01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Watershed Distillery

An Ohio idea, matured one barrel at a time.



Founded in Columbus in 2010, Watershed connects small-distillery ambition with Ohio grain, orchard casks and black walnuts. Its story includes distilling, blending and finishing. The role changes with the expression. [2, 10, 20]

A different working life

After playing professional volleyball in Switzerland, Greg Lehman carried an interest in locally made spirits home to Ohio. He and Dave Rigo began planning in 2008. Their 2010 opening was the start of a production business, with a 66-gallon copper still, rather than the instant arrival of mature bourbon. [1, 2]

Lehman later helped build the Ohio Distillers Guild. Aaron Harris joined as the first head distiller in May 2021; that year’s apple-cask release also credits barrel master Anne Dimmick. Their dated roles chart the team’s development. [3–5]

AT A GLANCE / Columbus, Ohio / Established 2010
Founders: Greg Lehman and Dave Rigo
Parent: Marussia Beverages, acquired 2023. [11, 12]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

From a workshop to a whiskey family.

The home remains Columbus. The official address is 1145 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite D. Production, aging and visitor spaces grew through an expanding commercial footprint. Check current tours and bottle-shop arrangements directly. [15, 16]



2008–2014

Planning begins in 2008; the distillery opens in 2010. A 250-gallon still follows in 2012, then a 660-gallon Kothe still in 2014. [1, 2]

2016–2017

Lehman reports a new Headframe still installed in May 2016. Kitchen & Bar opens in January 2017, extending the visitor experience. [1, 6]

2020

The tenth anniversary brings a six-year apple-brandy-cask bourbon at 119.3 proof. A nocino-finished bourbon follows in December. [8, 9]

2021

Bottled-in-Bond debuts at 100 proof alongside a 90-proof blend with a sourced component. Apple-cask Batch 002 arrives at 120.8 proof. [4, 10]

2023

Marussia acquires Watershed, its first US production facility. Earlier descriptions of independence belong to their historical period. [11, 12]

2025–2026

Kitchen & Bar announces final service for November 8, 2025; distillery and bottle shop continue. The 2026 rye Batch 004 is nine years old. An events venue was planned, not verified here as open. [13, 14]

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Read the expression. Follow the cask.

The 2021 tri-blend combines Watershed bourbon, an apple-brandy-finished component and sourced bourbon. The separate current Straight Bourbon page describes four years in char-five oak at 90 proof. Bottled-in-Bond has its own high-rye description and 100-proof identity. Historical five-grain recipes are not applied to every present release. [4, 10, 18, 19, 22]

Watershed credits a local friend, Charlie, with sharing a family nocino recipe. Unripe Ohio black walnuts become liqueur; casks that held that liqueur later finish bourbon. It is a particularly local connection between a person, a harvest and a whiskey. [20]

The current Uncut Unfiltered page describes Batch 007, more than four years in char-five Ohio-made casks, without dilution or filtration. The 2026 Batch 004 rye is a separate nine-year single-barrel release. Always keep batch, proof, age and finish specific to the edition. [14, 23]

Sources & research notes

[1] Lehman interview, 2016
[2] Company still expansion, 2014
[3] Harris appointment, 2021
[4] Apple-cask Batch 002, 2021
[5] DISCUS: Greg Lehman
[6] Kitchen & Bar opening, 2017
[7] Yearbook menu retrospective
[8] Anniversary bourbon, 2020
[9] Nocino finish debut, 2020
[10] Bonded & blended launch, 2021
[11] Marussia acquisition statement
[12] Marussia corporate timeline
[13] Kitchen & Bar closure, 2025
[14] Rye Batch 004, 2026
[15] Official distillery visitor page
[16] Firsthand distillery tour, 2024
[17] Official spirits portfolio
[18] Current Straight Bourbon
[19] Current Bourbon blend
[20] Official Nocino story
[21] Great Lakes collaboration
[22] Current Bottled-in-Bond
[23] Current Uncut Unfiltered
[24] Fall Finishing Series

Accessed October 22, 2026. Edition claims are attributed to producer pages and dated announcements. Restaurant closure reporting supersedes older visitor copy; planned events-space opening remains unconfirmed. Interpretive watercolor illustrations, not historic photographs.

