACSA award
[17] 2023 five-year
[18] 2024 Calvados rye
[19] 2025 Mets edition
[20] 2025 Port rye
[21] 2025 Sherry bourbon
[22] Places / partners
[23] Visitor FAQs
[24] 2025 news dates